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Wednesday, March 30

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

School Lunch: Chicken strips, tri taters, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie

Birthdays: Bonnie Cooper, Gordon Nelson, Jessica Osterman, Lori Seelye, Melenie Sombke, Sandy Tullis, Taylor Schmidt, Vickie Sippel

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

6:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League (no confirmation)

Thursday, March 31

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQ, French fries, romaine lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice, chow mein noodles, broccoli, bread sticks, sour cream apple pie square

Birthdays: Abby Cutler, Aiden Strom, Barb Waage, Brett Sombke, Caralee Heitmann, Megan Cutler, Rick Carlson, Renee Hanlon

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Dollar General Survey

The Groton Daily Independent launched a Dollar General Survey yesterday and we have already received 217 results. Here is what they are up to this point.

Those voting who live in the city limits: 62 percent, rural Groton 16 percent, within 25 miles of Groton 17 percent and those further than 25 miles from Groton 6 percent.

How often would you shop at the Dollar General Store in Groton? 4 percent said more than 3 times a week, 41 percent 1-3 times per week, 20 percent 2-3 times a month, 16 percent once a month and 19 percent would never shop at the store.

Those in favor of having it at Main St. and US 12 were 66 percent, those opposed to that location were 21 percent and others who said in some other location was 18 percent.

The bottom line - should Groton have a Dollar General Store? 80 percent said yes and 20 percent said no.

If you would like to vote on the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GYXYK8Q>. There is also a link posted on our Facebook Page, theGDI.

Also, the fully uploaded version of the Dollar General Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting has had 256 views. The Livestream video had 299 views. The link to the YouTube video is <https://youtu.be/fU5VOY-RMao>

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.

golden living

We now accept

Avera Health Plans

for out patient therapy.

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

Handiman looking for work

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

Kjellsen, Dargatz resign as coaches

The Groton Area School Board listened to a nearly two hour presentation by Fosters, Jacobs and Johnson, Inc., as they gather data on the Groton Area School District. Their presentation was on education adequacy, demographics and values definition. A condensed version was also done for the public at 7 p.m. You can watch the presentation to the school board at gdilive.com.

While the population of Brown County is projected to continue to increase, the population of Day County is projected to decrease. Overall, FJJ projected that Groton's School enrollment should remain stable over the next 10 years to around the 590 mark. Superintendent Joe Schwan also reported that last fall, Groton's enrollment was 581 and that has now increased to 590.

Four and fifth grade reports were given.

The board accepted the resignation of Greg Kjellsen as the head boys basketball coach for the 2016-17 school year due to health issues. Kjellsen has been coaching boys' basketball for 29 years. Dana Dargatz, who has been the head wrestling coach for three years, also turned in his resignation. Robin Meier resigned as part-time custodian.

Superintendent Schwan said that it may be a challenge to find coaches. Others positions open are the junior high volleyball coach and the assistant wrestling coach. All of the teaching staff is staying so the district may have to go off-campus to fill these positions.

The health food service inspection at the elementary school received a 100 out of 100 score.

Today in Weather History

March 30, 1967: Prolonged strong southerly winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts to 55 mph, caused areas of blowing dust in eastern South Dakota, reducing visibilities to near zero. A metal roof on a lumber shed in Vermillion was blown off. The strong winds also piled ice along the shore of Lake Poinsett to heights of 20ft, causing damage to some cabins along the lakeshore.

March 30, 2009: A major winter storm moved across the Northern Rockies and into the Northern Plains producing from 2 to 22 inches of snowfall along with widespread blizzard conditions. Most area schools and events were canceled. Travel was extremely difficult and not advised. Interstate 29 from Watertown to the North Dakota line and Interstate 90 across Jones and Lyman counties were both closed during the storm. There were several vehicle accidents with no serious injuries reported. However, this storm took a toll on area ranchers as the calving season was underway. Storm total snowfall amounts included; 6 inches in Blunt, Timber Lake, Gettysburg, and Wilmot; 7 inches in Doland and Pierre; 8 inches in Clark, Clear Lake, Leola, Hosmer, Gettysburg, southeast of McIntosh, and Kennebec; 9 inches south of Bristol, Waubay, and near Chelsea; 10 inches in Eagle Butte and Mobridge; 11 inches in Pollock and Turton. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included; 12 inches in Aberdeen, Britton, Andover, Sisseton, and Faulkton; 13 inches at Lake Sharpe, Roy Lake, and eight miles southwest of Keldron; 14 inches in Miller, Redfield, and Webster; 15 inches near Highmore and near Columbia; 16 inches southwest of Stratford; 17 inches 14 miles northeast of Isabel; 20 inches in McLaughlin, Ree Heights, and 4 miles northeast of Victor with almost 22 inches northwest of Stephan.

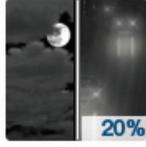
March 30, 2010: Scattered light rain showers falling into a very dry air mass were responsible for several heat bursts that occurred across central South Dakota from Pierre to Onida during the evening hours of March 30th. Between 853 pm and 1053 pm CDT, observations from the Pierre airport (KPIR) showed a marked increase in temperature (+10F), a decrease in dew point temperature (-4F), pressure falls, and gusty surface winds (a peak wind gust of 48 mph). On a farm outside of Pierre, winds were estimated up to 70 mph as some shingles were blown off the roof along with damage to several outbuildings. The Onida airport recorded a peak wind gust of 66 mph in the early evening.

1805: New York's City's Battery Park was strewn with 24-inch snow rollers, from a ferocious storm between the March 26th and March 28th. Snow rollers are natural snowballs that are formed when winds blow over a snow covered surface.

1848: On six reported occasions, the water flow over the American Falls has been totally blocked by ice and ceased to fall. But only once has this happened on the much larger Horseshoe Falls.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
50%	20%	40% 40%	20% 20%			
Chance Rain and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain	Chance Rain/Freezing Rain then Chance Rain and Breezy	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 52 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 45 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 50 °F



Cooler and Windy Today, Light Rain

Follow us on *Social Media*

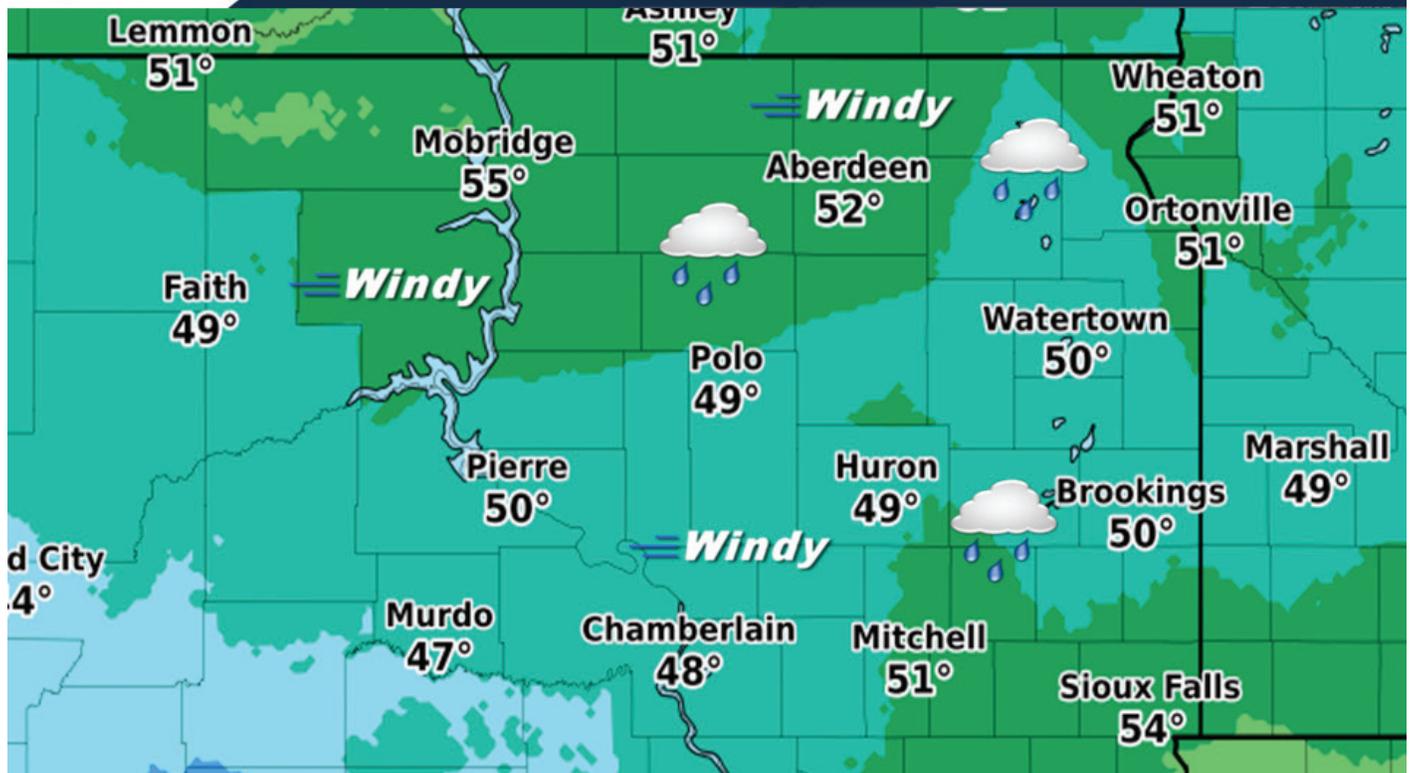
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 03/30/2016 at 5:44AM

Areas of light rain will continue today, especially this morning, as an area of low pressure moves east across the central Plains. Gusty north to northeast winds and cooler temperatures will be felt today as well. Another area of low pressure will move south over the region late tonight through Thursday, bringing another chance for rain and snow.

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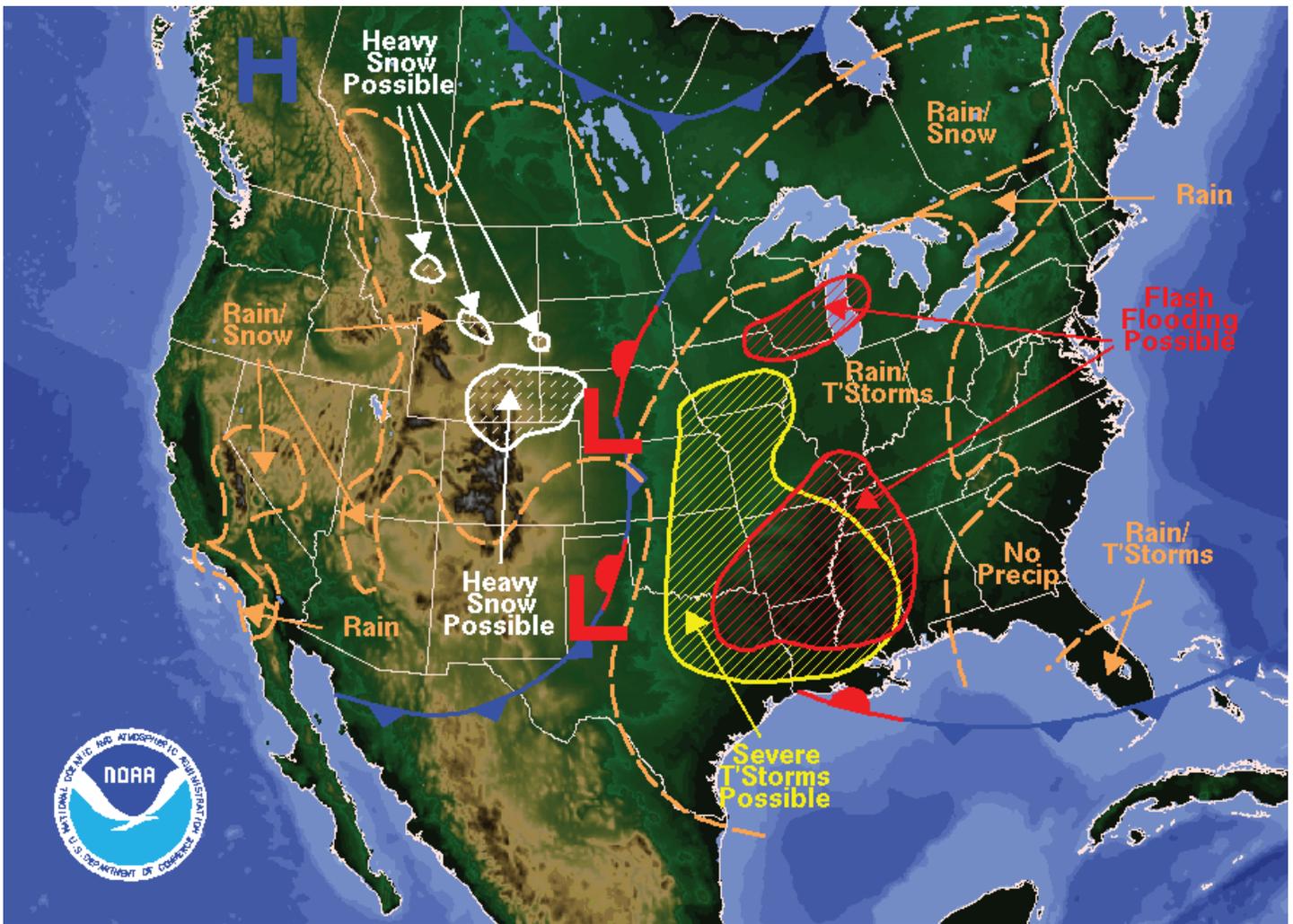
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 62.0
Low: 42.0
High Gust: 29
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 81° in 1943
Record Low: -14 in 1969
Average High: 48°F
Average Low: 25°F
Average Precip in March.: 1.11
Precip to date in March.: 0.35
Average Precip to date: 2.13
Precip Year to Date: 0.95
Sunset Tonight: 7:59 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:14 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Mar 30, 2016, issued 4:32 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THE SUN WILL SHINE AGAIN

It was a cold, windy, rainy day. A poorly clothed newsboy stood in the doorway of an apartment building trying to escape the elements. Each time a bus stopped at the corner and the people got out he shouted, "Morning paper! Get your morning paper here!"

A warmly-dressed man purchased one of his papers and noticed how poorly he was dressed. Attempting to offer him some comfort he said, "This certainly is bad weather for you, son. I'm sorry for you."

"I don't mind it much," he replied. "The sun will shine again."

The Psalmist had good advice when things seem to be unbearable. "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart sad? I will put my hope in God!"

Discouragement is said to be one of the most common occurrences in everyone's life nearly every day. We make careful plans and then something blocks them or someone gets in our way. We become distracted and give up "what might have been" because we forget about God. If we focus on God's ability rather than our limitations, the "sun will shine again." Take courage. Hope in God and believe.

Prayer: We look to You, Lord, in faith knowing that Your strength can sustain us in the difficult times if we truly trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 42:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Woman whose body was found in freezer died of natural causes

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have determined that an elderly Arkansas woman whose body was found in a freezer in South Dakota died of natural causes.

The body of Adele Zebrowski was found March 10 in a Rapid City home in a freezer brought to the city by her son, Stewart Zebrowski, when he moved there in 2013. He has since died.

Authorities are investigating whether Stewart Zebrowski kept the body hidden so he could collect his mother's Social Security checks.

Adele Zebrowski is believed to have lived in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Stewart Zebrowski also went by the last name Zebrosky.

Northern Black Hills could get another foot of snow

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A storm pushing through part of South Dakota could drop up to a foot of snow in the northern Black Hills.

The National Weather Service has posted a winter storm warning for the northern and central Black Hills and a winter weather advisory for the west central and southwest Plains. That region is expected to get a few inches of snow.

Forecasters say gusty winds will blow the snow around, reducing visibility and making travel hazardous.

Another weather system is expected to move into the northern Plains Wednesday night and Thursday, bringing another round of snow and strong winds.

Sioux Falls Skyforce set D-League single-season wins record

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Skyforce have set the NBA Development League record for wins in a season, getting their 39th on Tuesday by topping the Iowa Energy 125-107.

The Skyforce, an affiliate of the Miami Heat, are 39-9 with two games remaining. The previous D-League record for wins was 38, set by the Los Angeles D-Fenders in 2011-12.

"I'm proud of the group," Skyforce coach Dan Craig told The Associated Press by phone after the game. "The guys have done a tremendous job of just buying in and being selfless as a team. Any given night, it could be somebody's night. From day one until now, it's been team-first. And this milestone, I reminded the team it's something no one can take away from you and we certainly don't take it for granted."

Jarnell Stokes and DeAndre Liggins each scored 23 for Sioux Falls in the record-setter.

"I'm thrilled for D.C.," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said last week when asked Craig, who has been close with for more than a decade. "D.C.'s one of my closest people on this planet, so I'm absolutely thrilled for him this year. What he's showing is that he's an excellent basketball coach."

The Heat pay for and control the basketball operations for the Skyforce, who have local ownership led by Greg Heineman and his family to handle their off-the-court business matters. The Skyforce run a system very similar to the Heat, and Craig was a Heat assistant before taking over the D-League club this season.

"What we've set up now in Sioux Falls, and it's been three years in the making, but now it is an absolute mirror of what we're trying to do," Spoelstra said. "It's gotten a little bit better as we've gotten to know (more) each year. And he's bringing a lot of what he wants to do to the table as well. It's awesome."

At this time last year, Craig was on Spoelstra's staff, flying on charters and staying in five-star hotels with the Heat. The D-League doesn't come close to comparing in that sense, and Craig never complained when Heat President Pat Riley and Spoelstra came to him with this offer.

"It's a healthy challenge for me as a person, as a leader, as a coach," Craig said. "I embraced this opportunity. I'm very thankful to Coach Riley, Coach Spoelstra, (Heat general manager) Andy Elisburg, for those guys to offer me the opportunity. This is a first-class organization. It's funny how similar the Heat and the Skyforce are."

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Craig said the Skyforce have taken a team-first approach all season, which isn't necessarily easy to do in the D-League — with players hoping to get noticed and get to the next level.

He thinks that will continue now, with the playoffs coming and the Skyforce now able to start thinking about chasing a title.

"These guys are excited about that opportunity," Craig said. "They're focused on that, so we can be playing the best basketball going into the playoffs."

Fourth of July state park camping reservations open soon

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — People who want to go camping in South Dakota state parks over the Fourth of July weekend can start making reservations soon.

The first day to make reservations for a July 1 arrival is Saturday.

Doug Hofer, state parks director, says the holiday weekend is always a busy time in state parks, so campers need to plan ahead to get their favorite spots.

There is a \$7.70 reservation fee for each site, but the charge is waived for state residents. There is also a \$2 fee for making reservations on the telephone.

Campers can make reservations up to a year in advance for Custer State Park and its group lodges.

Man to spend 12 years in prison for fatal motorcycle crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 25-year-old South Dakota man who was driving under the influence when he collided with and killed a motorcyclist last year will spend 12 years in prison.

Sioux Falls resident Trevor Blankartz was handed a 15-year sentence with three years suspended Tuesday. He pleaded no contest to a vehicular homicide charge as part of a plea deal.

Authorities say Blankartz was driving a car that collided with a motorcycle at a Sioux Falls intersection on Aug. 23. The driver of the motorcycle, 56-year-old Dale Schoffelman, of Sioux Falls, died at the scene.

Police say Blankartz told officers he was distracted by a bicycle and didn't see the motorcycle.

During the sentencing hearing, Blankartz apologized to Schoffelman's family.

Prosecutors say Blankartz was driving under the influence of methamphetamine when the incident occurred.

National champ Augustana basketball team celebrates at home

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Augustana University celebrated its men's NCAA Division II basketball championship Tuesday as dozens of fans gathered at the school in Sioux Falls.

Family members, students and even politicians were among those who heard from the players, coach Tom Billeter and university President Rob Oliver while the trophy was on display at the Elmen Center arena.

"They were there through the thick and thin. They've been there with me and this team since my freshman year here and I'm glad they get to enjoy this national championship just as much as we do," said senior Alex Richter, of Lakeville, Minnesota.

The Vikings beat Lincoln Memorial of Tennessee 90-81 on Saturday in Frisco, Texas, to win the NCAA Division II championship.

"People in Frisco were amazed. They were amazed by our level of support and the noise," Oliver told the crowd. "People in Frisco were saying, 'Where are you guys from? Sioux Falls? Is that a big place? South Dakota? Augustana? How big is Augustana?' We told them 'You know, 1,850 students.' They'd say 'Are you all here?'"

Augustana finished the season with 15 straight wins and a program-record 34 wins. The team lost only two games all year.

Billeter told the dozens of people who gathered at the arena that he is grateful for all the players who "dedicated themselves to each other" and worked toward the championship.

Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether and U.S. Sen. John Thune were among those gathered at the arena.

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It is the third national team title in school history. Augustana won the Division II women's cross country championship in 2011 and the softball title in 1991.

Democrats challenging Noem, Thune turn in ballot petitions

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State Rep. Paula Hawks and Yankton businessman Jay Williams have turned in their nominating petitions to run for U.S. House and Senate in the November elections.

Both Democrats delivered their petitions Tuesday to the Secretary of State's office. Hawks is challenging Republican Rep. Kristi Noem, and Williams is running against GOP Sen. John Thune.

Hawks says she is excited to spend the upcoming months spreading her message to South Dakota residents. Williams says it's time for a change.

Thune didn't face an opponent in the 2010 campaign for his second term. Williams says people are "thirsty for a challenge."

Joshua Shields, Thune's campaign manager, says he's focused on the job South Dakota residents elected him to do. Noem's campaign declined to comment.

Exhibit from EROS Center highlights satellite images

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Thirty-seven images acquired by the Landsat 8 satellite are being featured in a new art exhibit from the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Center.

Millions of satellite images collected at the federal repository north of Sioux Falls help document forest fires, droughts, hurricanes, tsunamis and other calamities, but the ones featured in Earth as Art 4 were chosen because of their artistic qualities. The newest edition features colorful images from southern Malawi, the Nile River and the Sahara Desert.

The entire collection can be accessed and downloaded at the Earth as Art 4 website. The collection has also been produced as a traveling exhibit, with its first venue being USGS Headquarters.

Custer resident claims \$50,000 Powerball prize

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — A Custer resident has claimed a \$50,000 Powerball prize that he won last week.

South Dakota lottery officials say Ray McLaughlin has claimed the winning ticket from Wednesday's drawing. The ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball to win the game's third prize. The odds of winning it are 1 in about 913,000.

McLaughlin's winning ticket was sold at a store on Highway 16 West in Custer. The store will get a \$1,000 for the sale.

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot sits at \$116 million for Wednesday's drawing.

House fails to override veto of buffer strip tax breaks

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure that would have offered tax incentives to put in buffer strips between cropland and waterways in South Dakota will remain dead after its backers failed Tuesday to muster enough support to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's veto of the bill.

House lawmakers didn't reach the two-thirds threshold necessary to overcome the Republican governor's rejection of the bill. The Senate had voted 32-1 earlier during the final day of the 2016 legislative session to supersede the veto.

The buffer strip bill originally passed unanimously in the Senate and with relatively few dissenting votes in the House.

"I was surprised," said Democratic House leader Spencer Hawley, a main sponsor of the bill. "I hope we can have this discussion again."

The bill would have allowed farmland along a lake, river or stream that was turned into a 50-foot buffer

strip of vegetation to be classified as non-cropland for property tax purposes. That would have meant a lower tax burden for those landowners.

It would have given landowners a break for doing something to help with South Dakota's water quality issues, said Barry Berg, with the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

Buffers help trap fertilizers, pesticides and sediments before they reach a waterway. Supporters have said the measure would have complemented existing conservation programs.

In his veto message, Dugaard expressed concern that the measure would shift the tax burden to other property owners. Improving water quality is laudable, but the bill represents bad tax policy, Dugaard said.

Some House lawmakers also pushed back against the measure.

"This is landowners' rights. If the landowner wants to farm up to the crick, he can farm up to the crick, creek, whatever you want to call it," said Republican Rep. Justin Cronin, who opposed the bill. "This is way too much, way too fast."

House lawmakers also declined to override Dugaard's veto of a bill that would have made broadband projects eligible for a state economic development program.

Dugaard wrote in his veto message that the telecommunications industry has invested heavily in the state already, saying he doesn't think measure is necessary for the investments to continue.

Lawmakers should revisit incentives next session for such projects because broadband access is "critical" for business to happen, Senate Majority Leader Corey Brown said.

The 2016 session began on Jan. 12. State lawmakers passed bills including a half-cent sales tax increase to help boost South Dakota's lowest-in-the-nation pay for teachers, and approved a nearly \$4.6 billion state budget.

"I appreciate legislators' thorough consideration of today's bills and all of their work this legislative session," Dugaard said in a statement. "Our legislators are truly servant leaders. In nine short weeks they have grappled with some of the most important issues facing South Dakota."

Mild March weather boosts calving, fieldwork in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Mild weather in South Dakota in March benefited calving and early fieldwork in the state.

The Agriculture Department says in its latest crop report that cattle, calf, sheep and lamb losses are rated average to light. Hay and roughage supplies are rated 97 percent adequate to surplus.

The report says topsoil moisture statewide is rated 70 percent adequate or surplus and subsoil moisture is 67 percent in those categories.

The condition of South Dakota's winter wheat crop is rated 62 percent good to excellent.

SDSU rounds out football staff with new running backs coach

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State has named a new running backs coach to round out next season's staff.

John Johnson has coached at the collegiate level since 2009, most recently as running backs coach at Missouri Southern State.

At SDSU he replaces Nic McKissic-Luc, who took the same job at Youngstown State. SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier announced Johnson's hiring Monday.

SDSU has three other new assistants. Offensive line coach Jason Eck previously coached at Montana State and Minnesota State Mankato. Safeties coach Jake Dickert is a former defensive coordinator at Mankato and Augustana. Wide receivers coach Robert Arnheim came to SDSU from Upper Iowa.

SDSU began spring practice Monday. Last season the Jackrabbits made their fourth consecutive appearance in the FCS playoffs, finishing in the top 20 in both final polls.

Cyprus court orders Egyptian hijack suspect held for 8 days

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS, Associated Press

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — A court on Wednesday ordered an Egyptian man detained for eight days after authorities said he admitted hijacking a domestic EgyptAir flight and diverting it to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus by threatening to blow it up with a fake explosives belt.

Cyprus police prosecutor Andreas Lambrianou said the suspect, whom authorities had earlier identified as 59-year-old Seif Eddin Mustafa, faces charges including hijacking, illegal possession of explosives, kidnapping, and threats to commit violence.

Judge Maria Loizou said she found the police request for the maximum eight-day detention necessary because of fears the suspect might flee and the fact that he admitted to the hijacking in a voluntary statement to police.

Tuesday's drama, which started when authorities said Mustafa claimed to have explosives and forced the flight from Alexandria to Cairo to land in Cyprus, ended peacefully about six hours later. Most of the 72 passengers and crew aboard the Airbus A320 were released soon after the plane landed, though a handful were held for longer. All were let go before Mustafa surrendered.

Lambrianou said that after Mustafa was arrested, he told police: "What's someone supposed to do when he hasn't seen his wife and children in 24 years and the Egyptian government won't let him?"

An official at the general prosecutor's office in Egypt, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press, said there was no travel ban on Mustafa. Egypt's interior ministry said he had a long criminal record but had finished serving a one-year prison term in March 2015.

After the hearing Wednesday, a handcuffed Mustafa flashed the "V" for victory sign out the window of a police vehicle as he was driven away from the Larnaca court house.

Cypriot officials had described Mustafa as "psychologically unstable" following a bizarre set of demands he made to police negotiators, including what Lambrianou said was a letter he wanted delivered to his Cypriot ex-wife in which he demanded the release of 63 dissident women imprisoned in Egypt.

Lambrianou said that 15 minutes into flight MS181, which should have taken just 30 minutes, Mustafa demanded that the aircraft be diverted to an airport in Greece, Turkey or Cyprus. Despite an initial refusal from Cypriot authorities, the plane eventually landed in Larnaca after the pilots warned of low fuel.

The police prosecutor said witnesses saw Mustafa wearing a white belt with pockets that had cylindrical objects stuffed inside. Wire protruding from the cylinders led to what appeared to be a "push button" detonator he held in his hand.

Among those held was Ben Innes, a British man pictured in a photo with Mustafa that quickly made the rounds on social media.

Innes told The Sun newspaper he wanted to take "the selfie of a lifetime" while the incident was unfolding. The photo, taken by a member of the cabin crew and shared on social media by people who know him, shows him posing next to Mustafa, who has his jacket open to reveal the fake explosive belt.

"I figured if his bomb was real I'd nothing to lose anyway," Innes, 26, told the newspaper in a story published Wednesday. He told The Sun he had been texting his mother throughout the ordeal.

Mustafa had threatened to detonate the belt if police attempted to "neutralize" him, Lambrianou said, but he eventually gave up after the crew and passengers were released.

Lambrianou said no explosives were found in the belt, except for a container filled with an unidentified liquid. Police also found an unidentified liquid in the suspect's bag, as well as numerous documents written in Arabic.

The prosecutor said Cypriot authorities will ask for help from Interpol to determine how the suspect managed to get the fake explosives belt through airport security in Egypt.

Deputies investigate after dog brings home bag of marijuana

LAUREL, Miss. (AP) — Authorities in Mississippi are investigating after they say a family's dog brought home a large bag of marijuana.

The Jones County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that narcotics deputies were dispatched to a home Saturday.

The homeowner told deputies his dog came home with a bag he initially thought was garbage. However, after inspecting the bag, the homeowner found that it contained a leafy substance that smelled like marijuana.

Authorities say they recovered about a pound of marijuana. It is not known where the dog got the bag from.

Israel's military chief issues memo after West Bank shooting

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's military chief has issued a memo to soldiers reinforcing the army's code of honor in the wake of a controversial West Bank shooting incident of a Palestinian attacker.

The Palestinian man was shot and killed by an Israeli soldier as he lay wounded on the ground. The shooting, which came amid six months of near-daily Palestinian attacks, has divided Israelis.

The soldier was arrested after an initial inquiry concluded he acted improperly but protesters and right-wing politicians have come to his defense and accused the army of abandoning him.

Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot's dispatch on Wednesday stresses Israel's "purity of arms" code of conduct.

Eisenkot reaffirmed the military would continue to support any soldier who errs in battle but will also punish those who stray from its moral code.

Apple remains in dark on how FBI hacked iPhone without help

TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI's announcement that it mysteriously hacked into an iPhone is a public setback for Apple Inc., as consumers learned that they can't keep the government out of even an encrypted device that U.S. officials had claimed was impossible to crack. Apple, meanwhile, remains in the dark about how to restore the security of its flagship product.

The government said it was able to break into an iPhone used by a gunman in a mass shooting in California, but it didn't say how. That puzzled Apple software engineers — and outside experts — about how the FBI broke the digital locks on the phone without Apple's help. It also complicated Apple's job repairing flaws that jeopardize its software.

The Justice Department's announcement that it was dropping a legal fight to compel Apple to help it access the phone also took away any obvious legal avenues Apple might have used to learn how the FBI did it. Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym on Tuesday vacated her Feb. 16 order, which compelled Apple to assist the FBI in hacking their phone.

The Justice Department declined through a spokeswoman to comment Tuesday.

A few clues have emerged. A senior law enforcement official told The Associated Press that the FBI managed to defeat an Apple security feature that threatened to delete the phone's contents if the FBI failed to enter the correct passcode combination after 10 tries. That allowed the government to repeatedly and continuously test passcodes in what's known as a brute-force attack until the right code is entered and the phone is unlocked.

It wasn't clear how the FBI dealt with a related Apple security feature that introduces increasing time delays between guesses. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because this person was not authorized to discuss the technique publicly.

FBI Director James Comey has said with those features removed, the FBI could break into the phone in 26 minutes.

The FBI hacked into the iPhone used by gunman Syed Farook, who died with his wife in a gun battle with police after they killed 14 people in December in San Bernardino. The iPhone, issued to Farook by his

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employer, the county health department, was found in a vehicle the day after the shooting.

The FBI is reviewing information from the iPhone, and it is unclear whether anything useful can be found.

Apple said that the legal case to force its cooperation "should never have been brought," and it promised to increase the security of its products. CEO Tim Cook has said the Cupertino-based company is constantly trying to improve security for its users. The company declined to comment more Tuesday.

The FBI's announcement — even without revealing precise details — that it had hacked the iPhone was at odds with the government's firm recommendations for nearly two decades that security researchers always work cooperatively and confidentially with software manufacturers before revealing that a product might be susceptible to hackers.

The aim is to ensure that American consumers stay as safe online as possible and prevent premature disclosures that might damage a U.S. company or the economy.

As far back as 2002, the Homeland Security Department ran a working group that included leading technology industry executives to advise the president on how to keep confidential discoveries by independent researchers that a company's software could be hacked until it was already fixed. Even now, the Commerce Department has been trying to fine-tune those rules. The next meeting of a conference on the subject is April 8 in Chicago and it's unclear how the FBI's behavior in the current case might influence the government's fragile relationship with technology companies or researchers.

The industry's rules are not legally binding, but the government's top intelligence agency said in 2014 that such vulnerabilities should be reported to companies and the Obama administration put forward an interagency process to do so.

"When federal agencies discover a new vulnerability in commercial and open source software — a so-called 'zero day' vulnerability because the developers of the vulnerable software have had zero days to fix it — it is in the national interest to responsibly disclose the vulnerability rather than to hold it for an investigative or intelligence purpose," the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a statement in April 2014.

The statement recommended generally divulging such flaws to manufacturers "unless there is a clear national security or law enforcement need."

Last week a team from Johns Hopkins University said it had found a security bug in Apple's iMessage service that would allow hackers under certain circumstances to decrypt some text messages. The team reported its findings to Apple in November and published an academic paper after Apple fixed it.

"That's the way the research community handles the situation. And that's appropriate," said Susan Landau, professor of cybersecurity policy at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She said it was acceptable for the government to find a way to unlock the phone but said it should reveal its method to Apple.

Mobile phones are frequently used to improve cybersecurity, for example, as a place to send a backup code to access a website or authenticate a user.

The chief technologist at the Center for Democracy and Technology, Joseph Lorenzo Hall, said keeping details secret about a flaw affecting millions of iPhone users "is exactly opposite the disclosure practices of the security research community. The FBI and Apple have a common goal here: to keep people safe and secure. This is the FBI prioritizing an investigation over the interests of hundreds of millions of people worldwide."

Global stocks surge as investors welcome Fed assurance

TERESA CERAJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Global stocks surged Wednesday as investors welcomed the latest signal from the U.S. Federal Reserve that it will move slowly to raise interest rates. Japan's Nikkei 225 bucked the trend and closed lower.

KEEPING SCORE: Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.4 percent in early trading to 6,193.27. Germany's DAX climbed 1.4 percent to 10,024.07, while France's CAC 40 gained 1.4 percent to 4,429.74. U.S. futures augured a positive opening on Wall Street, with Dow futures up 0.5 percent to 17,628 and S&P futures rising 0.5 percent to 2,057.

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ASIA'S DAY: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 1.3 percent, closing at 16,878.96, on the continuing strong yen and the trade ministry's announcement of a 6.2 percent month-on-month drop in industrial production in February. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 2.2 percent to 20,803.39. China's Shanghai Composite surged 2.8 percent to 3,000.65, while South Korea's KOSPI rose 0.4 percent to 2,002.14. Australia's S&P ASX 200 was up 0.1 percent at 5,010.30. Southeast Asian markets also rose.

ASIA'S ECONOMY: Softer growth prospects for China and a weak recovery in major industrial economies are expected to push down economic growth in developing Asia to 5.7 percent in 2016 and 2017, below previous projections, according to an Asian Development Bank report released Wednesday. The region's economy grew 5.9 percent in 2015. The Asian Development Outlook 2016 said China's economic growth is seen moderating to 6.5 percent this year from 6.9 percent last year and to 6.3 percent next year. Slower exports, a falling labor supply and supply-side reforms are reshaping the world's second-largest economy toward more domestic consumption and a further reduction in excess industrial capacity, it said.

THE QUOTE: "September is now the only date the markets are pricing with a better than 50 percent probability of a (U.S.) rate hike," said IG market analyst Angus Nicholson. "A weaker U.S. dollar not only benefits the dollar-denominated price of many commodities, which are a key export for most emerging markets, but it also lowers the burden of U.S. dollar-denominated debt in a range of emerging markets."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 71 cents, rising to \$39.00 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract shed \$1.11, or 2.8 percent, to \$38.28 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was up 60 cents at \$40.45 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar declined to 112.23 yen from 112.77 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1315 from \$1.1287.

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. FOR TRUMP, FEW LIMITS TO WIN-AT-ANY-COST APPROACH

AP's Julie Pace finds the GOP front-runner continues to surprise with how far he's willing to go in busting boundaries that restrain other candidates.

2. EGYPTIAN HIJACK SUSPECT ORDERED HELD FOR EIGHT DAYS

Seif Eddin Mustafa, 59, faces charges for allegedly diverting a Cairo-bound EgyptAir flight to Cyprus and threatening to blow it up.

3. TWO PROPOSALS AT HEART OF LGBT RIGHTS

The governors of Georgia and North Carolina weighed different political calculations when they ruled on laws that affect the same-sex community.

4. HOW OBAMA'S VISIT MAY HAVE CHANGED CUBA

Leaders of the Communist Party are being hit with highly unusual public criticism from their own ranks for imposing new secrecy on social and economic reforms.

5. SUU KYI ALLY SWORN IN AS MYANMAR'S PRESIDENT

Htin Kyaw takes a big step in the country's transition toward democracy after more than a half-century of direct and indirect military rule.

6. PROPOSALS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO FREE LAWYERS IN CIVIL CASES

The move comes as courts see a rise in poor defendants representing themselves — often ineffectively — in dire lawsuits involving eviction, foreclosure and child custody.

7. ALZHEIMER'S CARE AN EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING

A survey finds loved ones providing financial support or care to people with dementia dip into their retirement savings, cut spending and sell assets to pay for expenses.

8. IT MAY NOT BE YOUR EYES

A new rating of the headlights of more than 30 midsized car models gave only one model a grade of "good," which may explain why driving at night can be difficult.

9. PRIVACY CONCERNS PERSIST AFTER FEDS CRACK CODE

Apple remains in the dark about how to restore the security of its flagship product after the FBI hacks into an iPhone.

10. THE UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT OF CRAIG SAGER

The sideline reporter for Turner Sports continues to work NBA games despite his leukemia no longer being in remission.

Japan regulators OK costly ice wall at Fukushima plant

MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese regulators on Wednesday approved the launch of an unprecedented refrigeration structure resembling giant popsicles that would form a huge underground frozen barrier around the wrecked Fukushima nuclear reactor buildings in a desperate bid to contain contaminated water.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority said the structure, whose construction was completed last month, can now be activated.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., said it planned to turn on the ice wall Thursday, in an attempt to minimize the risk of contaminated water escaping into the water.

The nearly 800,000 tons of water already stored in 1,000 huge industrial tanks at the plant has been hampering the decontamination of the nuclear facility since the 2011 quake and tsunami.

The plan has been delayed for more than a year because of technical uncertainties. Some experts are still skeptical about the technology and question whether it's worth the huge costs.

The authority Chairman Shunichi Tanaka cautioned against high expectations because the project in part relies on the nature. "It would be best to think that the natural phenomenon doesn't work the way you would expect."

The 35 billion yen (\$312 million) government-funded project comes with pipes dug 30 meters (100 feet) underground and designed to freeze soil around them like giant popsicles. They are supposed to form a 1.5-kilometer (0.9 mile) long wall around the reactor and turbine buildings to contain radioactive water in the area and keep out groundwater.

Similar methods have been used to block water from parts of tunnels and subways, but the structure that huge surrounding four buildings and related facilities is untested. A smaller wall was used to isolate radioactive waste at an U.S. Department of Energy laboratory in Tennessee but only for six years.

A test using part of the ice wall has effectively frozen the ground around it, and officials hope that the ice wall would be successfully formed within several months, according to Shinichi Nakakuki, a spokesman for the utility known as TEPCO.

TEPCO officials say they hope the ice wall would effectively cut down the groundwater inflow into the area to about one-eighth of what it used to be and eventually dry up the turbine basements by 2020, confining the contamination only to the three melted reactors.

US to beef up military presence in Eastern Europe

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say the Pentagon will be deploying an armored brigade combat team to Eastern Europe next February as part of the ongoing effort to rotate troops in and out of the region to reassure allies worried about threats from an increasingly aggressive Russia.

The officials said the Army will announce Wednesday that it will be sending a full set of equipment with the brigade to Europe. Earlier plans had called for the Pentagon to rotate troops into Europe, where they would have used a set of training equipment pre-positioned there.

The new proposal would remove the pre-positioned equipment, send it to be refurbished, and allow the U.S. forces to bring more robust, modern equipment in with them when they deploy. There are about 4,500 soldiers in an armored brigade, along with dozens of heavy vehicles, tanks and other equipment.

Wednesday's announcement is also aimed at easing worries in Europe, where allies had heard rumblings about the pre-positioned equipment being removed and feared the U.S. was scaling back support.

Officials also said the Army would send additional communications equipment to Europe so that head-

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quarters units could have the radios, computers and other equipment needed to work with the brigades. The officials were not authorized to discuss the announcement publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The changes underscore promises made by defense leaders to protect Europe and send a message to Moscow that any aggression against allies would be unacceptable. And they provide more details to budget proposals rolled out earlier this year that quadrupled military aid to Europe and called for a more constant rotational presence.

Over the past nine months, during trips to Eastern Europe and in NATO meetings, Defense Secretary Ash Carter has pledged additional military support for the region.

Last June, while visiting Estonia, Carter announced the U.S. would spread about 250 tanks, armored vehicles and other military equipment across six former Soviet bloc nations to help reassure NATO allies facing threats from Russia and terrorist groups. Each set of equipment would be enough to outfit a military unit, and would go on at least a temporary basis to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania.

The equipment could also be moved around the region for training and military exercises, and would include Bradley fighting vehicles and self-propelled howitzer artillery guns.

In February, the Pentagon announced it would seek \$3.4 billion in the 2017 budget to increase troop rotations and military exercises in Europe. The plan essentially calls for the constant presence of a third brigade in Europe. Two are already permanently stationed in Europe — a Stryker brigade and an airborne brigade. And now a brigade will rotate in and out, likely every nine months or so, on a continual basis.

The 2016 budget included about \$780 million for the so-called European reassurance initiative, which covered the costs of sending hundreds of U.S. troops in and out of Europe for short deployments, military exercises and other training missions.

Carter's proposal to quadruple that amount would allow the U.S. to send more troops to Europe for short-term deployments and also provide additional equipment and improve facilities so that more forces could be accommodated.

The increased U.S. military support comes a year after the Defense Department unveiled sweeping plans to consolidate its forces in Europe, taking thousands of U.S. military and civilian personnel out of bases mostly in the United Kingdom and Portugal, in an effort that was expected to save about \$500 million each year.

But, Russia's military intervention in Ukraine over the past year and its annexation of the Crimea region has worried Eastern European nations, which fear they may be next.

The latest Pentagon moves are seen as an effort to deter Russia from taking any further aggressive action against any other European nations.

Foxconn agrees to buy Japan's Sharp Corp. at reduced price

JOHNSON LAI, The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The Taiwanese company that assembles Apple's iPhones agreed Wednesday to buy control of financially struggling Sharp Corp. for \$3.5 billion in the first foreign takeover of a major Japanese electronics producer.

The acquisition by Foxconn unites Sharp, a pioneering electronics brand founded in 1912, with a company six decades younger that is little known to consumers but has grown rapidly as a contract manufacturer for global brands.

The commitment by Foxconn, also known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., to buy 66 percent of Osaka-based Sharp followed weeks of uncertainty over what the Japanese company said was a deal at a higher price.

"I am thrilled by the prospects for this strategic alliance and I look forward to working with everyone at Sharp," said Foxconn founder Terry Gou in a statement. "We have much that we want to achieve and I am confident that we will unlock Sharp's true potential and together reach great heights."

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The price of 389 billion yen was a reduction of 100 billion yen, or about 20 percent, from the 489 billion yen (\$4.4 billion) that Sharp said Feb. 25 that Foxconn had agreed to pay. The Taiwanese company said at that time it wasn't ready to sign a deal.

The companies gave no reason for the change but news reports suggested Foxconn was concerned about taking on additional liabilities it learned about late in negotiations.

Speaking to reporters at the Taipei stock exchange, a Foxconn board member, Tai Jeng-wu, was asked what the company's strategy was for reversing Sharp's losses. He said plans called for the Japanese company to "upgrade its technology" but gave no details.

Foxconn said a final agreement is due to be signed Saturday.

Foxconn, founded by Gou in 1974, is the biggest competitor in the global manufacturing outsourcing industry. It assembles smartphones and other devices for Apple, Sony, Blackberry and other brands. Most of its operations are in mainland China, where its vast factories employ more than 1 million people.

Foxconn earned \$4.2 billion in profit for 2014, the last year for which it has reported results.

Sharp, which started out making mechanical pencils, is a pioneer in hand-held and flat-screen electronic devices. It was known for its Aquos flat-panel TVs and Internet-connecting cellphones long before the arrival of iPhones in Japan. But its finances deteriorated as competition from Asian rivals drove down prices of LCD panels.

Sharp suffered a 108 billion yen (\$964 million) loss over the nine months through December. Analysts say its future is uncertain even with the takeover because of challenges in restructuring its consumer electronics operations.

Smaller Japanese electronics brands including Sansui, Nakamichi and Akai also have been purchased by foreign buyers.

Uber, Ola face off in battle for India's booming taxi market

NIRMALA GEORGE, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Aiming to wrest control of India's booming taxi market, two cab-hailing smartphone apps — Uber and Ola — are promising hundreds of millions in new investment while also facing off with one another in court.

San Francisco-based Uber reportedly plans a \$500 million infusion of new funds, apart from the \$1 billion already committed over the past nine months, according to Indian newspapers. The company declined this week to comment on those reports. Meanwhile, Ola Cabs promises to add another 2,000 cars to the fleet of 26,000 it already commands in New Delhi, chief spokesman Anand Subramanian said.

But it's the ongoing legal wrangles between the two — with each accusing the other of behaving unethically — that have drawn focus to the struggle for India's \$9 billion taxi industry and future growth possibilities in a country with an urban population of 400 million people but few options in safe, convenient public transportation.

This month, Uber filed suit against Ola, accusing its Bangalore-based rival of hijacking its business by creating fake accounts to make bookings with Uber that it then canceled. Ola denied the allegations, calling them ludicrous and suggesting they were a smoke screen to hide Uber's own troubles. Ola previously challenged Uber in court over what it said were illegal business practices.

Analysts say the court battles show competition for market dominance is becoming fierce.

"It's a tussle to capture the top spot among taxi-hailing apps and the title of No. 1," said Jaspal Singh, founder of Valoriser Consultants, specializing in analysis of the transportation industry.

Smartphone taxi apps, introduced in India in 2010, have grown to account for 10 percent of the country's overall taxi industry, which also includes regular cabs and three-wheeler "rickshaws."

Ola has already bought out the upstart TaxiForSure, and both Uber and Ola offer rates below those of traditional taxis. Meanwhile, they are quickly adding new cities and customers, including car drivers increasingly fed up with traffic gridlock and difficulty finding parking on India's overcrowded roads.

So far Ola has been dominating the smartphone app market, with a presence in more than 100 cities and roughly half of the business, analysts say. Uber, which entered the Indian market in 2013, operates

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in 29 Indian cities and is anxious to expand, while myriad small players are clawing their way in.

In the latest legal action between the two, filed in the Delhi High Court, Uber demanded an injunction against Ola and \$7.4 million in damages. It accuses Ola — backed by Japan's SoftBank Group Corp. and hedge fund Tiger Global Management LLC — of creating more than 90,000 fake accounts to book around 400,000 rides and then cancel them in an effort to disrupt Uber's business.

The allegations are similar to those faced by Uber itself in the United States in 2014, where San Francisco-based Lyft accused Uber of booking and canceling thousands of rides. Uber denied the accusations and no legal action was filed.

The Delhi High Court will hold its next hearing in September on Uber's lawsuit, which Ola called "frivolous and false."

Ola said in a statement it was "not beyond our imagination that this is an effort to divert attention from the current realities of the market where Uber has faced major setbacks."

Specifically, those setbacks include a legal petition filed by Ola in October, accusing Uber of flouting a Supreme Court order demanding app-based taxis in New Delhi switch from running on diesel to using compressed natural gas. The companies were given until this month to comply with the rules, intended to curb extreme air pollution in the capital. Ola's parent company, ANI Technologies LTD, has alleged Uber's lawsuit is retaliation against Ola's petition.

Uber had earlier troubles in India as well. It was accused of failing to properly screen its drivers in 2014 after one was accused of raping a 26-year-old passenger. Uber's reputation temporarily took a hit, and the government briefly banned all smartphone app taxi services while new regulations were drafted.

The current wrangling over ethics and legal threats is not limited to Uber and Ola.

Last week, rickshaw booking app Jugnoo, operating in the north Indian city of Chandigarh, accused Ola of using "unethical practices to sabotage its business" by making fake bookings and warned of legal action if it did not cease.

Jugnoo CEO Samar Singla said his company saw a sudden surge in bookings and cancellations, with about 20,000 cancellations made through 800 accounts over a 10-day period earlier this month.

"We started mapping the areas where the bookings were being made from, and it invariably pointed to places close to Ola's office," Singla said in a statement.

Singh, the transportation analyst, said Uber and Ola were honing their strategies and boosting services to secure market dominance as the country experiments with transportation limits aimed at curbing air pollution.

On April 15, New Delhi will begin banning cars with odd- or even-numbered license plates from the roads on alternate days for two weeks. The capital's first such effort in January helped lessen air pollution and traffic.

Residents say they will be relying on cab companies to travel in the city during those weeks.

"The last time I just ordered a cab from my phone. For me it doesn't matter if it's Ola or Uber," said Rashmi Singh, an advertising executive. "It's so convenient, I could park my car in the garage permanently."

Two Republican governors, two different calculations

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Two Republican governors. Two proposals at the heart of LGBT rights. One rejection. One new law.

Georgia's Gov. Nathan Deal said he was preventing discrimination and protecting commerce when he announced his veto of a measure that would have allowed certain individuals, businesses and faith organizations to deny services based on "sincerely held religious beliefs."

In North Carolina, Gov. Pat McCrory said he was protecting his citizens' privacy and using "common sense" when he signed into law a bill that, among other things, prohibits local anti-discrimination ordinances and obligates transgender people to use restrooms matching the gender on their birth certificates.

Their moves highlight a familiar GOP fault line between business conservatives, led by large corporations that have embraced LGBT rights, and social conservatives, who have ramped up their calls for their own

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legal protections since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage last year.

The tussle is particularly fierce in statehouses like those in Atlanta and Raleigh, where the GOP holds overwhelmingly majorities.

"There was no escape hatch," former Deal aide Brian Robinson said. "He was getting torn between two factions ... both of which have supported him strongly for years."

Yet there's a stark political reality in the governors' different conclusions: Deal is a 74-year-old in his second term, unable to seek a third consecutive term and almost certain never to face Georgia voters again; McCrory is a 59-year-old running for re-election, with a newfound general election issue smoldering in his lap.

So Deal was free to wax eloquent Monday about constitutional freedoms, largely avoiding explicit commentary on same-sex marriage and LGBT rights as he explained his decision.

"If indeed our religious liberty is conferred by God and not by man-made government, we should heed the 'hands-off' admonition of the First Amendment to our Constitution," he said.

The veto disappointed some religious conservatives and enraged others, all of them promising to press the matter again. But Deal stood his ground, alluding to his own lifelong Southern Baptist affiliation. "I do not think we have to discriminate against anyone," he said, "to protect the faith-based community."

Conversely, McCrory now must try to frame the new North Carolina law in his favor, while his Democratic general election opponent, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, does the same. The challenge for both men is to placate their respective party bases — gay-rights supporting liberals for Cooper, social conservatives for McCrory — while appealing to independents who hold sway in the closely divided state.

McCrory and his aides focus on provisions that require people to use multistall bathrooms of the sex matching their birth certificates at state agencies, schools and universities. The law was the product of a special session Republicans called essentially to override a city of Charlotte ordinance allowing transgender individuals to use the bathroom assigned to their gender identity.

Chris LaCivita, McCrory's chief campaign strategist, said it's a simple question: "Can a male use a female bathroom and a female locker room?" LaCivita said McCrory "has always maintained that this is a case about reasonable expectations of privacy."

Opponents of an anti-discrimination ordinance in Houston successfully used the same arguments in a 2015 referendum.

Cooper answered Tuesday that the North Carolina law is a "national embarrassment," and he said he would not defend it as attorney general against a pending federal lawsuit.

He and other Democrats also tried to define the bill by more than transgender bathroom access. The law blocks workers from suing in state courts over workplace discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap; and it bars local anti-discrimination measures to protect people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, while separately preventing local governments from setting their own minimum wage or requiring businesses to provide paid sick leave.

All that "will set North Carolina's economy back if we don't repeal it," Cooper said, echoing the argument business leaders made in pressuring Deal for a veto in Georgia.

More than 500 companies joined a coalition led by Coca-Cola and other big-name Georgia firms. The Walt Disney Co., Marvel Studios and Salesforce.com threatened to take business elsewhere. The NFL suggested Atlanta could lose its bids for the 2019 or 2020 Super Bowl.

McCrory heeded such arguments last year when he vetoed a "religious freedom" bill that was more limited than what Deal nixed. (The Legislature overrode McCrory's veto.) On Monday, McCrory doubled down, saying he'd "not had one corporation tell me that they're threatening to leave," though the NBA has now suggested it could move professional basketball's 2017 All-Star game from Charlotte.

Georgia Republican consultant Chip Lake said those arguments are what ultimately drive the issue, regardless of specific and often complicated provisions that McCrory, Cooper, Deal and others try to parse.

"We get caught up in arguments of what's right and what's wrong, but this becomes an issue where we just have to ask, 'Are the economic consequences real or perceived?'" Lake said. "You can call it economic extortion. We can talk about 'that's unfair,' but that's the reality."

Police evacuate migrant camp near Paris subway station

PARIS (AP) — Police have evacuated a few hundred migrants from a makeshift camp near a subway station in northeastern Paris.

The Paris regional administration said the operation Wednesday was peaceful and authorities are relocating the migrants, who had been living beneath elevated train tracks for the past several weeks.

The Paris transit authority closed the Stalingrad metro station during the operation. The area has seen multiple migrant camps in recent years that are periodically cleared out.

French media reported the residents were primarily from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Afghanistan.

France has not seen nearly as many Syrian refugees or other migrants over the past year as Germany or countries farther east, but has experienced tensions around the northern port of Calais, where migrants converge in hopes of crossing to Britain.

Analysis: For Trump, few limits to win-at-any-cost approach

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sitting on his plush private plane surrounded by a gaggle of reporters, Donald Trump laid bare the depths of his win-at-any-cost political philosophy.

"Nothing is presidential except victory," he said Tuesday. "Victory is presidential."

Very little about Trump's surprising White House campaign has fit into any traditional view of what's deemed "presidential" — the kind of know-it-if-you-see-it behavior befitting an occupant of the Oval Office.

Indeed, that's part of the draw for Trump's supporters, many of whom praise the businessman's willingness to dispense with political correctness.

Yet even with the built-in expectation that Trump is running an atypical campaign, the Republican front-runner continues to surprise with how far he's willing to go in busting boundaries that restrain other presidential candidates. While he's suggested that he would be more of a statesman if he's the GOP nominee, encouraging Republican Party unity and promising to moderate his abrasive tone, he can't seem to resist the lure of a bareknuckle political brawl.

The latest surreal scene played out Tuesday, when Trump's campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was charged with simple battery for an altercation with a female reporter who was working for a conservative news outlet. Lewandowski is Trump's closest and most visible adviser, a constant presence at campaign events and the gatekeeper for who gets access to the real estate mogul.

He's also nearly single-handedly steered Trump's campaign within sight of victory in the Republican nominating contest.

Most presidential campaigns move quickly to shut down a firestorm over a staffer regardless of rank, particularly if legal issues are involved. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz abruptly fired one of his top aides earlier this year after the adviser posted a video online that inaccurately portrayed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio as disparaging the Bible.

But Trump chose to fan the flames of the controversy surrounding Lewandowski. He vigorously defended his adviser and predicted no jury would convict him. He also accused journalist Michelle Fields of trying to destroy Lewandowski's life and questioned the origin of bruises on Fields' arm that she says were the result of the campaign manager's manhandling.

"How do you know those bruises weren't there before?" Trump said, his every word being blasted out live on cable news. At a campaign rally in Janesville, Wisconsin, he polled his crowd on whether they'd seen video of the incident. "What did you think, right?" he asked them. "Nothing."

Trump's comments come amid sharp criticism from Democrats, as well as some Republicans, of derogatory statements he's made about women — both during this campaign and during his extensive public life before entering politics. He's embroiled in a heated controversy involving an unflattering image of Cruz's wife that he highlighted on Twitter, as well as a vague and ominous threat he made on Twitter to "spill the beans" about Heidi Cruz.

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Following the charge against Lewandowski, the Texas senator accused Trump of running a campaign "built on attacks" and said there's "no place in politics for insults, for personal attacks, for going to the gutter, and there should be no place for physical violence either."

Women comprise a powerful share of persuadable voters in the general election. And even as Trump is still trying to lock down the GOP nomination, he's struggling with the women he would need to win the White House.

A recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found 70 percent of women had a negative opinion of Trump. Nearly three quarters of women overall, and 39 percent of Republican women, had an unfavorable view of him in a recent CNN poll.

Yet some women who comprise Trump's supremely loyal legion of supporters say they see little wrong with Lewandowski's actions and the response from their favored candidate.

"It's all ridiculous to me because I don't think grabbing someone's arm to restrain them is battery," said Carlene Summers, a 72-year-old who attended Trump's rally Tuesday in Janesville, Wisconsin. "I used to work on a school playground and I restrained quite a few kids and I never got in trouble for battery."

It's the tension between the voters Trump needs to win now as he tries to wrap up the GOP nomination and those he needs on his side in November that highlights the weakness in his boundary-pushing approach to the campaign. Beyond his comments about women, he's also been harsh in his depiction of immigrants, including calling Mexicans crossing into the United States murderers and rapists.

While Republicans have long grappled with both appealing to more conservative primary voters and a broader general election audience, the challenge they've faced has focused largely on modulating their policy positions.

It's deeply uncertain whether Trump can make the same pivot when his words and his actions seem as focused on the personal as they do on the policy.

Study illuminates big performance gap for car headlights

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There may be a reason why people have trouble seeing while driving at night, and it's not their eyesight. A new rating of the headlights of more than 30 midsized car models gave only one model a grade of "good."

Of the rest, about a third were rated "acceptable," a third "marginal" and a third "poor." The difference between the top- and bottom-rated models for a driver's ability to see down a dark road was substantial, according to the study released Wednesday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, an industry-funded organization that evaluates automotive safety.

The LED headlights in the top trim level Toyota Prius V — the only one of 31 models tested to get the "good" rating — were able to illuminate a straight roadway sufficiently to see a pedestrian, bicyclist or obstacle up to 387 feet ahead. At that distance, the vehicle could be traveling up to 70 mph and still have time to stop.

But halogen headlights in the BMW 3 series, the worst-rated ones, were able to illuminate only 128 feet ahead. At that distance, the vehicle couldn't be traveling at more than 35 mph and still have time to stop, according to the study.

That's important because of the more than 32,000 traffic deaths last year, about half happened at night or during dawn and dusk when visibility is lower.

The reason for the big performance gap is that there's a lot more to how well headlights help drivers see than merely the brightness of the bulb or even what type of bulb is used, said David Zuby, the institute's executive vice president and chief researcher.

"We found the same light bulb, depending upon what reflector or lens it's paired with and how it's mounted on the vehicle, can give you very different visibility down the road," he said.

It gets more complicated. Consumers can't buy a more expensive model or add an expensive technology package and necessarily expect to get better headlights, the report said. The halogen headlights in

the economically priced base model 4-door Honda Accord, for example, earned an acceptable rating while halogen and LED headlights in two pricier Mercedes-Benz models were rated poor.

Zuby said with no reliable clues such as the price of the car or the type of light, it's hard for consumers to figure out which vehicles will provide the safest visibility. He recommended car buyers check the institute's ratings at <http://www.iihs.org>.

The report comes as halogen lamps are being replaced by high-intensity discharge (HID) and LED lamps in many vehicles. Headlights that swivel with the car's steering to help see around curves are also becoming more widespread. While these changes can have advantages, they don't guarantee good performance, the report said.

Researchers tested the headlights after dark at the institute's test track in Ruckersville, Virginia. A special device measured the light from both low beams and high beams as the vehicles were driven on five different approaches: traveling straight, a sharp left curve, a sharp right curve, a gradual left curve and a gradual right curve. Researchers also evaluated headlights for excessive glare.

They were surprised to find how much headlights varied from the base model to higher trim or accessory packages, Zuby said. Eighty-two different headlight systems were available for the 31 2016 models assessed in the study. To get the top-rated headlights in the Prius V, consumers would have to purchase the advanced technology package, which is only available in the top trim level. Standard halogen lights without high-beam assist in less expensive Prius V trim levels received a poor rating.

High-beam assist automatically adjusts the headlamp range for the distance of vehicles ahead or oncoming traffic.

Toyota officials declined to comment, and BMW officials didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

Mercedes-Benz said in statement that it was "greatly surprised" by the test, and remains "confident our lighting systems provide important safety benefits for real world conditions."

Government standards for judging the performance of headlights "are essentially unchanged" since they were set back in the 1960s, Zuby said.

"In the standard, they are measuring the light coming out of the light source — right in front of the light bulb, in essence — and not looking at how the light is projected down the road, which is what our tests do," he said.

The institute hopes its study will encourage the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to improve standards, or inspire automakers to make better headlights on their own, Zuby said.

Ash coats village areas near erupting Alaska volcano

DAN JOLING, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A village not far from an erupting Alaska volcano urged residents to stay indoors after the mountain rained down ash, coating ground areas and turning some rooftops and car windows black.

The volcano kept pumping out new ash Tuesday that could threaten aircraft, but it came in smaller amounts at lower heights, according to the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Pavlof Volcano, 625 miles southwest of Anchorage on the Alaska Peninsula, erupted Sunday. The initial eruption continued for about 17 hours and put out an ash cloud that reached 37,000 feet.

U.S. Geological Survey geologist Kristi Wallace said there were reports of a significant ash fall in Nelson Lagoon, a village of 39 people about 55 miles northeast of the volcano. Residents reported one-eighth to two-thirds of an inch of ash.

Cpl. Barrett Taylor, a village public safety officer in Nelson Lagoon, saw ash falling early Monday.

"It was raining ash for a little bit," Taylor said. "It turned everything black, the rooftops, the fuel tanks, homes."

The ash was worse Tuesday, he said, because wind coming in off the ocean was whipping it around.

Officials say ash can be hazardous to eyes, skin and breathing passages.

The community has put out a health advisory to stay inside until Wednesday. Taylor is hoping strong wind or rain will sweep some of the ash away.

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"I actually saw an eagle land on the grass today, and as he landed, a big pile of ash came up and flew away," he said.

The plume blew northeast and by Tuesday had reached Canada, but Dave Schneider, a USGS geophysicist at the observatory, said activity had calmed from the continuous eruptive phase.

"Over the last six to eight hours the activity is more intermittent," he said Tuesday. "There are short duration, small explosive events that are occurring, as opposed to sort of a continuous plume."

The original ash cloud crossed Bristol Bay, spread into interior Alaska, and stretched into northern Canada, said Don Moore, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service Alaska Aviation Weather Unit.

"The extent of the plume is certainly greater but the concentration of the ash is becoming less," Moore said. "The plume is becoming thinner over time."

Volcanic ash is angular and sharp and can cause a jet engine to shut down. Alaska Airlines canceled 41 flights within the state Monday, and 28 more Tuesday.

Sherry Keever has lived in Healy, Alaska, for only a year and was trying to get home from a vacation in California when ash from the volcano prompted the cancellation of her flight.

"I'm kind of new, and I wasn't even aware there were volcanoes that could affect the flight patterns, and I'm OK with it," she said while sitting in a waiting area of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, waiting to see if she could get her flight to Fairbanks on Tuesday.

The volcano in the 8,261-foot mountain is one of Alaska's most active. It has had 40 known eruptions.

Pavlof eruptions in the past 20 years have not been as intense, but the current eruption is not unprecedented for the volcano, Schneider said.

The length of the eruption was a major factor in the size of the ash cloud, Schneider said. So were the winds and possibly the smaller size of the ash, which takes longer to fall out of the atmosphere.

Pat Walsh, a wildlife biologist for the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, saw ash 25 miles west of Dillingham as a gray haze as he tracked wolves from the air in the refuge. He could also see traces of ash in fresh wolf tracks and in the snow.

Tisha Christensen, a health aide at the clinic in Port Heiden, said gray ash mixed with snow fell Monday night in the community on the Bering Sea side of the Alaska Peninsula. It affected her 8-year-old son, who has asthma but tried going to school Tuesday.

"He didn't even make it a half-hour and had to come home and have a nebulizer treatment," she said.

Only trace amounts of ash had been reported from Pavlof eruptions since 1996.

In the past, the volcano has erupted intermittently over months or shut off abruptly.

Paty Duke's talent, bravery recalled; actress dies at 69

FRAZIER MOORE, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The courage that a teenage Patty Duke portrayed on-screen as Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker" was breathtaking and Oscar-winning.

Duke's own gritty struggle against bipolar disorder was equally admired. She opened up about her condition at a time when such candor was unusual and she became an activist for mental health causes.

The actress, who died Tuesday at age 69, was "a warrior," said her son, actor Sean Astin. "You watch this 4-foot-10, tiny imp of a lady who's more powerful than the greatest military leaders in history."

"We're so grateful to her for living a life that generates that amount of compassion and feeling in others," Astin told The Associated Press in reflecting on the outpouring of sentiment from fans at the news of her death.

Colleagues responded with equal passion.

"I will miss her every day but I will find comfort in the words of Helen Keller: 'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart,'" wrote Sara Gilbert, who starred with Duke in a TV remake of "The Miracle Worker."

Duke died of sepsis from a ruptured intestine in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, where she had lived for the past quarter-century, according to Teri Weigel, Astin's publicist.

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She astonished audiences as the young deaf-and-blind Keller first on Broadway, then in the acclaimed 1962 film version, appearing in both alongside Anne Bancroft as Helen's teacher, Annie Sullivan (Bancroft won an Oscar of her own).

"Her performance in 'The Miracle Worker' brought Helen Keller's indomitable spirit to life and inspired generations to pursue careers serving the deaf-blind community," Joseph F. Bruno, chief executive of Helen Keller Services, said in a statement.

In 1963, Duke burst onto the TV scene starring in her own sitcom, "The Patty Duke Show," which aired for three seasons. She played dual roles as identical cousins Cathy, "who's lived most everywhere, from Zanzibar to Barclay Square" while (according to the theme song) "Patty's only seen the sights a girl can see from Brooklyn Heights. What a crazy pair!"

In 2015, she would play twin roles again: as a pair of grandmas on an episode of "Liv and Maddie," a series on the Disney Channel.

Born Anna Marie Duke in the New York borough of Queens on Dec. 14, 1946, she had a difficult childhood with abusive parents. By 8 years old, she was largely under the control of husband-and-wife talent managers who kept her busy on soap operas and advertising displays.

They also supplied her with alcohol and prescription drugs, which accentuated the effects of her undiagnosed bipolar disorder.

In her 1988 memoir, "Call Me Anna," Duke wrote of her condition and the diagnosis she had gotten only six years earlier, and of the subsequent treatment that helped stabilize her life. The book became a 1990 TV film in which she starred.

With the end of "The Patty Duke Show" in 1966, which left her stereotyped as not one, but two squeaky-clean teenagers, Duke attempted to leap into the nitty-grittiness of adulthood in the 1967 melodrama "Valley of the Dolls," in which she played a showbiz hopeful who falls prey to drug addiction, a broken marriage and shattered dreams.

The film, based on the best-selling Jacqueline Susann pulp novel, was critically slammed but a commercial sensation.

During her career, she would win three Emmy Awards, for the TV film "My Sweet Charlie," the miniseries "Captains and the Kings," and the 1979 TV version of "The Miracle Worker," in which Duke played Annie Sullivan with "Little House on the Prairie" actress Gilbert as Keller.

In the 1980s, Duke starred in a trio of short-lived sitcoms: "It Takes Two," "Karen's Song" and "Hail to the Chief," cast as the first female president of the United States.

"Her career ebbed and flowed," said Astin, her son with her third husband, actor John Astin, "and sometimes she was stressed about it and sometimes she was at peace with it. And then she'd get to do something that she could sink her teeth into, that reminded her of what she was capable of."

In addition to her acting career, Duke served as the president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1985 to 1988.

She starred in several stage productions, including a return to Broadway in 2002 to play Aunt Eller in a revival of the musical "Oklahoma!"

By then, she already had spent a dozen years living in Idaho with her fourth husband, Michael Pearce (who survives her), seeking refuge from the clutter, noise and turmoil of big cities, and from the tumultuous life she had weathered in the past.

In describing the role of Aunt Eller, and perhaps herself, to The Associated Press, she once said, "This is a woman who has had strife in life, made her peace with some of it and has come to the point of acceptance. Not giving up."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 30, the 90th day of 2016. There are 276 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 30, 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C.,

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hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr.; also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and a District of Columbia police officer, Thomas Delahanty.

On this date:

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited denying citizens the right to vote and hold office on the basis of race, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish. Texas was readmitted to the Union.

In 1909, the Queensboro Bridge, linking the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Queens, opened.

In 1923, the Cunard liner RMS Laconia became the first passenger ship to circle the globe as it arrived in New York.

In 1945, during World War II, the Soviet Union invaded Austria with the goal of taking Vienna, which it accomplished two weeks later.

In 1959, a narrowly divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Bartkus v. Illinois*, ruled that a conviction in state court following an acquittal in federal court for the same crime did not constitute double jeopardy.

In 1964, John Glenn withdrew from the Ohio race for the U.S. Senate because of injuries suffered in a fall. The original version of the TV game show "Jeopardy!," hosted by Art Fleming, premiered on NBC.

In 1975, as the Vietnam War neared its end, Communist forces occupied the city of Da Nang. James Ruppert, 41, killed 11 members of his family at his mother's home in Hamilton, Ohio, on Easter Sunday.

In 1986, actor James Cagney died at his farm in Stanfordville, New York, at age 86.

In 1991, Patricia Bowman of Jupiter, Florida, told authorities she'd been raped hours earlier by William Kennedy Smith, the nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy, at the family's Palm Beach estate. (Smith was acquitted at trial.)

In 2002, Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth died at Royal Lodge, Windsor, outside London; she was 101 years old.

Ten years ago: American reporter Jill Carroll, a freelancer for *The Christian Science Monitor*, was released after 82 days as a hostage in Iraq. A cruise boat capsized off the coast of Bahrain, leaving 58 dead. Major League Baseball began its investigation into alleged steroid use among players.

Five years ago: A top Libyan official, Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa, defected to Britain, dealing a blow to leader Moammar Gadhafi. Tilikum, the killer whale that had drowned trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010 at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida, resumed performing for the first time since the woman's death.

One year ago: German officials confirmed that Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz was once diagnosed with suicidal tendencies and received lengthy psychotherapy before receiving his pilot's license; they believed Lubitz deliberately smashed his Airbus A320 into the French Alps, killing 150 people. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was convicted of unlawfully accepting money from a U.S. supporter in his retrial on corruption charges. Two men dressed as women and driving a stolen SUV ignored officers' orders at the gate to the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland; police fired on the SUV, which then rammed into a police vehicle. One man was killed. Comedy Central announced that Trevor Noah, a 31-year-old comedian from South Africa, would succeed Jon Stewart as host of "The Daily Show."

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Peter Marshall is 90. Actor John Astin is 86. Actor-director Warren Beatty is 79. Rock musician Graeme Edge (The Moody Blues) is 75. Rock musician Eric Clapton is 71. Actor Justin Deas is 68. Actor Robbie Coltrane is 66. Actor Paul Reiser is 59. Rap artist MC Hammer is 53. Singer Tracy Chapman is 52. Actor Ian Ziering is 52. TV personality Piers Morgan is 51. Actress Donna D'Errico is 48. Singer Celine Dion is 48. Actor Mark Consuelos is 45. Actress Bahar Soomekh is 41. Actress Jessica Cauffiel is 40. Singer Norah Jones is 37. Actress Fiona Gubelmann is 36. Actress Katy Mixon is 35. Actor Jason Dohring is 34. Country singer Justin Moore is 32. Actress Tessa Ferrer is 30. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 26.

Thought for Today: "We lie loudest when we lie to ourselves." — Eric Hoffer, American philosopher (1898-1983).