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Public Meeting Dates Set

The dates and locations for the public meetings concerning the proposed building project at Groton Area MS/HS have been finalized:

- Mon. Feb. 27 – Columbia American Legion – 7:00 PM
- Mon., March 6 – Bristol Community Center – 7:00 PM
- Thurs., Mar. 9– Groton Community Center – 7:00 PM

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom apartment for rent. Move in by Feb. 28th and get a FREE 32" Flat Screen TV! All utilities included except A/C, for \$600. Please call or text 239-849-7674 .

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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Thursday, Feb. 23

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

School Lunch: Taco salad, refried beans, fruit, bread stick.

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

Girls Regional Basketball Tourney at Sisseton. First game begins at 6:00 p.m. with the second game to follow.

Friday, Feb. 24

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

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, fruit, Romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, peaches, whole wheat bread.

State Wrestling Tourney in Sioux Falls

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Special School Board Meeting

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

SPECIAL MEETING

February 21, 2017

President Smith called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Harder, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Absent: Fjelstad, Gengerke and Kjelden. Others present were Superintendent J. Schwan, Principal B. Schwan and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Harder, second Weismantel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

No potential conflicts of interest were reported.

The purpose of the meeting was to open bids for the 2017 Groton Elementary Remodel Project. Fourteen contractors were in attendance along with Custodial Supervisor, Mike Nehls. Twenty bid packages were opened and read as follows:

Bid Package 02.60 – Sitework: Lien Transportation – base bid of \$463,691.15.

Bid Package 06.15 – General Construction: Crestone Builders – base bid of \$1,527,000 with alternates adding \$27,500 for additional door security, \$3,000 for flagpole, \$10,500 for exterior signage, \$16,000 for additional casework and alternate deducting of \$16,000 for standing seam wall panels. JDH Construction – base bid of \$1,514,000 with alternates adding \$1,365 for replacement of windows in 1992 addition, \$7,570 for additional door security, \$2,830 for flagpole, \$7,260 for exterior signage, \$18,675 for additional casework and alternate deducting \$18,195 for standing seam wall panels.

Bid Package 07.50 – Roofing: Tecta America Dakotas – base bid of \$120,266 with alternate adding \$107,761 for re-roofing existing areas. Architectural Roofing & Sheetmetal – base bid of \$72,270 with alternate adding \$69,340 for re-roofing existing areas.

Bid Package 08.00 – Aluminum Storefronts, Curtain Walls and Glazing: Fargo Glass & Paints Company – base bid of \$173,415 with alternate adding \$16,770 for replacement of windows in 1992 addition. House of Glass, Inc. – base bid of \$122,380 with alternate adding \$7,944 for replacement of windows in 1992 addition.

Bid Package 09.50 – Acoustical Ceilings: Gemini Acoustical – base bid of \$189,620.

Bid Package 09.60 – Flooring and Wall Tile: Grazzini Brothers & Company – base bid of \$264,350 with alternate deducting \$28,600 for VCT flooring.

Bid Package 21.00 – Fire Protection: Midwestern Mechanical – base bid of \$102,500. Prairie Sons, Inc. – base bid of \$88,275. Western States Fire Protection – base bid of \$102,800. NOVA Fire Protection – base bid of \$106,900.

Bid Package 23.05 – Ventilation: Tessier's Inc. – base bid of \$694,000. Custom Sheet Metal, Inc. – base bid of \$616,900 with alternate deducting \$500 for new water heater. Fay's Refrigeration & Heating – base bid of \$885,000.

Bid Package 24.05 – Testing & Balancing: Balancing Professionals – base bid of \$23,890.

Bid Package 26.05 – Electrical: Jacobson Electric – base bid of \$952,500 with alternates adding \$1,230 for additional door security, \$2,250 for flagpole, \$42,500 for new electrical panels/feeders and \$53,500 for copper electrical wiring. Muth Electric – base bid of \$759,336 with alternates adding \$7,305 for additional door security, \$6,610 for flagpole, \$39,047 for new electrical panels/feeders and \$6,592 for copper electrical wiring. Engelstad Electric – base bid of \$789,500 with alternates adding \$3,955 for additional door security, \$3,252 for flagpole, \$16,436 for new electrical panels/feeders, \$468 for new water heater and \$6,298 for copper electrical wiring.

There were no bids received for Plumbing and Heating. Representatives of Foster, Jacobs & Johnson, Inc will contact these contractors to negotiate directly. A re-bid of Plumbing and Heating services may be required.

No action was taken on any received bids.

Moved by Rix, second Weismantel to adjourn at 2:55 pm. Motion carried.

M. J. Weber, Business Manager

Steven R. Smith, President

The addition of signatures to this page verifies these minutes as official.

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

Special School Board Meeting

February 27, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Columbia American Legion

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Public presentation and discussion of proposed MS/HS Building Project.

ADJOURN

Fish Houses Must be removed by March 1

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) reminds ice anglers that all fish houses, shelters and other structures must be removed from the ice by midnight on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017. Fish houses, shelters and other structures may be used after Feb. 28, 2017, but must be removed from the ice on a daily basis.

Death Notice: Mary Louisa Brown

Mary Louisa Brown, 94, of Groton passed away February 21, 2017 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

GROTON KIWANIS

Ten members attended the weekly Groton Kiwanis dinner meeting, Wednesday noon.

Tom Mahan introduced Jim Becker, Turton; who handed out his pamphlets, and spoke of his with Grow South Dakota. Jim travels several counties, bringing eligible families into Governor's homes. SD state prisoners build these homes. Lee Schinkel will be next week's program leader.

Augustana University to Introduce Stephanie Herseth Sandlin as 24th President



Augustana University will introduce former congresswoman Stephanie Herseth Sandlin as its 24th president at a news conference at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, in the Edith Mortenson Center Theatre.

The appointment, made by the Augustana Board of Trustees following an extensive national search, marks the first time in Augustana's 157-year history that a woman will serve as president.

Herseth Sandlin is currently serving as general counsel and vice president of corporate development for Raven Industries in Sioux Falls. She served as South Dakota's lone U.S. Representative from 2004-11. When elected in 2004, she was the first woman from South Dakota to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the youngest woman serving in the House during that time.

Herseth Sandlin is a GHS graduate.

Herseth Sandlin will assume office this summer and will succeed President Rob Oliver, who announced his plans to retire last fall after more than 25 years of service to Augustana.

Healthy Sleep and Shift Work

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Fifteen million Americans work outside the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. or work swing shifts rotating between day, evening or night shifts.

"Working odd hours can result in a difficult sleep schedule," said Hope Kleine, SDSU Extension Health Education Field Specialist.

For those with work schedules that do not resemble the traditional 8-to-5 workday, it may be tough to get the seven to nine hours of sleep recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"On average, individuals with a non-traditional work schedule get two-to-four hours less sleep than the recommended guidelines," Kleine said.

Kleine pointed to studies which show that lack of sleep can have a negative impact on attention, concentration, reaction time, memory, mood - and worse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports shift workers are more likely to be injured on the job, with 3 a.m. to 6 a.m. being the most likely time for accidents.

"In addition, these individuals are more likely to suffer from diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic health problems," Kleine said.

Beyond Counting Sheep - How to Achieve Restful Sleep

Below, Kleine outlines tips to help those working odd hours to overcome a few common barriers and achieve restful sleep.

Napping: Take a nap prior to reporting for a night shift. A nap of 90 minutes is best as it allows you to complete a sleep cycle.

Eating Well: Eat three regular meals spaced evenly over the course of your time awake. Meal times serve as time cues to your internal clock and can help your body know when to make you sleepy.

Exercise: The timing of exercise is important so that you are not too tired to work.

Twenty minutes of aerobic exercise before work (such as a brisk walk, bike ride, jog, or swim) is enough to activate the body to produce energy, while keeping the heart in shape.

Morning exercise is good for day shifts, afternoon exercise is good for evening shifts and early evening exercise is good for those going on a night shift.

Sleep hygiene: You can sleep better by following the practices of good sleep hygiene before getting into bed (wash face, brush teeth, comb hair).

Home environment: Talk to others in your home about your sleep schedule while on shift. Prompt them to reduce the level of noise and light in the home while you are sleeping.

Limit your screen time: Avoid screens (television, phone, computer, iPad, tablet) one hour before going to bed. The light emitted from screens signals your brain to stay awake.

Block out light and noise: Darken and sound-proof your room as much as possible. Invest in light-proof curtains and blinds, as well as a white noise machine or a fan.

"Working non-traditional hours is hard. Take the extra steps to take care of yourself to ensure a more restful sleep for a safer work environment, and a healthier you," Kleine said.

To learn more about healthy sleep and shift work visit this Centers for Disease Control page: <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2016/10/05/shift-work-and-sleep/>.

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Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

E&O honored for work in STEM

In 2015, Sanford Lab's Education and Outreach Department began developing assembly programs and curriculum units for elementary, middle and high school students across the state. Based on the science at Sanford Lab, the goal was twofold: Get students excited about STEM and give science educators additional teaching tools.

Recently, E&O's efforts were rewarded when the team received the 2017 "Friend of Science" Award from the South Dakota Science Teachers Association. The award is given annually to organizations that help facilitate the efforts of regional science educators and their students in enhancing science literacy.

"Through their work in developing hands-on lessons, the Sanford Lab education team has helped improved classroom teaching and learning," said Liz McMillan, president of the association. "Many of our students and future scientists are more interested in science and research because of the opportunities and experiences provided by and at the Sanford Underground Research Facility."

The Education and Outreach Department is operated through a partnership between Sanford Lab and Black Hills State University. In developing the new units, E&O looked at South Dakota's newly adopted science standards, which are based



Photo by Matt Kapust

The Sanford Lab Education and Outreach team, from left: Julie Dahl, Peggy Norris, Becky Bundy, June Apaza and Kari Webb taking pride in their recent award.

on a national framework for science education and emphasize scientific practices and cross-cutting concepts, said June Apaza, director of E&O and the Center for the Advancement of Math and Science Education at BHSU.

"Sanford Lab is uniquely positioned to support teachers and connect to locally relevant and place-based learning," Apaza said. "This connection makes it easy for teachers to teach, while engaging students. And

that translates into increased interest and achievement in the STEM fields. It's one of the most important things we do."

Mike Headley, executive director of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, said of the E&O team, "Their efforts are making a big difference for South Dakota teachers and students. We're very proud of them and the work they've done."

Apaza said that while she and her team are proud of the work they've done, they are also "very honored and humbled to have been chosen for this award by teachers."

But the team is not resting on its laurels. They recently began developing two "exciting and fun" early elementary mini-units for K-2 students.

"We look forward to providing service to the science teachers of South Dakota for years to come," Apaza said.

Happy retirement!

After 26 years with Homestake Mining Company and eight years with Sanford Lab, Kathy "Tuffie" Larsen recently retired as a hoist operator. "It's wonderful!" she said of her retirement. "But I'll really miss the people."

Gary Larson, facility maintenance foreman, said, "Tuffie had a lot of years of service and did a great job for us. We'll miss her."



Kathy Larsen and her supervisor Gary Larson.

South Dakota Pump Prices in Seven-Week Holding Pattern

Feb. 21, 2017 – Ever since New Year's Day, South Dakota's statewide average price for regular gasoline has remained within a six-cent range, from \$2.30 to \$2.36 per gallon. According to GasPrices.AAA.com, today's state average is \$2.32.

"I wouldn't say gas prices have become boring – that will never happen – but they certainly have been a lot more predictable lately," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Even with OPEC cutting production, supplies are healthy, demand is down and at least until refineries conduct their annual late winter/early spring maintenance operations, it appears we are poised to see pump prices in this same general ball park."

Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.32, up 1 cent in the past month ... up 66 cents since 2/21/16

Rapid City – \$2.31, up 6 cents in the past month ... up 49 cents since 2/21/16

South Dakota – \$2.32, down 3 cents in the past month ... up 62 cents since 2/21/16

U.S. – \$2.28, down 3 cents in the past month ... up 56 cents since 2/21/16

SOURCE: www.GasPrices.AAA.com

The national gas price average has increased fractions of a penny to reach today's price for regular gasoline, which is \$2.28 per gallon. Today's average is the same as one week ago and 56 cents more than the same date last year.

Quick Stats

· The nation's top five markets that have seen the largest monthly decreases include West Virginia \$2.27 (-11 cents), New Jersey \$2.33 (-9 cents), Pennsylvania \$2.53 (-9 cents), Illinois \$2.29 (-9 cents) and Delaware \$2.22 (-9 cents).

· The nation's top five most expensive markets are Hawaii \$3.12, California \$2.90, Washington \$2.74, Alaska \$2.71 and Oregon \$2.54.

Great Lakes and Central States

The Great Lakes and Central States continue to be the most volatile regions in the country for gas prices with four states landing on the top 10 list of largest weekly changes: Indiana (+5 cents), Michigan (-3 cents), Kentucky (-3 cents) and Ohio (-2 cents).

Several refineries in the Great Lakes and Central regions have cut production rates this week due to planned and unplanned maintenance. Phillips 66's 330,000-b/d Wood River refinery located in Roxana, Illinois reported a problem with an oil processing unit Tuesday, while OPIS also reports that the company's 218,747-b/d Ponca City refinery in Oklahoma shut down a fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit for unplanned maintenance work. This week's EIA report shows that gasoline inventories in the Midwest declined for the first time in the past six weeks.

Oil Market Dynamics

Markets opened Tuesday morning reporting gains after OPEC reiterated its commitment to cut production. OPEC's most recent Monthly Oil Market Report stated that participating countries successfully implemented 90 percent of the agreed production cuts. Last November, OPEC and non-OPEC countries agreed to cut production by 1.8 million barrels per day for six months starting in 2017 and have since hinted at the possibility of extending those cuts further. The impact the OPEC agreement has on the market will depend on the rate at which the participating countries comply with production cuts. At this time U.S. oil production is up and so are crude oil inventories so retail prices have remained fairly steady. This could all change if OPEC maintains its high level of compliance and refinery maintenance season eats into U.S. supply as driving demand increases. Traders will continue to keep a close eye on OPEC compliance and U.S. supply and production. At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI was up 4 cents to settle at \$53.40 per barrel.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

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Third quarter three-pointers spoil Groton's region hopes

Two Sisseton players combined for five three-pointers in the third period to propel the Redmen to a 52-49 win over the Groton Area Tigers. This was the first round region game played Tuesday in Sisseton.

The game was tied four times and there were four lead changes in the first half. Sisseton held an 11-8 first quarter lead and a 19-16 lead at half time. Sisseton opened up a nine-point lead in the third period and upped it to 10 in the fourth quarter. The Redmen were 10 of 14 from the line in the fourth quarter to keep the Tigers away from the win.

Audrey Wanner led the Tigers with 19 points followed by Jessica Bjerke with eight, Harleigh Stange and Jennie Doeden each had seven, Katie Koehler had five and Miranda Hanson added three points.

Halie Williams and Kellie Karst each had three three-pointers to lead the Redmen with 13 points apiece, Alyssa Magnuson had 10, Laci LaFromboise added seven, Olivia Heinecke four, MaKenzy Frederick had two and Libby Medenwald added one point.

Groton Area finishes its season with an 11-10 record while Sisseton advances in region play with a 5-15 record.



Taylor Holm

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Jessica Bjerke

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Sisseton 52, Groton Area 49

	2-pt	3-pt	FT	Pts	Rbs	Steals	Assists	TO	Fouls
Audrey Wanner	7-13	0-4	5-6	19	2	3	3	7	4
Katie Koehler	1-3	1-4	0-0	5	2	1	0	3	4
Jessica Bjerke	1-2	2-7	0-0	8	8	2	0	4	4
Harleigh Stange	2-5	1-4	0-1	7	1	1	2	5	3
Jennie Doeden	3-4	0-0	1-3	7	6	0	1	4	1
Taylor Holm	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	0	0	0	1
Miranda Hanson	0-0	1-4	0-0	3	1	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	14-28	5-23	6-10	49	22	7	8	24	17
Sisseton	14-28	6-13	12-19	52	22	5	11	12	15

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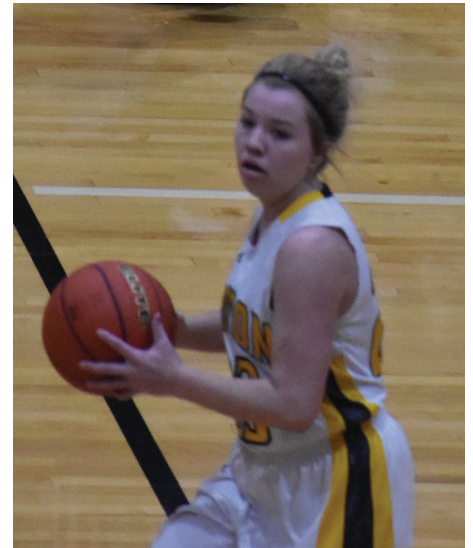
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Audrey Wanner
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Jennie Doeden
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Miranda Hanson
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Harleigh Stange
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Katie Koehler
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Today in Weather History

February 22, 1914: Heavy snow fell across parts of central and north central South Dakota with 6 to 12 inches accumulations. Snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Timber Lake and Onida, 7 inches at Kennebec, and 12 inches at Murdo.

February 22, 2000: High temperatures across central and northeast South Dakota were in the 50s and 60s. Record highs occurred at Watertown, Pierre, and Kennebec. Watertown rose to 65 degrees, Pierre rose to 69 degrees, and Kennebec warmed to 71 degrees by late in the afternoon. Other high temperatures include; 55 degrees at Sisseton, 59 degrees at Aberdeen, and 64 degrees at Timber Lake.

1971: A 2-day blizzard dumped 36 inches of snow at Buffalo, and 25 inches at Gage, Oklahoma. Follett, Texas picked up 26 inches while Amarillo recorded 14 inches.

1998: Seven tornadoes struck east central Florida late on this date and early on the 23rd. Three of the tornadoes were rated F3 on the Fujita scale. 24 people were killed in Kissimmee alone. A total of 42 people were killed with 265 injured, and total damage was \$106 million dollars.

1802 - A great snowstorm raged along the New England coast producing 48 inches of snow north of Boston. Three large ships from Salem were wrecked along Cape Cod. (David Ludlum)

1936 - A severe blizzard in the Sierra Nevada Range closed Donner Pass. It stranded 750 motorists and claimed seven lives. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A winter storm buried the Middle Atlantic Coast Region under heavy snow. Totals ranged up to 24 inches at Lancaster PA, with 23 inches at Coatesville PA. During the height of the storm Philadelphia PA received five inches of snow in just one hour. The Washington D.C. area was blanketed with up to 15 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northwesterly winds ushered arctic air into the central U.S., and temperatures in Missouri were thirty degrees colder than the previous day. The strong winds produced squalls along the shore of Lake Superior, with up to 15 inches of snow reported over the Keweenaw Peninsula of Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Nineteen cities in the central U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date, including

Lincoln NE with a reading of 19 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A fast moving storm produced near blizzard conditions in Michigan. Snowfall totals ranged up to 9.5 inches in Allegan County, wind gusts reached 74 mph at Ann Arbor, and five foot snow drifts were reported around Saginaw. The Michigan AAA records showed more than 5000 traffic accidents reported, a near record for one day. There were several chain reaction collisions. One near Pontiac involved a hundred cars. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)










livestream

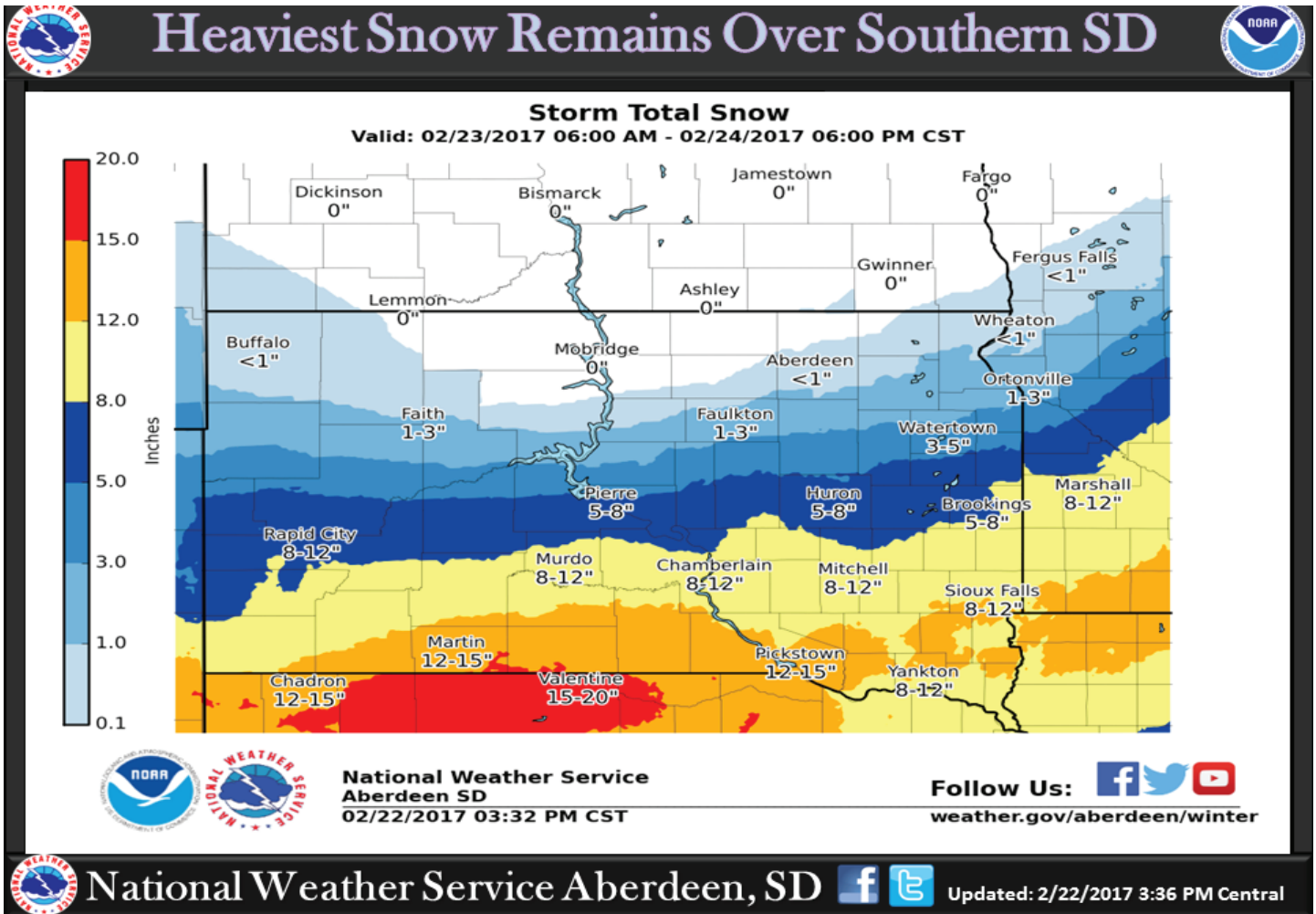
**Upcoming Events
Tuesday, BBB Region**

gdilive.com

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Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night
						
20%	20%	20%	20%			
Slight Chance Snow then Cloudy	Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow and Breezy	Slight Chance Snow and Blustery	Blustery. Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy
Low: 26 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 29 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 16 °F



Published on: 02/22/2017 at 3:42PM

Models continue to suggest the southern half of South Dakota will feel the brunt of the upcoming winter storm, as well as into portions of Nebraska, Iowa and southern Minnesota. Snowfall amounts have been lowered quite a bit over portions of northeastern South Dakota. Although, along I-90 and points south, amounts in excess of 8 inches are still expected. Strong and gusty northerly winds will develop by Thursday evening and persist through Friday. This will create areas of blowing and drifting snow, with low visibility as well. Again, the biggest impacts will be felt over southern areas.

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Yesterday's Weather

Tuesday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61.3 F at 5:09 PM (Record was 61 in 1977)

Low Outside Temp: 33.3 F at 1:26 AM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 6:04 AM

Rain: 0.00

Wednesday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 42.4 F at 1:21 PM

Low Outside Temp: 31.6 F at 8:32 PM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 5:14 PM

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1905

Record Low: -24 in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.40

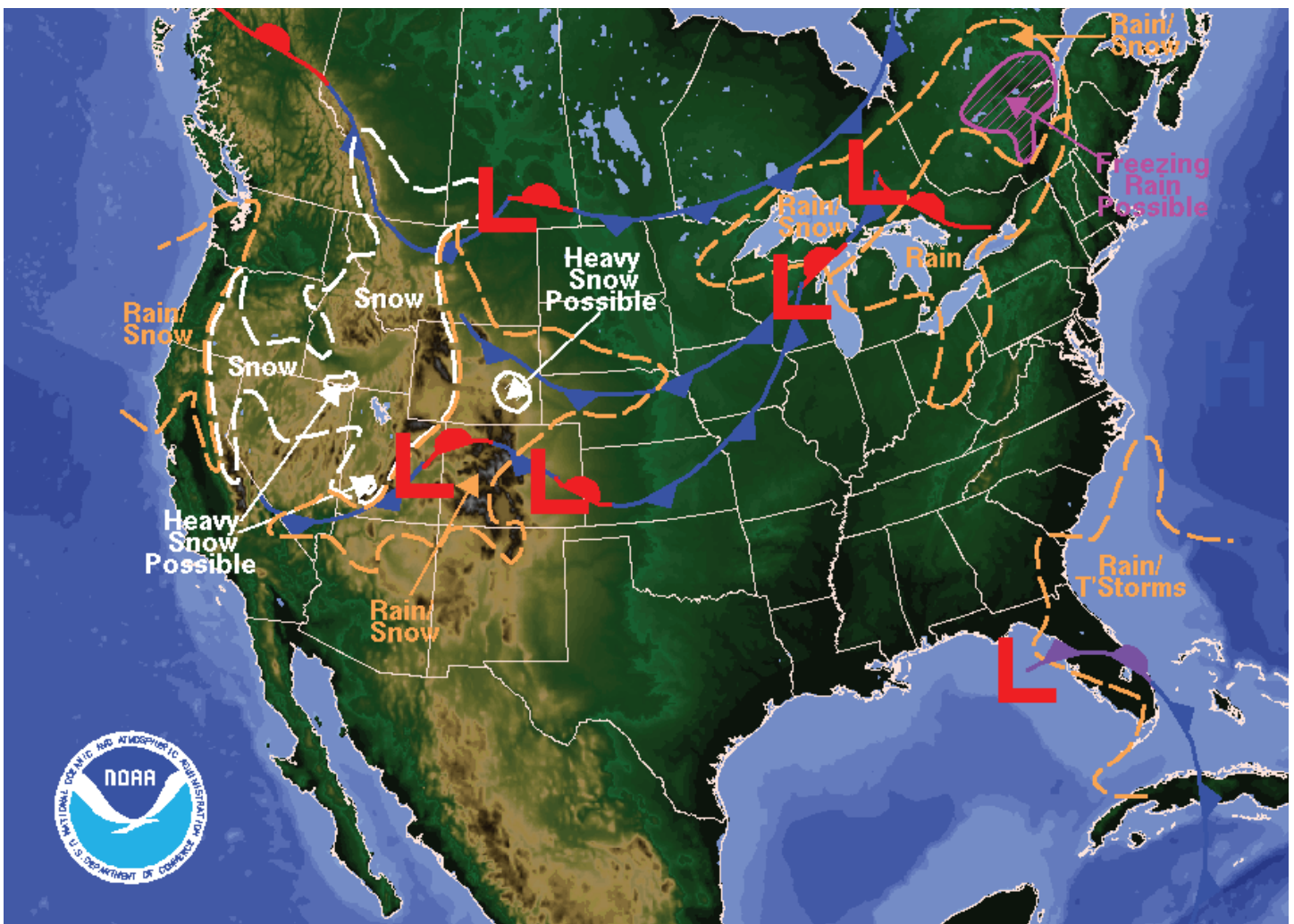
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.87

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:21 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Feb 22, 2017, issued 3:40 PM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHERE IS GOD?

Sir John Franklin is remembered for being a great Englishman and explorer of the Arctic region of the planet. As he was planning one of his expeditions he decided that, based on his journeys, he would revise the map of the world.

Previous to Franklin, others had been marking unknown territories with phrases such as "Here be Dragons," and "Here be Demons."

But on his revised map he wrote, "Here be God." Sir Franklin, as a result of his journeys, knew that wherever he was God would be. Even in the most distant, most lonely, and most inaccessible places he believed that he would find God.

In Psalm 121 we discover the assurance and hope that wherever we are God is with us protecting and providing for our every need – day or night. He not only made the mountains and seas, the valleys and deserts, but all that they contain.

We must never forget that the Creator of the universe is the sustainer of the universe. Trusting the One Who "put it all together" enables us to believe that He will not allow "dragons" and "demons" to overcome the one who trusts in His goodness and grace.

Nothing will ever divert or distract God from watching over His children. We can have the utmost confidence that in Him we are safe and that we will never escape His untiring watch over us.

Prayer: May we join our voices with the Psalmist, Father, and shout, "Keep watch over me, Lord, as You come and go, both now and forever!" In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 121 I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

News from the Associated Press

Most oil pipeline opponents leave North Dakota protest camp

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON** and **JAMES MacPHERSON**, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Most of the Dakota Access pipeline opponents abandoned their protest camp Wednesday ahead of a government deadline to get off the federal land, and authorities moved to arrest some who defied the order in a final show of dissent.

The camp has been home to demonstrators for nearly a year as they tried to thwart construction of the pipeline. Many of the protesters left peacefully, but police made some arrests two hours after the deadline.

Earlier in the day, some of the last remnants of the camp went up in flames when occupants set fire to makeshift wooden housing as part of a leaving ceremony. Authorities later said about 20 fires were set and two people — a 7-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl — were taken to a Bismarck hospital to be treated for burns. Their conditions weren't given.

After the deadline passed, as many as 75 people outside the camp started taunting officers, who brought five large vans to the scene. Police took about 10 people into custody for failing to heed commands to leave, authorities said.

With darkness falling, Lt. Tom Iverson said police would not enter the camp Wednesday evening, and he offered no timetable for doing so.

Levi Bachmeier, an adviser to Gov. Doug Burgum, said about 50 people remained in the camp at dusk.

Hours before, about 150 people marched arm-in-arm out of the soggy camp, singing and playing drums as they walked down a highway. It was not clear where they were headed. One man carried an American flag hung upside-down.

Authorities sent buses to take protesters to Bismarck, where they were offered fresh clothing, bus fares home and food and hotel vouchers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers set the deadline, citing the threat of spring flooding.

At the height of the protests, the site known as Oceti Sakowin hosted thousands of people, though its population dwindled to just a couple of hundred as the pipeline battle moved into the courts.

The camp is on federal land in North Dakota between the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the pipeline route that is being finished by Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners. When complete, the project will carry oil through the Dakotas and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

Some of the protesters were focused on moving off federal land and away from the flood plain into other camps, said Phyllis Young, one of the camp leaders.

"The camps will continue," she said. "Freedom is in our DNA, and we have no choice but to continue the struggle."

New camps are popping up on private land, including one the Cheyenne River Sioux set up about a mile from the main camp.

"A lot of our people want to be here and pray for our future," tribal Chairman Harold Frazier said.

Others, including Dom Cross, an Oglala Sioux from Pine Ridge, South Dakota, said he planned to return home after living at the camp since September.

"There's a lot of sadness right now. We have to leave our second home," he said.

Law enforcement officers and first-responders were on hand from several states.

Charles Whalen, 50, an alcohol and drug counselor from Mille Lacs, Minnesota, said he and a group of about 20 people were not going to leave on their own and were willing to get arrested to prove their point.

"Passive resistance," Whalen said. "We are not going to do anything negative. It's about prayer."

Some campers said they were leaving with mixed feelings, both energized by the long protest and saddened to leave new friends. Some people set off fireworks.

Matthew Bishop, of Ketchikan, Alaska, has been in North Dakota since October. He planned to move to another camp.

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"People have been surviving here for hundreds and hundreds of years ... so if I back down, what would I look like?" Bishop said as he tied his possessions to the top of his car.

Craig Stevens, spokesman for the MAIN Coalition of agriculture, business and labor interests, said the group understands "the passions that individuals on all sides of the pipeline discussion feel" and hopes that protesters' voices "will continue to be heard through other peaceful channels and in court."

A massive effort to clean up the camp has been underway for weeks, first by protesters themselves and now with help from the Army Corps in removing debris.

Some vehicles and pedestrians were having trouble getting through the muck created by recent rain and snow, and cleanup efforts were suspended in part because camp officials did not want heavy equipment making conditions worse.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake> .

Bill could hamper SD same-sex couples looking to adopt

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Same-sex couples and single parents in South Dakota could face obstacles if they want to adopt from religious child placement agencies under a bill that passed the state Senate.

The Senate on Wednesday voted 22-12 to approve a bill that would protect religious or faith-based adoption and foster care groups from lawsuits if they are unwilling to work with families that don't share their beliefs. Supporters say they want to guard agencies from losing state funds or licenses for discriminating against prospective parents of a different religion or those in a same-sex marriage.

Republican Sen. Ernie Otten of Tea opposes the bill. Otten says it's more important that children find a loving home, regardless of religious beliefs, and this proposal could keep them from that.

The bill heads to the House.

South Dakota House approves limits on out-of-state donations

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that aims to restrict the flow of out-of-state money into South Dakota ballot question campaigns has passed through the state House.

Members voted 50-18 Wednesday to send the bill to the Senate. It would limit ballot question campaigns to \$100,000 in out-of-state contributions per general election cycle.

Sponsor Rep. Spencer Gosch, a Republican, says the ballot measure system should work for the people of South Dakota, not out-of-state activists. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office has testified in favor of the bill.

Democratic Rep. Spencer Hawley, an opponent, says he's concerned it would lead to a costly court challenge.

Since Election Day, Republicans have frequently complained about out-of-state interests experimenting with South Dakota's laws and constitution. Out-of-state donors pumped millions of dollars into ballot measure campaigns last year.

South Dakota considers creating government watchdog board

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A government watchdog board would help investigate statewide officeholders and executive branch employees in South Dakota under a bill endorsed by a legislative panel on Wednesday.

The move comes after Republican lawmakers repealed a voter-imposed government ethics overhaul that included an ethics commission. The proposed State Government Accountability Board, which would be attached to the attorney general's office, would review and investigate allegations including bribery and theft of public funds.

Democratic Rep. Karen Soli, the bill's sponsor, said it would help preserve the integrity of South Dakota government. The governor's office supports the plan, and Attorney General Marty Jackley called it "good government." The bill heads to the full House after receiving approval Wednesday from the chamber's

State Affairs Committee.

Soli said the board offers an opening to people who believe they see wrongdoing in the executive branch. "We owe it to the people of South Dakota to find a way to do this better," she said. "This proposed law will help us to do that."

Under the bill, if the board believes a crime has been committed, the matter would be referred to the Division of Criminal Investigation.

The four-person board would be populated by former or retired judges. It would take a majority vote to conduct a contested case hearing to offer the accused official a chance to respond to an allegation. If the panel determined a violation has occurred, it would have options including issuing reprimands or making recommendations to the governor.

Board files including reports, complaints and investigative records would be confidential until the panel decided to conduct a hearing.

Doug Kronaizl, a spokesman for a group that supports the repealed government ethics overhaul, said in a statement after the vote that replacement bills under consideration "fall short of the tough provisions approved by the people."

"South Dakotans demanded a strong, independent ethics commission with the power to oversee Pierre's political class," Kronaizl said.

Yankton lawyer Jason Ravensborg announces bid for GOP AG nod

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Yankton lawyer Jason Ravensborg says he plans to seek the Republican nomination for attorney general of South Dakota.

Ravensborg made his announcement at the Hughes County Lincoln Day Dinner on Tuesday night.

The graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Law is a partner in a Yankton law firm and a deputy state's attorney in Union County. Ravensborg also is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and assumes command of the 394th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in April.

Ravensborg also sought the GOP nomination for U.S. Senate in 2014. South Dakota's incumbent attorney general, Republican Marty Jackley, plans to run for governor in 2018.

Senate panel passes protest bill over tribes' objections

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's bill to make it clear that the governor's emergency response powers apply to potentially destructive protests passed its first legislative test Wednesday over the objections of Democratic lawmakers and tribal officials.

A Senate panel voted 6-3 to advance the public safety bill, which the administration says is based on lessons North Dakota officials learned from large demonstrations over the Dakota Access pipeline. The bill would create new trespassing penalties and make it a crime to obstruct highways.

Matt Konenkamp, a policy adviser to the governor, said that the bill would allow the entire state to deal with potential issues, rather than individual counties, not unlike how the state deals with a disaster. He said it's meant to address people who would ignore the law, not prohibit people from exercising free speech.

Daugaard said last week that President Donald Trump's January executive order to advance the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline made him realize that protests could come if construction began in South Dakota.

"This is not directed at any race," Daugaard said. "This is directed at aggressive activists who threaten other people regardless of race."

But Crow Creek Sioux Tribe Chairman Brandon Sazue said the proposal goes against protesters and the First Amendment. Sazue said he thinks it's targeting Native Americans.

"We're going to be divided," he said. "We'll probably even go as far as closing our borders."

Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier said he would look at suing the state if the bill becomes law.

The bill would allow the governor to declare an area a "public safety zone" if an event occurs that may

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consume significant public resources, poses a threat to property and threatens the health and welfare of the public.

The governor's emergency authority includes assuming control over emergency management functions, declaring an emergency in a stricken area and helping local authorities give relief and controlling access to designated emergency areas. The governor can mobilize state resources and coordinate local resources in an emergency.

The proposal would make it aggravated criminal trespass, a misdemeanor, to defy a posted order not to enter a public safety zone. The sentence would be at least 10 days in county jail, and a second offense within two years would be a felony.

The bill would make it a misdemeanor for someone to stand in the highway to stop traffic.

Under some circumstances, the bill would allow the commissioner of school and public lands, at the governor's request, to block any group larger than 20 people from gathering on any piece of land under the office's supervision, which totals roughly 760,000 acres across the state.

If passed, the South Dakota law would expire in 2020.

In North Dakota, more than 700 protest-related arrests have occurred since August, though activity has recently waned. The Army Corps of Engineers set a Wednesday deadline for Dakota Access oil pipeline opponents to vacate their encampment on federal land in North Dakota.

Rebecca Terk, a lobbyist for conservation and family agriculture group Dakota Rural Action, said lawmakers shouldn't take policy cues from North Dakota.

"What happened in North Dakota was that the state government worked with a corporation to terrorize people gathered to peacefully express their First Amendment rights," she said. "If we don't want what happened in North Dakota to happen here, then our state needs to take a different path."

Wildfire contained, evacuation orders lifted in western SD

HAYWARD, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire that threatened up to 30 homes in western South Dakota has been contained and evacuation orders have been lifted.

Incident Commander Ray Bubb declared the fire 100 percent contained Wednesday morning. Two engines and two crews were left in the area to finish mopping up the fire that started Tuesday and had spread to over 33 acres of mostly private land near Hayward.

Investigators say the fire, dubbed the Pretty Flower Fire, sparked from a burning slash pile and spread because of dry, warm and windy conditions Tuesday morning. By late Tuesday afternoon the fire crews had begun to leave the fire as it was 75 percent contained.

Officials say all remaining work on the fire has been handed over to the South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression team.

Experts: Science behind 'abortion reversal' is flawed

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Lawmakers in several states are considering requirements for doctors to inform women seeking medical abortions about an unproven procedure called "abortion reversal."

Doctors' groups oppose the bills because of flawed science and ethical concerns. There is no evidence the procedure works and little information about its safety.

The procedure involves shots of the hormone progesterone given if a woman changes her mind after the first step of a medical abortion.

Since 2015, Arkansas and South Dakota have enacted laws requiring doctors to tell women about it. An Arizona law was challenged in court and later repealed. Bills are under consideration in Indiana, North Carolina and Utah. A Colorado proposal was killed in a committee in the Democratic-led House earlier this month.

"It's really concerning that legislatures are passing laws interfering in the doctor-patient relationship and forcing them to tell women about an experimental therapy that is unproven," said Dr. Daniel Grossman,

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a professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at University of California, San Francisco.

WHAT IS MEDICAL ABORTION?

About a third of women who seek abortions in early pregnancy choose medical abortions because they want a less invasive procedure than a surgical abortion.

In the United States, medical abortion involves taking two drugs. The first — mifepristone — thins the lining of the uterus and loosens the connection between the embryo and the uterine lining. The second — misoprostol — softens and opens the cervix and causes contractions to push out the pregnancy.

The second drug is taken at home hours to days after the first drug.

Women rarely change their minds before completing the treatment. Doctors are required to report such information to the manufacturer of mifepristone. Between 2000 and 2012, less than 0.004 percent of women taking mifepristone changed their minds, Grossman said.

“Women are very sure of their decision by the time they go to the abortion clinic,” Grossman said.

WHAT ARE THE CLAIMS FOR ‘REVERSAL’?

Progesterone is legitimately used to prevent preterm birth in women who are at risk of early delivery. Some claim it can counteract the effects of an unfinished medical abortion.

Dr. George Delgado in San Diego, California, is the chief advocate. He is medical director of Culture of Life Family Services, described as “the ‘flip-side’ to Planned Parenthood” on its website. The clinic “offers true reproductive health care and abortion alternatives to women,” the website says.

Delgado published a paper in 2012 about six women who had taken mifepristone, the first medication in the two-part medical abortion, then had a series of progesterone shots. Four of the six women had healthy babies. The other two aborted.

Delgado says he has given progesterone to several hundred other women who also changed their minds after starting a medical abortion. He says he has a 60 to 70 percent success rate and hopes to publish the results in a peer-reviewed journal.

“If there’s a way to give them a second chance at choice, it will be a wonderful thing,” Delgado said.

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE?

Delgado’s study is not considered high-quality research because it is small and there was no comparison group. Researchers have questioned whether the women were given adequate information about the experimental nature of the procedure.

For women who change their minds after taking mifepristone, doing nothing and waiting to see what happens may be just as effective as progesterone shots.

That’s because mifepristone alone doesn’t work very well without the second drug. Thirty percent to 50 percent of women who take mifepristone alone will have continued pregnancies, according to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (Delgado disputes this and says the survival rate of embryos after mifepristone is much smaller.)

Progesterone shots are generally safe but can cause swelling, irritation and other side effects. The cost of pushing an experimental procedure into widespread use also raises ethical questions, Grossman said. The injections and doctor visits involved can cost up to \$1,000.

Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CarlaKJohnson> .

This story has been corrected to reflect that the bill is no longer being considered in Colorado.

South Dakota panel votes to reject alternative science bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers have rejected a bill that would have allowed science teachers to discuss strengths and weaknesses of evolutionary and climate change theories.

The House Education Committee Wednesday defeated a do pass vote and approved sending the bill to the 41st day, effectively killing the proposal.

The hearing lasted for over an hour as people against the bill testified it would allow teachers to instruct theories not approved by school boards and not based in science.

The sponsor, Republican Sen. Jeff Monroe of Pierre, says the intent was to give teachers additional latitude to explain potential flaws in commonly taught scientific theories without fear of retribution.

The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2l06rBQ>) national and state science education groups are welcoming the bill's defeat and conservative groups and others are disappointed.

Yankton homeless shelter renamed to better fit its mission

By **SHAUNA MARLETTE, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan**

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The Yankton Homeless Shelter has been serving the community since 1994. However, a new location and expanded services spurred the non-profit to seek a new name that encompassed all the work it was doing.

The choice: Pathways Shelter for the Homeless, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2mCHqVx>) reported.

"Pathways' — the new name — felt that it encompassed all that we do," said executive director Jesse Bailey. "We are a pathway along (our client's) line, so we can help get them back on the path to success.

"Yankton Homeless Shelter' just didn't quite encompass all that we were doing. We wanted a more positive connotation with the name and we wanted something where the clients could be proud that they are staying here. So, they can say they are staying not at the homeless shelter, but instead, 'I am staying at Pathways until I get back on my feet.'"

Bailey said that he hopes with the name change, people ask, "Why?"

"We want them to know that we try to be all-encompassing, that we are not just a warm place for people to lay their heads at night," he said. "We provide, food, clothing, everything they need so they don't have to spend their own money, but we want people to know that we work really hard to get our clients back on their feet. That it is a hand u,p not a hand-out."

He said the shelter is not meant to be a long-term home. The shelter's main goal is to get anyone who needs its services into a permanent home.

"We are a first-come, first-served location," Bailey said. "We want people in this area who are struggling to become productive citizens and get back in the work force."

The biggest change in the history of the organization — the purchase of the new shelter facility at 412 E. Fourth Street (the former Starbright Motel) — has allowed the group to expand its services. However, its most basic service, providing a home for the homeless, is growing exponentially.

"I think homelessness is something they knew was always going to be here and that they needed a larger facility," said Bailey, who took on his role in July 2015. "(In the past), they were not only turning people away because of limited space, they were spending a lot of money on motel rooms."

To look at 2015 and 2016 in comparison:

. In 2015, there were 228 clients served, for a total of 2,580 shelter nights. However, there were just under 2,000 nights in the shelter and about 600 nights in the motel.

. In 2016, there were 400 clients served, for 5,380 shelter nights, with just 100 nights in motel rooms.

"I think with . the bigger facility, you can serve more clients and hopefully be a better help for the issue of homelessness in the community," Bailey said. "I think the community has recognized that. There has been a positive increase in the support from the community and the partnerships that we have been creating with various organizations. We have been able to provide better services to the clients that have come in here, and they need that."

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Bailey said currently, the shelter can house 48 people.

"We have four rooms that can fit families of six or more," he said. "We have two full-size beds in those rooms and we can bring in cots if we need to fit more in there. They have two rooms, so they are a bit bigger. We have a laundry room on site for all of the clients to use for free. Then we have rooms that have two single beds. We do try to give individuals their own rooms if we are not full. Then two rooms have queen beds, which we try to use for a married couple or a small family of three."

While providing shelter is the main service provided, others include administering an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and connecting clients with other service agencies in town.

"We have an ESG that is administered by the South Dakota Housing Authority, which allows us to run two programs for those in need," Bailey said. "We offer a homeless prevention program, where individuals who may be short on rent and have received an eviction notice, can call us and say, 'Hey, this is happening, can you guys help?'"

The program does require the client to meet both an income guideline and a fair market rent value to qualify.

"That program allows us to pay rent arrears, so if they are late on rent or will be late on upcoming rents, we can pay that and also help with utilities," he said. "Hopefully, we will be able to help them to stay in their house."

The second part of the ESG program is rapid rehousing.

"Once people do experience homelessness — they are evicted, they have no place to go — they can stay here for as long as it takes for us to find them an apartment that they can afford," Bailey said. "We will be able to cover their first month's rent, deposit, utilities, that kind of thing that will allow them to get out of here more quickly and back on their feet. Hopefully, by that time they will have found work and have their own income. But, that way they don't have to save up."

In 2015, there were 22 clients with just under \$9,000 provided in ESG program services. In 2016, the program had 158 clients and spent more than \$24,000.

The average stay at the homeless shelter is less than four weeks, Bailey noted. He added that the shelter's success rate is right around 85 percent, even with the increased numbers seen in 2016. If the first few weeks of 2017 are anything to go by, the demand will continue to rise.

"In winter months, our numbers have typically been low, right around 15-20 nights per month," he said. "We blew those numbers right out of the water this year in November and December. January is already looking to be a busy month. We are practically full. We have a few spots where we could double people up, but that is it. An average month we had, say, 28, but we have been seeing more than 30 every month for the past five months."

He also noted the success of the shelter is in big part because of the willingness of the community to give people a second chance.

"I would say more than half of our clients have some kind of a criminal history," Bailey said. "They have burnt bridges. It is very hard when you don't have a past good reference to get work. So, they have to find places in town that haven't heard about them or are willing to give them a second chance. There is a negative connotation when people see your background, but most of the clients we serve just want that second chance."

While the name change is happening immediately, Bailey noted that the open house to celebrate it will not be held until April when the shelter can utilize its outdoor area. Until that time, he said the staff can give tours of the facility.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Barn near St. Onge is a monument to South Dakota history

By JENNIFER NAYLOR GESICK, Rapid City Journal

ST. ONGE, S.D. (AP) — About five miles off Interstate 90, down S.D. Highway 34 between St. Onge and Whitewood, sits a pristine piece of South Dakota homesteading history — a 115-year-old barn that recently received a grant to ensure it lasts for generations to come.

Driving down the winding dirt road that leads up to the place feels like moving back in time, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2mcEJDq>) reported. The historic Anderson-Ridley Ranch, perfectly ensconced between rolling hills to the east and the pine-covered foothills of the Black Hills to the west, is so well preserved, only a few items hint that it is present day.

The stillness and quiet is indicative of being much farther from civilization than it actually is and lends to the feeling of being transported to a bygone era. Even at the tail end of winter, before spring has bathed the land in color, the beauty of the homestead is awe-inspiring and the enormous barn is the crown jewel of the pastoral masterpiece that is the Anderson-Ridley property.

The walls are made of sandstone quarried right there on the ranch, and the doors of heavy, thick wood are covered in layers of peeling paint. Windows and skylights allow the sun's rays to illuminate the interior and reveal that, despite its old age, it is still a working building and even has a resident barn cat.

As you walk inside and through at least four rooms, the history of the barn is palpable. Rasmus Anderson, a Danish immigrant who settled near St. Onge in 1883, and his crew's enduring handiwork combined techniques of Old World builders with that of turn-of-the-century style. Besides the sandstone and wood, they used stucco and weatherboard.

The rooms are distinct and include pens for livestock, some now utilized for storage, and a huge loft. It is clear the generations of Anderson descendants that have worked inside have left their own marks behind as well.

And in fact, Anderson's descendants are still there. The current owner, Kim Ridley, was married to Anderson's great-grandchild, Andrew Ridley, who passed away in 2012. Several other members of the Ridley family still reside nearby.

But it is still a working ranch and barn, and modern equipment reminds visitors of this. A red Dodge flatbed truck sits outside, loaded up with hay and a big, green John Deere tractor is parked inside.

In an attempt to ensure the barn remains a standing testament to South Dakota's history and to the grit and hard work it took for Anderson to build it and homestead the land, the South Dakota State Historical Society recently provided a grant to shore up the western feeder barn.

Through the Deadwood Fund grant program, the barn was awarded \$3,437 in matching grant funds to help repaint the mortar on the barn. Funding for this program comes from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects statewide.

"This program is designed to encourage restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties and is one more way we can promote and protect our history and culture," said Jay Vogt, director of the State Historical Society, which announced the grants this week.

Last year, the society awarded \$108,204 among 11 projects, which had matching funds of \$291,301 coming to a total investment of \$399,505 in public and private funds.

The barn, finished in 1902, along with other buildings on the Anderson-Ridley Ranch, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in January 2015.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

New University of Sioux Falls president takes on challenges

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Brett Bradfield has had seven months to reflect on his new job.

From the time University of Sioux Falls President Mark Benedetto announced his retirement last April, Bradfield has been thinking about both his career trajectory and the college's future, the Argus Leader

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(<http://argusne.ws/2mcG7Gc>) reported.

"I came to the conclusion that this place is pretty special to me," Bradfield said. "I felt like I needed to at least put my application in and see where things led."

Last month, Bradfield became the 23rd president of the Christian and liberal arts university, a role that he said he's both honored and humbled to accept.

"It's a bit surreal today that the time has finally arrived," Bradfield said.

Retiring USF President Mark Benedetto addressed a crowd of several dozen people in the university's McDonald Center during the announcement last month. He praised Bradfield for his work serving the college and expressed joy at his new position.

"I have a perpetual smile on my face today. ... I'm happy because my dear friend has been named president of the University of Sioux Falls," Benedetto said.

In his new role, Bradfield recognizes that higher education institutions are facing challenges ranging from attracting students to offering programs in affordable and convenient ways.

He plans to lead the college through program analysis to look at the areas where the school is attracting students and fostering workforce development in Sioux Falls. He also plans to look at different ways to deliver a college education to students.

At a time when many area colleges are struggling with declining enrollment, USF has maintained a consistent number of students. And most of those students go on to work in South Dakota, which Bradfield sees as a gift.

"Dr. Bradfield embodies USF's mission and traditional motto of 'Culture for Service,'" said Tom Lillibridge, chairman of USF's Board of Trustees, adding that Bradfield is an "outstanding" choice to lead the university.

Bradfield first started working at USF in 2000 as the director of graduate programs, a new position at the time.

He then became the vice president for professional studies in 2003, where he served until 2007 when he became the provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Bradfield graduated from Dakota State College and went on to earn a doctorate in educational administration from the University of South Dakota.

He will begin his role as president on Feb. 6.

In his time at USF, Bradfield also served on the board of trustees for Kilian Community College before it closed last spring. As president, Bradfield will oversee USF's adoption of programs to help immigrants and refugees who in the past turned to Kilian.

Bob Veninga, chair of the Board of Trustees' personnel committee, said Bradfield was a strong choice because of both his ties to the Sioux Falls community and his faith.

"We knew he was going to be a good steward of our faith tradition," Veninga said.

The Christian mission of USF will be at the forefront of Bradfield's mind as he takes on his new role, and he's grateful to be able to lead the university in Sioux Falls.

"In the times we are in," Bradfield said. "To be surrounded by a community like Sioux Falls is a real gift to the university."

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Hill City flick fans don't have to drive so far

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — A night at the movies used to mean a trip out of town for Hill City residents.

But Rick and Chris VanNess have begun bringing the stars of Hollywood to weekend moviegoers in this central Black Hills community, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2mcNFZG>) reported.

Since November, they've screened both recent releases and classics during Movies in the Loft in the upper level of the Chute Rooster restaurant.

Rick and Chris, husband and wife, are into movies in a big way. They own their own production company,

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Crow Ridge Productions, and are founders of the annual Black Hills Film Festival.

A for-profit movie theater seemed like the logical next step.

"Opening a movie theater has always been something I wanted to do," said Rick VanNess, whose connections with the film industry included serving as location manager for "National Treasure II," filmed in the Black Hills in 2009.

Movies in the Loft is considered a repertory theater, meaning they can show only movies that have completed their theatrical runs.

The offering on a recent weekend was the 2016 Tom Hanks film "Sully" about the miracle crash-landing of a disabled airliner on the Hudson River in New York. Upcoming showings include other 2016 films including "Arrival" and "Hacksaw Ridge."

Moviegoers will have had a chance to see those two Academy Award-nominated films again before the ceremony on Feb. 26.

"We kind of like to think of these as the great movies you missed — twice — or movies you always wanted to see on the big screen again," VanNess said.

Movies are shown on an 8-foot by 14-foot screen in the Chute Rooster's upper level. A surround-sound speaker system rivals the sound quality in larger theaters, he said.

Seating, for between 80 and 100 people, includes tall tables and chairs, like a dinner theater arrangement for now.

Admission is \$5, with concessions also affordable. They also offer pizza delivered from the Silver Dollar Saloon.

As with any movie house, VanNess must pay a licensing fee to show any film commercially. Fees vary according to a movie's release date and popularity.

Part of the agreement denies Movies in the Loft to use paid advertising to announce what is being shown. Instead, VanNess uses social media and posts fliers.

"We don't find it to be much of a restriction," he said. "The Facebook page and postering is working well."

Attendance at screenings has been hit-and-miss, but VanNess hopes to build a regular audience, and not just from Hill City.

"We think in the southern Black Hills, there is the need for this quality entertainment that's a little more accessible than the long ride to Rapid City, but we're not trying to compete with Carmike Cinemas or even the Elks Theater," he said.

They also plan to use the theater for the Hill City schedule of films to be shown during the upcoming Black Hills Film Festival, set for April 26-30, with films also being shown at the Elks Theater in Rapid City.

Victor Alexander, past president of the Heart of the Hills Economic Development Corp., said Hill City is embracing the idea of having a theater in town.

Movies in the Loft and other community events keep the barn-style building active.

Building owner Joy Peterson closed the restaurant for the winter season late last fall. Plans are still being made for the restaurant's future, Alexander said, but he's confident it will reopen in some form this summer.

"Somebody will be in there," Alexander said. "It's all good, good, good for Hill City."

Depending on other events, the Saturday schedule for Movies in the Loft has shows at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday's offerings, which are more family-friendly PG- and G-rated movies, are at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Woman charged in reservation death accepts plea deal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman charged with killing a woman on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota has agreed to plead guilty to murder charges.

Twenty-four-year-old Elizabeth Ann LeBeau has signed an agreement with prosecutors that allows her to plead guilty to second-degree murder. She had been charged with first-degree murder.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2mbXXt0>) reports LeBeau's boyfriend, 30-year-old Fred Quiver, is

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also charged in Bluebird's death.

LeBeau is accused of strangling 24-year-old Emily Bluebird in January 2016. Bluebird's body was found several weeks after she died following a search by volunteers. Bluebird was the mother of two girls, who were ages 5 and 6 when she died.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press BOYS' BASKETBALL

Alliance, Neb. 63, Hot Springs 48
Brookings 55, Aberdeen Central 44
Custer 64, Hill City 61
Faulkton 78, Edmunds Central 52
Harrisburg 42, Watertown 35
Huron 65, Pierre 56
Marshall, Minn. 80, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49
Rapid City Christian 67, Lead-Deadwood 49
Sioux Falls Lincoln 57, South Sioux City, Neb. 44
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 63, Sioux Falls Washington 57
St. Thomas More 67, Belle Fourche 36
Sturgis Brown 75, Douglas 62
Yankton 66, Mitchell 40

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 46, Brookings 36
Harrisburg 36, Watertown 27
Pierre 51, Huron 37
Rapid City Central 53, Rapid City Stevens 45
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 41, Marshall, Minn. 40
Sioux Falls Washington 72, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 70, 3OT
Yankton 29, Mitchell 27

Region 1A

First Round

Aberdeen Roncalli 50, Tiospa Zina Tribal 27
Milbank Area 54, Britton-Hecla 24
Sisseton 52, Groton Area 49

Region 2A

First Round

Clark/Willow Lake 50, Great Plains Lutheran 29
Deuel 68, Redfield/Doland 59, OT

Region 3A

First Round

Flandreau 75, Flandreau Indian 39
Madison 44, Garretson 20
Sioux Falls Christian 69, Baltic 37

Region 4A

First Round

Dakota Valley 57, Beresford 40
Elk Point-Jefferson 38, Tea Area 27

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Vermillion 56, Canton 29
Region 5A
First Round
Parkston 52, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 48, 40T
Tri-Valley 47, Wagner 42
West Central 61, Bon Homme 21
Region 6A
First Round
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 44, Mobridge-Pollock 42, OT
Crow Creek 67, Stanley County 35
Miller 57, Chamberlain 47
Region 7A
First Round
St. Francis Indian 58, Pine Ridge 57
Todd County 103, Bennett County 14
Winner 51, Red Cloud 48
District 1B
Semifinal
Florence/Henry 53, Waubay/Summit 45
Waverly-South Shore 47, Wilmot 45
District 2B
Semifinals
Leola/Frederick 51, Northwestern 34
Warner 62, Langford 28
District 3B
Semifinal
Herreid/Selby Area 48, Potter County 36
Ipswich 52, Faulkton 50, OT
District 4B
Semifinal
Hitchcock-Tulare 74, Lower Brule 54
Sully Buttes 69, Highmore-Harrold 27
District 5B
First Round
Castlewood 68, Arlington 21
Lake Preston 54, Estelline 45
District 6B
Semifinal
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 63, James Valley Christian 19
Wolsey-Wessington 56, Wessington Springs 50, 20T
District 7B
First Round
Chester 53, Dell Rapids St. Mary 36
District 8B
First Round
Canistota 37, Bridgewater-Emery 31
Howard 63, Mitchell Christian 17
District 9B
Semifinal

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Freeman 53, Menno 20
Parker 49, Scotland 37
District 10B
Semifinal
Gayville-Volin 36, Alcester-Hudson 34
Irene-Wakonda 59, Viborg-Hurley 38
District 11B
Semifinal
Platte-Geddes 52, Kimball/White Lake 45
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 45, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 30
District 12B
Semifinal
Avon 54, Gregory 28
Burke/South Central 62, Marty Indian 28
District 14B
Semifinal
New Underwood 42, Oelrichs 30
Philip 47, Wall 26
District 15B
Semifinal
McIntosh 36, Lemmon 33
Timber Lake 53, Dupree 27

Deadline to leave pipeline protest camp won't be extended

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers said it won't extend a Wednesday deadline for Dakota Access oil pipeline opponents to vacate their encampment on federal land in North Dakota.

The camp has existed since August and at times has housed thousands of people who supported the concerns of Sioux nations that the \$3.8 billion pipeline to carry North Dakota oil through the Dakotas and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois threatens the environment and sacred sites. Dallas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners disputes those claims.

With flooding expected this spring, the Corps on Feb. 3 told the few hundred people remaining in camp that they must take their possessions and leave by 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Camp leader Phyllis Young said rain Monday hampered that effort, and that Native Americans also took time out for traditional ceremonies related to the weather. Frozen ground also is making it difficult for people to remove tent stakes, she said.

Corps Capt. Ryan Hignight confirmed that people in camp sought an extension on the deadline to move. But he said the Corps is focused on people's safety and on the environment.

Gov. Doug Burgum also listed Wednesday as the deadline in an evacuation order he issued last week. Spokesman Mike Nowatzki said Tuesday that the deadline hasn't changed. He said arrests are possible if people refuse to leave.

A schedule for emptying the camp, released late Wednesday, calls for the first bus to arrive at 9 a.m. to take those willing to leave to a "transition center" in Bismarck to get a change of clothes, medical screening and hotel and bus vouchers.

The schedule's entry for 2 p.m. says: "Certain individuals in the camps would like to experience a ceremonial arrest which will occur at this time."

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

This story has been corrected to show the governor's first name is Doug.

South Dakota House panel votes to table abortion measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A House panel has tabled a bill that would have banned a type of second-trimester abortion in the state.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 7-6 to shelve the bill, which had an amendment pending that would have changed it substantially.

As introduced, the measure would have banned a procedure known medically as dilation and extraction, though the bill called it "dismemberment abortion." It would have made performing them a felony except in medical emergencies.

Bill sponsor Rep. Isaac Latterell, a Republican, says he's looking at taking the issue to a vote of the people.

Latterell's amendment would have completely rewritten the bill. It would have instead required an abortion facility or doctor performing an abortion to report annually how they comply with the informed consent provisions in South Dakota law.

South Dakota bill leaves evolution skepticism up to teachers

By JAMES NORD and HANNAH WEIKEL, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota legislators are weighing whether to let teachers decide how much skepticism to work into lessons on contentious scientific topics such as evolution and climate change.

A House committee on Wednesday is set to consider the measure, which would give legal protection to teachers who want to discuss "in an objective scientific manner the strengths and weaknesses" of the subjects.

South Dakota is one of at least three states, along with Texas and Oklahoma, considering such a bill. Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee have enacted similar laws, according to Glenn Branch, deputy director of the California-based National Center for Science Education, which opposes the proposal.

Branch said there are concerns that such a bill would embolden some teachers to start presenting creationism in their classrooms.

Critics argue that the measure is bad for students and that allowing teachers to teach any science curriculum they choose could subject school districts to litigation. Federal courts have struck down attempts to present creationism in various forms at public schools, Branch said.

South Dakota Sen. Jeff Monroe, the bill's prime sponsor, said teachers should be able to talk about weaknesses in scientific theories, but he disputed that it would allow for creationism to seep into school teachings. Rogue teaching of creationism instead of science wouldn't happen because it's not included in South Dakota's science content standards, he said.

The Republican has said he has heard from concerned teachers, including one who was chastised for discussing how embryos develop and another who was frustrated that she was forced to teach climate change as a fact.

"That's how we got off the theory that man can't fly, that's how we got off the flat earth theory, by analyzing the theories, not by being stuck, told this is true and you're going to believe it and they're going to teach it as true," said Monroe, who added that it could help students learn.

The effort may face a hurdle in GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who said in a recent letter to a group of Augustana University professors that he views the bill as unnecessary.

Deb Wolf, a high school science instructional coach who helps teachers in Sioux Falls schools write science curriculum said the bill is superfluous. She said she's concerned that it would protect educators who teach things that aren't "truly science."

Pam Wells, a Mobridge-Pollock High School science teacher, said some parents have asked her to teach intelligent design during her 35 years in public schools. Wells said she read the textbooks they gave her on the subject, but decided not to include it in her curriculum because the theories weren't based in science.

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Wells said one high school senior told her that he wouldn't come to her class if she dropped evolutionary theory and picked up intelligent design, which holds that certain features of life forms are so complex that they can best be explained by an origin from an intelligent higher power. "He said, 'If I wanted to learn about that I'd go to church,'" said Wells, who plans to testify against the bill.

Shannon Schlomer is a father of five kids who have attended Mobridge-area schools. He has written letters to the editor of the local paper urging lawmakers to kill the bill, which he said aims to belittle established science and would hurt kids in South Dakota who want to go to college to become physicists, geologists or cosmologists.

Steve Matzner, an Augustana professor who signed a letter earlier this month urging House members to vote against the bill, teaches introductory biology classes every year. Some of the students come from small schools where evolutionary theory is breezed over, and they tend to struggle grasping evidence-based teaching, he said.

"The biggest effect of the bill would be that it could underprepare high school students if their science education is being watered down," he said.

SD lawmakers advance concealed carry bills to both chambers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two nearly identical bills aiming to eliminate penalties for carrying a concealed weapon without a permit in South Dakota are moving forward in both the House and Senate.

The Senate bill cleared a panel hearing Tuesday 5-2 after its companion passed through a House committee last week. Lawmakers have to take up the two bills by Thursday, which is the deadline for proposals to advance through their chamber of origin.

The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2m5NAKH>) that the House bill could have an easy time passing Senate committee because its complement was rapidly approved there.

If passed, people eligible for concealed carry would no longer need a permit. There would still be background checks for sales. Gov. Dennis Daugaard doesn't support the bill, but a veto override is possible.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

North Korea blasts Malaysia for death of its national

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea says a Malaysian investigation into the death of one of its nationals is full of "holes and contradictions" amid speculation that its agents masterminded the assassination of leader Kim Jong Un's half brother.

Malaysia police have not directly pinpointed North Korea as being behind the death of Kim Jong Nam, but they are searching for several North Korean suspects over his killing at a Malaysian airport this month.

The Korean Jurists Committee said in a statement Thursday that the Malaysian investigation lacks fairness and has been influenced by the South Korean government, which blames Pyongyang for the death.

The North has not acknowledged that the dead man is Kim Jong Nam. Thursday's statement described the man only as a North Korean citizen bearing a diplomatic passport.

Administration lifts transgender student bathroom guidance

By SADIE GURMAN and MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Wednesday ended federal protection for transgender students that allowed them to use public school bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender identities.

The Justice and Education departments said in a letter being sent to school districts nationwide that the Obama-era guidance caused a spike in lawsuits over how the guidance should be applied.

It will now be up to states and school districts to interpret federal anti-discrimination law and determine whether students should have access to restrooms in accordance with their expressed gender identity

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and not just their biological sex.

"This is an issue best solved at the state and local level," Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said. "Schools, communities, and families can find — and in many cases have found — solutions that protect all students."

Although the earlier directive carried no force of law, transgender rights advocates say it was necessary to protect students from discrimination. Opponents argue it was an example of federal overreach.

Here's a look at the issue and what could happen next:

WHAT IS THE FEDERAL GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS?

About 150,000 young people — 0.7 percent of those between the ages of 13 and 17 — in the United States identify as transgender, according to a study by The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.

The Obama administration last May told public schools to grant bathroom access even if a student's chosen gender identity isn't the same as what's in their record. The Obama administration's guidance was based on its determination that Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education and activities, also applies to gender identity.

Obama's guidance was not legally binding but sent a warning that schools could lose funding if they did not comply with the administration's interpretation of the law.

Republicans immediately pushed back, arguing it was an example of the Obama administration meddling in local matters.

Thirteen states sued to challenge the directive.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Wednesday the Obama administration did not adequately explain its interpretation of Title IX.

"Congress, state legislatures and local governments are in a position to adopt appropriate policies or laws addressing this issue," he said.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN NOW THAT THE GUIDANCE IS WITHDRAWN?

The change in position will have no immediate impact on schools, as a federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked the Obama guidance in August.

But it could have consequences for unresolved court cases dealing with Title IX.

They include a case set to be heard by the Supreme Court in March involving a transgender teen who was denied a choice of bathroom access in Virginia.

The high court could decide not to hear the case and direct lower courts to decide that question instead.

Similar lawsuits are still playing out across the country.

WHAT MIGHT THE CHANGE MEAN FOR SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS?

Even without the guidelines, advocates say federal law will still prohibit discrimination against students based on their gender or sexual orientation. The ACLU said schools remain free to provide the same treatment to students even without guidance.

"To cloak this in federalism ignores the vital and historic role that federal law plays in ensuring that all children (including LGBT students) are able to attend school free from discrimination," Vanita Gupta, who was head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division when the guidance was issued, said in a statement.

HOW DO STATE LAWS VIEW THE ISSUE?

A patchwork of state laws dealing with the bathroom issue will continue to emerge.

Fifteen states have explicit protections for transgender students in their state laws, and many individual school districts in other states have adopted policies that cover such students on the basis of their gender identity, said Sarah Warbelow, legal director of the Human Rights Campaign. In the states that protect transgender rights, the general approach is to let individuals decide for themselves their gender identity. That's also how the Obama guidance viewed gender identity for students who are too young for reassignment surgery.

Just one state, North Carolina, has enacted a law restricting access to bathrooms in government-owned

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buildings to the sex that appears on a person's birth certificate. But so far this year, lawmakers in more than 10 states are considering similar legislation, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Conservatives welcome Trump with delight _ and wariness

By LISA LERER and ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the past eight years, thousands of conservative activists have descended on Washington each spring with dreams of putting a Republican in the White House.

This year, they're learning reality can be complicated.

With Donald Trump's presidential victory, the future of the conservative movement has become entwined with an unconventional New York businessman better known for his deal-making than any ideological principles.

It's an uneasy marriage of political convenience at best. Some conservatives worry whether they can trust their new president to follow decades of orthodoxy on issues like international affairs, small government, abortion and opposition to expanded legal protections for LGBT Americans — and what it means for their movement if he doesn't.

"Donald Trump may have come to the Republican Party in an unconventional and circuitous route, but the fact is that we now need him to succeed lest the larger conservative project fails," said evangelical leader Ralph Reed, who mobilized his organization to campaign for Trump during the campaign. "Our success is inextricably tied to his success."

As conservatives filtered into their convention hall Wednesday for their annual gathering, many said they still have nagging doubts about Trump even as they cheer his early actions. A Wednesday night decision to reverse an Obama-era directive that said transgender students should be allowed to use public school bathrooms and locker rooms matching their chosen gender identity has thrilled social conservatives.

"He's said that on multiple occasions that he's not a conservative, especially socially," said Zach Weidlich, a junior at the University of South Alabama, "but my mind-set was, give him a chance, especially now that he's elected."

"He was the better of two evils given the choice," added Timmy Finn. "I agree with his policies, however, I think he's moving a little too fast."

Trump has a somewhat tortured history with the Conservative Political Action Conference, an annual convention that's part ideological pep talk, part political boot camp for activists. Over the past six years, he's been both booed and cheered. He's rejected speaking slots and galvanized attendees with big promises of economic growth and electoral victory.

At times, he has seemed to delight in taunting them.

"I'm a conservative, but don't forget: This is called the Republican Party, not the Conservative Party," he said in a May interview on ABC's "This Week."

Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, which hosts CPAC, said Trump's aggressive style is more important than ideological purity.

"Conservatives weren't looking for somebody who knew how to explain all the philosophies. They were actually looking for somebody who would just fight," he said. "Can you think of anybody in America who fits that bill more than Donald Trump?"

Trump is to address the group Friday morning. Vice President Mike Pence is to speak Thursday as are White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and senior advisers Steve Bannon and Kellyanne Conway.

The tensions between Trump's brand of populist politics and conservative ideology will be on full display at the three-day conference, which features panels like: "Conservatives: Where we come from, where we are and where we are going" and "The Alt-Right Ain't Right At All."

Along with Trump come his supporters, including the populists, party newcomers and nationalists that have long existed on the fringes of conservatism and have gotten new voice during the early days of his administration.

Pro-Brexit British politician Nigel Farage will speak a few hours after Trump.

Organizers invited provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos after protesters at the University of California at Berkeley

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protested to stop his appearance on campus. But the former editor at Breitbart News, the website previously run by Bannon, was disinvited this week after video clips surfaced in which he appeared to defend sexual relationships between men and boys as young as 13.

Trump "is giving rise to a conservative voice that for the first time in a long time unabashedly, unapologetically puts America first," said Republican strategist Hogan Gidley. "That 'America First' moniker can very well shape this country, but also the electorate and the Republican Party and conservative movement for decades."

Trump's early moves — including a flurry of executive orders and his nomination of federal Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court — have cheered conservatives. They've also applauded his Cabinet picks, which include some of the most conservative members of Congress. The ACU awarded his team a 91.52 percent conservative rating — 28 points higher than Ronald Reagan and well above George H.W. Bush who received a 78.15 rating.

But key items on the conservative wish list remain shrouded in uncertainty. The effort to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law is not moving as quickly as many hoped, and Republicans also have yet to coalesce around revamping the nation's tax code.

No proposals have surfaced to pursue Trump's campaign promises to build a border wall with Mexico that could cost \$15 billion or more or to buttress the nation's infrastructure with a \$1 trillion plan. Conservatives fear that those plans could result in massive amounts of new spending and that Trump's penchant for deal-making could leave them on the wrong side of the transaction.

"There is wariness," said Tim Phillips, president of Koch-brothers-backed Americans for Prosperity.

But with a Republican-controlled Congress, others believe there's no way to lose.

"He sits in a room with Mitch McConnell and Paul Ryan. Is there a bad deal to be made with those three in the room?" asked veteran anti-tax activist Grover Norquist. "A deal between those three will, I think, always make me happy."

Associated Press writer Steve Peoples contributed to this report from New York.

Immigrants fearing deportation under Trump change routines

By DEEPTI HAJELA and AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

In Orange County, California, dozens of immigrant parents have signed legal documents authorizing friends and relatives to pick up their children from school and access their bank accounts to pay their bills in the event they are arrested by immigration agents.

In Philadelphia, immigrants are carrying around wallet-size "Know Your Rights" guides in Spanish and English that explain what to do if they're rounded up.

And in New York, 23-year-old Zuleima Dominguez and other members of her Mexican family are careful about answering the door and start making worried phone calls when someone doesn't come home on time.

Around the country, President Donald Trump's efforts to crack down on the estimated 11 million immigrants living illegally in the U.S. have spread fear and anxiety and led many people to brace for arrest and to change up their daily routines in hopes of not getting caught.

In El Paso, Texas, Carmen Ramos and her friends have developed a network to keep each other updated via text messages on where immigration checkpoints have been set up.

She said she also is making certain everything she does is in order at all times. She checks her taillights before leaving the house to make sure they are working. She won't speed and keeps a close eye on her surroundings.

"We are surprised that even a ticket can get us back to Mexico," said the 41-year-old Ramos, who with her husband and three children left Ciudad Juarez because of drug violence and death threats in 2008 and entered the U.S. on tourist visas that have since expired. "We wouldn't have anywhere to return."

The unease among immigrants has been building for months but intensified in recent weeks with ever-clearer signs that the Trump administration would jettison the Obama-era policy of focusing mostly on

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deporting those who had committed serious crimes.

The administration announced Tuesday that any immigrant in the country illegally who is charged with or convicted of any offense, or even suspected of a crime, will now be an enforcement priority. That could include people arrested for shoplifting or other minor offenses, or those who simply crossed the border illegally.

Some husbands and wives fear spouses who lack legal papers could be taken away. And many worry that parents will be separated from their U.S.-born children.

Dozens of immigrants have been turning up at an advocacy group's offices in Philadelphia, asking questions like, "Who will take care of my children if I am deported?" They also are coached on how to develop a "deportation plan" that includes the name and number of an attorney and other emergency contacts in case of arrest.

An organization in Austin, Texas, that runs a deportation hotline said it normally would receive one or two calls every few days. After recent immigration raids, the phone rang off the hook.

"We got over 1,000 phone calls in three days about the raids," said Cristina Parker, immigration programs director for Grassroots Leadership. "And certainly a lot of those were people who wanted information about the raids saying, 'I'm scared, I'm worried, what can I do?'... A lot of them were people who were impacted by the raids who saw a friend or family be taken."

Immigrants in the Chicago area have said they are scared to drive, and some are even wary of taking public transit. When Chicago police and federal authorities conducted regular safety checks on a train line earlier this month, many assumed it was an immigration checkpoint.

Word spread so quickly that Chicago police issued a statement assuring immigrants, "You are welcome here."

In Arizona, immigrant Abril Gallardo said the policies have prompted new conversations with her parents and siblings. Her father, who's in the country illegally, made sure all the taillights work in the van he drives to his construction job in the Phoenix area. They look through the window if anyone knocks.

Her brother is getting married this weekend, and immigrant friends were reluctant to drive to the bridal shower.

"We have a regular life, but with this new executive order, anyone, just for the fact that you're here, you can become a priority," said Gallardo, 26, who is in the U.S. with permission under the Obama administration policy for people who entered illegally as children.

In the Bronx, Dominguez, a college student protected from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, is looking into what she needs to do to raise her American-born brother and sister, ages 6 and 11, if their parents are deported.

When Dominguez goes out, she tells the others where she is going, with whom, and when she will be home, and expects the same from her parents and siblings. If someone is late getting home, she said, "we start calling."

Associated Press Writers Sophia Tareen in Chicago; Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami; Astrid Galvan in El Paso, Texas; and Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

Republicans who won after rowdy town halls now avoiding them

By KRISTEN WYATT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Republicans who benefited from rowdy town halls six years ago and harnessed a wave of discontent with Democrats to win seats in Congress are learning a hard lesson this week as they return home: The left is happy to return the favor.

Across the U.S., Democrats and their allies are spending this short congressional recess protesting elected Republican politicians who are avoiding the events that often turn into shouting matches.

Just like the tea party sympathizers who vented against Democrats and President Barack Obama, the

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new left and left-leaning protesters are taking out their ire on Republicans and their links to President Donald Trump.

In Denver this week, the activists targeted Republican Sen. Cory Gardner — denouncing him as inaccessible and beaming a picture of him fashioned into a “Missing” poster to a wall of the Denver Art Museum while protesting Trump’s plans to boost energy production on public lands.

Gardner “is supposed to represent us, but where is he?” said Emma Spett, a 22-year-old environmental activist from Denver who says she’s “terrified” of environmental policy changes backed by Trump.

Gardner defeated a Democrat in 2010, and used impromptu town hall meetings heavily attended by tea party members in his campaign to rail against Obama’s Affordable Care Act and incumbent congressional representatives he labeled as out of touch with voters.

Now an incumbent who doesn’t face re-election until 2020, Gardner has no town halls scheduled and was met Wednesday at an agricultural forum in Denver by protesters yelling “We want a town hall!”

He dodged questions from reporters about why he did not plan any, saying that he supports “people who are expressing differing points of views” and that his staff meets with protesters.

Experts say that avoiding town halls is a tactic used by incumbents to dodge being berated in widely publicized local events.

“If you’re there at a town hall meeting and there’s hundreds of people there yelling at you, it’s going to be a media event,” said Seth Masket, a political scientist at the University of Denver “They’re calculating that the bad press they’re going to get from not having a town hall is not going to be as bad as that.”

In Montana, Republican Sen. Steve Daines got waylaid with boos and jeers from hundreds of protesters just for rescheduling an appearance before state lawmakers Helena from Tuesday to Wednesday.

“What a coward!” said Katherine Haque-Hausrath, a protest organizer who demanded he meet with constituents. “If he doesn’t listen to us now, he can listen to us in 2020 in the election.”

Daines was met inside the Capitol Wednesday by dozens of protesters who yelled “Do your job!” Asked why he rescheduled, Daines said he decided to hold multiple events Wednesday and nothing on Tuesday.

He also reminded reporters about the result of last November’s election: “While every voice must be heard in Montana, the reality is the people of Montana rejected Hillary Clinton and voted for Donald Trump.”

About 200 protesters clamored Wednesday outside a Carson City, Nevada, casino where Sen. Dean Heller and Rep. Mark Amodei, both Republicans, spoke behind closed doors in a session for business leaders — and ended getting booed and heckled inside the private luncheon.

Amodei defended himself, saying he was there doing his job and meeting with constituents. And Heller said he would hold a town hall meeting if rules were put in place similar to those for debates in Congress.

“No applauding, no booing and we will have a one-on-one dialogue,” he proposed.

In Nebraska, Republican Rep. Don Bacon said in an interview that he plans no town meetings for now because he sees no point in them turning into forums for people who want to disrupt the events.

“What about the average person, whether or not they agree with me, that’s in the audience? They want to have a dialogue,” he said. “What I’m seeing, and I’m seeing it all over the country, is people grab the microphone, and don’t give it back.”

And Texas Rep. Louie Gohmert announced he opted for telephone town halls because groups from what he called “violent strains of the leftist ideology...are preying on public town halls to wreak havoc and threaten public safety.”

Republicans accused of going into hiding are getting some sympathy — from Democrats they defeated, including former Colorado Rep. Betsy Markey.

Back in 2010, she held town hall meetings focusing on health care only to be greeted by a deluge of conservative protesters who showed up waving yellow “Don’t Tread on Me” flags.

“They were pretty rowdy,” Markey recalled with a chuckle.

Republicans who managed their campaigns to take advantage of the tea party movement’s populist appeal must learn to take what was dished out before to the Democrats, she said.

“That’s why you were elected, to represent the people. You come back on weekends, you come back

on breaks, and you talk to people — even if they don't like what you're doing," Markey said.

Associated Press writers Matt Volz in Helena, Montana and Thomas Beaumont in Lincoln, Nebraska contributed to this report.

Kristen Wyatt can be reached at <http://www.twitter.com/APkristenwyatt>

7 Earth-size worlds found orbiting star; could hold life

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — For the first time, astronomers have discovered seven Earth-size planets orbiting a single nearby star — and these new worlds could hold life.

This cluster of planets is less than 40 light-years away in the constellation Aquarius, according to NASA and the Belgian-led research team who announced the discovery Wednesday.

The planets circle tightly around a dim dwarf star called Trappist-1, barely the size of Jupiter. Three are in the so-called habitable zone, the area around a star where water and, possibly life, might exist. The others are right on the doorstep.

Scientists said they need to study the atmospheres before determining whether these rocky, terrestrial planets could support some sort of life. But it already shows just how many Earth-size planets could be out there — especially in a star's sweet spot, ripe for extraterrestrial life. The more planets like this, the greater the potential of finding one that's truly habitable. Until now, only two or three Earth-size planets had been spotted around a star.

"We've made a crucial step toward finding if there is life out there," said the University of Cambridge's Amaury Triaud, one of the researchers.

The potential for more Earth-size planets in our Milky Way galaxy is mind-boggling. The history of planet-searching shows "when there's one, there's more," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager.

"With this amazing system, we know that there must be many more potentially life-bearing worlds out there just waiting to be found," she said.

NASA's Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the science mission, said the discovery "gives us a hint that finding a second Earth is not just a matter of if, but when," and addresses the age-old question of "Are we alone out there?"

"We're making a step forward with this, a leap forward in fact, toward answering that question," Zurbuchen said at a news conference.

Last spring, the University of Liege's Michael Gillon and his team reported finding three planets around Trappist-1. Now the count is up to seven, and Gillon said there could be more. Their latest findings appear in the journal *Nature*.

This crowded yet compact solar system — 235 trillion miles away — is reminiscent of Jupiter and its Galilean moons, according to the researchers.

Picture this: If Trappist-1 were our sun, all seven planets would be inside Mercury's orbit. Mercury is the innermost planet of our own solar system.

The ultracool star at the heart of this system would shine 200 times dimmer than our sun, a perpetual twilight as we know it. And the star would glow red — maybe salmon-colored, the researchers speculate.

"The spectacle would be beautiful because every now and then, you would see another planet, maybe about as big as twice the moon in the sky, depending on which planet you're on and which planet you look at," Triaud said Tuesday in a teleconference with reporters.

Years are exceedingly short in this star system — the planets take just 1 ½ to 20 days to orbit Trappist-1.

The Leiden Observatory's Ignas Snellen, who was not involved in the study, is excited by the prospect of learning more about what he calls "the seven sisters of planet Earth." In a companion article in *Nature*, he said Gillon's team could have been lucky in nabbing so many terrestrial planets in one stellar swoop.

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"But finding seven transiting Earth-sized planets in such a small sample suggests that the solar system with its four (sub-) Earth-sized planets might be nothing out of the ordinary," Snellen wrote.

Altogether, astronomers have confirmed close to 3,600 planets outside our solar system since the 1990s, but barely four dozen are in the potential habitable zone of their stars, and of those, just 18 are approximately the size of Earth.

Gillon and his team used both ground and space telescopes to identify and track the seven Trappist-1 planets, which they label simply by lowercase letters, "b" through "h." As is typical in these cases, the letter "A" — in upper case — is reserved for the star. Planets cast shadows on their star as they pass in front of it; that's how the scientists spotted them.

Tiny, cold stars like Trappist-1 were long shunned by exoplanet-hunters (exoplanets are those outside our solar system). But the Belgian astronomers decided to seek them out, building a telescope in Chile to observe 60 of the closest ultracool dwarf stars. Their Trappist telescope lent its name to this star.

While faint, the Trappist-1 star is close by cosmic standards, allowing astronomers to study the atmospheres of its seven temperate planets. All seven look to be solid like Earth — mostly rocky and possibly icy, too.

They all appear to be tidally locked, which means the same side continually faces the star, just like the same side of our moon always faces us. Life could still exist at these places, the researchers explained.

"Here, if life managed to thrive and releases gases similar to that that we have on Earth, then we will know," Triaud said.

Chemical analyses should indicate life with perhaps 99 percent confidence, Gillon noted. But he added: "We will never be completely sure" without going there.

Online:

NASA: <https://www.nasa.gov/>

Nature: <http://www.nature.com/nature/index.html>

College Board to boost SAT security to combat cheating

By JOE MANDAK, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The firm that owns the SAT college entrance exam is boosting security worldwide following test-stealing and other cheating in recent years.

The College Board said it's reducing the number of international testing dates from six per year to four for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. It says the move will reduce opportunities for test content to be stolen.

The New York-based college entrance exam provider announced Wednesday that it is taking steps to prevent past cheaters from retaking tests. In addition, it says it will alert law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad of companies and people it suspects of illegally obtaining test content.

Other planned reforms include an increase in audits of test centers worldwide and steps to make it easier for students and educators to anonymously report suspected cheating.

"We are unwavering in our commitment to SAT test security and we will continue to confront any efforts to undermine it, including the unauthorized disclosure of test questions and test forms," Peter Schwartz, the College Board's chief administrative officer and general counsel, said in a written statement.

A frequent critic of the College Board believes the group isn't doing enough to prevent recycled tests from flooding an online black market where foreign students can buy copies of tests already given in the United States before they're recycled and given to students overseas.

"The most important thing is what they did not say," said Bob Schaeffer, public education director for FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing. "They did not say they're going to stop recycling tests, which is the primary tool used in all these international cheating scandals."

But College Board spokesman Zachary Goldberg said, "We are reducing re-use, it's in the announcement. We recognize that's an issue."

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The official announcement says "the College Board has increased test form development to reduce reuse." "With these new policies, the College Board is committed to expose and thwart individuals and organizations who attempt to steal and share test materials for profit and other gain," said Jeremiah Quinlan, dean of undergraduate admissions at Yale University.

The College Board canceled college entrance exams in China and Macau in January 2016 after determining some students may have obtained copies of the tests. Forty-five testing centers were affected, and similar problems have plagued the administration of the test in Asia in recent years, though cheating has occurred elsewhere, too.

In 2015, federal prosecutors in Pittsburgh charged 15 Chinese citizens in a conspiracy to have impostors take the SAT and other college entrance tests in Pennsylvania as far back as 2011.

A former University of Pittsburgh student, Han Tong, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to probation for being the go-between for Chinese students who paid up to \$6,000 to have impostors take the tests for them. All but two of those defendants, who remain in China, have pleaded guilty. Eleven of the 13 convicted have been sentenced by a federal judge in Pittsburgh, and most were deported.

The Educational Testing Service, of Princeton, New Jersey, administers the SAT, the Test of English as a Foreign Language and the GRE graduate school entry exam, which were targeted in the Pittsburgh-based scam.

The College Board oversees registration for the SAT and is tasked with ensuring test results are legitimate for each student.

This story has been corrected to remove inaccurate description of SAT standing for Scholastic Aptitude Test. The exam was formerly called the Scholastic Aptitude Test, but is now a stand-alone brand.

Mexicans weigh the daunting prospect of deportee camps

By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexicans fear deportee and refugee camps could be popping up along their northern border under the Trump administration's plan to start deporting to Mexico all Latin Americans and others who entered the U.S. illegally through this country.

Previous U.S. policy called for only Mexican citizens to be sent to Mexico. Migrants known as "OTMs" — Other Than Mexicans — got flown back to their homelands.

Now, under a sweeping rewrite of enforcement policies announced Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, migrants might be dumped over the border into a violence-plagued land where they have no ties while their asylum claims or deportation proceedings are heard in the United States. U.S. officials didn't say what Mexico would be expected to do with them.

The only consensus so far in Mexico about the new policies of President Donald Trump is that the country isn't remotely prepared.

"Not in any way, shape or form," said the Rev. Patrick Murphy, a priest who runs the Casa del Migrante shelter in the border city of Tijuana, which currently houses about 55 Haitian immigrants. They were part of wave of thousands who swarmed to the border in the closing months of the Obama administration in hopes of getting asylum in the U.S.

Tijuana was overwhelmed, and while the government did little, a string of private Christian groups pitched in to open shelters with improvised bedding, tents and sanitary facilities. Donated food kept the Haitians going.

Mexicans quake at the thought of handling not thousands, but hundreds of thousands of foreigners in a border region already struggling with drug gangs and violence.

"Just look at the case of the Haitians in Tijuana, what were they, seven or eight thousand? And the situation was just out of control," said Alejandro Hope, a Mexico City-based security analyst. "Now imagine a situation 10 or 15 times that size. There aren't enough resources to maintain them."

It's unclear whether the United States has the authority to force Mexico to accept third-country nation-

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als. The DHS memo calls for the department to provide an account of U.S. aid to Mexico, a possible signal that Trump plans to use that funding to get Mexico to accept the foreigners.

Murphy said, "I hope Mexico has the courage to say no to this."

Mexico's foreign relations secretary, Luis Videgaray, said Wednesday that his country has "no reason to accept unilateral decisions imposed by one government on another."

"We are not going to accept that because we don't have to and it is not in the interest of Mexico," Videgaray said.

In apparent reference to broadened definitions of those subject to deportation, he said "Let there be no doubt, Mexico and the Mexican government will not hesitate in going to international organizations, starting with the United Nations, to defend human rights, liberties and due process for Mexicans abroad according to international law."

Victor Clark, director of Tijuana's Binational Center for Human Rights, said Mexico can simply refuse to accept non-Mexican deportees. "They come through one by one, and when the Mexican immigration agent sees a person who isn't Mexican, he tells the ICE agent, 'I can't accept this person, he's not Mexican,' and they return him to the United States."

Hope said the new U.S. policy could create an "explosive situation," noting that some anti-foreigner sentiment already exists in Mexico's northern border region and that Central American migrants have been recruited, sometimes by force, into drug gangs like the Zetas and the Gulf cartel.

The United States could pay to build the needed facilities. There would be precedents for such a deal. Turkey has agreed to house Syrian refugees headed for the European Union in exchange for at least \$3 billion in aid.

"For this to be politically acceptable in Mexico, it would have to be paid," said Hope. "No Mexican administration could accept this kind of thing unless it were accompanied by billions of dollars."

Mexico's government didn't formally react to the DHS policy statements.

But in a hearing with Mexican senators, Mexico's new ambassador to the United States, Geronimo Gutierrez, said, "Obviously, they are a cause for concern for the foreign relations department, for the Mexican government, and for all Mexicans."

But Gutierrez praised the Trump administration's release of the policies before this week's visit to Mexico by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling that "a position that is much more straightforward and honorable, to make these positions known beforehand ... so they can be discussed."

There are precedents in Mexico for refugee camps.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Mexico took in about 46,000 Guatemalans fleeing civil war. With help from the United Nations, camps were set up in the southern states of Chiapas, Campeche and Quintana Roo. When peace accords were signed in Guatemala in the mid-1990s, almost 43,000 refugees and their children went home, but more than 30,000 Guatemalans and their children born in Mexico decided to stay.

The same thing could happen with any migrants housed in Mexico.

Haitians streamed into Tijuana last year to seek asylum in the U.S., but since January they have stopped applying after hearing that other Haitians' requests were being denied and U.S. authorities were sending them back to Haiti. Murphy estimated the 3,000 Haitians still in Tijuana have mostly decided to seek asylum in Mexico.

He said a lot of Latin American migrants might do the same.

"You know, a lot of Central Americans would rather be deported to Mexico than their own countries," Murphy said.

Dresses that tell a story: Princess Diana's life in fashion

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The dresses tell the story of a life cut short: first the frilly debutante frocks Princess Diana wore before she married Prince Charles, then the elaborate gowns that stunned the world, and finally the power suits she favored shortly before her death.

It's been 20 years since Diana died in a Paris car crash at the age of 36, but the public's fascination with

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her life — and her clothes — lives on. A new exhibition that opens Friday at Kensington Palace, her home for many years, will give the public a chance to see extraordinary fashion pieces up close for the first time.

The workmanship is refined, some of the designs are simple in concept and execution, while others clearly took careful thought and meticulous preparation.

One room features designers' sketches for Diana dresses, offering insight into the vision behind many of her choices.

Deirdre Murphy, senior curator at the Historic Royal Palaces, said Diana was unique in the way she used clothes to communicate — and also a risk-taker willing to challenge the unwritten conventions of royal dress. She said Diana captured the "mystique" of being a princess even as she occasionally dressed down in jeans and a baseball hat.

"Somehow women all over the world saw a piece of themselves in the princess," the curator said. "She got her image across and her ideas across using clothing in a really sophisticated, really smart, really thoughtful way."

The display opens with a lacy party dress Diana wore to a ball at her family home, Althorp, in 1979 and includes many of her most famous outfits. Here are some of the most illustrious:

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY, WITH JOHN TRAVOLTA.

Diana was married to Prince Charles, and a guest of President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy, but that didn't stop her from tearing up the dance floor with John Travolta at a White House state dinner in 1985.

Photographers of Diana and the dashing young Travolta dominated newspapers throughout the world, showcasing the midnight blue silk velvet evening dress designed by Victor Edelstein. It remains one of her most famous outfits.

DIANA'S ELVIS PERIOD

Catherine Walker, who died in 2010, became one of Diana's favorite designers. To prepare for an official visit to Hong Kong in 1989, she designed a strapless white silk crepe and jacket embroidered with sequins and pearls. Its sparkly look, and high collar, reminded fashion writers of the jump suits favored by Elvis Presley late in his career.

She looked resplendent in the outfit, topping it with a jeweled tiara.

THE BOXY LOOK

Diana turned to Emanuel, designer of her wedding gown, for a 1985 official royal visit to Italy. A coat and skirt in green, blue and black was cut in the boxy shape in favor at the time.

The tartan wool day suit was not well received by critics who didn't find it flattering.

HONEYMOON HOPES

For her honeymoon photos with Charles taken in the lovely Scottish countryside, Diana turned to designer Bill Pashley for a casual, comfortable brown tweed woolen day-suit.

She had two versions made — and chose to wear the larger one on her honeymoon because the extra room allowed her to participate in outdoor activities more easily. Its tweed motif pays tribute to the countryside traditions.

POWER DRESSING PRINCESS STYLE

Diana relied heavily on Walker at various times in her life, and she turned to Walker again in the years just before her death to help her refine a "working princess" style in line with her plan to devote more time to charitable activities.

She wore a red day suit by Walker to launch an AIDS charity appeal in 1996. Walker called the outfits she was working on at this phase a "royal uniform" for Diana, who was outspoken in her support of AIDS victims.

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SpaceX aborts approach to space station, delivery delayed

By MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A navigation error forced SpaceX to delay its shipment to the International Space Station on Wednesday, following an otherwise smooth flight from NASA's historic moon pad.

SpaceX's supply ship, the Dragon, was less than a mile from the orbiting outpost when a problem cropped up in the GPS system. The approach was aborted, and the Dragon backed away. NASA said neither the station nor its six-person crew was in any danger, and another attempt would be made Thursday.

"As a pilot it is sometimes better to accelerate and circle around than attempt a difficult landing," French astronaut Thomas Pesquet said in a tweet from the space station. "Same in space — we'll be ready tomorrow!"

Just a few hours earlier, Russia successfully launched a cargo ship from Kazakhstan, its first since a failed launch in December.

SpaceX launched the Dragon capsule Sunday from Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A, out of action since NASA's space shuttle program ended in 2011. It's the same spot where astronauts flew to the moon in the late 1960s and early 1970s. SpaceX has a 20-year lease with NASA for 39A; besides launching station cargo from there, the company hopes to send up astronauts as early as next year.

Everything was going well with this latest SpaceX flight until the GPS issue. The Dragon's computers halted the rendezvous from just seven-tenths of a mile away. SpaceX said the problem is well understood and can be fixed before Thursday morning's delivery attempt. The Russian supplies should arrive Friday.

This was the first time that SpaceX had to abort a shipment at the last minute like this. The private company, led by tech billionaire Elon Musk, has been making station deliveries since 2012.

In December, Russia lost a load of station supplies shortly after liftoff. The upper stage of the Soyuz rocket and the cargo ship ended up in pieces over Siberia.

It's the same kind of rocket used for launching crews, and the accident ended up delaying the return of three space station astronauts and the launch of two others. Russian investigators concluded there was a manufacturing flaw in the third-stage engine.

The 250-mile-high station is home to two Americans, three Russians and France's Pesquet.

AP reporter Vladimir Isachenkov contributed to this report from Moscow.

Online:

SpaceX: <http://www.spacex.com/>

NASA: https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

In nearly 3 years on job, Phil Jackson hasn't fixed Knicks

By BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony had a half-season of clues about what Phil Jackson thought of him, and now it was his turn to evaluate his boss.

Anthony had trumpeted his trust in Jackson when he re-signed in 2014 and reaffirmed it months later, even as Jackson continued trading away key players from the best team Anthony ever played on in New York.

Reminded of that recently and asked if he still trusted Jackson, Anthony stopped well short.

"I trust the process," he said, mimicking Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers.

The process isn't going well for Jackson in New York.

The Knicks are 23-34, 12th in the Eastern Conference and on pace to miss the playoffs for the third time in Jackson's three full seasons as president of basketball operations. He's made his relationship with Anthony worse and hasn't made the Knicks better, and a guy who could do little wrong as a coach just can't get it right as an executive.

Maybe Jackson can swing a trade to fix things before Thursday's deadline.

Or maybe he'll just never fix the Knicks.

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If Jackson is planning anything, it remains a mystery. He hasn't spoken to reporters covering the Knicks since his preseason press conference in September — backtracking from his vow to be accessible when he took the job — and isn't expected to before the deadline. He has made only three postings on Twitter all season.

Yet he's still made plenty of noise.

He angered LeBron James by referring to his friends and business partners as a "posse" in an ESPN story. And he upset some of the league's other power players with his actions toward Anthony — which could prove damaging when trying to lure free agents. Jackson has either appeared to endorse or refused to distance himself from articles criticizing his best player and has largely cut off communication between them — after saying when he was hired that he planned to focus on "how players are treated" and "the kind of culture that's built."

Hall of Fame finalist Tracy McGrady told reporters this weekend he couldn't remain quiet the way Anthony has.

"I'm not going to let you disrespect (me) in the public's eye like that," McGrady said. "You're not going to be sending subliminal messages about me like that and I don't respond to that. I don't operate like that. I'm just not going to do it. And then you hide and don't do any media? You leave everything for me to talk about? Nah, that's not cool."

Jackson retains the support of Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan, who said in a recent ESPN Radio interview that he would not fire Jackson during the two-plus years that remain on his contract. (Both sides have an option to terminate the deal after this season).

Dolan didn't even express much disappointment in the results, even though the Knicks had their worst season ever in Jackson's first season and are 72-149 since the start of 2014-15.

"He was the best guy we thought we could find to run the New York Knicks," Dolan said.

Maybe if he'd been hiring Jackson to coach, as Jackson's 11 championships are a record for coaches. But there were questions about how he would do as an executive with no experience, and the answers haven't been good.

He fired Mike Woodson and replaced him with first-time coach Derek Fisher, who lasted just 1½ years. Starters Tyson Chandler and Raymond Felton were traded in one deal, and J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert left in another early the next season. They were all mainstays on the Knicks team that won 54 games and reached the second round of the playoffs not even two years before Jackson was hired in March 2014.

Now all that's left is Anthony, and it certainly seems Jackson wants him gone, too. He would have to find a workable deal, hard enough given the 32-year-old Anthony's salary and age, then get him to waive the no-trade clause he gave Anthony when he re-signed him.

If not, maybe Jackson himself would leave this summer — though Dolan said he had no indication that was the 71-year-old Jackson's plan. But he insists he can't coach for health reasons and doesn't appear to enjoy scouting and dealing with agents, essential parts of his job.

He must be disheartened that the work he put into this team hasn't paid off. Jackson hired Jeff Hornacek to open up the offense after two years of his favored triangle, traded for Derrick Rose and signed free agents Joakim Noah, Courtney Lee and Brandon Jennings. None has sparked a turnaround, and drafting Kristaps Porzingis remains Jackson's only inarguable success.

Jackson played on the last championship Knicks team in 1973 and said when he was hired what it would mean to build another winner here.

"It would be a capstone on the remarkable career that I've had," Jackson said.

There's still time for that.

But these days, Anthony probably isn't the only one who no longer trusts in Jackson.

Amnesty blames Trump, others in global rollback of rights.

By JOHN LEICESTER, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Amnesty International says “toxic” fear-mongering by anti-establishment politicians, among them President Donald Trump and the leaders of Turkey, Hungary and the Philippines, is contributing to a global pushback against human rights.

Releasing its 408-page annual report on rights abuses around the world Wednesday, the watchdog group described 2016 as “the year when the cynical use of ‘us vs. them’ narratives of blame, hate and fear took on a global prominence to a level not seen since the 1930s,” when Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany.

Amnesty named Trump, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte among leaders it said are “wielding a toxic agenda that hounds, scapegoats and dehumanizes entire groups of people.”

“Poisonous” rhetoric employed by Trump in his election campaign exemplified “the global trend of angrier and more divisive politics,” Amnesty said.

“The limits of what is acceptable have shifted. Politicians are shamelessly and actively legitimizing all sorts of hateful rhetoric and policies based on people’s identity: misogyny, racism and homophobia. The first target has been refugees and, if this continues in 2017, others will be in the crosshairs.”

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on the report.

In the Philippines, Duterte’s spokesman, Ernesto Abella, said the president has recently toned down his rhetoric. Duterte previously said he would be “happy to slaughter” 3 million drug addicts and talked of fattening fish in Manila Bay with corpses.

His crackdown on illegal drugs is feared to have killed more than 7,000 mostly poor drug users and petty drug pushers since he took office last June.

Abella told the ABS-CBN TV network that Duterte “does listen and he’s not just frothing in the mouth.”

“There is anger coming there, but to refer to it as toxic as if it was a planned thing ... that he wanted to destroy people, I think obviously misses the mark,” Abella said.

The Hungarian government, which has come under fire from human rights groups for its treatment of refugees and migrants, also rejected the report.

“The pro-migrant Amnesty International does nothing but constantly encourage breaking the law,” it said in a statement.

Having built fences in 2015 on the borders of Serbia and Croatia to block migrants, Hungary now plans to keep asylum-seekers in border camps made of shipping containers while their requests are examined instead of reception centers within the country.

Amnesty’s report, “The State of the World’s Human Rights,” documented what it called “grave violations of human rights” in 159 countries in 2016.

It said governments “turned a blind eye to war crimes, pushed through deals that undermine the right to claim asylum, passed laws that violate free expression, incited murder of people simply because they are accused of using drugs, justified torture and mass surveillance, and extended draconian police powers.”

The report added that “the big question in 2017 will be how far the world lets atrocities go before doing something about them.”

Exceptionally, London-based Amnesty chose to launch its report in Paris.

Salil Shetty, the group’s secretary-general, said France has used emergency powers introduced in 2015 in the wake of terror attacks in an abusive and “deeply discriminatory” manner, confining more than 600 people, mostly Muslims, under house arrest and banning more than 140 protests.

“Even states that once claimed to champion rights abroad are now too busy rolling back human rights at home to hold others to account,” Amnesty said. “The more countries backtrack on fundamental human rights commitments, the more we risk a domino effect of leaders emboldened to knock back established human rights protections.”

France’s government has repeatedly defended the emergency powers as a necessary safeguard against the severe terror threat it says is facing the country, and parliament has repeatedly voted to extend those powers.

Jim Gomez in Manila and Pablo Gorondi in Budapest contributed.

'It saved my life': Talk of Obamacare repeal worries addicts

By ADAM BEAM and CARLA K. JOHNSON, Associated Press

CATLETTSBURG, Ky. (AP) — While the Affordable Care Act has brought health coverage to millions of Americans, the effects have been profound, even lifesaving, for some of those caught up in the nation's opioid-addiction crisis.

In Kentucky, which has been ravaged worse than almost any other state by fentanyl, heroin and other drugs, Tyler Witten went into rehab at Medicaid's expense after the state expanded the program under a provision of the act. Until then, he had been addicted to painkillers for more than a decade.

"It saved my life," he said.

Addicts and mentally ill people who gained access to treatment programs for the first time are worried about how that might change as President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress try to make good on their promise to repeal and replace "Obamacare."

Repeal could end coverage for 1.8 million people who have undergone addiction or mental health treatment and could cut \$5.5 billion in spending on such services, said Richard Frank, a health economist at Harvard Medical School.

Some GOP governors insist addicts have nothing to fear from repeal because, they say, Medicaid will continue to pay for treatment. But Democrats and others are dubious.

Currently the federal government covers a certain percentage of each state's Medicaid costs, however high they might go. As part of the plan to junk Obamacare, the Trump administration has expressed support instead for giving states a fixed amount of money for Medicaid and letting them design their own programs.

But Raymond Castro, senior policy analyst for New Jersey Policy Perspective, a left-leaning think tank, said these block grants are likely to come with less money. And that could force states to cut benefits.

Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has made the opioid crisis his top priority in his final year in office, said he would support a shift to block grants because of the flexibility they give states. But he said the people receiving treatment through the Medicaid expansion now shouldn't be forgotten.

"Whatever changes are made to the ACA should be made with those people in mind, because we don't help ourselves by kicking those people off coverage," Christie said.

In areas overwhelmed by the opioid crisis, the uncertainty is worrisome to people receiving treatment.

In Pennsylvania, nearly 63,000 newly eligible Medicaid enrollees received drug and alcohol treatment in 2015, the first year of the state's expansion.

One of them was 44-year-old Pittsburgh restaurant hostess Erika Lindgren, who credits the health care law with quickly getting her into a 26-day rehab program in 2015 and covering the daily medications she takes to fight opioid cravings.

When she was uninsured, getting into rehab involved waiting lists and daily phone calls to see if a publicly funded bed had opened up. With coverage under the Affordable Care Act, "I was able to pack my bag at that moment," she said. "I was in an in-patient rehab within an hour and a half of making that call."

"I am scared to death to lose my coverage," she added. "It saves my life every day."

In Wildwood, New Jersey, Ashley Grant, a 30-year-old recovering heroin addict who has been sober since June, is hoping to regain custody of her three children. She has signed up for Medicaid under the health law expansion and is waiting to be approved so she can afford weekly counseling. A county program helps pay for a monthly anti-relapse shot.

"They should make it easier for people with addiction to get insurance," she said.

Care for mental illness, too, expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

Marquitta Nelson, a 60-year-old homeless Chicagoan with severe depression, is getting psychiatric care and treatment for asthma, arthritis and other conditions since she obtained Medicaid coverage under the

health law expansion. She is waiting to be assigned to a shelter and staying with a friend.

"Am I expected not to take my medications and wig out and be walking up and down the street, not coherent?" Nelson said.

While the law expanded coverage, it did not always translate into more treatment.

For those buying insurance in the marketplace, many plans still exclude or limit residential treatment and clinics that dispense methadone, which is used to treat addictions to heroin and painkillers. Deductibles for some plans are so high that people still cannot afford help.

Despite those hurdles, the health care law was beginning to shift the system and giving hope to many, said Samuel Ball, chief executive of the nonprofit National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse in New York.

"At a point where we feel we're turning a corner, to have the whole rug pulled out from under us is very concerning," he said.

Johnson reported from Chicago. Associated Press writer Josh Cornfield in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this story.

Iraqi suicide bomber was ex-Gitmo detainee

By PAISLEY DODDS and DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A suicide bomber who attacked a military base in Iraq this week was a former Guantanamo Bay detainee freed in 2004 after Britain lobbied for his release, raising questions about the ability of security services to track the whereabouts of potential terrorists.

The Islamic State group identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani, and two British security officials also confirmed the man was a 50-year-old Briton formerly known as Ronald Fiddler and as Jamal al-Harith.

He was one of 16 men paid a total of 10 million pounds (now worth \$12.4 million) in compensation in 2010, when the British government settled a lawsuit alleging its intelligence agencies were complicit in the torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, according to the officials.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

Al-Harith was a web designer and convert to Islam when he set off on a visit to a religious retreat in Pakistan in October 2001. He says he was warned the country was not safe due to deep anti-British and American sentiment in the days before the U.S. attack on Afghanistan, and decided to return to Europe by land via Iran and Turkey.

Instead, he said he was detained at gunpoint near the border with Afghanistan and turned over to the Taliban, which charged him with being a British spy, beat him and threw him in jail. A couple of months later he was liberated by the Northern Alliance and allowed to call home. He told his family he would be back soon, but instead was turned over to the Americans and sent to Guantanamo Bay. Like many others, he claims he was tortured there.

He was released in March 2004 along with four other British detainees who had been held for up to two years over their alleged links to al Qaida and the Taliban.

Hardship followed him to his native Manchester, England, said his sister, Maxine Fiddler. He struggled to find work.

"Once you've been labeled (as a terrorist) people always say there's something there, and that's stopped him from getting a job," Fiddler said of her brother in an interview in 2007.

Al-Harith and 15 others had sued the British government, alleging it knew about or was complicit in their treatment while in the custody of U.S. forces.

Alex Carlile, Britain's former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, said that al-Harith's case was settled to avoid disclosing sensitive documents in a court battle.

"Plainly he was a terrorist and he was a potentially dangerous terrorist," he told the BBC. "The issue was the legal disclosure rules. If someone brings a civil action for damages they are entitled to disclosure of material, some of which may be national security material."

The issue will raise questions about how a person clearly on the radar of security officials might have

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left Britain and traveled to the Middle East without raising signals from the security services.

Arthur Snell, a former head of the Prevent program, which is part of the Britain's counter terrorism strategy, said the authorities clearly had lost track of him.

"It's obvious that collectively, the authorities — and obviously I have some personal responsibility there — we failed to be aware of what Fiddler was up to," he told the BBC.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2017. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 23, 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during World War II occurred as a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing little damage.

On this date:

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1848, the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, died in Washington, D.C., at age 80.

In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed an agreement with Cuba to lease the area around Guantanamo Bay to the United States.

In 1927, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill creating the Federal Radio Commission, forerunner of the Federal Communications Commission.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised a pair of American flags (the second flag-raising was captured in the iconic Associated Press photograph.)

In 1954, the first mass inoculation of schoolchildren against polio using the Salk vaccine began in Pittsburgh as some 5,000 students were vaccinated.

In 1965, film comedian Stan Laurel, 74, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1970, Guyana became a republic within the Commonwealth of Nations.

In 1989, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 11-9 along party lines to recommend rejection of John Tower as President George H.W. Bush's defense secretary. (Tower's nomination went down to defeat in the full Senate the following month.)

In 1992, the XVI Winter Olympic Games ended in Albertville, France.

In 1997, a 69-year-old Palestinian teacher opened fire on the 86th-floor observation deck of New York's Empire State Building, killing one person and wounding six others before shooting himself to death.

Ten years ago: A Mississippi grand jury refused to bring any new charges in the 1955 slaying of Emmett Till, the black teenager who was beaten and shot for supposedly whistling at a white woman, declining to indict the woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, for manslaughter. Democrat Tom Vilsack abandoned his bid for the presidency. Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport became the first in the United States to begin testing new X-ray screening technology that could see through people's clothes. Forty-six countries attending a conference in Oslo, Norway, agreed to push for a global treaty banning cluster bombs.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, speaking in Miami, sought to confront public anxiety over rising gasoline prices as he promoted the expansion of domestic oil and gas exploration, as well as the development of new forms of energy. Sandra Fluke (rhymes with "look"), a Georgetown University law student, spoke about the need for health coverage that included birth control during an unofficial Democratic-sponsored hearing on Capitol Hill; her comments drew a savage verbal assault from radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, who accused Fluke of being a "slut" (Limbaugh later apologized).

One year ago: Donald Trump won the Nevada Republican caucuses; Marco Rubio finished second while Ted Cruz placed third. A 26-year-old gunman killed four family members and torched their house in Phoenix before being shot dead by authorities.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Fonda is 77. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Fred Biletnikoff is

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74. Author John Sandford is 73. Country-rock musician Rusty Young is 71. Actress Patricia Richardson is 66. Former NFL player Ed "Too Tall" Jones is 66. Rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith) is 65. Singer Howard Jones is 62. Rock musician Michael Wilton (Queensryche) is 55. Country singer Dusty Drake is 53. Actress Kristin Davis is 52. Tennis player Helena Sukova is 52. Actor Marc Price is 49. TV personality/businessman Daymond John (TV: "Shark Tank") is 48. Actress Niecy Nash is 47. Rock musician Jeff Beres (Sister Hazel) is 46. Country singer Steve Holy is 45. Rock musician Lasse (loss) Johansson (The Cardigans) is 44. Actress Kelly Macdonald is 41. Actor Josh Gad is 36. Actress Emily Blunt is 34. Actor Aziz Ansari is 34. Actress Dakota Fanning is 23.

Thought for Today: "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901-1978).