

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 1 of 47



			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

Bates Township ROW Notice

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and expenses charged to the landowner.

Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk

Final day of school unchanged

School was dismissed early on Friday at 1 p.m., due to the weather. According to Superintendent Joe Schwan, the final day of school will remain Friday, May 25.

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Final day of school unchanged
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Bates Township ROW Notice
- 2- US Navy Sailor missing in action since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor has been accounted for
- 3- Service Notice: Billy Vander Vorst
- 3- SDDOT to Install All-Way Stop Sign in Langford
- 3- Sun Dial Manor Help Wanted
- 3- Help Wanted at Groton Care & Rehab
- 4- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 5- Gov. Daugaard Signs Last Bills
- 5- Farmers Union PSA
- 6- Gov. Daugaard Signs Veterans Cemetery Bill
- 7- Gov. Daugaard Vetoes SB 94
- 8- Gov. Daugaard Vetoes HB 1268
- 9- Gov. Daugaard Vetoes HB 1188
- 10- Gov. Daugaard Issues Style and Form Vetoes
- 11- GOVERNOR DAUGAARD PROCLAIMS WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
- 12- Today in Weather History
- 13- Today's Forecast
- 14- Yesterday's Weather
- 14- Today's Weather Info
- 14- National Weather Map
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16- 2018 Community Events
- 17- News from the Associated Press

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**

US Navy Sailor missing in action since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor has been accounted for

Lake Preston, SD – Friday, March 23, 2018.

US Navy Water Tender Second Class Petty Officer Porter Leigh Rich has been accounted for, Rich has been listed as missing in action since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

A Memorial Service for Rich is scheduled for 2:00 pm at the Lake Preston High School Gymnasium at 104 Fremont Ave. N. Lake Preston, SD. Interment service following at the Lake Preston Cemetery, full Military Funeral Honors will be conducted by the U.S. Navy & U.S. Air Force, which include members of the Active & Navy Reserve Funeral Detail from the Navy Operational Support Center in Sioux Falls, SD and members of the Ellsworth Air Force Base Honor Guard Team, from Rapid City, SD. Members of Lake Preston American Legion Post #63 & American Legion Auxiliary Unit #63 will be serving refreshments and a lite lunch at the gymnasium following the cemetery honors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Porter L. Rich to Operation Homefront at www.operationhomefront.org/ or by mail to 1355 Central Parkway S, Ste. 100, San Antonio, TX 78232, Phone: (210) 659-7756.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Rich was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen. Rich's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for. After 76 years, Porter L. Rich's remains were identified positively through family DNA-testing and will now finally be home.

Porter Leigh Rich was born March 24, 1914, in Lake Preston, SD. He was the second of four children born to his parents, Louis L. and Ora Leigh (Rewey) Rich. His other siblings were the late Frances (Rich) Loomis, the late Fern Rich, and the late Alford "Ted" Rich.

Memories passed down from his brother, Ted, were of Porter being an avid reader. He also loved the outdoors, with passions for hunting and studying trees. Trees planted by Porter in his youth are still standing today around his childhood farm place. He graduated from Lake Preston High School in 1931 and joined the workforce.

Porter then attempted to enlist in the US Navy but was rejected due to a heart murmur. One year later, he tried to enlist again and was successful. His first enlistment had him serving on the USS Texas and USS Pennsylvania battleships. After re-enlisting for another 4 years in the spring of 1939, he was assigned to and served on the USS Oklahoma until his death on December 7, 1941.

After re-enlisting, Porter started planning his future. The fall before his passing, he married Margaret Lemkuhl in August 1941 in Yuma, AZ. While on their honeymoon, he was summoned back to the USS Oklahoma, which was anchored in San Diego, CA. The newlyweds returned to San Diego and the USS Oklahoma left for Pearl Harbor, HI in September. A son, Ronald Leigh Rich, was born to Porter and Margaret in May 1942. Ronald grew up with only shared memories and photos of his father, and treasures his father's Purple Heart. In August 1949, The American Legion Post #63 in Lake Preston was named after the first person killed in action in WWII from the town, Porter L. Rich. Margaret passed away in 2008.

Porter is survived by his son, Ronald Rich of Mesa, AZ, 3 grandsons, Scott Rich of Mesa, AZ, Kevin Rich of Stanford, VA, and Michael Rich of Aurora, CO, sister-in-law Joan (Koch) Rich of Lake Preston, SD, 2 nieces, Colleen (Rich) Ryan of Gig Harbor, WA, and Mary (Rich) Hauck of Lake Preston, SD. 3 nephews, Curtis Rich of Rapid City, SD, Leslie Loomis of Milpitas, CA, and Lloyd Loomis of Los Angeles, CA, and many great-grandchildren, great-nieces, and great-nephews. Porter's remains will finally be brought home for burial next to his parents and his sister Fern.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. Currently there are 72,948 service members (approximately 26,000 are assessed as possibly-recoverable) still unaccounted for from World War II. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit DPAA website www.dpaa.mil, or on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 3 of 47

Service Notice: Billy Vander Vorst

Services for Billy Vander Vorst, 85, of Groton and formerly of Claremont will be 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 28th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel from 5-7 p.m., on Tuesday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Billy passed away March 21, 2018 at Sun Dial Manor, Bristol.

SDDOT to Install All-Way Stop Sign in Langford

LANGFORD, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Transportation is converting the intersection of Highway 27 and Main Street in Langford to an all-way stop control.

Currently the intersection is only controlled with a stop sign on Main Street for eastbound traffic. The SDDOT signing crew will be placing additional stop signs on Highway 27 for northbound and westbound traffic. Stop bars will be installed when the weather is warm enough to paint the markings.

Weather permitting, the signing crew will install the all-way stop signs on Wednesday, April 4.

When drivers approach the new all-way stop, they are advised to follow these right-of-way rules:

- The first vehicle to the intersection has the right-of-way ahead of any vehicle that has not yet arrived;
- When two or more vehicles reach an intersection at the same time, the vehicle to the right has the right-of-way;
- The vehicle with the right-of-way may move straight ahead or, if legal and after signaling, turn left or right; and,
- When two facing vehicles approach an intersection at the same time, both drivers can move straight ahead or turn right. If one driver is going straight while the other wants to turn left, the driver who wants to turn left must wait. The driver who is traveling straight ahead has the right-of-way.

Motorists are asked to watch for crews and equipment working at the intersection during the installation.

Maintenance Supervisor Wanted:

Under the direction of the Facility Administrator, the Maintenance Supervisor oversees the daily operations of the Maintenance. Performs maintenance and repair of physical structures of buildings.

Day Shift C.N.A. Wanted

Sign-on Bonus

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton



Sun Dial Manor in Bristol
is accepting applications for
full time and part time CNA's.
12 hr. shifts- days and nights
(SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)

DIETARY OPENINGS
Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts
(WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

Part time Dietary Tech

For more information,
call 605-492-3615

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 4 of 47



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



A Challenge To The SD Ag Foundation

This past week, on Tuesday, March 20, we celebrated National Ag Day. It was a day proclaimed by the President to recognize the "preeminent role that agriculture plays in our daily lives" and "agriculture's continuing importance to rural America and our country's economy."

I was fortunate to spend part of that day at POET headquarters in Sioux Falls where we celebrated the creation of the South Dakota Agriculture Foundation. The Foundation was authorized in the 1970s by the state Legislature, but the law sat on the books for several years before anything came of it. It was our former Secretary of Agriculture, Lucas Lentsch, who saw the statute and came to me with the idea of creating a private funding source for ideas and projects to benefit agriculture.

In 2016, the Ag Foundation got its start and began work to provide economic development assistance, sponsor youth programs and encourage philanthropy within the industry. The Foundation already has a number of supporters, including POET, which announced a \$250,000 contribution on National Ag Day. To spur more generous donations, I have joined with the South Dakota Community Foundation and issued a challenge to the Ag Foundation. If the Foundation can raise \$4 million in the next five years, the State of South Dakota and the Community Foundation will each contribute \$500,000 to the fund for future grants and programs.

The landscape of agriculture in South Dakota is changing. We need to look beyond today, and adapt to those changes. To thrive, we must be in a position to seize opportunity when it arises. That is what the Ag Foundation will help us to do as a state. It will serve as a funding source for the ideas and projects that we can't even imagine yet.

Ultimately, the Ag Foundation will serve to protect and enhance our state's number one industry. In South Dakota, agriculture isn't just a means to make a living; it's a way of life and the bedrock of the values that we have passed on from generation to generation.

If you would like to make a donation to the South Dakota Ag Foundation, visit sdagfoundation.org.

Gov. Dugaard Signs Last Bills

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Dugaard has signed the remaining bills from the 2018 Legislative Session into law. Senate Bill 166 was the final bill signed by Dugaard, and is anticipated to be the last bill he will sign as governor. The bill repeals unnecessary statutes relating to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s inspection of moisture and protein-measuring devices.

The measure coincides with the Governor’s red tape repeal efforts, which the administration began in its first term. From 2011 to 2017, Gov. Dugaard approved the elimination of over 4,600 sections of obsolete or unnecessary laws and rules, accounting for more than 515,000 words. He signed additional red tape repeal bills this legislative session, including this measure which removes 482 more words.

“The natural tendency of government is to add to the body of laws, but over the last several years we have been doing much of the opposite in South Dakota,” Gov. Dugaard said. “I thank legislators for joining with me to remove overly burdensome and unnecessary provisions from the books. Our businesses and citizens are better off thanks to these efforts.”

Listed below are the other final bills the Governor signed into law yesterday:

HB 1002 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning campaign finance requirements.

HB 1058 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the employment of the superintendent of the State School for the Deaf and the South Dakota School for the Blind and the Visually Impaired.

HB 1114 – An Act to establish certain requirements for students enrolling in resident school districts or assigned schools after participating in open enrollment.

HB 1129 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding full-time equivalent positions.

HB 1139 – An Act to revise the applicability of adverse possession to certain partition fences.

HB 1166 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding waivers recommended by the School Finance Accountability Board.



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 6 of 47

HB 1177 – An Act to revise certain provisions relating to the circulation of a petition for an initiated measure.

HB 1196 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding verification of residency of petition circulators.

HB 1209 – An Act to require a National Instant Criminal Background Check for certain concealed carry permits.

HB 1271 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the carrying of certain guns on certain premises.

HB 1285 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding community safety zones.

HB 1286 – An Act to authorize certain political parties to be classified under alternative political status, to revise certain provisions regarding nominating petitions, and to declare an emergency.

HB 1292 – An Act to revise the process by which courts consider appeals of decisions regarding conditional use requests.

HB 1297 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding capital outlay obligations.

HB 1311 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding legislator salaries.

SB 7 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning campaign finance limits.

SB 46 – An Act to require school districts to adopt a policy limiting the use of restraint and seclusion.

SB 125 – An Act to clarify the authority of the Government Operations and Audit Committee to issue a subpoena.

SB 137 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the minimum hunting age.

SB 146 – An Act to exempt off-road vehicle dealers from certain special event permit fees.

Gov. Daugaard Signs Veterans Cemetery Bill

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard today signed Senate Bill 91 to establish a new state veterans cemetery in East River South Dakota. The law authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for the design and construction of a cemetery in Minnehaha County on land donated by the City of Sioux Falls.

“This new veterans cemetery will give veterans a final resting place close to their homes and families,” said Gov. Daugaard. “This cemetery has been a longstanding goal of veterans organizations, and I am pleased to see it come to fruition.”

The legislation creates the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery endowment fund within the South Dakota Community Foundation. The endowment fund will provide a fund for any person who wishes to contribute to the construction and operation of the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery. The foundation’s goal is to reach \$3 million by July 2023.

In addition, the state has appropriated \$450,000 from the general fund and \$6 million in federal fund expenditure authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of creating the cemetery.

Senate Bill 91 contains an emergency clause, making the law effective immediately.

Gov. Daugaard Vetoes SB 94

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has vetoed the following bill:

SB 94 – An Act to establish certain provisions regarding the opportunity scholarship program.

For more information about this bill and other bills, visit sdlegislature.gov.

-30-

Note: A copy of the Governor's veto message is below:

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Matt Michels
President of the Senate
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I respectfully return to you Senate Bill 94, with my VETO. Senate Bill 94 is an Act to establish certain provisions regarding the opportunity scholarship program.

The bill's sponsors seek an alternate path for home-schooled students to receive the Opportunity Scholarship, outside the currently available mechanism. However, the bill holds home-schooled students to a lower standard than students who graduate from an accredited South Dakota public or private high school.

Today all students, including those who are home-schooled, are eligible to receive the Opportunity Scholarship by receiving a minimum ACT score of 28 or SAT score of 1250.

Another path to receiving the scholarship requires students to complete specific coursework and achieve a lower ACT score of 24. A required class offered by any accredited high school must meet minimum standards and the course materials for these classes may be reviewed at any time.

Under Senate Bill 94, classes completed by home-schooled students would not be subject to the same requirements because there is no accreditation requirement for home-school courses. To receive an Opportunity Scholarship, a student would only need to achieve the lower ACT score and produce a transcript of completed coursework issued by the parent or guardian. No one would have the ability to review course materials for these home-school classes as is the case for accredited schools.

I respect the right of parents to home-school their children. However, those students should not receive an unfair advantage over students who graduate from an accredited high school. Senate Bill 94 holds home-schooled students to a lower standard to receive the Opportunity Scholarship, and for that reason I ask that you sustain my veto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Daugaard

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 8 of 47

Gov. Daugaard Vetoes HB 1268

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has vetoed the following bill:

HB 1268 – An Act to provide for revised dates to prefile legislation.

For more information about this bill and other bills, visit sdlegislature.gov.

-30-

Note: A copy of the Governor's veto message follows:

March 23, 2018

The Honorable G. Mark Mickelson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,

I respectfully return to you House Bill 1268, with my VETO. House Bill 1268 is An Act to provide for revised dates to prefile legislation.

This bill's sponsors seek to give legislators more time to work on legislation, and to increase the opportunity for public input into proposed legislation. I do not believe this bill effectively achieves either purpose.

Nothing currently prevents a legislator, at any time, from working with Legislative Research Council staff to prepare draft legislation. A legislator is free to circulate a draft, post it on a website, talk about it in the news media, or share it with interested parties to seek input. Interim legislative committees routinely post draft legislation that has not been prefiled.

In fact, prefiling a bill inhibits the ability to subsequently react to public feedback. Once a bill is prefiled, the sponsor can no longer revise its text. The sponsor's only recourse is to prefile yet another bill, thereby clogging the bill list with multiple drafts; or to wait until the legislative session to amend the bill, which undermines the goal of prefiling.

The only other reason I can see for this bill is to give a legislator the ability, throughout the year, to seek media attention by "filing a bill" to deal with any newsworthy topic. That is a grandstanding tactic that is all too common in Washington, DC, and those bills rarely even receive a committee hearing.

South Dakotans are proud that ours is a part-time, citizen legislature, and we should not move toward a year-round process for legislation. I ask that you sustain my veto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Daugaard
Governor

Gov. Dugaard Vetoes HB 1188

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Dugaard has vetoed the following bill:

HB 1188 – An Act to establish certain provisions regarding postsecondary tuition assistance programs.

For more information about this bill and other bills, visit sdlegislature.gov.

-30-

Note: A copy of the Governor's veto message follows:

March 23, 2018

The Honorable G. Mark Mickelson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,

I respectfully return to you House Bill 1188, with my VETO. House Bill 1188 is An Act to establish certain provisions regarding postsecondary tuition assistance programs.

House Bill 1188 attempts to require that certain criteria be included in any future legislation regarding tuition assistance programs. However, one legislature cannot bind the hands of a future legislature, and for this reason this bill has no practical effect. A future legislature could pass legislation that creates a postsecondary tuition assistance program and ignores the requirements of this bill.

Legislators can already request these evaluation criteria as a bill moves through the normal legislative process. If legislators find the criteria to be insufficient, they can defeat the bill. If legislators approve such a program, it can still be reevaluated each year through the appropriations process.

From 2011 to 2017, we worked together to repeal 129,746 words of unnecessary laws, and during this session we repealed still more. We should not add unnecessary words to our code, and for that reason I ask that you sustain my veto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dugaard
Governor

Gov. Daugaard Issues Style and Form Vetoes

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has issued style and form vetoes for the following bills:

SB 76 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding voter registration.

SB 90 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the payment of taxes and fees before transferring title of mobile homes or manufactured homes.

For more information about these bill and other bills, visit sdlegislature.gov.

-30-

Note: Copies of the Governor's style and form veto messages follow:

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Matt Michels
President of the Senate
500 East Capital Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate,

I respectfully return to you Senate Bill 76 with the following recommendation as to STYLE and FORM.

Senate Bill 76 is An Act to revise certain provisions regarding voter registration. The bill seeks to require the Department of Tribal Relations to assist the secretary of state, counties, and tribal governments in complying with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

I support this bill, but as presented it implies incorrectly that the Department itself is regulated by HAVA. Because the Department does not administer elections, it cannot be required to "comply" with HAVA.

The following style and form correction to the Enrolled version of Senate Bill 76 clarifies the role of the Department:

In Section 1, on the second line after "tribes", delete "comply" and insert "assist".

With that correction, the bill would read: "The Department of Tribal Relations, in off-election years, shall in cooperation with the secretary of state, counties, and tribes assist with the Help America Vote Act and assist with election grants, education, and satellite-voting center locations on Indian reservations."

This clarification maintains the legislature's intended meaning, and I ask that you concur with this recommendation as to style and form.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Daugaard
Governor

GOVERNOR DAUGAARD PROCLAIMS WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

PIERRE, S.D. – At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed Friday, March 30, 2018, as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day,” calling on all South Dakotans to recognize the courage, service and sacrifice of the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

Some served as ground troops in a combat capacity in country, some were a mile off shore in a Navy ship providing gunfire support, some were air support, while others provided the necessary support roles both in Vietnam, other nearby posts and some back in the States that are so vital during a foreign engagement. Whatever the specific method of service, all were affected in some way by that experience.

“Through the establishment of an annual statewide Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans recognition day, South Dakotans can continue to express their appreciation and honor the men and women who served during the Vietnam War,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, and our partners, have dedicated the last two years honoring our Vietnam Veterans by presenting them with a 50th anniversary commemorative pin,” said Zimmerman. “Thanking veterans is one of the most rewarding tasks that I have afforded with my duties. They have earned our respect and our gratitude”

“It is important that we pause, remember and recognize the bravery of all who served and to do all we can to help heal the wounds of war,” said Zimmerman. “Although their service can never be repaid, America must never forget their service.”

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 12 of 47

Today in Weather History

March 24, 1996: North winds of 30 to 40 mph, gusting to 55 mph, combined with the falling snow and the previous day's snowfall to create blizzard conditions. Travel became extremely difficult. Several cars went into ditches, and flights out of Aberdeen were canceled. Schools and activities were either delayed or canceled. Some of the more significant two-day snowfall amounts include 6 inches at Sisseton and Aberdeen, 7 inches at Sand Lake NWR, 8 inches near Veblen, 9 inches at Britton, and 10 inches near Victor.

March 24, 2009: An area of low pressure moved out of the Rockies and into the Northern Plains producing snow and widespread blizzard conditions across central and north central South Dakota. Winds gusting to over 60 mph along with several inches of snow caused hazardous travel conditions. Interstate 90 was closed for a time across much of Jones and part of Lyman County. Power was also out in parts of Pierre and Mobridge for a short period. Some snowfall amounts included; 2 inches at Pierre; 5 inches in Hayes and Timber Lake; 6 inches in Murdo, McLaughlin, and 6 miles southeast of McIntosh; 7 inches 14 miles northeast of Isabel; 8 inches in Eagle Butte; and 12 inches 8 miles southwest of Keldron.

1929: St. Louis, Missouri soared to 92 degrees; their all-time record high for March.

1975: "The Governor's Tornado" hop-scotched a 13-mile path across the western part of Atlanta, GA during the early morning hours, causing considerable damage to the Governor's mansion. Hundreds of expensive homes, businesses and apartment complexes were damaged. Total losses were estimated at \$56 million. Three people lost their lives, and the F3 tornado injured another 152.

1912 - Residents of Kansas City began to dig out from a storm produced 25 inches of snow in 24 hours. The snowfall total was nearly twice that of any other storm of modern record in Kansas City before or since that time. A record 40 inches of snow fell during the month of March that year, and the total for the winter season of 67 inches was also a record. By late February of that year Kansas City had received just six inches of snow. Olathe KS received 37 inches of snow in the snowstorm, establishing a single storm record for the state of Kansas. (23rd-24th) (The Kansas City Weather Almanac) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter-like storm in the central U.S. produced blizzard conditions from South Dakota to western Kansas. Snowfall totals ranged up to 24 inches at Neligh NE, with 19 inches at Winner SD. Winds gusting to 60 mph created twelve foot snow drifts in Nebraska stranding thousands on the highways. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to north-eastern Texas. The thunderstorms spawned ten tornadoes, including one which injured five persons near Raymondville MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure off the coast of Virginia brought heavy rain to the Middle Atlantic Coast States, and heavy snow to the Northern Appalachians. Cape Hatteras NC was soaked with 5.20 inches of rain in 24 hours, and snowfall totals in Vermont ranged up to 12 inches. Winds gusted to 52 mph at New York City. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - The storm system which produced heavy snow in the Lower Missouri Valley the previous day, spread heavy snow across parts of the Upper Ohio Valley and the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Snowfall totals of 2.2 inches at Philadelphia PA and 2.4 inches at Atlantic City NJ were records for the date. Up to six inches of snow blanketed southern Ohio. In the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, snow coated the blossoms of cherry trees which had bloomed in 80 degree weather the previous week. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 13 of 47

Sat Mar 24	Sun Mar 25	Mon Mar 26	Tue Mar 27	Wed Mar 28	Thu Mar 29	Fri Mar 30
						
36° F 29° F	37° F 31° F	38° F 25° F	41° F 25° F	43° F 22° F	39° F 20° F	40° F 26° F
E 15 MPH	S 16 MPH Precip 60%	E 8 MPH Precip 80%	NW 9 MPH	S 12 MPH	W 11 MPH	S 10 MPH

Snow Changing To Drizzle

Icy & Snowy Roads This Morning



Temperatures Struggle With Lingering Low Clouds
Should Get A Few Degrees Above Freezing By Mid Day



Another Round of Light Precipitation Sunday
Mostly Drizzle With Temperatures Around Freezing



And More Wintry Weather For Monday

Published on: 03/24/2018 at 5:04AM

In the wake of our first system, a good part of north central and northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota continues to see light drizzle and ice and snow covered roads which will make for difficult driving conditions until temperatures warm above freezing, which may also take some time thanks to persistent low clouds. Another system will bring a wintry mix, mainly drizzle to the area Sunday, with a third wintry system for Monday.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 14 of 47

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 35.9 F at 2:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 30.0 F at 9:54 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 31.0 Mph at 9:28 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 80° in 1939

Record Low: -10° in 1893

Average High: 44°F

Average Low: 23°F

Average Precip in March: 0.84

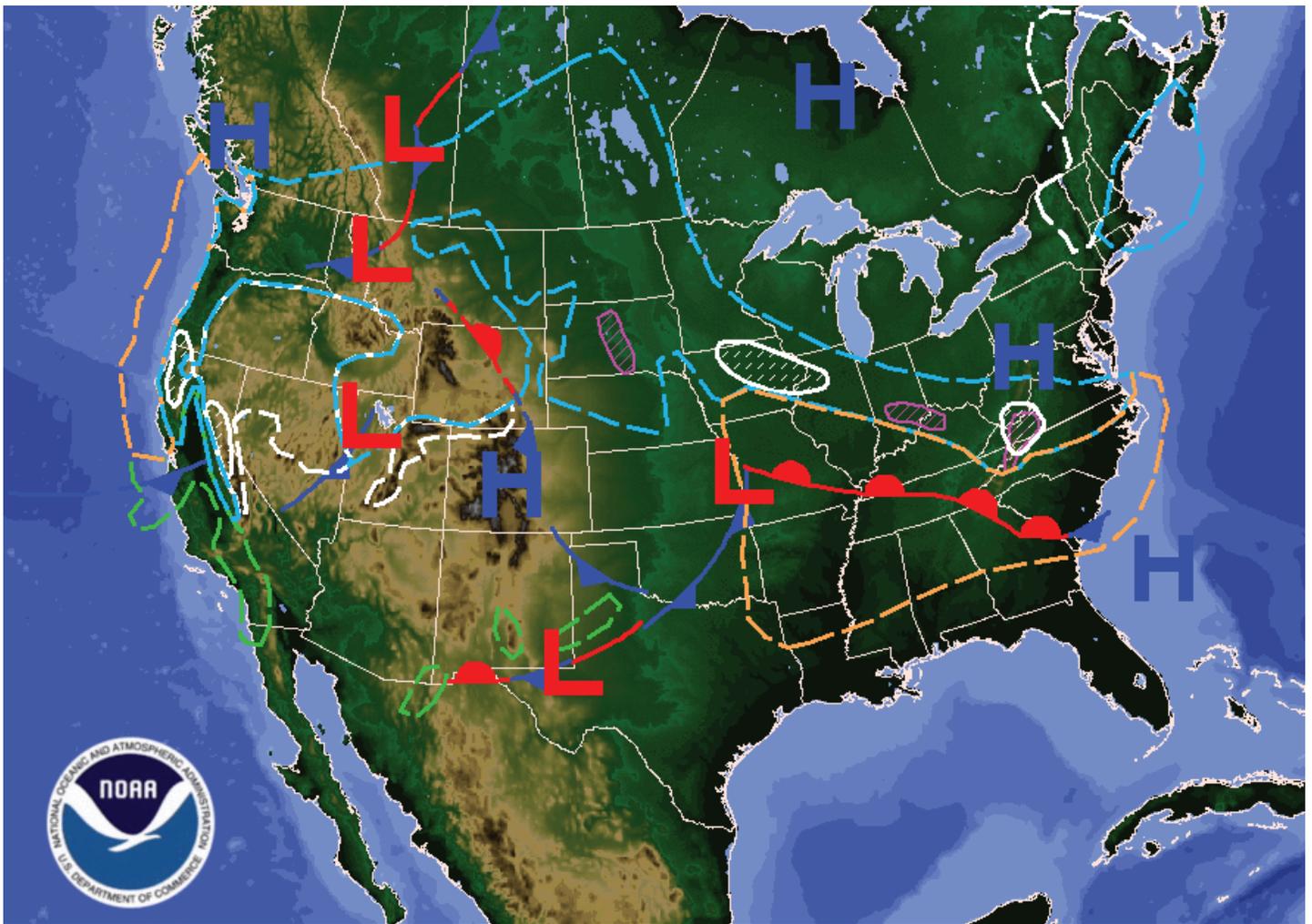
Precip to date in March: 1.14

Average Precip to date: 1.86

Precip Year to Date: 1.55

Sunset Tonight: 7:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:27 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 24, 2018, issued 5:16 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 15 of 47



WE ARE WHAT WE WORSHIP

There are some religions in the Orient that follow practices that are condemned by Scripture and society. A member of one of them was jailed for robbery and murder which was part of his "faith." While imprisoned he was visited by a missionary who shared with him the message of salvation. After he accepted Christ, the missionary gave him a Bible which became his dearest possession.

When he appeared before the judge, he testified that he had been brought up to be a worshiper of Kali. As a young child he was taught that if he shed the blood of the victims he robbed he would please Kali - a Hindu goddess - and win her favor. He faithfully practiced his belief in this goddess all of his life.

When the judge confronted him with his crime, he broke down and began to weep. After a few moments he was able to speak and with tears streaming down his face told the judge that he had committed many murders - more than he could remember.

"How could you be guilty of enormities like these?" asked the judge.

Taking his worn Bible from his pocket and holding it up for the judge to see, he replied, "Had I but received this Book as a child, this book of Jesus, my Savior whom I now worship, I would not have done such horrible things."

"Exalt the Lord, our God, and worship at His footstool; He is holy," proclaims the Psalmist. How sad it is that so many who have His Word in their homes never allow it to enter their hearts and change their lives.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that we will open our hearts to the message of Your Word and live by its truths. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 99:5 Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His footstool— He is holy.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 16 of 47

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/13/2018 Elementary School Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

Family, friends remember Rapid City plane crash victims

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — It wasn't easy for Sharon Blanton Tool to speak of her lost sister Terry. Even with tears flowing, she saw the conversation as a means of keeping a legacy of six Rapid City High School cheerleaders alive, 50 years after their tragic deaths.

The pain of the March 17, 1968, air crash which took their lives certainly lingers for friends and family. But talking about the dark days and the cherished good times offers catharsis, they say, of grieving those lost so young: Jan Glaze, Shirley Landstrom, Laureen "Kay" McNutt, Terry Blanton, Diana McCluskey and Gail Flohr, along with Ivan Landstrom, his wife, Mary, and high school teacher and adviser Dorothy Lloyd.

"Just imagine what they might have accomplished if they'd lived. They accomplished a lot for everyone who has been a part of keeping the spirit alive," said Sharon, 70, of Sacramento, California.

"It's helped transcend the loss."

Sharon described her sister Terry as an honest and down-to-earth girl who took ballet and had a lovely singing voice.

Growing up in Rapid City, Sharon and Terry dressed in fancy western wear and rode horses in a parade for Range Days, the forerunner of the Central States Fair. Terry wasn't afraid of any challenge and could keep her friends from taking the wrong path, Sharon said.

After Terry's death, her father, Bill, would cut a small Christmas tree to place at her grave during the holidays. Sharon helped him decorate the tiny tree with ornaments.

Sharon said community support in the immediate aftermath and through the years has helped families deal with the crushing loss of a child and sibling. "It's been amazing and a source of solace that each individual family loss wasn't in a vacuum. It was a loss to the community," she said.

It was a loss that may have been presaged by at least one of the victims.

Rudy Flohr wonders to this day if his daughter Gail didn't have a premonition of her mortality months prior to her death. Riding with her dad to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in the summer of 1967, she suddenly said: "I don't think I'll ever see or enjoy the fruits of life."

After talking with her about the surprising statement, Gail went to say she was a Christian and if she did die, she'd be with Christ, Rudy recalled. "After she got killed I thought about that so many times. Did she have a premonition? I just don't know," he said.

"I was shocked about what she said and still am, but it gives me a lot of comfort to know that she was a Christian and a strong believer, and heaven isn't just some ambiguous place. She really believed that's where she would go if she did die."

After Gail died, Rudy and his wife, Mary, hosted foster children in their home, along with Bible studies for many friends of Gail and their sons Bill and Sam.

About a year after Gail's death, Rudy took a job with the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology's Department of Atmospheric Sciences, which maintained an aircraft used for cloud studies at the Rapid City airport.

One day at the airport, Rudy learned some of the wreckage from the plane was still visible in a ravine just west of the runway. Poking around in the debris, incredibly, he found Gail's winter coat, and in a pocket, her car keys and a small purse containing her driver's license, the Rapid City Journal reported .

"I still have that license," he said.

Another surviving parent, Yvonne Glaze, also wondered if her oldest daughter Jan's star would burn too brightly to last.

In a 2015 interview with the Journal for a story on dealing with sudden death, Yvonne said Jan was an exceptional student. She had also been voted homecoming queen the previous fall.

"Everything she tried for, she won," Yvonne said. "It sometimes seemed all too perfect. I remember

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 18 of 47

thinking, "Maybe she is going to die young."

All of the girls were leaders in their respective classes. The "cream of the crop," a school official said. Glaze, Landstrom and McNutt were seniors. Flohr, McCluskey and Blanton were juniors.

"They were the ones everybody looked up to," said senior classmate Jim Lintz, a Hermosa rancher, former state legislator and current Custer County commissioner.

A star athlete on Cobbler basketball and football teams, Lintz joined other classmates in a wrenching duty, serving as pallbearer for many of the funerals. Many people still don't know how hard the deaths were on students and families, he said.

"It made a lot of us grow up a lot faster than we wanted to," Lintz said.

He remembers Shirley Landstrom as a gifted athlete who had little chance, aside from an annual powder-puff football game for girls, to show off her athleticism. "I've always thought it's too bad they didn't have girls basketball at the time," Lintz said. "She would have really excelled. She was quite a competitor."

Lintz and Landstrom dated off-and-on for several years going back to eighth grade at Rapid City South Junior High School. They had planned to get back together following the state basketball tournament, he said.

Don McNutt said his younger sister, Laureen "Kay" McNutt, tenaciously pursued becoming a cheerleader her senior year. Making the varsity squad when you hadn't been chosen as a junior was unusual, he said.

"She did (make it). She wanted that badly and called us when she achieved it," he said.

McNutt, of West Des Moines, Iowa, was 8 years old when Kay was born. Growing up in a home in the West Boulevard area of Rapid City, he said his younger sister could be a pain at times, but they grew closer as the age gap shrank. "I was pleased that she always got so excited when I came home for the holidays," he said.

Classmate Mary Beth (Howe) Johnson called McNutt one of her closest friends in more ways than one. They also wore the same size clothes.

They would trade clothes back and forth, Johnson recalled. After Kay's death, Johnson went to her house to return the borrowed clothing and retrieve hers.

"So hard," she said.

Diana McCluskey's sister, Candis McCluskey French, offered a vignette of teenage life in Rapid City. Their older sister Peggy worked in Washington, D.C., and came home with friends to visit.

"Diana and I wanted to take them out one evening to show them the fun things we did as teenagers," Candis said. That meant cruising 8th Street (now Mount Rushmore Road) and loops through both the A&W Drive In (then located near the south end of 8th Street) and McDonald's.

Peggy, at the wheel of an Edsel from their father's car dealership, mistakenly turned into the exit driveway for the A&W, going the wrong way through the parking lot. "Both Diana and I jumped on the floor of the car, mortified that our friends might see us doing this so uncool thing," Candis said.

Candis also remembers Diana's habit of "parking" her chewing gum on her bedroom door jamb as a way of saving it for later. "Not sure how happy our mother was about this," she said.

Dottie Crawford Olson was head cheerleader her senior year in 1967. Jan Glaze and Shirley Landstrom had made the squad as juniors.

Adviser Dorothy Lloyd was a strict disciplinarian in the English and Literature classes she taught. She also set rigid standards for her cheerleaders, Olson said.

"She was such a kind person, she laid out the standards she wanted us to develop in our cheering technique, everything from the cheers to the way we dressed, not chewing gum and not wearing dangly earrings," Olson said.

If the student cheering section began to boo or jeer the other team, the cheerleaders were tasked to stop it. "It was our job to inspire the kids and lead them in cheers," Olson said. "She (Lloyd) ensured that we did that. That was the standard she wanted us to achieve."

That standard was the impetus for the Spirit of Six award, a trophy sponsored by the South Dakota Peace Officers Association since 1969 and given to a squad of cheerleaders at all state basketball tournaments.

The award is based on cheerleader decorum, appearance and sportsmanship, qualities the six Cobbler

cheerleaders exemplified through Lloyd's guidance.

Lloyd was widowed three years before the crash that took her life. She is buried at Black Hills National Cemetery with her husband, Clarence.

Ivan and Mary Landstrom were pillars in the community. Ivan founded Landstrom's Jewelry in 1943, soon after moving to Rapid City from Minneapolis where his family settled from Sweden.

He also owned several other businesses, among them Landstrom's Black Hills Gold Jewelry and Black Hills Glass & Mirror. He also co-owned B & L Aviation and had logged more than 10,000 hours as a pilot, often donating flight time to help others in times of medical or family emergencies.

His wife, Mary, was secretary of the Rapid City Girls Club. Surviving family members feared Ivan Landstrom would be blamed for the tragedy.

"Everybody realized it was an accident," Lintz said. "We never blamed anybody."

More attention at the time was placed on the lack of substantial firefighting capability at the airport. The crash eventually led to the building of a fire department substation at what is now Rapid City Regional Airport.

Other surviving classmates have also picked up the mantle of keeping the legacy alive.

Gary Overby, a friend and neighbor of the Flohr family now living in Tracy, California, was instrumental in efforts to fund and create a replica memorial to the cheerleaders in front of Rapid City High School on Columbus Street.

An original memorial had been moved from the old high school building to the new Central High School in 1980. After the recent remodeling of Central, the memorial containing the names of the cheerleaders is in a part of the building no longer readily accessible to the public.

The replica memorial was erected last fall and on March 16, a wreath remembering the cheerleaders was placed there in spite of a heavy snowstorm.

Classmate Gary Larson said the Rapid City High School class of 1968 was comprised of more than 700 graduates, the second to last class of RCHS before the change to Central High School and the opening of the new Stevens High School for the 1969-70 school year.

The adversity those final classes endured brought them closer together, Larson said.

"We're a big class, but a cohesive one, and we've grown more cohesive," he said.

Johnson said plans for the 50-year reunion of the Class of '68 in September include visits to the cheerleaders' graves and a visit from Vyonne Glaze, who celebrated her 90th birthday on March 4.

Sharon Blanton Tool said the spirit exemplified by the six cheerleaders remains present and relevant today.

"They're still guiding what it means to be good sports and to stand up for what's right," she said. "Those of us who remember are not going to be around for much longer, but their spirit can still be."

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

Veteran-hire Firewise program sees success in Meade County

By DEB HOLLAND, Black Hills Pioneer

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — About five years ago, Travis Uglund was looking for work.

He stumbled upon a program called Firewise. He wasn't sure what the job entailed, but he applied and was accepted.

The Meade County Firewise Program is a veteran-hire program funded primarily by federal grant dollars through the Bureau of Land Management. It is part of the "Veteran in the Woods" Initiative started in Meade County in December of 2012 with two goals in mind — lessen the risk of wildland fires around homes built among the trees and — more importantly - assist veterans in reintegrating into civilian life.

Uglund, an Army veteran, admits that when he came into the program he was no lumberjack and had little experience with a chain saw.

"It was different. There was a learning curve," he said. "I grew up in Spearfish a small city kid and my

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 20 of 47

only experience was trimming some branches off a few trees.”

Now, as fire mitigation coordinator for the Firewise program, he teaches program participants how to use the chain saw. But his relationship with the participants goes much deeper than what he teaches them in the classroom.

“When I first came into the program, I felt alone. I really missed the camaraderie I had with my brothers-in-arms,” he said. “Some of the issues I faced on a daily basis were not uncommon. Realizing that I wasn’t alone and these other guys were having the same troubles was an eye opener.”

Working day-in and day-out with the other veterans can sometimes feel like an ongoing group therapy session, Ugland said.

“During our trips in the truck to the jobsite, the guys talk about what they are struggling with and most of us had been through something similar. It’s like we’ve all been through the same muck, so we can help each other out,” he said.

Veterans accepted into the program work 40 hours a week and are paid \$15 an hour.

Firewise participants work Monday through Thursday out in the field on projects. Fridays are spent in the office working on resume writing, job interviewing skills, or participating in pertinent job shadowing opportunities, the Black Hills Pioneer reported .

A focus of the program is to help veterans move on to the next step in their lives.

Sometimes veterans face financial concerns, other times it can be emotional or physical.

“It can vary wildly from one veteran to the next as to what their concerns are,” Ugland said.

“The Firewise Program gives them a safe landing zone to work their way through those issues. They get to plug into a network of veterans going through the same struggles,” he said.

The county’s veteran services officer gives participants insights into veteran benefits for which they might be eligible through the various state and federal agencies.

“We provide them the tools to be successful,” Ugland said. “Guys come into the program very able bodied and open minded.”

The next step for participants may be a job, but it also may be going back to school.

“Some of them weren’t even aware that they had state and federal benefits for schooling through the VA,” Ugland said.

Some have gone to school to become electricians, others for heating and air conditioning, and still others have earned their CDL license and found jobs as truck drivers.

Meade County has had the Firewise program since 2002, said Jerry Derr, Meade County human resources director and Meade County Commission assistant. The startup funding was \$100,000 from the BLM.

Initially, the focus of the Firewise program was to promoting public awareness among homeowners to clear trees and debris around their property to lessen the threat of wildland fires.

From 2002 to the end of 2012, the county operated that program and had someone on the outside manage it. The dollars which came to the county were used to pay an outside coordinator. That person hired private contractors to do the clearing around the homes of landowners who lived among the trees.

Then, in October of 2012, the BLM and Derr met with several commissioners to discuss a change in the scope and funding of the program. Derr said that nationally at time there was a spotlight on the issue of veterans without jobs.

The idea to use the Firewise money to support a program called “Veterans in the Woods,” came from Bureau of Land Management official Mike Dannenberg.

“His idea was to hire and train veterans to do fire mitigation instead of having contractors do the work,” Derr said. “It took some commitment on the part of the commission. It was really a limited discussion because the commission at that time just jumped right on the idea.”

In December of 2012, the county hired its first veteran into the program. Since then, the program has had 44 veteran participants.

In 2015, the county received a national award for its Firewise program for Wildfire Mitigation Innovation from the National Association of State Foresters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Protection Association and the USDA Forest Service.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 21 of 47

The program continues to be successful and staff work to get more interest from homeowners. This year, Uglund said they have done mass mailings to homeowners along the Interstate 90 corridor to promote interest in the Firewise program.

Once they get a call from an interested homeowner, they schedule a meeting to walk the property and do an assessment. Homeowners are given a list of areas that need to be addressed and then decide if they wish to participate.

Firewise staff mark trees around the property which they plan to fell so that homeowners understand the plan. Uglund said they usually give homeowners a day or two to contemplate the project.

The Firewise program can pay up to 80 percent of the cost to mitigate the fire threat with the homeowner only having to pay 20 percent of the cost.

The goal of Firewise is to physically reduce and clean up hazardous fuels — such as dense or overgrown vegetation and trees — which creates a survivable space around structures.

“We usually talk about thinning, reducing fuel levels, removing trees and shrubbery around the home,” Uglund said. “In the Black Hills, it’s about creating a break so if a fire were to burn through the area we could potentially protect the structure.”

Firewise job openings are posted in the VA facilities around the Black Hills, through the South Dakota Department of Labor and on the Meade County website.

Most veterans find the program through word-of-mouth, Derr said.

“We don’t have trouble finding vets to get onto the program. The problem we have is making sure we have enough money to fund the vets that keep coming in,” Derr said.

When the Veterans in the Woods program first began, the county received \$62,500 to operate it. They weren’t sure if the funding would continue, but since then, they have received more than \$611,000 to keep it going.

“The program performs and the BLM sees a benefit,” Derr said. “The Firewise program is one of the best things that is happening within Meade County.”

Derr said the fire mitigation is what gets the dollars into the program, but the veteran hire initiative is the heart of the program.

“If it’s \$90 out of every \$100 spent on doing that and \$10 spent in the field, it’s a win-win,” he said.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

04-08-23-53-59, Mega Ball: 17, Megaplier: 3

(four, eight, twenty-three, fifty-three, fifty-nine; Mega Ball: seventeen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$421 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$54 million

Bismarck officer cleared in shooting of fleeing suspect

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A prosecutor has cleared a Bismarck police officer who shot and wounded a fleeing suspect who tried to run him over.

Ward County State’s Attorney Rozanna Larson found that Officer Lane Masters “acted reasonably and justifiably” when he shot 22-year-old Ulises Villalobos-Alvarado in January.

Bismarck Police Chief Dan Donlin says the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation conducted

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 22 of 47

the investigation. The Burleigh County State's Attorney's Office tells The Bismarck Tribune Ward County reviewed the case to avoid a conflict of interest involving a Bismarck officer.

Authorities were conducting a probation search when Villalobos-Alvarado reportedly fled the scene in Bismarck. He was shot in the arm and later turned himself in at a gas station in Brookings, South Dakota.

Donlin says Masters, a five-year Bismarck officer, has returned to regular duty.

DSU: No staff helped Rounds team try to identify tweeters

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Dakota State University says no faculty worked with now-Sen. Mike Rounds' 2014 campaign to try to identify who was behind anonymous Twitter accounts that attacked Rounds during the Republican primary.

The university released the statement Friday after the Argus Leader reported on emails between Rounds' team in 2013 about a plan to bait several Twitter users into clicking on links and revealing IP addresses that could de-mask them.

The newspaper reports a digital consultant sent an email after the operation collected IP addresses, saying they would "turn over all the intel we have to the DSU team and turn them loose."

Dakota State University says an "extensive investigation" shows no staff or students worked with the campaign on the Twitter issue.

A Rounds spokeswoman didn't immediately comment to The Associated Press.

Onida woman admits scamming Pierre Walmart store

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Onida woman has admitted scamming a Pierre Walmart out of about \$3,200 worth of merchandise.

Thirty-five-year-old Jill Kenzy told the judge she swapped a bar-code sticker indicating a lower-cost item for more expensive pieces of merchandise while going through a self-checkout lane.

Kenzy said she used the technique about half a dozen times. The Capital Journal reports that an alert employee finally caught her on Jan. 9.

Kenzy reached a deal with prosecutors under which she pleaded guilty to one count of grand theft and agreed to pay restitution. She faces up to two years in prison at her sentencing on April 24.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Boy arrested for making threats against Sioux Falls school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a 14-year-old boy for making threats against a Sioux Falls middle school.

The boy allegedly made the threats Thursday night on Snapchat, saying he was going to "shoot up" Memorial Middle School. Numerous students and parents notified police about the messages.

Police say he was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center and faces charges include making a terroristic threat.

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says there was no immediate danger to the school.

KELO.com reports classes were held as usual Friday.

South Dakota sailor who died in Pearl Harbor to be buried

LAKE PRESTON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota sailor who died in the Pearl Harbor attack will be buried in his hometown next week.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency says the remains of Navy Water Tender 2nd Class Porter Rich of Lake Preston are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors March 31.

The 27-year-old Rich was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The attack on the ship

resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Rich.

Rich's remains had been buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. Scientists used DNA analysis to help identify his remains, which were accounted for last August.

Daugaard signs new initiative campaign rules, vetoes 3 bills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed a pair of bills Friday requiring ballot question signature gatherers to provide more information to voters or the secretary of state.

Some critics contend the measures will make it harder to put initiatives on the ballot because campaigns will have more trouble finding people to gather names.

One new law requires circulators to provide petition signers their name, email and phone number. The second mandates that signature collectors give the Secretary of State's office residency information including their driver's license number, the length of time at their current and past two addresses and their state of voter registration.

House Speaker Mark Mickelson, the second bill's sponsor, has said it would make it easier for courts to determine whether circulators are residents. Republicans have pushed for changes to South Dakota's ballot question system after the 2016 election season brought 10 questions and millions of dollars from out-of-state groups.

Rebecca Terk is a lobbyist for Dakota Rural Action, which opposed the bills. She said they're intended to create a "chilling effect on the process."

The measures were among the final batch of bills that the Republican governor approved from the 2018 legislative session. He also vetoed three bills on Friday, including a proposal that would give home-schooled students another path to get the state's Opportunity Scholarship.

Daugaard wrote in his veto message that it would hold home-schoolers to a lower standard than public or private high schools graduates.

The measure and another bill Daugaard rejected passed through the Legislature with more than two-thirds support, suggesting veto overrides are possible. State lawmakers return Monday for the session's final day to debate whether to supersede the vetoes from Daugaard.

A bill Daugaard rejected that would let lawmakers introduce legislation earlier before a session starts didn't get two-thirds support when senators voted to send it to the governor, but earlier versions did pass out of each chamber unanimously.

GOP Rep. Elizabeth May, the sponsor, told the Argus Leader that she plans to push for an override.

"The executive branch has 12 months. We as a Legislature have two," May told the newspaper. "That's not enough time. We need those bills out there for the public to see sooner than that."

Daugaard wrote in the veto letter that the bill would give legislators the ability to seek media attention throughout the year by filing a bill to address "any newsworthy topic."

"That is a grandstanding tactic that is all too common in Washington, D.C., and those bills rarely even receive a committee hearing," he wrote.

Daugaard vetoes 3 bills; lawmakers could override next week

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has vetoed three bills on tuition assistance programs, filing bills before a legislative session and eligibility for a state scholarship.

The Republican governor rejected the bills Friday. State lawmakers return next week for the 2018 legislative session's final day to debate overriding the vetoes from Daugaard.

Two of the bills passed through both legislative chambers with more than the two-thirds support required for an override, including the measure that would give home-schooled students another path to get the state's Opportunity Scholarship.

Daugaard wrote in a veto message the bill would hold home-schoolers to a lower standard than public or private high schools graduates.

A bill letting lawmakers introduce bills earlier before a legislative session starts didn't get two-thirds support when senators voted to send it to Daugaard.

More aid given to drought-stricken ranchers as winter ends

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The state Agriculture Department said this week that it helped distribute more hay to drought-stricken ranchers, amid cautious optimism that this year won't be as bone-dry as last.

The Agriculture Department said it had helped coordinate the distribution to ranchers of 100 recently donated bales of hay and 30 bales of oat straw. It was done through a hay lottery program implemented last summer by the state, North Dakota State University and the Michigan-based nonprofit Ag Community Relief.

The new donation by a community service group in Antler brought the total doled out through the program to nearly 700 bales. There was heavy demand for the feed, with nearly 1,400 ranchers in the Dakotas and Montana applying.

The Agriculture Department last year also provided \$1.5 million in aid to help ranchers with the cost of hauling hay from long distances to help get their herds through the winter. That program helped nearly 500 ranchers.

The aid has helped over the winter, said Julie Ellingson, executive vice president of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. She said that while late-season moisture in some areas last fall helped boost hay production, ranchers in other areas are still searching for hay. Some also will wait longer than usual to turn their herds out to pasture, to give the land more recovery time.

"That will mean they will use more feed resources in the meantime, feeding hay longer into the spring than usual," she said.

The Stockmen's Association and its foundation last year established a drought relief fund. The group recently announced that 22 ranchers divvied up about \$50,000 in donated money.

Both the rancher group and the Agriculture Department are taking a wait-and-see approach on whether to ramp up the relief programs should drought persist into the upcoming growing season.

Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said he has had conversations with climatologists and forecasters, and "a bit of my fears might be eased, because they're not showing a repeat of last year."

Much of the northern Plains was mired in severe, extreme and even exceptional drought last summer. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows about half of North Dakota and about one-third of South Dakota still in moderate-to-severe drought, but conditions have improved since last week thanks to recent snow and rain. More was falling in the two states on Friday.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in its spring outlook predicts a wetter-than-average next three months for the Northern Plains, and improvement in drought conditions in the region.

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

14-year-old arrested, accused of posting school threat

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a 14-year-old boy has been arrested for making a school threat on social media.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the teen posted a threat Thursday night on Snapchat to "shoot up" Memorial Middle School in Sioux Falls. Police worked with school officials to determine the boy's identity. Officers went to the boy's home, arrested him and took him to the Juvenile Detention Center.

The boy's parents told police they didn't know about their son's threat. The teen is facing charges including making a terroristic threat.

South Dakota gains population, while North Dakota shrinks

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 25 of 47

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — New estimates show that North Dakota and South Dakota's populations are moving in opposite directions.

U.S. Census Bureau data released Thursday show South Dakota grew by nearly 1 percent between July 2016 and July 2017, to 869,666 people, the Capital Journal reported .

Meanwhile, North Dakota shrunk by 155 residents, to 755,393 people. It was one of only eight states to lose population.

North Dakota has still grown by more than 12 percent since 2010, while South Dakota has grown about 7 percent in that time period. North Dakota's growth is second-highest of any state, slightly behind Texas.

The bureau's analysis found that about 60 percent of South Dakota's additional residents from 2016 to 2017 were the result of a natural increase due to a greater number of births than deaths. The remaining percentage is attributed to net migration with individuals moving into the state rather than leaving.

According to the bureau, the estimation methodology includes several adjustments, including that data derived from the National Center for Health Statistics generally has a two-year lag.

"There's no associated margin of error because our estimates are not survey-based," the bureau's media relations office noted. "We use administrative records, such as birth and death certificates along with IRS data and Medicare enrollment, to create the yearly estimates."

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Governor signs plan to build new state veterans cemetery

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has signed off on a plan to build a new state veterans cemetery in Minnehaha County.

The Republican executive signed a bill Friday directing the state to submit a grant application to the National Cemetery Administration and build the project. Daugaard says he's pleased to see the longstanding goal of veterans organizations come to fruition.

The new law also authorizes the state to accept a land donation from the city of Sioux Falls for the project and allows for an endowment fund to pay for the construction and operation of the cemetery. The South Dakota Community Foundation's goal is to have \$3 million in the endowment fund by July 2023.

Officials have also appropriated \$450,000 from the state general fund and \$6 million in federal funds for the cemetery.

Spearfish man pleads guilty to manslaughter, drug charge

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Spearfish man indicted with eight others in the drug deaths of two people has pleaded guilty to manslaughter and drug distribution charges.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that 45-year-old Duwayne Littlebear pleaded guilty this week to second-degree manslaughter in the death of 23-year-old Carerra Hall and distribution of a fentanyl analog to Marcus Pelletier. Sentencing for the felony charges is set for May.

Several other drug charges against Littlebear were dismissed for the guilty pleas. The case stems from an ongoing investigation into the distribution of fentanyl analogs that officials believe contributed to the January 2017 deaths of Hall and 38-year-old Troy Kuntz.

Other suspects associated with the alleged drug ring face charges ranging from first-degree manslaughter to drug counts.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Northern State men's hoops team to play for national title

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Northern State University men's basketball team will play for the NCAA Division II championship.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 26 of 47

The Aberdeen school beat Queens of North Carolina 105-99 in double-overtime in Thursday's semifinals at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

Northern State (36-3) will play Ferris State of Michigan (37-1) on Saturday for the title. Tipoff is 2 p.m. The game is to be televised on CBS.

The last team to win a national championship in its home state was Kentucky Wesleyan in 1999.

Prosecutors: Police justified in fatal shooting of armed man

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Prosecutors say police officers in northwestern Indiana were justified in fatally shooting a South Dakota man who was armed with a knife and had chased an employee at a car dealership.

The Lake County prosecutor's office announced the update Thursday about the Feb. 14 shooting death of 30-year-old Jimmy Terry of Sioux Falls.

Merrillville police Chief Joseph Petruch says in a statement that Terry told family members he had planned to travel to Washington, D.C., to "get the antichrist." His family told police Terry suffered from paranoia.

The shooting happened at Art Hill Ford in Merrillville, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of Chicago. Police say they found Terry driving away and shot him after he disregarded officers' orders to drop a knife and a stun gun didn't subdue him.

Rapid City residents to vote on future of Barnett Arena

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City residents in June will decide the future of Barnett Arena in the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

The Rapid City Journal reports the city has verified that there are enough valid signatures on a petition calling for a public vote during the June primary election.

Residents will decide whether to renovate the arena for \$25 million or build a new one that would cost \$110 million.

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

Interstate traffic stop in South Dakota yields pounds of pot

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) — A Montana man faces felony drug charges in South Dakota after allegedly being caught with 20 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop.

The Daily Republic reports that 33-year-old Scott Whitmore, of Belgrade, Montana, was stopped March 15 for following another vehicle too closely on Interstate 90 in Brule County.

Authorities say a search of his vehicle turned up the drugs. He could face up to 40 years in prison if convicted.

It wasn't clear if Whitmore has an attorney. A listed home telephone number for him couldn't be found.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

French hero officer who swapped himself for hostage dies

By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

TREBES, France (AP) — A French police officer who offered himself up to an Islamic extremist gunman in exchange for a hostage died of his injuries, raising the death toll in the attack to four, and the officer was honored Saturday as a national hero of "exceptional courage and selflessness."

Col. Arnaud Beltrame, 44, was among the first officers to respond to the attack on the supermarket in the south of France on Friday.

Beltrame, who first took his place among the elite police special forces in 2003 and served in Iraq in 2005, had organized a training session in the Aude region in December for just such a hostage situation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 27 of 47

At the time, he armed his officers with paintball guns, according to Depeche du Midi, the local newspaper. "We want to be as close to real conditions as possible," he said then.

But when he went inside the supermarket on Friday, he had given up his own weapon and volunteered himself in exchange for a female hostage.

Unbeknownst to the Morocco-born captor, he left his cellphone on so police outside could hear what was happening in the store. They stormed the building when they heard gunshots, officials said. Beltrame was fatally wounded.

His death raises the toll to four. The gunman was also killed, and 15 people were injured in the attack. "Arnaud Beltrame died in the service of the nation to which he had already given so much," President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement. "In giving his life to end the deadly plan of a jihadi terrorist, he fell as a hero."

According to the statement, Beltrame joined the elite police special forces in 2003 and deployed to Iraq in 2005. He served as a member of the presidential guard and in 2012 earned one of France's highest honors, the Order of Merit. He was married with no children.

Beltrame's brother, Cedric Beltrame, told RTL radio Saturday his sibling died "a hero."

He added that his brother "was well aware he had almost no chance. He was very aware of what he was doing."

People were placing flowers in front of the Gendarmerie headquarters in Carcassonne to pay tribute to Col. Beltrame.

Macron has said investigators will focus on establishing how the gunman, identified by prosecutors as Morocco-born Redouane Lakdim, got his weapon and how he became radicalized.

On Friday night, authorities searched a car and the apartment complex in central Carcassonne where Lakdim was believed to live.

Two people were detained over alleged links with a terrorist enterprise, one woman close to Lakdim and one friend of his, a 17-year-old male, Paris prosecutor office said.

Lakdim was known to police for petty crime and drug dealing. But he was also under surveillance and since 2014 was on the so-called Fiche S list, a government register of individuals suspected of being radicalized but who have yet to perform acts of terrorism.

Despite this, Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said there was "no warning sign" that Lakdim would carry out an attack.

The four-hour drama began at 10:13 a.m. when Lakdim hijacked a car near Carcassonne, killing one person in the car and wounding the other, the prosecutor said.

Lakdim then fired six shots at police officers who were on their way back from jogging near Carcassonne, said Yves Lefebvre, secretary general of SGP Police-FO police union. The police were wearing athletic clothes with police insignia. One officer was hit in the shoulder, but the injury wasn't serious, Lefebvre said.

Lakdim then went to a Super U supermarket in nearby Trebes, 60 miles (100 kilometers) southeast of Toulouse, shooting and killing two people in the market and taking an unknown number of hostages. Special police units converged on the scene while authorities blocked roads and urged residents to stay away.

He shouted "Allahu akbar!" — the Arabic phrase for God is great — and said he was a "soldier of the Islamic State" as he entered the Super U, where about 50 people were inside, Molins said.

"We heard an explosion — well, several explosions," shopper Christian Guibert told reporters. "I went to see what was happening and I saw a man lying on the floor and another person, very agitated, who had a gun in one hand and a knife in the other."

The manager of the supermarket said she felt "helpless." The woman, who would identify herself only by her first name, Samia, said that she was in her office when she heard the shots.

"How am I? I am devastated," she said "What we went through yesterday was a tragedy. What else would you have me say? You feel utterly helpless."

She said she helped evacuate as many people as possible.

"It was terrifying," she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 28 of 47

During the standoff, Lakdim requested the release of Salah Abdeslam, the sole surviving assailant of the Nov. 13, 2015, attacks in Paris that left 130 people dead. The interior minister suggested, however, that Abdeslam's release wasn't a key motive for the attack.

The IS-linked Aamaq news agency said the attacker was responding to the group's calls to target countries in the U.S.-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against IS militants in Syria and Iraq since 2014. France has been repeatedly targeted because of its participation.

France has been on high alert since a series of extremist attacks in 2015 and 2016 that killed more than 200 people. One of those attacks, against a kosher supermarket in Paris, seemed to foreshadow this week's deadly assault in the south.

Associated Press journalists Thomas Adamson, Samuel Petrequin, Sylvie Corbet, Angela Charlton and Jerome Pugmire contributed to this report from Paris.

An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated that the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack. The IS-linked Aamaq news agency said the attacker was responding to the group's calls to target countries in the U.S.-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against IS militants in Syria and Iraq since 2014.

Organizers hope to draw half a million to gun control rally

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands are gathering in Washington Saturday for a protest that organizers claim will be a defining moment in the long-simmering national debate over gun-control legislation.

Organizers of the March for Our Lives rally are hoping to draw 500,000 protesters; that would match last year's women's march and make this one of the largest Washington protests since the Vietnam era. It would also bolster claims that the nation is ready to enact sweeping changes to its gun control laws. More than 800 marches are planned in cities across America and dozens of locations overseas to be held at roughly the same time.

Washington is generally nonchalant about protests, but Saturday's gathering has prompted more attention and speculation than usual. Washington officials say they are prepared to handle the crowds — more prepared than they were for the women's march, which far exceeded the organizers' official predictions of 300,000.

The protesters, many of them high school students, claim that the youth leadership of this initiative is what will set it apart from previous attempts to enact stronger gun-control legislation.

In the wake of the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the students have tapped into a powerful current of pro-gun control sentiment that has been building for years. They have also partnered with well-funded liberal groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety, the gun control advocacy group founded by former New York mayor and billionaire Michael Bloomberg.

Polls indicate that public opinion nationwide may indeed be shifting on an issue that has simmered for generations, and through dozens of mass shootings. A new poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, found that 69 percent of Americans think gun laws in the United States should be tightened. That's up from 61 percent who said the same in October of 2016 and 55 percent when the AP first asked the question in October of 2013. Overall, 90 percent of Democrats, 50 percent of Republicans and 54 percent of gun owners now favor stricter gun control laws.

But even with claims of historic social momentum on the issue of gun control, the AP poll also found that nearly half of Americans do not expect elected officials to take action. Among the questions facing march organizers and participants will be how to translate this one-day event, regardless of turnout, into meaningful legislative change.

One way is by channeling the current energy into mid-term congressional elections this fall. Students in Florida have focused on youth voter registration and there will be a registration booth at the Saturday rally.

Trump order would ban most transgender troops from serving

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump released an order Friday night banning most transgender troops from serving in the military except under “limited circumstances,” following up on his calls last year to ban transgender individuals from serving.

The White House said retaining troops with a history or diagnosis of “gender dysphoria” — those who may require substantial medical treatment — “presents considerable risk to military effectiveness and lethality.”

Trump surprised the Pentagon’s leadership in a 2017 tweet when he declared he would reverse an Obama-era plan to allow transgender individuals to serve openly. His push for the ban has been blocked by several legal challenges, and four federal courts have ruled against the ban. The Pentagon responded by allowing those serving to stay in the military, and began allowing transgender individuals to enlist beginning Jan. 1.

“This new policy will enable the military to apply well-established mental and physical health standards — including those regarding the use of medical drugs — equally to all individuals who want to join and fight for the best military force the world has ever seen,” White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday.

The new policy was promptly assailed by congressional Democrats and civil rights groups. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi tweeted, “No one with the strength & bravery to serve in the U.S. military should be turned away because of who they are. This hateful ban is purpose-built to humiliate our brave transgender members of the military who serve with honor & dignity.”

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest LGBT civil rights organization, accused the Trump administration of pushing “anti-transgender prejudices onto the military.”

“There is simply no way to spin it, the Trump-Pence Administration is going all in on its discriminatory, unconstitutional and despicable ban on transgender troops,” said HRC President Chad Griffin.

Joshua Block, a senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union LGBT & HIV Project, said the policy “effectively coerces transgender people who wish to serve into choosing between their humanity and their country, and makes it clear that transgender service members are not welcome.”

Trump received recommendations from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in February for dealing with transgender individuals serving in the military. The White House said Mattis and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen agreed with the policy.

Earlier Friday, Maj. David Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman, said the announcement of a new policy would have no immediate practical effect on the military because the Pentagon is obliged to continue to recruit and retain transgender people in accordance with current law.

The issue has become mired in a complicated string of political statements, court decisions and policy reviews since Trump first stunned his administration with his tweets last July. It’s unclear how much impact the court decisions will have on Trump’s decision. Activist groups had worried the administration could enact such strict enlistment and health care restrictions that it would become all but impossible for transgender troops to join or continue serving.

Under guidelines presented in December, the Pentagon could disqualify potential recruits with gender dysphoria, those with a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who underwent reconstruction. Such recruits could be allowed in if a medical provider certified they’ve been clinically stable in the preferred sex for 18 months and are free of significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas.

Transgender individuals receiving hormone therapy must be stable on their medication for 18 months.

The requirements make it challenging for a transgender recruit to pass. But they mirror conditions laid out by President Barack Obama’s administration in 2016, when the Pentagon initially lifted its ban on transgender troops serving openly in the military.

China's economic czar tells US Beijing will defend interests

BEIJING (AP) — China's newly-appointed economic czar told U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin Saturday that Beijing is ready to defend its interests after President Donald Trump announced plans to slap tariffs on nearly \$50 billion Chinese imports.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He told Mnuchin in a phone call the order Trump signed Thursday violates international trade rules, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The White House says the planned tariffs are aimed at punishing Beijing for allegedly stealing American technology and pressuring U.S. companies to hand it over.

Xinhua cited Liu as saying that China is "ready and capable of defending its national interest and hopes both sides will remain rational."

On Friday, China said it plans to raise tariffs on a \$3 billion list of U.S. goods including pork, apples and steel pipes in response to the steel and aluminum duties earlier announced by Trump.

The Chinese move appeared to be warning shot aimed at increasing domestic U.S. pressure on Trump by making clear which exporters, including farm areas that voted for the president in 2016, might be hurt.

On Friday, American farmers from hog producers in Iowa to apple growers in Washington state and winemakers in California expressed deep disappointment over being put in the middle of a potential trade war with China by the president many of them helped elect.

China's Commerce Ministry said Friday Beijing was considering a tariff increase of 25 percent on pork and aluminum scrap, mirroring Trump's 25 percent charge on steel. A second list of goods including wine, apples, ethanol and stainless steel pipe would be charged 15 percent, mirroring Trump's tariff hike on aluminum.

Overall, the nation's farmers shipped nearly \$20 billion of goods to China in 2017. The American pork industry sent \$1.1 billion in products, making China the No. 3 market for U.S. pork.

"No one wins in these tit-for-tat trade disputes, least of all the farmers and the consumers," said National Pork Producers Council President Jim Heimerl, a pig farmer from Johnstown, Ohio.

The U.S. has complained for years about China's sharp-elbowed trading practices, accusing it of pirating trade secrets, manipulating its currency, forcing foreign companies to hand over technology, and flooding world markets with cheap steel and aluminum that drive down prices and put U.S. manufacturers out of business.

The spiraling trade dispute between the world's two-largest economies has spurred concerns among companies and investors that global commerce could be depressed.

This story corrects Liu He's title.

Wayne Huizenga, who built his fortune from trash, dies at 80

By STEVEN WINE and TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — H. Wayne Huizenga, a college dropout who built a business empire that included Blockbuster Entertainment, AutoNation and three professional sports franchises, has died. He was 80.

Huizenga (HY'-zing-ah) died Thursday night at his home, said Valerie Hinkell, a longtime assistant. The cause was cancer, said Bob Henninger, executive vice president of Huizenga Holdings.

Starting with a single garbage truck in 1968, Huizenga built Waste Management Inc. into a Fortune 500 company. He purchased independent sanitation engineering companies, and by the time he took the company public in 1972, he had completed the acquisition of 133 small-time haulers. By 1983, Waste Management was the largest waste disposal company in the United States.

The business model worked again with Blockbuster Video, which he started in 1985 and built into the leading movie rental chain nine years later. In 1996, he formed AutoNation and built it into a Fortune 500 company.

Huizenga was founding owner of baseball's Florida Marlins and the NHL's Florida Panthers — expansion teams that played their first games in 1993. He bought the NFL's Miami Dolphins and their stadium for

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 31 of 47

\$168 million in 1994 from the children of founder Joe Robbie but had sold all three teams by 2009.

"Wayne Huizenga was a seminal figure in the cultural history of South Florida," current Dolphins owner Stephen Ross said in a statement. "He completely changed the landscape of the region's sports scene. ... Sports fans throughout the region owe him a debt of thanks."

The Marlins won the 1997 World Series, and the Panthers reached the Stanley Cup Finals in 1996, but Huizenga's beloved Dolphins never reached a Super Bowl while he owned the team.

"If I have one disappointment, the disappointment would be that we did not bring a championship home," Huizenga said shortly after he sold the Dolphins to Ross. "It's something we failed to do."

Huizenga earned an almost cult-like following among business investors who watched him build Blockbuster Entertainment into the leading video rental chain by snapping up competitors. He cracked Forbes' list of the 100 richest Americans, becoming chairman of Republic Services, one of the nation's top waste management companies, and AutoNation, the nation's largest automotive retailer. In 2013, Forbes estimated his wealth at \$2.5 billion.

For a time, Huizenga was also a favorite with South Florida sports fans, drawing cheers and autograph seekers in public. The crowd roared when he danced the hokeypokey on the field during an early Marlins game. He went on a spending spree to build a veteran team that won the World Series in the franchise's fifth year.

But his popularity plummeted when he ordered the roster dismantled after that season. He was frustrated by poor attendance and his failure to swing a deal for a new ballpark built with taxpayer money.

Many South Florida fans never forgave him for breaking up the championship team. Huizenga drew boos when introduced at Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino's retirement celebration in 2000 and kept a lower public profile after that.

In 2009, Huizenga said he regretted ordering the Marlins' payroll purge.

"We lost \$34 million the year we won the World Series, and I just said, 'You know what, I'm not going to do that,'" Huizenga said. "If I had it to do over again, I'd say, 'OK, we'll go one more year.'"

He sold the Marlins in 1999 to John Henry, and sold the Panthers in 2001, unhappy with rising NHL player salaries and the stock price for the team's public company.

Tributes from three sports and beyond poured in, reflecting the range of his reach.

"Saddened to hear about the passing of successful entrepreneur and Great Floridian Wayne Huizenga," Gov. Rick Scott tweeted. "He had a tremendous impact on our state and the world of business."

The Marlins released a statement describing Huizenga as "the original Florida Marlin," and said he "will be remembered as much for his contributions to South Florida professional sports as he was for his many charitable endeavors in the surrounding community."

Huizenga's first sports love was the Dolphins — he had been a season-ticket holder since their first season in 1966. But he fared better in the NFL as a businessman than as a sports fan.

He turned a nifty profit by selling the Dolphins and their stadium for \$1.1 billion, nearly seven times what he paid to become sole owner. But he knew the bottom line in the NFL is championships, and his Dolphins perennially came up short.

Huizenga earned a reputation as a hands-off owner and won raves from many loyal employees, even though he made six coaching changes. He eased Pro Football Hall of Famer Don Shula into retirement in early 1996, and Jimmy Johnson, Dave Wannstedt, interim coach Jim Bates, Nick Saban, Cam Cameron and Tony Sparano followed as coach.

Johnson tweeted: "A great man, one of the nicest individuals I have ever known, Wayne Huizenga passed away. RIP."

Harry Wayne Huizenga was born in the Chicago suburbs on Dec. 29, 1937, to a family of garbage haulers. He began his business career in Pompano Beach in 1962, driving a garbage truck from 2 a.m. to noon each day for \$500 a month.

One customer successfully sued Huizenga, saying that in an argument over a delinquent account, Huizenga injured him by grabbing his testicles — an allegation Huizenga always denied.

"I never did that. The guy was a deputy cop. It was his word against mine, a young kid," he told Fortune magazine in 1996.

Huizenga was a five-time recipient of Financial World magazine's "CEO of the Year" award, and was the Ernst & Young "2005 World Entrepreneur of the Year."

Regarding his business acumen, Huizenga said: "You just have to be in the right place at the right time. It can only happen in America."

In 1960, he married Joyce VanderWagon. Together they had two children, Wayne Jr. and Scott. They divorced in 1966. Wayne married his second wife, Marti Goldsby, in 1972. She died in 2017.

A memorial service will be held Thursday — opening day for the Marlins, the team Huizenga founded 25 years ago.

For more NFL coverage: www.pro32.ap.org and http://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Follow Steven Wine on Twitter: http://twitter.com/Steve_Wine . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/steven-wine>

US charges 9 Iranians in massive hacking scheme

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration announced criminal charges and sanctions Friday against Iranians accused in a hacking scheme to pilfer sensitive information from hundreds of universities, private companies and American government agencies.

The nine defendants, accused of working at the behest of the Iranian government-tied Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, hacked the computer systems of about 320 universities in the United States and abroad to steal expensive science and engineering research that was then used by the government or sold for profit, prosecutors said.

The hackers also are accused of breaking into the networks of government organizations, such as the Department of Labor, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the United Nations, and private sector entities including technology companies and law and consulting firms.

The Justice Department said the hackers were affiliated with an Iranian company called the Mabna Institute, which prosecutors say contracted with the Iranian government to steal scientific research from other countries. The institute was founded by two of the defendants.

"By bringing these criminal charges, we reinforce the norm that most of the civilized world accepts: nation-states should not steal intellectual property for the purpose of giving domestic industries an advantage," Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said in announcing the charges.

Also Friday, the Treasury Department targeted the Mabna Institute and 10 Iranians — the nine defendants and one charged in a separate case last year — for sanctions that officials say will make it harder for them to do business outside Iran.

The defendants are unlikely to ever be prosecuted in an American courtroom since there's no extradition treaty with Iran. But the grand jury indictment, filed in federal court in Manhattan, is part of the government's "name and shame" strategy to publicly identify foreign hackers, block them from traveling without risk of arrest and put their countries on notice.

In Tehran, Bahram Ghasemi spokesman of the Foreign Ministry condemned the move and called it "provocative, illegal and without justification."

Ghasemi said the charges are "another sign of hostility of the U.S. government towards Iranian nation." He said the U.S will not take any benefit from the move aimed at "thwarting" scientific growth of Iran.

The approach has been employed with past indictments accusing Iranian hackers of a digital break-in of a New York dam, Chinese military officials of large-scale hacks at energy corporations and Russians of a massive breach of Yahoo user accounts.

"People travel. They take vacations, they make plans with their families," said FBI Deputy Director David

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 33 of 47

Bowdich. "Having your name, face and description on a 'Wanted' poster makes moving freely much more difficult."

According to the indictment, the Iranians broke into universities through relatively simple but common means — tricking professors to click on compromised links.

The spear-phishing emails purported to be from professors at one university to those at another and contained what appeared to be authentic article links. But once clicked on, the links steered the professors to a malicious Internet domain that led them to believe they'd been logged out of their systems and that asked them to enter their log-in credentials.

Those credentials were logged and stolen by the hackers, prosecutors say.

The Justice Department says the hackers stole roughly 31 terabytes of academic research and intellectual property that was then sent to servers outside the United States for profit. The information that was stolen, which was sold through two websites to customers in Iran, cost U.S. universities about \$3.4 billion to procure and access.

More than 100,000 professors worldwide were targeted with spear-phishing emails. The affected professors and their universities were not identified.

"Just in case you're wondering, they're not admiring our work," Bowdich said. "They're stealing it, and they're taking credit for it, and they're selling it to others."

Follow Eric Tucker on <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Trump's impulses put White House credibility on the line

By JULIE PACE and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — What's the White House's word worth?

Days of conflicting and misleading statements from President Donald Trump and his top aides have fueled new questions about the White House's credibility, sowing mistrust and instability within the West Wing and leaving some congressional Republicans wondering if they have a good faith negotiating partner in the president.

One former congressional GOP leadership aide said it was becoming impossible for Republicans to negotiate anything with White House officials, given the president's willingness to undermine his own team's public and private assurances. In turn, White House officials have found themselves in the bizarre position of urging lawmakers to ignore some of the president's own statements.

That was the case on Friday, when Trump blasted out a morning tweet threatening to veto a massive government spending bill that the White House had guaranteed lawmakers and the public that he would sign. White House officials privately insisted the president was simply venting after watching news coverage that cast the deal as a defeat for several of his priorities. After hours of uncertainty, Trump's veto threat crumbled, and he ultimately signed the legislation.

Still, it left some Republicans rattled.

"The spontaneity and lack of impulse control are areas of concern for lots of members on both sides of the aisle," said Rep. Charlie Dent, a Pennsylvania Republican who has been critical of the president. "Disorder, chaos, instability, uncertainty, intemperate statements are not conservative virtues in my opinion."

Trent Lott, the former Republican Senate majority leader from Mississippi, said GOP lawmakers "feel a good deal of consternation" about the White House-induced whiplash. But he added: "I assume there was method in what the president did."

Members of both parties said they were troubled that Trump seems oblivious to how he has undermined his own clout and agenda by staking out positions and then brazenly abandoning them. Where legislators once might have attributed such missteps to the president's newness to Washington and its ways, not anymore.

Trump's vacillating on the spending bill was just one in a series of recent instances that put the credibility of the White House's words under a microscope. Earlier this month, Trump bragged at a private

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 34 of 47

fundraiser about having made up facts on trade during a conversation with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. And in recent days, he and his staff have issued stern denials about the prospects of national security adviser H.R. McMaster departing the White House and a potential shake-up on the legal team that handles Trump's role in the special counsel investigation into Russian election interference and obstruction of justice. Beyond public statements, White House chief of staff John Kelly had privately assured his staff that no shakeup was on the horizon.

By week's end, McMaster was out. And the legal team had lost one attorney and appeared to be looking for another one.

Trump's trouble with the truth is hardly new. He frequently mangles the facts on everything from the size of his inauguration crowd to the scope of the tax bill he signed late last year. And as his boasting about his interaction with Trudeau underscored, the president rarely appears to be embarrassed or ashamed about repeating statements that have been proven false.

"There's a fundamental difference between this White House and those of the modern era that preceded it," said Timothy Naftali, a historian and the former director of Richard Nixon's presidential library. "It doesn't care about its credibility outside of a narrow swath of the American people."

Numerous polls show a majority of Americans don't believe Trump is truthful, including a recent Quinnipiac survey in which 57 percent said the president was not honest. Trump's backers sometimes point to the fact that he was elected even though polls during the campaign showed similar results.

Trump's willingness to skirt the truth has frequently put his advisers in the awkward position of issuing strong statements in public that are quickly undermined by the president. Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders repeatedly batted down reports about McMaster's ouster in the days leading up to Trump's announcement that he was bringing in a new national security adviser.

And on the eve of Trump's spending bill veto threat, budget director Mick Mulvaney left no ambiguity about the president's plans to validate the measure.

"Let's cut right to the chase. Is the president going to sign the bill? Yes. Why? Because it funds his priorities," Mulvaney said.

White House officials privately contend that they are often left in an impossible situation given Trump's willingness to change his mind. Even if their statements are true at the time, they say, there's no guarantee the president's position will hold.

Peter Wehner, who served in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, said Trump ultimately has no one to blame but himself.

"He doesn't even know what his own stance is," said Wehner, a frequent Trump critic. "It just devalues his word and his threats and promises and his presidency."

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Alan Fram at <http://twitter.com/asfram>

Protesters gather in Washington, demanding gun control

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington is preparing for a massive rally in support of gun control, one that organizers hope will prove that the country has reached an emotional tipping point on gun violence, with teenagers seizing the initiative and leading the demand for change.

The nation's capital is generally nonchalant about protests, but Saturday's gathering has prompted more attention and speculation than usual.

Estimates on crowd size are notoriously unreliable but organizers are hoping to draw 500,000 protesters; that would match last year's women's march and make this one of the largest Washington protests since the Vietnam era. It would also bolster claims that the nation is ready to enact sweeping changes to its gun control laws. More than 800 other concurrent marches are planned in cities across America and dozens of locations overseas.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 35 of 47

"I look at the younger kids and the future generations and I never want them to go through what we went through or see what we saw," said 15-year old Kayla Renert, a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed on Feb. 14.

Renert, who sheltered in a classroom during the attack and had a friend wounded in the leg, was on a bus bringing her to Washington from the airport after flying up from Florida Friday morning. She pointed out that the Parkland shooting wasn't even the most recent school shooting in the United States. One student was wounded and another later died from her wounds after being shot Tuesday in southern Maryland; the 17-year old gunman was also killed.

"We keep saying, 'Oh this is going to be the last time.' But there's already been another time," Renert said.

Many of the protesters spoke pointedly about how their parents and others of their generation had failed to bring about the changes they are demanding. They present the youth-led nature of the current movement as proof that they will succeed where their predecessors had failed.

"I'm here because previous generations couldn't do what we're doing right now," said Charlie Shebes, 16, another student from the high school, on a flight from Ft. Lauderdale. "I want to see safer schools. I want to see changes in gun laws."

The students have tapped into a powerful current of pro-gun control sentiment that has been building for years. They have also partnered with well-funded liberal groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety, the gun control advocacy group founded by former New York mayor and billionaire Michael Bloomberg.

Polls indicate that public opinion nationwide may indeed be shifting on an issue that has simmered for generations, and through dozens of mass shootings. A new poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, found that 69 percent of Americans think gun laws in the United States should be tightened. That's up from 61 percent who said the same in October of 2016 and 55 percent when the AP first asked the question in October of 2013. Overall, 90 percent of Democrats, 50 percent of Republicans and 54 percent of gun owners now favor stricter gun control laws.

"To me, it feels like this is THE moment when it's all going to change," said Anne Tumlinson, who will be hosting about a half dozen high school demonstrators from Jacksonville in her Washington home. A grassroots campaign among Washington residents resulted in more than 1,500 Washingtonians offering their homes to underage out-of-town demonstrators.

But even with claims of historic social momentum on the issue of gun control, the AP poll also found that nearly half of Americans do not expect elected officials to take action. One of the questions facing march organizers and participants will be how to translate this one-day event, regardless of turnout, into meaningful legislative change.

One way is by channeling the current energy into mid-term congressional elections this fall. Students in Florida have focused on youth voter registration and there will be a registration booth at the Saturday rally.

"We're pushing the message of now is the time for action but also November is going to be the time for action. It's the time to make our voice heard when we're voting," said Alex Wind, a 17-year-old student from MSD. "We are the age of people that don't vote normally. We're going to change that."

Associated Press writers Kelli Kennedy in Miami and Josh Replegle in Washington contributed to this report.

Sympathy for white Austin bomber stirs debate about race

By DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press

When a law enforcement official described a cellphone recording left by the Austin serial bomber as "the outcry of a very challenged young man," the remark caused an outcry of its own.

Because the bomber was white, some people almost immediately questioned whether the same level of compassion would have been afforded a person of color.

"Here you have a case of a young white male who killed and injured people of color, and we're culturally more concerned about his story, about his life, about what led him to take these lives," said David Leonard, professor in the department of critical culture, gender and race studies at Washington State University.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 36 of 47

"It's a striking reminder of a racial empathy gap that persists."

For many observers and activists, the comments about Mark Anthony Conditt were just the latest example in which a white suspect seemed to receive an injection of humanity that is less often extended to blacks, Muslims and others.

Conditt kept the Texas capital in a state of fear for weeks, planting five bombs that killed two people and badly wounded four others. The 23-year-old community college dropout died Wednesday after setting off a bomb inside his SUV as police were about to arrest him.

Investigators said his motive was still unclear, despite the discovery of the 25-minute cellphone recording in which he talked about the bombs.

U.S. law has defined acts of violence or intimidation linked to foreign groups such as the Islamic State as terrorism. Homegrown extremist groups such as neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan have not been labeled that way, even if they've employed similar tactics.

Similarly, when Stephen Craig Paddock was identified as the gunman who rained bullets down on a Las Vegas concert last fall, the white retired accountant was characterized as a "lone wolf." That label has also been attached to other mass killers who acted alone, including Aurora, Colorado, movie theater shooter James Holmes, a white man who killed a dozen people in 2012.

On the recording, Conditt "does not at all mention anything about terrorism, nor does he mention anything about hate," Austin Police Chief Brian Manley said. "But instead, it is the outcry of a very challenged young man talking about challenges in his personal life that led him to this point."

The reaction on social media was swift.

"Remember how they talked about innocent black children" like Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice or Freddie Gray, tweeted Sherrilyn Ifill, president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

"I believe passionately in acknowledging the humanity of those who commit even terrible crimes. Reading this police chief's empathy for this young white man highlights the awfulness — the plain awfulness — of the persistent refusal to extend this empathy to young black people," Ifill added.

Those young black males were described as "thugs" by some authorities and in popular discourse. Another case often cited is that of Michael Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old fatally shot by a white officer in August 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri. The New York Times described Brown as "no angel" in a profile, a phrase that drew an angry response from readers and was criticized by its own public editor.

Brown got into a scuffle with then-officer Darren Wilson after Wilson yelled at Brown and a friend to get out of the street where they were walking. Wilson said that when he shot Brown, the teen was moving menacingly toward him. Some witnesses said Brown was surrendering.

The initial unrest erupted after Brown's body lay in the street for hours in the summer heat. More protests gripped the Missouri town after a grand jury declined to charge Wilson, who later resigned. The Justice Department also cleared him, but an investigation by that agency uncovered patterns of racial bias and profiling in Ferguson's police and courts.

Some critics have also taken exception to media coverage that included Conditt's friends and family describing him as nerdy and kind.

"Language is always shot through with power dynamics. What this shows us is the way that we can talk about people determines how we can treat them," said Koritha Mitchell, an associate professor in the English department at Ohio State University. "Because we are determined to treat white men as citizens no matter what, to treat them as people who belong in the fold no matter what, that is the reason we will not use words like 'terrorist.'"

The Rev. Yvette Griffin, a black Detroit pastor, said blacks and Muslims don't seem to get the same presumption of innocence as other suspects.

"The words are kinder and gentler" for whites, she said.

Associated Press Writer Jeff Karoub in Detroit contributed to this report.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 37 of 47

Deepti Hajela covers issues of race, ethnicity and immigration for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/dhajela> . For more of her work, search for her name at <https://apnews.com> .

Loyola has hoops fans 'sitting on the edge of their chairs'

By CHARLES ODUM, AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Loyola-Chicago's stirring run through the NCAA Tournament has inspired memories of the Ramblers' championship 55 years ago.

The graying reminders of that history are hanging on every win.

Sitting in front-row seats, four members of that 1963 Loyola championship team were glued to every play Thursday night, trying to will their alma mater to victory.

"We need a stop," Jerry Harkness, the captain of that '63 team, said in the waning minutes. "We just need a stop."

They got it.

And then Marques Townes sank a decisive 3-pointer with only 6.3 seconds remaining to help clinch the Ramblers' 69-68 win over Nevada in the NCAA South Regional semifinal on Thursday night.

"The whole nation must be sort of sitting on the edge of their chairs tonight," said Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, Loyola's 98-year-old team chaplain.

Sister Jean has become a celebrity during the tournament. The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum, in conjunction with Loyola University Chicago, Friday unveiled an officially licensed, limited edition Sister Jean bobblehead.

Yes, the Loyola bandwagon has gained that much momentum.

And this squad is inescapably being linked to the 1963 team. Harkness and three of other members of that squad — Les Hunter, John Egan and Rich Rochelle — were in Atlanta for the Sweet 16 game.

Moser accompanied members of that 1963 on a 2013 visit with President Obama at the White House and said he was "just blown away by their character, about the stories they told, just sitting there listening to the whole story behind the 'Game of Change.'

"I love that this run is sparking the renewed conversation of what that team meant to our country and integration, and to hear the stories firsthand from them and to hear the brotherhood that they had, the black guys, the white guys, everyone together. It was a brotherhood, it was a high character. They embraced the Loyola education."

Townes said he has enjoyed visits from players on the '63 team in practices and games.

"The '63 team always comes in and always tries to talk to us and give us their support," Townes said. "They always joke around and say we're better than them, that they have support for us. And we're happy to talk to them, and we're happy to have them along on this run. Like he said, it's tradition, and we're looking forward to the next challenge."

The next challenge is Kansas State on Saturday night.

Townes sealed that date against Nevada, becoming the latest hero for Loyola.

He launched a 3-pointer from in front of the Loyola bench with the shot clock about to expire as the Ramblers came through again.

"He was a warrior," said Loyola coach Porter Moser.

Townes, who had 18 points, charged down the court, pumping his fist, following the shot.

"I'll probably remember it for the rest of my life," Townes said. "I mean, it doesn't really get any better than that."

Loyola, the No. 11 seed, will face Kansas State, the No. 9 seed, in the regional final. It will be the first-ever 9 vs 11 matchup in the Elite Eight, a fitting end to region that became the first to have the top four seeds eliminated on the opening weekend.

Loyola (31-5) has won three tournament games by a combined four points.

Not bad for a program that hadn't been in the Sweet 16 in 33 years.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 38 of 47

The 1963 team beat top-ranked Cincinnati in the championship game, but the team is better remembered for the "Game of Change" against Mississippi State earlier in the tournament. Loyola regularly started three or more black players, and Mississippi State played the game despite orders from Mississippi's segregationist governor to boycott it.

This team is on a memorable run of its own.

Loyola guard Clayton Custer said, "This is unbelievable. Feels like a dream."

For Sister Jean and the gray-haired guys in the front row on Thursday night, they're hoping the dream doesn't come to an end against the Wildcats.

More AP college basketball: <https://collegebasketball.ap.org>; https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 and <https://www.podcastone.com/ap-sports-special-events>

Indictment: Waterslide in fatal accident was 'deadly weapon'

By MARGARET STAFFORD and JOHN HANNA, Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas waterslide hyped as the world's highest was a "deadly weapon" that had already injured more than a dozen people before a 10-year-old boy was decapitated on it in 2016, according to a grand jury indictment unsealed Friday that charges the water park operator and an executive with involuntary manslaughter.

Operators of the Verruckt waterslide at the Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City, Kansas, also knew that the raft Caleb Schwab and two women used during the deadly accident was prone to go faster and become airborne more than others. It was removed twice in 2016 but quickly put back into circulation, the indictment says.

"The ride was never properly or fully designed to prevent rafts from going airborne," the indictment said.

The waterpark and Tyler Austin Miles, 29, a former operations director at the park, were indicted Friday on involuntary manslaughter and several other charges in Caleb's death. The indictment alleges that a company co-owner and the designer of the Verruckt rushed it into use and had no technical or engineering expertise related to amusement park rides.

The charges come after a 19-month investigation into the death of Schwab, the son of Kansas Rep. Scott Schwab. The raft he was in went airborne, hitting a pole and netting designed to keep riders from being thrown from the ride.

The indictment says a video shows Caleb was following all rider instructions when he died.

The death seemed like an isolated accident until whistleblowers from Schlitterbahn revealed that experts who examined the slide found evidence indicating other rafts had gone airborne and collided with the overhead hoops and netting before the fatality, according to the indictment.

The ride complied with "few, if any" longstanding safety standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials, and corporate correspondence found that "the child's death and the rapidly growing list of injuries were foreseeable and expected outcomes," according to the indictment.

Investigators found 13 injuries to others during the 182 days the ride operated, including two concussions and one case where a 15-year-old girl went temporarily blind.

A spokeswoman for Schlitterbahn did not immediately return a request for comment after the indictment against the company was unsealed.

The other charges in the indictment include aggravated battery and aggravated endangering a child. Miles was indicted on two counts of interference with law enforcement and Schlitterbahn was indicted on one count of interference with law enforcement.

The ride was created after Schlitterbahn co-owner Jeffrey Wayne Henry made a "spur of the moment" decision in 2012 to build the world's largest water slide to impress the producers of a Travel Channel show. The indictment says Henry's desire to "rush the project" and his and his designer's lack of expertise caused them to "skip fundamental steps in the design process."

The indictment also said not a single engineer was directly involved in Verruckt's engineering or slide

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 39 of 47

path design.

Miles pleaded not guilty Friday during a brief court appearance. His attorneys asked that his bond be reduced to \$15,000 from \$50,000 but that request was denied. A trial was scheduled for Sept. 10.

Miles allegedly avoided or delayed repairs that would take Verruckt out of commission during the active park season and the ride's brake system failed 10 days before Caleb's death, investigators said. He also is accused of telling a police detective that he was unaware of any complaints about the ride and of withholding "thousands" of incriminating daily reports from lead lifeguards and supervisors.

Schlitterbahn, which is based in Texas, said in a statement after charges against Miles were announced that it was "deeply disappointed to learn any individual is being personally charged for the terrible accident on Verruckt.

"Our review of the facts and circumstances of the accident has never shown any evidence of criminal conduct on the part of anyone," spokeswoman Winter Prosapio said.

Scott Schwab and his attorney, Mike Rader, didn't immediately respond Friday to a request for comment.

The waterslide has been closed since Caleb's death. Schlitterbahn has said it will dismantle the ride when the investigation into the boy's death is complete.

Caleb Schwab's family reached settlements of nearly \$20 million with Schlitterbahn and various companies associated with the design and construction of the waterslide. The two women who rode with Caleb suffered serious injuries and settled claims with Schlitterbahn for an undisclosed amount.

Before the boy's death, Kansas law allowed parks to conduct their own annual inspections of rides. Lawmakers last year nearly unanimously approved stricter, annual inspection requirements for amusement park rides that set qualifications for the inspectors and required parks to report injuries and deaths to the state.

But only weeks later, lawmakers passed a follow-up bill delaying the enforcement of criminal penalties for operating a ride without a state permit until this year. And this year, the Senate and a House committee have approved legislation to lessen regulation for "limited use" rides at events like county fairs and exempt some amusements, such as hay rides, from regulation.

Stocks tumble on trade fears; S&P has worst week in 2 years

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks around the world plunged Friday as investors feared that a trade conflict between the U.S. and China, the biggest economies in the world, would escalate. A second day of big losses pushed U.S. stocks to their worst week in two years.

Investors fear that if China responds in kind to sanctions on \$60 billion worth of Chinese imports the White House announced on Thursday, it will be a first step toward a full-blown trade war that could damage the global economy and slash profits at big U.S. exporters like Apple and Boeing.

The market's two biggest sectors slumped the most. Technology stocks have made enormous gains over the past year, but since they do so much business outside the U.S., investors see them as particularly vulnerable in a trade dispute. The sector dropped 7.9 percent this week.

Banks also fell sharply. Amid the trade-war rumblings, investors fled to the safety of bonds and drove down yields, a potential negative for bank profits. That marked a reversal from earlier in the week, when banks rose as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates.

It wound up being the worst week for U.S. indexes since January 2016. The S&P 500 index sank 6 percent. Among notable decliners was Facebook, which lost 13.9 percent, or \$68 billion in value, as outrage mounted over its handling of user data. That's about as much as the company was worth in 2012, the year of its initial public offering.

Stocks sagged at the start of this month after tariffs on aluminum and steel were announced, but they quickly recovered as the administration said the tariffs wouldn't be as severe as they first looked. The losses this week were worse, and investors are hoping for hints the sanctions on China are more of a negotiating tactic.

"There could be a possibility of a bounce back if, as this progresses, both sides look like they're negotiat-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 40 of 47

ing," said Lisa Erickson, chief investment officer at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "There could be further decline if people get a sense there could be more trade restrictions in place."

The S&P 500 index dropped 55.43 points, or 2.1 percent, to 2,588.26 on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 424.69 points, or 1.8 percent, to 23,533.20. The Nasdaq composite fell 174.01 points, or 2.4 percent, to 6,992.67.

Germany's DAX lost 1.8 percent and the French CAC-40 fell 1.4 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain dipped 0.4 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index plunged 4.5 percent and South Korea's Kospi tumbled 3.2 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 2.5 percent.

Big U.S. companies tend to get more of their revenue from foreign customers than small companies do, and that makes them more vulnerable to damage from a trade war. With nearly 1.4 billion people, China is a big market for the largest U.S. businesses.

Not every company breaks out how much of its revenue comes from abroad, but FactSet estimates that 30.5 percent of revenue at big companies in the S&P 500 comes from outside the United States. For the smaller companies in the S&P 600 index, it's just 19.5 percent. Smaller companies are also getting a bigger benefit from the recent cut in corporate tax rates.

"We think a lot of the areas in the market with the greatest potential for earnings improvement this year are small- and mid-cap stocks, things that have the biggest benefit from tax reform and are less subject to trade wars," said Eric Marshall, portfolio manager at Hodges mutual funds.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks sank 33.79 points, or 2.2 percent, to 1,510.08, but it's flat this month while the S&P 500 is down 4.6 percent.

Sales outside the U.S. are especially important for technology companies. Roughly \$1 of every \$5 in Apple's sales came from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan in its last year. That doesn't take into account how much of the manufacturing and assembly of Apple products is done in Chinese factories, which could be affected if trade restrictions start piling up. On Friday chipmakers fared especially badly.

Investors kept buying bonds, sending prices higher and yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note slipped to 2.81 percent from 2.83 percent.

In another sign investors are nervous, gold and silver prices jumped. Gold climbed \$22.50, or 1.7 percent, to \$1,349.90 an ounce and silver gained 20 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$16.58 an ounce. The dollar fell to 104.82 yen from 105.61 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2367 from \$1.2307.

Defense contractors including Raytheon and Lockheed Martin climbed after President Donald Trump signed a new government funding bill that provides increases in military spending. He had tweeted a threat to veto the measure.

The price of oil climbed \$1.58, or 2.5 percent, to \$65.88 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard for oil prices, added \$1.54, or 2.2 percent, to \$70.45 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline rose 2 cents to \$2.04 a gallon. Heating oil added 3 cents to \$2.02 a gallon. Natural gas dipped 3 cents to \$2.59 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Copper fell 3 cents to \$2.99 a pound.

Stan Choe contributed from New York. Kelvin Chan contributed from Hong Kong and Pan Pylas contributed from London.

Baseball players in minors to lose minimum wage protection

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

Minor league baseball players who make as little as \$5,500 a season were stripped of the protection of federal minimum wage laws under a provision in government spending legislation signed Friday.

The "Save America's Pastime Act" is included on page 1,967 of the \$1.3 trillion spending bill and appears to pre-empt a lawsuit filed four years ago in U.S. District Court in San Francisco by three players alleging Major League Baseball and its teams violate the Fair Labor Standards Act and state minimum wage and overtime requirements for a work week they estimated at 50-to-60 hours.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 41 of 47

The provision in the legislation exempts "any employee employed to play baseball who is compensated pursuant to a contract that provides for a weekly salary for services performed during the league's championship season (but not spring training or the offseason) at a rate that is not less than a weekly salary equal to the minimum wage ... for a workweek of 40 hours, irrespective of the number of hours the employee devotes to baseball related activities."

The House approved the spending bill Thursday, the Senate followed early Friday and President Donald Trump signed the bill in the afternoon.

"Instead of going through the regular committee process where it has a hearing, all of this was done in secret and in a very rushed manner," Garrett Broshuis, the lawyer for the players, said Thursday. "It's emblematic of how things are getting done in Washington these days, where the people with a lot of money are able to flex their political muscle and make a lot of contributions and get things done in secret that benefit only them."

Major League Baseball spent \$1.32 million on lobbying expenses in both 2016 and 2017, up from \$330,000 in 2015, according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics. MLB paid \$400,000 each of those years to an outside firm, the Duberstein Group, which reported lobbying the House and Senate on the issue, as did MLB's in-house lobbyist.

"We aren't billionaire business owners and billionaire team owners," said Broshuis, a minor league pitcher from 2004-09 who later became a lawyer.

The language in the spending bill is nearly identical to a stand-alone bill introduced in 2016 by Republican Rep. Brett Guthrie of Kentucky and Democratic Rep. Cheri Bustos of Illinois. At the time, the pair said the exemption from minimum wage laws was necessary because without it, minor leagues would have to make cuts that could imperil teams and hurt the economy in cities where they play.

Only major league players are unionized, and their collective bargaining agreement sets minimum salaries for players on 40-man rosters: \$545,000 for those in the major leagues this season, \$88,900 for 40-man roster players in the minors signing at least their second big league contract and \$44,500 for 40-man roster players in the minors signing their first big league contract.

While early selections in the annual draft of players residing in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, and top amateurs from the rest of the world can command signing bonuses as high as about \$8 million under the current rules, monthly minimum salaries for most players on minor league rosters are low: \$1,100 at rookie ball and Class A, \$1,500 at Double-A and \$2,150 at Triple-A. Players also receive a \$25 per diem on the road and dinner at the ballpark following games.

Teams have spent just under \$289 million on signing bonuses for last year's amateur draft picks and about \$150 million on international amateurs in the signing period that started July 2. MLB calculates the average monthly salaries last year at \$10,000 in Triple-A, \$3,000 in Double-A, \$1,600 at upper-level Class A and \$1,300 at lower-level A-ball.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with the minor league players and the labor community in opposing this legislation," Tony Clark, head of the Major League Baseball Players Association, said in an email.

The lawsuit has been certified as a class action for minor leaguers who played in a California league, instructional league or extended spring training since February 2011, but MLB has asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn that decision, which has delayed the case from going to trial.

MLB had no comment on the legislation, spokesman Michael Teevan said. The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, which governs the minors, deferred to MLB because players are employees of the major league teams, spokesman Jeff Lantz said.

David Popp, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, said in an email: "If the leader issues a statement on this I'll be sure to forward." Doug Andres, a spokesman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, did not respond to an email seeking comment.

AP Sports Writer Ben Nuckols contributed to this report.

More MLB baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Hawk in the Oval: Will John Bolton's views rub off on Trump?

By JOSH LEDERMAN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick of John Bolton for his next national security adviser stirred up the same burning question Friday in Washington as in anxious foreign capitals: Just how much will his hawkish, confrontational approach rub off on Trump?

As he confronts matters of war and peace with North Korea and Iran, Trump is bringing in an adviser likely to magnify many of his own instinctive qualities: hard-hitting, fiercely nationalistic and eager to confront U.S. adversaries. In his first year in office, Trump surrounded himself with foreign policy aides whose views spanned a wide spectrum. Bolton's pick rounds out a team that in Trump's second year will compromise almost entirely hawks whose public views on national security veer decidedly to the right.

Yet historically, even those who espoused the most extreme positions as private citizens have a way of moderating when faced with the awesome task of running the nation. And Trump has been known to overrule even the consensus of his aides in the past.

In Bolton's White House meeting with Trump on Thursday, hours before the president announced the pick, the former U.N. ambassador told Trump he would separate his personal opinions from his responsibility as national security adviser to present all sides and arguments to the commander in chief, according to a person familiar with Trump's exchange with Bolton.

He told the president that when asked for his view, he won't hesitate to share it, but will give Trump room to decide, said the individual, who wasn't authorized to discuss private conversations and requested anonymity.

"The important thing is what the president says," Bolton said on Fox News late Thursday after news broke of his selection, declining to repeat his past bellicose rhetoric about North Korea, Russia or Iran. "If the government can't have a free interchange of ideas among the president's advisers then I think the president is not well served."

Trump has admired Bolton for years, praising him on Twitter as far back as 2014. Trump has told allies he thinks Bolton is "a killer" on television, where Bolton is a frequent face on Fox News, even though he has voiced some unhappiness about his trademark mustache, said a person familiar the president's thinking but not permitted to reveal private discussions.

Still, Bolton's pick sent shockwaves through the diplomatic and military communities, and on social media, fueling speculation that the prospects for global confrontation are increasing. After all, in the span of a week Trump named Bolton to replace H.R. McMaster and current CIA Director Mike Pompeo to replace Secretary of State Rex Tillerson — ousting two aides seen as tempering influences in favor of others who have advocated a hard-line approach to North Korea and fierce opposition to the Iran nuclear deal.

Two State Department officials and two Western diplomats in Washington said Friday that their offices are now operating under the assumption that Trump will almost surely pull out of the Iran deal. Bolton has tweeted that withdrawal should be "a top @realDonaldTrump administration priority" and that U.S. policy instead should be "aimed at regime change in Tehran."

Faced with that uncertainty, some American diplomats posted to the Middle East have been discussing among themselves the possibility of a war and how they could evacuate the region if needed. All of the officials requested anonymity to discuss diplomatic conversations.

Trump's upcoming, unprecedented summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is another variable that could be shaped by Bolton's pick. Instead of diplomatic outreach favored by Tillerson and others, Bolton less than a month ago advocated a pre-emptive U.S. military strike in a Wall Street Journal editorial.

"It is perfectly legitimate for the United States to respond to the current 'necessity' posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons by striking first," he wrote.

Bolton, a Yale Law School graduate, served as President George W. Bush's U.N. ambassador as a "recess appointment" due to broad opposition to his confirmation in the Senate. Yet Bolton's allies have pointed out that for all the fiery rhetoric, Bolton has spent his career as a diplomat — he was once the State De-

partment's top arms control official — and has never sought a military role.

Another unknown: how Bolton's world view and Trump's "America First" doctrine will intersect.

Trump's definition of "America First" has always been somewhat nebulous, although he's stressed the importance of U.S. sovereignty, limited overseas intervention and burden-sharing among allies so that Washington doesn't disproportionately foot the bill.

Bolton, as U.S. ambassador, was sharply critical of the United Nations and its notoriously cumbersome bureaucracy — a view of multilateral obligations that echoes that of Trump. He was equally disinclined to indulge the bureaucratic constraints of the State Department back in Washington.

One U.S. official who worked for the State Department when Bolton was at the U.N. said that the assistant secretary of state for international organizations, whose office oversees the U.S. Mission to the U.N., was in a constant tug-of-war with Bolton and his chief of staff, trying with limited success to rein in Bolton or persuade him to tone down his public comments.

But while Bolton's pugnaciousness might pair well with Trump's, his views could cause friction with the president's anti-interventionist bent. Trump, for example, made a campaign-trail mantra out of his opposition to the Iraq War, an intervention Bolton championed.

Although McMaster was beloved by many on the National Security Council staff, he never developed a personal rapport with Trump, who chafed at his long-winded briefing style, White House officials and another person close to Trump said. Both Mattis and Kelly angled for McMaster to be replaced.

But neither had lobbied for Bolton, and now they must contend with a powerful voice who has his own public profile and extensive experience maneuvering in government. Kelly has expressed concerns to confidants about Bolton having unfettered access to the president, one person familiar with his thinking said.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Lobbying pays off for small drugmaker in budget bill

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tucked in the massive congressional budget bill is a provision that props up the price Medicare pays for a handful of medications, costing taxpayers millions at a time when the Trump administration is vowing to reduce the cost of prescription drugs.

Lawmakers acted after a lobbying campaign by a small Washington state pharmaceutical company called Omeros. Its main product is a drug called Omidria, used by hospitals in cataract surgery, which had recently lost a coveted Medicare reimbursement status. Individuals associated with the company also stepped up their political contributions.

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington, the fourth-ranking House Republican, took the issue to Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., securing a place for the drug provision in the 2,232-page spending bill signed Friday by President Donald Trump, aides said. The provision restores the drug's expired reimbursement status for two years, making it more lucrative for hospitals to continue using it.

The targeted provision succeeded even as broader health care measures failed to make the cut in the budget bill, from legislation to stabilize insurance premiums under the Affordable Care Act for millions of consumers, to a drug-industry backed effort to roll back recent changes that shift some Medicare costs to pharmaceutical companies.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates the pricing break for the Omeros drug and three products from other companies will cost taxpayers \$26 million over 10 years, taking into account long-range effects.

Speaker Ryan and Rep. McMorris Rodgers said they acted to preserve patients' access to an innovative drug.

"This provision is the correct policy, was approved by both Republicans and Democrats involved in writing the bill, and was included at the request of members of our conference," said Ryan spokeswoman AshLee Strong. "To suggest any other reason is not only false but absurd and insulting."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 44 of 47

Nate Hodson, a spokesman for McMorris Rodgers, said she pushed the measure "to provide patients across the country access to safe, innovative, life-changing drugs." Omidria is injected in the eye to prevent excessive shrinking of the pupil during cataract surgery and reduce pain afterward. Cataract surgery is usually an outpatient procedure.

Drugmaker Omeros had no initial response.

Some saw a disconnect in lawmakers' actions.

"At a time when policymakers are saying that they are interested in reducing drug costs this is a policy that runs counter to those talking points," said analyst Andrea Harris of the investment research firm Height Capital Markets. "This is a policy that maintains access to an innovative drug rather than putting downward pressure on drug prices."

Getting the change was major priority for Omeros and its CEO, Gregory Demopolos.

"Our frustration, shared by physicians nationwide, remains patients' restricted access to Omidria following its pass-through expiration on Jan. 1," Demopolos said in a recent press release about the company's financial performance. "Congressional and administrative efforts are ongoing, and we look forward to resolving this issue soon."

"Pass-through" is the technical term for the Medicare payment status that Omidria had lost. Pass-through allows Medicare reimbursement for the full cost of the drug, rather than packaging it with the cataract procedure. That creates an incentive for hospitals to use the drug instead of a lower-price substitute.

In the nation's capital, Omeros was pressing its case through lobbying and campaign contributions to prominent lawmakers by individuals associated with the company.

Omeros spent just over \$1 million on lobbying in 2017, up from \$645,000 a year earlier as the company brought aboard two new firms to make its case to Congress and the Trump administration, according to lobbying disclosure records filed with the House and Senate.

One of the new firms, The Nickles Group, was paid \$275,000 to lobby lawmakers on "issues related to Medicare payment policy in hospital outpatient and ambulatory surgical center settings," the records show.

Omeros paid nearly the same amount to King & Spalding, a firm it hired in 2014, to press the House for the "reimbursement of outpatient medications."

In December, Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash., introduced legislation to address the issue. McMorris Rodgers was a cosponsor.

Individuals associated with the drug company ramped up their political contributions.

The political money website Open Secrets shows that Omeros CEO Demopolos donated \$39,600 in the 2018 election cycle to the National Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign arm of House Republicans.

Federal Election Commission records show that Demopolos also donated \$5,400 directly to Speaker Ryan's campaign on Aug. 31, 2017. Demopolos gave \$5,000 to Ryan's political action committee, Prosperity Action Inc., on the same day.

Demopolos contributed \$1,500 to Reichert in 2016.

Another company that's benefiting from the budget bill change expressed some puzzlement over the provision's inclusion.

Eli Lilly's imaging agent Amyvid is one of the three other products that will regain their lost Medicare reimbursement status. "Lilly was not focused on this being included in the omnibus bill," said spokesman Scott MacGregor.

Associated Press Health Writer Matthew Perrone contributed to this report.

Extremist slain, 3 dead after rampage in southern France

By THOMAS ADAMSON, SAMUEL PETREQUIN and RENATA BRITO, Associated Press

TREBES, France (AP) — A gun-wielding extremist went on a rampage Friday in a quiet corner of southern France, killing three people as he hijacked a car, opened fire on police and took hostages in a supermarket,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 45 of 47

where panicked shoppers hid in a meat locker or ran through the aisles.

After an hours-long standoff, the 25-year-old attacker was slain as elite police forces stormed the market. They were aided by a heroic police officer who had offered himself up in a hostage swap and suffered life-threatening wounds as a result — one of 16 people injured in the day's violence.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack near Carcassonne, a medieval city beloved by tourists, and the town of Trebes. It was the deadliest attack in France since Emmanuel Macron became president last May.

The officer who volunteered to take the place a female hostage was identified as Col. Arnaud Beltrame. He managed to surreptitiously leave his cellphone on so that police outside could hear what was going on inside the supermarket. Officials said once they heard shots inside the market they decided to storm it.

A police official who was not authorized to be publicly identified confirmed the officer's identity to The Associated Press.

"He saved lives," Macron said.

Macron said investigators will focus on establishing how the gunman, identified by prosecutors as Moroccan-born Redouane Lakdim, got his weapon, and how he became radicalized.

On Friday night, authorities searched a vehicle and a building in central Carcassonne.

Lakdim was known to police for petty crime and drug-dealing. But he was also under surveillance and since 2014 was on the so-called "Fiche S" list, a government register of individuals suspected of being radicalized but who have yet to perform acts of terrorism.

Despite this, Paris prosecutor Francois Molins there was "no warning sign" that Lakdim would carry out an extremist attack.

A woman close to Lakdim was taken into custody over alleged links with a terrorist enterprise, Molins said. He did not identify her.

The four-hour drama began at 10:13 a.m. when Lakdim hijacked a car near Carcassonne, killing one person in the car and wounding the other, the prosecutor said.

Lakdim then fired six shots at police officers who were on their way back from jogging near Carcassonne, said Yves Lefebvre, secretary general of SGP Police-FO police union. The police were wearing athletic clothes with police insignia. One officer was hit in the shoulder, but the injury was not serious, Lefebvre said.

Lakdim then went to a Super U supermarket in nearby Trebes, 60 miles (100 kilometers) southeast of Toulouse, shooting and killing two people in the market and taking an unknown number of hostages. Special police units converged on the scene while authorities blocked roads and urged residents to stay away.

He shouted "Allahu akbar! (God is great)" and said he was a "soldier of the Islamic State" as he entered the Super U, where about 50 people were inside, Molins said.

"We heard an explosion — well, several explosions," shopper Christian Guibbert told reporters. "I went to see what was happening and I saw a man lying on the floor and another person, very agitated, who had a gun in one hand and a knife in the other."

Guibbert said he led his wife and sister-in-law and nearby customers into the meat locker. Then he went back to see where the assailant was and called police to describe the situation.

"At that moment, he (the gunman) ran after me. Of course I left, I lost him and when I turned around he wasn't there anymore. I took an emergency door and saw the police arrive," Guibbert said.

Another witness, an employee of the supermarket's butcher department identified only by his first name, Jacky, told Europe 1 radio he "heard people shouting and a big 'boom.'"

"It was a gunshot," he said. "Then a second gunshot. After that, my colleagues came toward me saying: 'Come on Jacky, we need to leave! There's someone who's firing shots, he's shouting 'Allahu akbar,' and he's shot people and he's shooting at everything.'"

He said they left using an emergency exit behind the butcher's stall and they ran across the courtyard.

"We also helped people get out," he said.

During the standoff, Lakdim requested the release of Salah Abdeslam, the sole surviving assailant of the Nov. 13, 2015, attacks in Paris that left 130 people dead. The interior minister suggested, however, that

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 46 of 47

Abdeslam's release wasn't a key motive for the attack.

The IS-linked Amaq news agency said the attacker was responding to the group's calls to target countries in the U.S.-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against IS militants in Syria and Iraq since 2014. France has been repeatedly targeted because of its participation.

Both Interior Minister Gerard Collomb and Molins praised Beltrame, who Molins said "at the risk of his life took the choice to take the place of the hostages."

The gunman shot Beltrame several times after threatening to blow up the supermarket if police entered, Molins added.

BFM television said Beltrame recently took part in a training exercise simulating a terrorist attack.

As the supermarket standoff reached a crescendo about 2:20 p.m., police heard gunshots inside the building and decided that elite forces had to storm it. Lakdim was killed and two other officers were wounded during the assault, Collomb said.

"He acted alone, there was no one else but him," he added.

Macron rushed back from an EU summit in Brussels to Paris, where counterterrorism investigators took over the investigation. France has been on high alert since a series of extremist attacks in 2015 and 2016 that killed more than 200 people.

While France hasn't had an attack in several months, "the threat remains high," Macron said, describing ongoing risks from "several individuals who radicalized themselves."

Macron pushed through a tough counterterrorism law last year that gives police extra powers to conduct searches and hold people under house arrest.

In Brussels, German Chancellor Angela Merkel appeared with Macron and said, "When it comes to terrorist threats, we stand by France."

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said the Eiffel Tower would turn its lights off at midnight in tribute to the victims.

At the national stadium outside Paris, 80,000 soccer fans and the national teams of France and Colombia observed a minute of silence Friday night to honor those killed in the attacks earlier in the day. Poignantly, the stadium itself was the site of bloodshed in the deadly Paris attacks in 2015.

Adamson and Petrequin reported from Paris. Sylvie Corbet, Angela Charlton and Jerome Pugmire in Paris contributed.

This version corrects an earlier statement by Interior Minister Gerard Collomb, who said the gunman was 26. Paris prosecutor Francois Molins later said the gunman was 25.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, March 24, the 83rd day of 2018. There are 282 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 24, 1958, Elvis Presley was inducted into the U.S. Army at the draft board in Memphis, Tennessee, before boarding a bus for Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. (Presley underwent basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, before being shipped off to Germany.)

On this date:

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1832, a mob in Hiram, Ohio, attacked, tarred and feathered Mormon leaders Joseph Smith Jr. and Sidney Rigdon.

In 1913, New York's Palace Theatre, the legendary home of vaudeville, opened on Broadway.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1944, in occupied Rome, the Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 253 ~ 47 of 47

partisans the day before that killed 32 German soldiers.

In 1965, Ranger 9, a lunar probe launched three days earlier by NASA, crashed into the moon (as planned) after sending back more than 5,800 video images.

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military. British war hero Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, 88, died in Alton, Hampshire, England.

In 1988, former national security aides Oliver L. North and John M. Poindexter and businessmen Richard V. Secord and Albert Hakim pleaded not guilty to charges stemming from the Iran-Contra affair. (North and Poindexter were convicted, but had their verdicts thrown out; Secord and Hakim received probation after each pleaded guilty to a single count under a plea bargain.)

In 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez (vahl-DEEZ') ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil.

In 1998, two students, ages 13 and 11, opened fire outside Jonesboro Westside Middle School in Arkansas, killing four classmates and a teacher. (The gunmen were imprisoned by Arkansas until age 18, then by federal authorities until age 21.)

In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country. Thirty-nine people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

In 2015, Germanwings Flight 9525, an Airbus A320, crashed into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board; investigators said the jetliner was deliberately downed by the 27-year-old co-pilot.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush pledged to ensure "an outcome that will merit the sacrifice" of those who had died in Iraq, offering both sympathy and resolve as the U.S. death toll in the five-year war hit 4,000. The FBI said authorities had recovered the remains of two U.S. contractors, Ronald Withrow and John Roy Young, who were kidnapped in Iraq more than a year earlier. Actor Richard Widmark died in Roxbury, Connecticut, at age 93.

Five years ago: Just days after the 10th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, on a previously unannounced trip to Baghdad, confronted Iraqi officials for continuing to grant Iran access to its airspace and said Iraq's behavior was raising questions about its reliability as a partner. Rebels overthrew Francois Bozize, Central African Republic's president for a decade.

One year ago: President Donald Trump and GOP leaders yanked their bill to repeal "Obamacare" off the House floor when it became clear the measure would fail badly. Former Penn State President Graham Spanier was convicted of hushing up child sexual abuse allegations in 2001 against Jerry Sandusky, whose arrest a decade later blew up into a major scandal for the university. (Spanier is appealing his conviction.)

Today's Birthdays: Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti is 99. Actor William Smith is 85. Fashion and costume designer Bob Mackie is 79. Actor R. Lee Ermey is 74. Former Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire is 71. Rock musician Lee Oskar is 70. Singer Nick Lowe is 69. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 67. Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger is 67. Comedian Louie Anderson is 65. Actress Donna Pescow is 64. Actor Robert Carradine is 64. Former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is 62. Actress Kelly LeBrock is 58. Rhythm-and-blues DJ Rodney "Kool Kollie" Terry (Ghostown DJs) is 57. TV personality Star Jones is 56. Country-rock musician Patterson Hood (Drive-By Truckers) is 54. Actor Peter Jacobson is 53. Rock singer-musician Sharon Corr (The Corrs) is 48. Actress Lauren Bowles is 48. Actress Lara Flynn Boyle is 48. Rapper Maceo (AKA P.A. Pasemaster Mase) is 48. Actress Megyn Price is 47. Actor Jim Parsons is 45. Christian rock musician Chad Butler (Switchfoot) is 44. Actress Alyson Hannigan is 44. NFL quarterback Peyton Manning is 42. Actress Amanda Brugel (TV: "The Handmaid's Tale") is 41. Actress Olivia Burnette is 41. Actress Jessica Chastain is 41. Actor Amir Arison is 40. Actress Lake Bell is 39. Rock musician Benj Gershman (O.A.R.) is 38. Neo-soul musician Jesse Phillips (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 38. Actor Philip Winchester (TV: "Strike Back") is 37. Actress Keisha Castle-Hughes is 28.

Thought for Today: "The history of almost every civilization furnishes examples of geographical expansion coinciding with deterioration in quality." — Arnold Joseph Toynbee, English historian (1889-1975).