

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Tuesday, March 19

City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center, 7 p.m.

- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Bates Township Notices
- 1- Service Notice: Donald Protas
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 2- Journey to America the Great
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 4- City Council meeting Agenda
- 5- Obit: Donald Protas
- 6- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Weather Pages
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2019 Groton Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Help Wanted

Looking for a fun, part-time job? Groton Dairy Queen is now hiring. Stop in for an application. (0216.0316)

Bates Township Equalization Notice

Bates Township Equalization Meeting Notice:

The Bates Township Board of Equalization will meet at the Clerk's home on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019 at 7 pm.

All persons disputing their assessments are requested to notify the clerk prior to the meeting.

Betty Geist
Bates Township Clerk
14523 409th Ave
Conde, SD 57434
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$19.21. 17306

Bates Township ROW Maintenance

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
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.11. 17307

CLOSED! Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Journey to America the Great

Editor's Note: Yankton, S.D., journalist Brian Hunhoff gave the keynote speech last Friday at a Sioux Falls naturalization ceremony for new citizens from 40 different countries. Following is an edited version of his remarks.

By Brian Hunhoff, Yankton County Observer



It's one of the greatest honors of my life to be here with the 237 men and women completing the journey to this special day.

I'm one of the lucky ones. I was born on a farm 60 miles from here. That means my citizenship came easy. It was a birthright. The same is true of most U.S. citizens. Just six percent are naturalized. You took the path less traveled and became Americans the hard way.

It's not an easy process. Not a fast process. Most of you worked and waited years for this day. You became Americans through sacrifice, determination and your vision of a better life. As such, you're unlikely to take this blessing of citizenship lightly.

And it is a blessing. America means equal opportunity and pursuit of happiness. America means rich and poor have the same rights. We support truth, justice and the rule of law. And no one in America – not even the President – is above that law.

America's greatest achievements are not skyscrapers or jets. Our strength lies in our compassion, in our communities, where our people care for one another; where neighbors help neighbors – and strangers – in times of need.

America is big cities and small towns; cornfields and main streets; veterans and nurses; teachers and truck drivers; factory workers, farmers and firefighters.

America is working one place 40 years or changing jobs every year if you want to. America is open government and voting and running for office if you want to.

America is a nation of immigrants, multi-cultural by design. We should be a celebration of diversity. America should mean respect and dignity for all people. America is red, white and blue. We're also black, white and brown.

America is Democrats and Republicans and Independents. America is any religion or no religion – the right to pray freely or not pray at all.

America means liberty to be who we want to be and fighting for that freedom if need be. It means standing up to bullies who disguise bigotry and cruelty as patriotism.

America is a place we rise above that which separates us to build a stronger nation on that which unites us.

America is also hard to please. We like to complain. Polls show many think our country is on the wrong track. We sometimes have to stop and look around to remember we would not want to live anywhere else.

Our leaders in America disappoint us at times. I speak out when that happens, but I never lose hope and pride in our country. We're not defined

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by a single leader. We're bigger and better than one person or moment in time.

We can bring our polarized country closer together by rediscovering shared values like freedom and equality. Those principles are more important than partisan beliefs that divide us.

I told a friend I was writing a speech called 'Journey to America the Great.' He laughed and said, "I'd call it 'America the Corrupt' or 'America the Greedy'."

Well, America is not perfect. But America is great. And we're better than we were. Slavery was one of this country's original sins. Horrible treatment of American Indians was another. We moved forward and became better by admitting our mistakes and not forgetting those shameful chapters in American history.

As William Faulkner wrote, "The past is not dead. It isn't even past."

My cynical friend's father was a WWII veteran, so he knows America is capable of greatness. Next year, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in this country – Aug. 18, 1920. That was another time we became better than we were. Just imagine how much the combined intelligence of our nation's voters increased that day!

Neil Armstrong's 1969 walk on the moon was another great moment ... Rosa Parks refusing to give a white man her seat on an Alabama bus in 1955. That isolated moment of courage has been making a difference ever since.

America has a great big heart and a strong heartbeat. We still inspire democracy and human rights in other countries. We still enjoy the liberty to make our own American dreams come true.

Congratulations on becoming United States citizens. Thank you for taking the journey to this day. It's a supreme achievement. We're proud of you.

I hope all 236 of you will be active citizens. We need people with your perseverance and fresh perspectives to help solve America's problems. We need your courage and commitment to help us keep our flame of freedom burning bright.

God bless you and God bless America the beautiful, which has been great since 1776.



 **HARR**
Motors

**4255 6th Ave
SE, Aberdeen**

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
March 19, 2019 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. February Finance report
5. 2016 & 2017 Audit report
6. Add storm sewer on the corner of Washington and 6th Ave to the street project
7. Legion coach salary adjustment from \$3500 to \$3000 annually
8. Baseball Foundation Fundraiser April 6th
9. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
10. Hire summer employees
11. Adjournment

Equalization Meeting to follow approximately 8:00pm

The Life of Donald Protas

Services for Donald Protas, 74, of Groton will be 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 21st at Paetznick-Garress Funeral Chapel, Groton. Paul Kosel will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton. Military honors will be provided by the Groton American Legion Post #39.

Donald passed away March 16, 2019 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center after a four year battle with lung cancer, due to exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

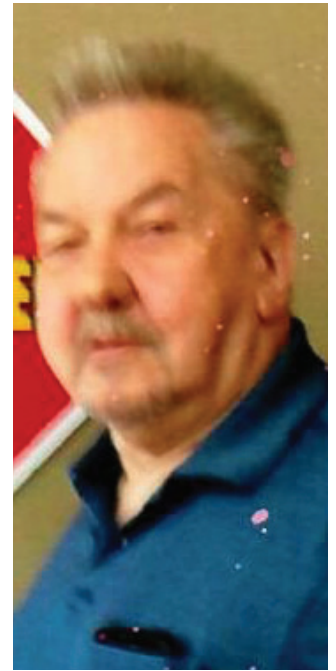
Donald James was born on July 28, 1944 in Buffalo, New York to Adam and Mary (Rbyarczyk) Protas along with a twin brother, Dennis.

After high school graduation, he enlisted in the US Army serving his country as an Infantry man in Germany and Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division. Don earned various awards, including the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals. After his honorable discharge, he worked for the US Postal Service in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his twin brother, Dennis, an older brother, Adam and sister, Virginia.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Deb (Herron) Protas of Groton, three sons: Michael of Aberdeen, Scott of Seneca, NY, and Philip of Springfield, VT. Don is also survived by his six grandchildren: Breven, Chase, Caitlyn, Leah, Josie and Laurana.

Casketbearers will be Steve Herron, Terry Herron, Dennis Nelson and Mike Becker.



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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We are one week closer to the NFL draft, but before we get there, we continue our roster breakdown from the Vikings' 2018 season. We have already covered the offense, so now we turn our attention to the defense.

The Minnesota Vikings had a top defense in 2018, which is no surprise considering Head Coach Mike Zimmer is a defensive guru. The Vikings ranked 4th in total yards allowed, 3rd in passing yards allowed, 15th in rushing yards allowed, and 9th in points allowed per game.

Today, we look at the defensive line, a unit that is usually a strength of the Vikings.

The Vikings have one of the best young defensive ends in the NFL, Danielle Hunter. He led the team with 14.5 sacks last season, good for 4th best in the league, and he was the only Vikings to accumulate double-digit sacks. He also led the team in tackles for a loss with 21.5, with the next best player on the team only having nine. There is no doubt Hunter is one of the best defensive ends in the NFL, and the Vikings recognized that when they signed him to a 5-year, \$72 million contract last offseason. Hunter will count \$13.5 million against the cap this year.

The Vikings' other starting defensive end, Everson Griffen, had a down season in 2018. He only played in 11 games last year, mainly because he had some mental health issues come up that he needed to take some time off for. Griffen only had 5.5 sacks last season, his lowest output since the 2011 season. Griffen took a pay cut to stay with the team, and he will make right under \$8 million this season.

Starting defensive tackle Linval Joseph is probably the most underrated defensive tackle in the NFL. His sack total was lower this past season (he only had one), but with Everson Griffen out, teams were much more willing to double team Joseph and negate him. Joseph's cap hit for 2019 is \$10.7 million.

The Vikings' other starting defensive tackle last season, Sheldon Richardson, is now gone. The Vikings brought back Shamar Stephen, the defensive tackle who was drafted by the Vikings but spent last season in Seattle. Stephen will be battling it out for the open starting position. Also gunning for the spot are: third year defensive tackle Jaleel Johnson and second-year player Jalyn Holmes. The Vikings have one of the best defensive line coaches in Andre Patterson, so it wouldn't be a surprise to see one of the younger guys step up and claim the open defensive tackle spot.

The rest of the defensive ends on the roster are: Ade Aruna, Tashawn Bower, Hercules Mata'afa, Ifeadi Odenigbo, and Stephen Weatherly. The defensive line is loaded with young talent, but don't be surprised to see the Vikings draft another, because Zimmer loves to mold defensive players.

Check back next week as we take a look at the linebacker position. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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Today in Weather History

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

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

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

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

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

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Today



Mostly Cloudy

High: 36 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 25 °F

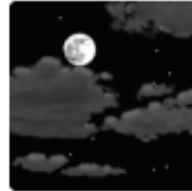
Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 38 °F

Wednesday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 22 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 42 °F

Steady Thaw Continues
Partly/Mostly Cloudy Skies
Highs: Mid/Upper 30s

Temperatures Will Steadily Warm Through The Next Few Days

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Published on: 03/19/2019 at 4:35AM

The slow - steady thaw and snow melt will continue through the next few days with a gradual warming trend. Chances for moisture show up this weekend, but actual moisture with the system will most likely be limited, and in the form of light rain.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 33 °F at 6:17 PM

Low Outside Temp: 6 °F at 7:36 AM

High Gust: 19 mph at 3:03 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 73° in 2012

Record Low: -11° in 1965

Average High: 41°F

Average Low: 21°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.59

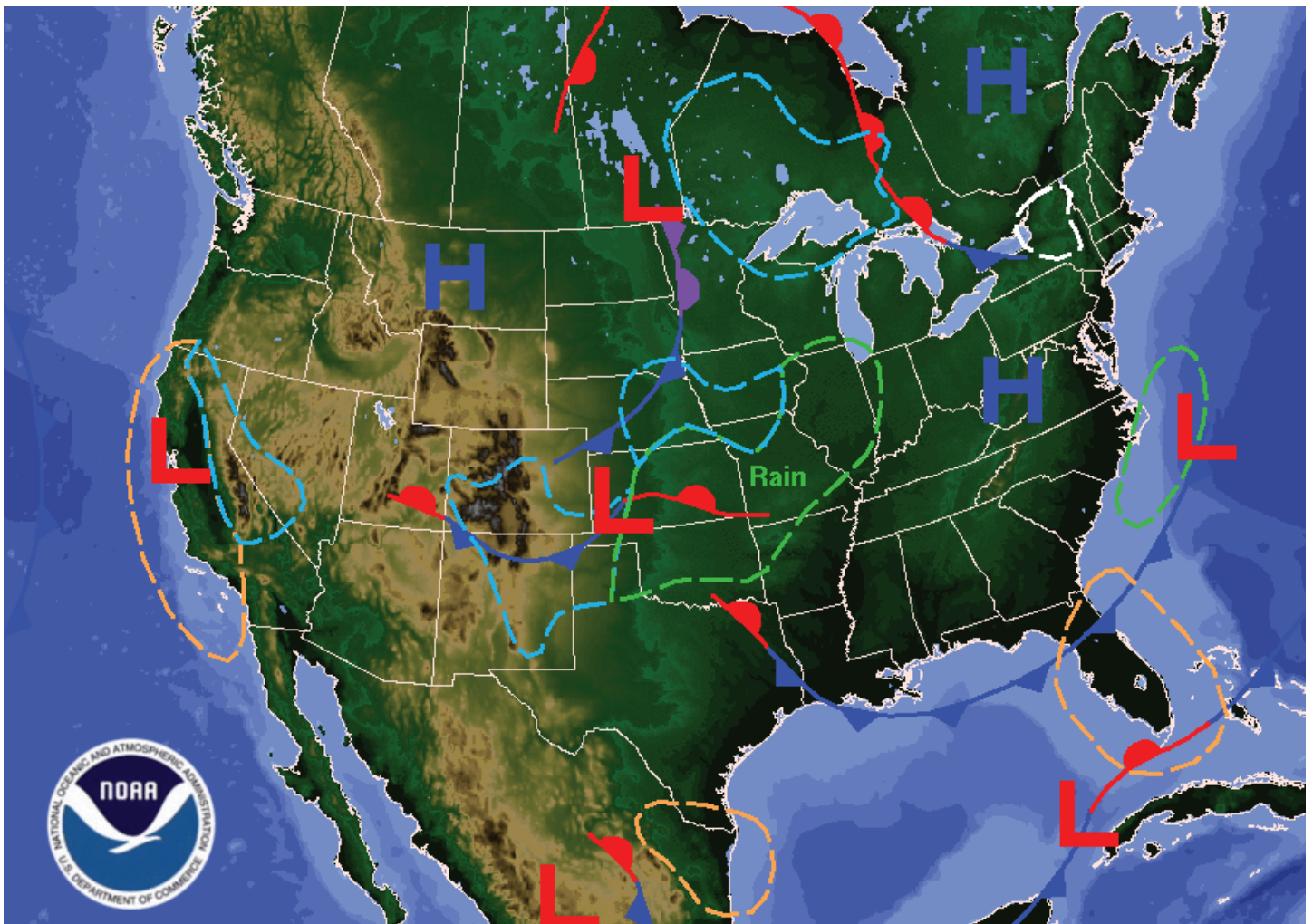
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.87

Average Precip to date: 1.61

Precip Year to Date: 3.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:44 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 19, 2019, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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)

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ANOTHER WRONG WAY

It seems as though there are more wrong turns in life than there are right turns. Many begin their careers strong, have high ideals, clear goals and objectives, and then, for one reason or another, they drop from sight.

Normally, it is not from a disaster or one single event. Its usually a combination of things. But, there is one habit that is mentioned again and again in Proverbs as a reason for failure: laziness. It is identified more than ten times as the reason for failure.

The word used for laziness leaves no room to wiggle away from the diagnosis: sluggard. If there is any living thing that most people want to avoid it is a mollusk or slug. In fact, the very word slug brings to the minds eye some thing that is lazy, sluggish, undirected and listless. Slugs seem to be on everyone's avoid at all costs list because they endanger plant life.

However, there is something interesting about sluggard. In this verse, Solomon compared and contrasted the way of the sluggard to an ant. Now, on the one hand, few insects in life can be as annoying, bothersome, and troublesome as an ant.

On the other hand, however, ants show a vivid vision of a work ethic that is worthy of copying. Ants plan and prioritize, are motivated and industrious, disciplined and diligent, self-controlled and self-reliant certainly a sign of applied wisdom that began with God in creation.

Gods wisdom is practical, simple and sensible and can lead to our success. The ant is a great example: its wisdom, as does ours, comes from God!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for illustrating how little things in life can make a big difference. May we accept wisdom, that comes from You, guide us and guard us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 6:6 Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and become wise!

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Saturday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Noem urging Big Sioux River Valley to prepare for flooding

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem is encouraging residents in the Big Sioux River Valley in eastern South Dakota to start preparing for record flooding.

The National Weather Service expects flooding to start as soon as this weekend. Forecasters say flood waters could reach historic levels. Melting snow and rain have raised the water levels in Big Sioux River Valley north of Watertown to south of Sioux Falls.

Noem says it's not a matter of if, but when flooding will occur and impact homes, businesses, roads and farms.

Last week Noem ordered the State Emergency Operations Center to open in the Mickelson Law Enforcement Center in Pierre to help coordinate the state's response to last week's blizzard and flooding. Several state agencies are working within the operations center to prepare for upcoming flooding.

Homes flood as Missouri River overtops, breaches levees

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH** Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Hundreds of homes flooded in several Midwestern states after rivers breached at least a dozen levees following heavy rain and snowmelt in the region, authorities said Monday while warning that the flooding was expected to linger.

About 200 miles of levees were compromised — either breached or overtopped — in four states, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said. Even in places where the water level peaked in those states — Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas — the current was fast and the water so high that damage continued to pile up. The flooding was blamed for at least three deaths.

"The levees are busted and we aren't even into the wet season when the rivers run high," said Tom Bullock, the emergency management director for Missouri's Holt County.

He said many homes in a mostly rural area of Holt County were inundated with 6 to 7 feet (1.8 to 2.1 meters) of water from the swollen Missouri River. He noted that local farmers are only a month away from planting corn and soybeans.

"The water isn't going to be gone, and the levees aren't going to be fixed this year," said Bullock, whose own home was now on an island surrounded by floodwater.



Volunteers fill sandbags in preparation for flooding along the Missouri River in St Joseph, Mo., Monday, March 18, 2019. Hundreds of homes flooded in several Midwestern states after rivers breached at least a dozen levees following heavy rain and snowmelt in the region, authorities said Monday while warning that the flooding was expected to linger. (AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

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One couple was rescued by helicopter after water from three breached levees swept across 40,000 acres (16,188 hectares), he said. Another nine breaches were confirmed in Nebraska and Iowa counties south of the Platte River, the Corps said.

In Atchison County, Missouri, about 130 people were urged to leave their homes as water levels rose and strained levees, three of which had already been overtopped by water. Missouri State Highway Patrol crews were on standby to rescue anyone who insisted on staying despite the danger.

"The next four to five days are going to be pretty rough," said Rhonda Wiley, Atchison County's emergency management and 911 director.

The Missouri River already crested upstream of Omaha, Nebraska, though hundreds of people remained out of their homes and water continued to pour through busted levees. Flooding was so bad around Fremont, Nebraska, that just one lane of U.S. 30 was uncovered outside the city of 26,000. State law enforcement limited traffic on that road to pre-approved trucks carrying gas, food, water and other essential supplies.

"There are no easy fixes to any of this," said Fremont City Administrator Brian Newton. "We need Mother Nature to decrease the height of the river."

In southwest Iowa, the Missouri River reached a level in Fremont County that was 2 feet (0.6 meter) above a record set in 2011. The county's emergency management director, Mike Crecelius, said Monday that more water was flooding into low-lying parts of Hamburg, where a wall of sand-filled barriers was breached when one failed.

President Donald Trump tweeted Monday that he is staying in close contact with Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem about the flooding. Trump asked Vice President Mike Pence to go survey the flood damage in Nebraska Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in the tweet. She did not say where in Nebraska Pence would go.

Reynolds, touring flood-ravaged areas of the state for the second straight day, warned that flooding will worsen along the Mississippi River as snow melts to the north.

The National Weather Service said the river was expected to crest Thursday in St. Joseph, Missouri, at its third-highest level on record. Military C-130 planes were evacuated last week from nearby Rosecrans Air National Guard base.

In North Dakota, Fargo was preparing for potentially major flooding along the Red River — the same river that ravaged the city a decade ago. Mayor Tim Mahoney declared an emergency and asked residents to help fill 1 million sandbags in response to a weather service warning that snowmelt poses a big risk in Fargo. Sandbag-filling operations start March 26.

In Illinois, weather service readings showed major flooding along the Pecatonica River at Shirland and Freeport, and the Rock River in the Rockford area and Moline. Freeport City Manager Lowell Crow said officials there expected the Pecatonica River "to possibly rise to a record level or at least to a level we haven't seen in 50 years."

The flooding started after a massive late-winter storm hit the Midwest last week.

The high water was blamed in the deaths of three people from Nebraska. Betty Hamernik, 80, of rural Columbus, was trapped in her home by the fast-rising Loup River. Her body was recovered Saturday.

Aleido Rojas Galan of Norfolk was swept away Friday night in southwestern Iowa, when the vehicle he was in went around a barricade. On Thursday, Columbus farmer James Wilke, 50, died when a bridge collapsed as he used a tractor to try and reach stranded motorists.

Two men in Nebraska have been missing since Thursday. One was last seen on top of his flooded car; the other was swept away after a dam collapsed.

The Missouri Department of Transportation reported about 100 flood-related road closures, including a stretch of Interstate 29.

Jud Kneuvean, emergency manager with the Army Corp of Engineers' Kansas City district, blamed rainfall, snowmelt and higher temperatures "converging all at the same time." No significant flooding was expected east of Kansas City, though Kneuvean said the Corps was monitoring closely.

"When you have a high river and have any forecast of rain on it, it can change the scenario very quickly," Kneuvean said.

Associated Press writers Jim Salter in St. Louis; Grant Schulte in Lincoln, Nebraska; Nelson Lampe in Omaha, Nebraska; Caryn Rousseau in Chicago; David Pitt in Des Moines, Iowa; and Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota, contributed to this report.

Check out the latest developments on the flooding.

June trial set for South Dakota woman in 1981 death of baby

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A June trial date is set for a South Dakota woman charged in the death of a newborn who was abandoned in a ditch in 1981.

Theresa Rose Bentaas was arraigned on murder and manslaughter charges Monday. Bentaas is being held on a \$250,000 bond, and has pleaded not guilty.

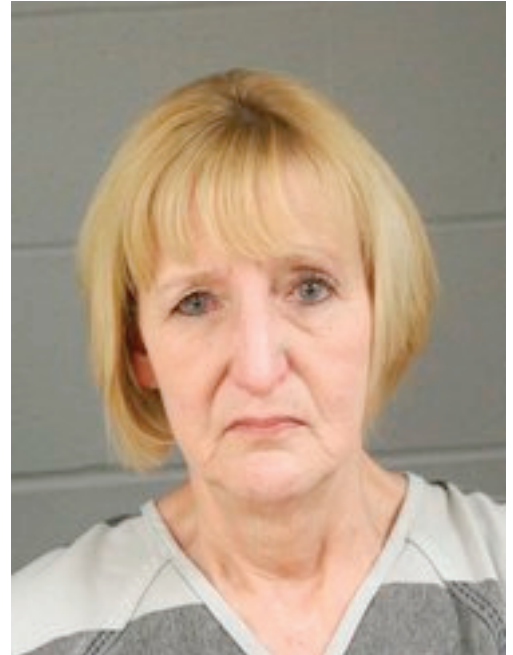
The Argus Leader reports Bentaas spoke softly when she said she understood the charges against her. A trial date was set for June 10.

Bentaas, now 57, was charged earlier in March. Police said they used DNA and genealogy sites to determine she was the mother of the infant, dubbed Baby Andrew.

According to a court affidavit, Bentaas told authorities she gave birth alone in her apartment and drove the baby to a cornfield ditch.

The baby died of exposure.

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



This March 8, 2019 bilking photo released by Minnehaha County, South Dakota, Jail shows 57-year-old Theresa Rose Bentaas. The South Dakota woman has been charged in the death of a baby found in a ditch 38 years ago after police said they used DNA and genealogy sites to determine she was the mother. Police in Sioux Falls said Bentaas was arrested Friday, March 8 in the death of the child who'd been dubbed Baby Andrew. She is charged with murder and manslaughter. Police say the baby was alive when he was left in a cornfield ditch near Sioux Falls in 1981. The baby died of exposure. (Min-

nehaha County Jail via KELO via AP

Former Deer Mountain ski resort back on market after repairs

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — A ski resort in western South Dakota is up for sale, two years after it was shut down amid bankruptcy proceedings.

The owners of the former Deer Mountain/Mystic Miner resort near Lead said they've cleaned up the 440-acre property, made repairs and upgraded a water system serving residences near the resort, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Union Resort LLC and four Black Hills area entrepreneurs bought the property in 2008 and renamed it Mystic Miner at Deer Mountain, with plans to operate it as a year-round resort, according to published reports. In addition to its ski area, the resort south of Lead features a 6,850-foot summit and a Zero Gravity Tube park.

The Kansas City-based Milan Investment Club possessed most of the mortgage debt on the property and took over ownership after the property foreclosed in September 2017.

"We've got some things straightened up and put it up for sale," said N. William "Bill" Phillips, spokesman for the Kansas City-based Milan Investment Club.

The group invested more than \$50,000 to fix the water system and to pay overdue bills and salaries, according to Phillips.

The property is listed for \$3.25 million.

"For our use, we put the property up for sale at what we understand is the fair market value," Phillips said.

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

Augustana University revives special ed master's program

By SHELLY CONLON Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A university in Sioux Falls is reviving a teaching program after a 20-year hold to help put a dent in the nationwide special education teaching shortage.

Augustana University will be launching an online-only master's of arts and special education program this fall, in hopes of giving more teachers access to proper certifications, said Laurie Daily, chairwoman of the university's education department.

"In South Dakota, there's a critical shortage of special ed in the rural areas and the more urban areas like Sioux Falls, where they consistently fall short in trying to meet the needs and have certified teachers in their classrooms," Daily told the Argus Leader.

Nationally, the number of special education teachers has dropped more than 17 percent in the last decade, according to a December article by Education Week, a nonprofit news source for K-12 education. But special education in general has been a critical shortage area in teacher education and certifications since the 1980s in all states, Daily said.

At about that same time, Augustana started its initial special education teaching program. But the program faded between 2004 and 2005 because students wanted something other than face-to-face education, Daily said.

Now, 36 interested students can specialize in one of two areas, K-12 or early childhood special education, and manage the workload from wherever they are, Daily said.

The new special education teaching program joins one of at least two others offered in the state, with one at the University of Sioux Falls and the other at University of South Dakota.

Still, the struggle behind the shortage lies in actually attracting educators to the classroom, Daily said. "It's a high burn-out field, so the demands are great," she said.

And districts across South Dakota have had to work with the Department of Education to have educators become alternatively licensed, Daily said. That means those hired into special education positions are often completing the requirements to become certified while they're teaching.

But Augustana's new program will allow certified teachers to simply add a specialization to the degree they already have.

"We're building on a long history of undergraduate programming in special education, and graduate programming in special ed," Daily said. "We wanted to design a program that would be responsive to needs not only within South Dakota, but across the country."

Sioux Falls School District has stayed ahead of the shortage for the most part, said Deborah Muilenburg-Wilson, the Sioux Falls School District's special services program director.

But in the last five years, the district has had to step up its game to recruit and retain special education teacher candidates, Muilenburg-Wilson said.

With about 300 special education teachers district-wide, filling open positions sometimes takes right up until the beginning of a new school year, Muilenburg-Wilson said. Because of the shortage, the district has had to move up its timeline for hiring new educators.

"Every year, when we get that last special ed teaching position filled, HR and I do a little 'woohoo,'" Muilenburg-Wilson said. "Then I thank goodness I'm in Sioux Falls because it's probably an appealing place for teachers to come to. I'm not going to pretend we have some advantages."

Muilenburg-Wilson is on the Augustana University education advisory board and helped design parts of the program.

Having more certified teachers in special education helps solves two main issues, she said. The first — and main reason educators go into the field — is the service element behind helping a student with

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disabilities learn in a classroom setting, she said.

"The other part you can't pretend isn't there is the whole compliance and regulatory part, which is kind of laden in paperwork," Muilenburg-Wilson said. "Sometimes, people choose special ed because of this intervention and work with youth. Then they get in the field and learn about this other piece, and that's harder for them."

Sarah Henrichs has been a special education teacher in the district for about 18 years. She's seen the strain of the shortage firsthand in both rural and urban school districts.

"Sioux Falls, I feel doesn't feel the shortage as small as some of the other towns around," said Henrichs, who works at McGovern Middle School. "But I have had positions I've worked with that aren't certified. They're not responsible for the paperwork piece, the legal documents that need to be done."

In some instances she's had to take over the other half of the position, and mentor teachers through the compliance side of the job, she said.

"The years it's happened, you're just busier. You just have so much more going on, your case load is so much larger than typical," she said. "When I seem to notice it is the year after, when I have a normal case load."

In response, the district has increased its number of student teachers and has hired instructional coaches to help new teachers during their first years, Muilenburg-Wilson said.

The district has also brought in a facilitator to help with the clerical side of the job and works closely with universities and colleges to make sure future educators know Sioux Falls is a potential career choice, she said.

"We've tried to put pieces in place to set ourselves above the level of support we provide to teachers," Muilenburg-Wilson said.

Augustana's new master's program will only add another layer of support for Sioux Falls. And as someone who grew up in a small town and moved to the largest city in the state, Muilenburg-Wilson said she knows the online program will do even more for potential educators in rural areas.

"I think about that school I went to, which doesn't exist anymore. There were good people who had the skills to be a teacher, but were committed to living in that part of the world or maybe had family ties and couldn't move," Muilenburg-Wilson said. "The Augie program will offer someone in that kind of situation an opportunity to pursue a special education teaching degree that you would not have had 20 years ago."

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

South Dakota cake decorator creates Native American designs

By VICTORIA LUSK Aberdeen American News

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (AP) — When Leah Red Bird put her decorating tip to an ice cream cake nearly three years ago, she had no idea what was about to happen.

But as each colorful diamond met the next, her star quilt design took shape. Rave reviews followed.

It was her 19th year at the Dairy Queen in Eagle Butte. She started in 1997, and she's now been decorating cakes for about 15 years.

A May 9, 2016, post on the Eagle Butte Dairy Queen Facebook page celebrating Leah and her unique designs has been seen by 250,000 people. It also garnered more than 4,000 shares, 4,500 reactions and 300 comments.

Some of those comments inquired about shipping the cakes, but no one has followed through on that, Dairy Queen manager Barb Jensen, told the Aberdeen American News.

Jensen "came with the building," Jensen said. The Eagle Butte store will celebrate its 29th year in business come April.

Red Bird creates about 30 cakes a week, Jensen said.

"And our store isn't even a big cake store," she said.

As far as she knows, Red Bird, 52, is the only decorator in the area who does the Native American designs.

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They don't last long.

"The minute we put the cakes out, they are gone within a day or two," Jensen said

The Native American art is perfect for the area the Dairy Queen serves, she said.

Red Bird's newest design is an intricate web of lines that form each strand of a dream catcher.

Traditionally, dream catchers are hung above beds to sift dreams and visions or so that bad ideas get trapped in the web, according to information from the Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center in Chamberlain.

Red Bird needs 24 hours notice for a custom cake. An "easy" cake might only take her an hour to decorate, but a sheet cake will take an entire day, depending on the design, she said.

Next, Red Bird said, she'd like to create something with a horse.

She said she gets her ideas from other cakes, artwork and things she sees.

Her favorite part of the cake-decorating gig is how her designs look when they are completed.

"I just have to think about it first, and then I put it together," she said.

"She's being modest," Jensen said. "She's very creative."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

South Dakota artist designs retro-futuristic guitars

By **MATTHEW GUERRY** Rapid City Journal

SUMMERSET, S.D. (AP) — At 68, John Backlund feels like he's yet to get his big break.

Still, he concedes, he's satisfied knowing there are scores of people who own and play the guitars that bear his last name — especially when that list includes names like Todd Rundgren and Joe Walsh.

"It gives you a lot of street cred to have those guys play that stuff," Backlund told the Rapid City Journal.

A professional illustrator of more than 40 years, Backlund has been designing electric guitars for roughly the past 10. The cozy living room of his Summerset home is strewn with guitars, the looks of which are often compared to classic car tail fins and vintage motel signs.

"Retro-futuristic is one of the terms they use for it," he said. "That's sort of a mythical future as predicted or viewed from the past."

Prior to moving to Summerset in 1993, Backlund and his wife, Teresa Verburg, worked as textbook illustrators at a small firm in Minneapolis. The two took to the Rapid City area having previously passed through on motorcycle trips.

While he prefers playing acoustic guitar, Backlund began sketching electric ones in the mid-2000s that were inspired by design trends of the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Backlund works now with the Ontario-based Eastwood Guitars to bring them to life, and they run between \$1,200 and \$1,600 a pop.

"The people who like them really like them, and I've known about them for probably 10 years before we got together with John," Eastwood President Michael Robinson said.

Most Backlunds look classically automotive, sporting pastel colors and bearing shiny, steel inlays. The first few models are unique in their winged shape, but recent ones take their cues from more recognizable body styles: the figure-eight form of the Rockerbox, the newest model, calls to the Gibson Les Paul to mind.

The Model 200, meanwhile, resembles a Fender Telecaster.

"I didn't try to reinvent this wheel, but I put a shinier, brighter white wall hubcap on the old one," Backlund said.

Growing up in Pipestone, Minnesota, Backlund said he didn't doodle more than any other kid. He entered the art industry as a self-taught artist with little in the way of formal training.

"All of it's instinctive," he said.

After dropping out of high school at age 17 and earning his GED, he briefly studied art at Southwest Minnesota State University but withdrew after six months. He soon moved to St. Paul, where he began working as a freelance illustrator.

One of his early gigs was cartooning for the Saturday editorial page of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

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His career would take him all throughout the Midwest. He and Verburg met in Mason City, Iowa, in 1983 while working in the art department of Decal Specialties.

His foray into guitar design wouldn't come until years later.

"I would sketch little designs for different guitar bodies," he recalled. "I would post them on some of the guitar forums on the internet, in particular one called Harmony Central."

The drawings caught the eye of a luthier in Chattanooga, Tennessee, who wanted Backlund to build them for real. They went into business together for several years, with the very first Backlund guitars fetching prices of more than \$3,000.

Backlund began working with Eastwood about three years ago. If all goes smoothly, he said, it takes three to four months for a rough drawing to become a playable instrument.

Designs are first sketched and refined in pencil. Backlund further polishes them using a 10-year-old version of Corel PaintShop Pro.

Eastwood then works with their manufacturer, which Backlund said is based in South Korea, to determine how something practical can be built from the drawings. Because Backlund doesn't render the guitars as 3D models, technicians must work to see how and where individual parts can be mounted.

"They try as well as they can to make them as faithful to my original art as possible," Backlund said.

Inevitably, a few quirks are left on the cutting room floor. Original drawings of the rocket-shaped Backlund Marz, for example, featured a grill-like cover over the bridge.

The piece would have been too expensive to machine en masse, Backlund said, and would likely have got in the way of players' hands.

Robinson said that most of Eastwood's guitars are sold online, and Backlunds appeal to a small crowd rife with repeat customers.

"If somebody buys one, they buy five or six of them," Robinson said.

That Rundgren, Walsh and other rock stars are among them, Backlund said, is surreal. Rundgren played several of them onstage during his Utopia tour last year.

"I didn't do it to stand out. I started doing this because I wanted to have guitars that really appealed to me. And it just so happened enough other people liked them," Backlund said.

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

Sisters play together on University of South Dakota team

By BRIAN HAENCHEN Argus Leader

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A week before Allison Arens' senior day at the University of South Dakota, an assistant coach noted that she is one of the few college athletes who has played four years with a sibling who isn't a twin.

The 5-foot-10 guard hadn't thought of her unique opportunity in those terms, but realized he was probably right.

One of six siblings, Allison grew up on a farm in Crofton, Nebraska, a town of fewer than 700 located 14 miles south of Yankton. She played alongside her oldest sister, Bridget, for two seasons with the Coyotes.

When Bridget graduated as the program's all-time leader in games played with 137 in 2017, Allison welcomed their younger sister, Monica, to the program, the Argus Leader reported.

"It's hard to even say what it would be like without one of them here, because I've never experienced it," Allison said. "It's been really cool."

Not surprisingly, the Arens sisters have made the most of their final season together. Allison, the team's lone senior, is a do-everything guard who will graduate as one of only three players in program history with over 1,300 points, 500 rebounds and 300 assists for her career. Monica, a 5-foot-10-inch sophomore, has emerged as one of the team's key players off the bench, averaging 6.5 points and 4.0 rebounds.

"They helped each other a lot," said their mother, Joselyn Arens. "They encouraged each other and made each other better."

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Away from the floor, Allison and Monica have been doing their best to take nothing for granted, from the late-night conversations at Allison's house or Monica's dorm to the quick trips back to Crofton, where small-town memories still carry meaning.

"Those little moments aside from basketball are ones we'll miss and cherish a lot," Allison said.

Monica was one of the first area recruits coach Dawn Plitzuweit scouted when she took over as USD head coach in April 2016.

The third-youngest Arens sister had recently led nearby Crofton to its fifth consecutive state championship, averaging 18 points and seven rebounds as a junior. Plitzuweit had seen her on film and hoped she would attend the Coyotes' summer team camp.

But Monica couldn't join her Crofton teammates in Vermillion. She had construction camp.

"What do you mean construction camp? What even is that?" Plitzuweit laughs at the memory. "I didn't really appreciate how important that was until we visited Monica early in her senior year."

During that trip to the family farm, the first-year coach saw the shed Monica and Allison had been working on. The two had poured the concrete and were in the process of wiring it, an impressive display which, as Plitzuweit has learned, barely scratched the surface of their unique skill sets.

Allison, who will student-teach for a year in Beresford after graduation, is a talented painter and baker (she makes wedding cakes). Monica drew praise for her willingness to learn and her toughness. She wanted to play football as a youngster — and probably could have, according to her parents.

"There's so much to them," Plitzuweit said. "They are so talented in so many different ways."

Life on the farm helped shape Allison and Monica, both as basketball players and as sisters.

Some chores, like cleaning out a barn or walking a half-mile to feed their 80 rabbits, were conducive to sibling bonding. Others were more competitive.

Their father, Gary Arens, would task them with grabbing and knocking down the baby calves. They would break off into two-person teams, determined to not let their calf get away. It was their little competition, he explained. But their work ethic and the teamwork, they had it at a young age because they did a lot of things together.

"I probably took it for granted back then," admitted Bridget, who works at the elementary school in Crofton and is an assistant coach at Crofton High, where their youngest sister, Alexis, is a junior. "But a lot of what we did on the farm, it translated to athletics."

When it came time for Bridget to start looking at colleges, she brought Allison along, telling her younger sister that she had to like wherever she went, because otherwise she wouldn't go there.

"Bridget led the way by deciding which one we liked," said Allison of her commitment to USD. "Then Monica followed me."

Allison played two seasons with Bridget before she graduated and Monica entered the program. As Allison forged an impressive junior campaign, her tough-as-nails younger sister appeared in all 36 games for the Coyotes, averaging 3.2 points in her first season.

"Allison is a great leader, which helps in a lot of things, especially for me," Monica said. "I was always coming into something new and she was always there to help me out."

As Monica's role has expanded in 2018-19, she and Allison have had more opportunity to show off their connection. Allison recognizes the look in her sister's eye when she wants the ball. Monica knows when her older sister catches her eye then looks away, it usually means a pass is coming her way.

Against North Dakota State in late February, Allison whipped a no-look, cross-court pass to Monica, who caught the pass and drilled an open 3-pointer in one fluid motion. "If Allison's passing it, I can't miss it," said Monica, gently nudging her sister.

Monica admits she had a difficult time adjusting when Allison graduated from Crofton, but she's doing her best to remain optimistic, citing both previous experience and a group of "really good teammates" who will help make things easier this time around.

"I'm not ready to be playing without a sister again, but I think she's got a lot of good stuff coming ahead," she said, turning to Allison. "But I'm not ready to let you go."

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

South Dakota women's prison inmate dies

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says a Women's Prison inmate has died. The department says Cynthia Thompson reported feeling ill at the prison in Pierre. She was airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital, where she died Monday.

The 41-year-old Thompson was sentenced from Lake County in December for unauthorized ingestion of a controlled substance.

An autopsy will be requested.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Rapid City Journal, March 14

Hemp veto seems futile

Gov. Kristi Noem doesn't doubt the sincere intentions of misguided South Dakota lawmakers who championed a bill to legalize hemp.

Likewise, we assume she doesn't doubt the intentions of eight in every 10 House legislators and six in every 10 senators who voted Monday to approve hemp farming. On Tuesday, the Senate fell four votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to overcome Noem's veto.

Explaining herself, the governor said she has no doubts that the effort to normalize hemp is part of a larger strategy to undermine the enforcement of drug laws and make legalized marijuana inevitable. Still, it's understandable why so many opposing lawmakers were led astray.

Possibly, they were influenced by Republican U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who said hemp was poised to take off and has the potential to become a significant cash crop.

Perhaps it was the Republican majorities in the U.S. House and Senate — including Noem herself — which approved the 2018 Farm Bill, paving the way for legalized hemp.

Maybe it was the various levels of support shown in 41 states that have enacted hemp growing and production programs, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Possibly it was the February statement of South Dakota Rep. Dusty Johnson, who told Tri-State Neighbor: "I'm a pretty big prude when it comes to drug use, and hemp is a very different product than marijuana." For the most part, he added, the country has reached a level of "educated comfort" about the once-illegal crop and people are ready to include hemp as an agricultural commodity.

Noem, however, said South Dakota must stand as an example for the rest of the country rather than simply go along with others.

Wyoming didn't applaud the South Dakota governor's independence and courage last week but snickered. Wyoming Republican state Rep. Bunky Loucks told the Journal a veto from Noem would mean less competition for the Wyoming hemp industry.

"Tell her I hope she vetoes it, because that would be good for Wyoming," he said. In Wyoming, a bill to allow industrial hemp passed the House 60-0, the Senate 26-3-1, and then the House again 56-3-1 after being amended in the Senate. Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican, last week signed it into law.

So many misguided but sincere individuals.

Noem said in South Dakota it was mostly cannabis activists who voiced support for hemp. "An overwhelming number of contacts I have received in favor of this bill come from pro-marijuana activists," she said in her veto message.

It must have been those same voices that swayed rural legislators in crackerbarrels, grain co-ops and in main street cafes across South Dakota. It must have been those voices that also influenced Rapid City's conservative delegation to support industrial hemp.

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Noem earlier complained it would be difficult for law enforcement officers to distinguish between marijuana and hemp. In North Dakota, which began a test program for hemp years ago, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said, "That's not even an issue."

Noem's real opposition to hemp appears connected to the trace amounts of THC — the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana — that would be contained in widely available cannabidiol or CBD oil.

Under the South Dakota proposal, industrial hemp would have contained no more than 0.3 percent THC. An aging bottle of fruit juice in your refrigerator probably contains three times that concentration of alcohol. It's a non-issue for drug abuse. The only problem it presents is for South Dakota's unique-in-the-nation ingestion laws, which make it a felony to have any amount of THC in your bloodstream.

Cannabidiol, popularly known as CBD, is a chemical compound that can be extracted from hemp or marijuana for use in products that are often claimed to have therapeutic benefits. South Dakota's hemp legislation would have legalized CBD at the state level, but its sale would still have been subject to FDA regulations.

As Noem explained: "It would create uncertainty for prosecution under our ingestion statute because the source of THC is placed in doubt when industrial hemp products that contain small amounts of THC, such as cannabidiol or CBD, are legalized. As governor, I will not leave it to our courts to interpret how this bill impacts our prohibition on the active ingredient in marijuana, and I do not believe the Legislature intended to complicate enforcement of our ingestion statute in this way."

The legislative momentum in surrounding states makes it clear that hemp will be in South Dakota after 2020. The Farm Bill also makes clear: No state or tribe can stop legally produced hemp from being transported through their jurisdictions.

Our state is not yet ready for industrial hemp, Noem assures us. But apparently Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana and Minnesota are ready.

In this light, Noem's veto seems a futile gesture. Still, we have no doubts about her sincere intentions.

American News, Aberdeen, March 16

SD farmers are the losers with hemp veto

Gov. Kristi Noem failed South Dakota farmers when she vetoed the industrial hemp bill passed by the Legislature.

She, of course, had some help from the Senate, which failed to override the veto. But she bears the bulk of the responsibility.

At a time when farmers are struggling and commodity prices are low for both crops and livestock, she pumped the brakes on what could be a new crop in South Dakota, even if it probably won't ever rival corn and soybeans.

The real kicker that is she has a farm background.

Don't forget that while a member of Congress, she voted for the Farm Bill that removed industrial hemp from the federal list of controlled substances.

She also championed her support of the Farm Bill while campaigning for governor.

In Washington, we realize, compromises have to be made. It's likely no representative or senator who voted in favor of the Farm Bill liked everything the massive measure included.

But it's unlikely any other member of the last session of Congress became governor and vetoed a bill that would have cleared the way for growing a crop allowed in the Farm Bill.

No compromises are necessary in Pierre, or course, where the Republicans rule the roost. It's a safe bet that Noem was confident the GOP would see that her first veto wasn't overridden.

Industrial hemp will certainly return as a topic in Pierre. It will likely have a prime sponsor who's a Republican (not a Democrat, which was the case this year) with some details cleaned up and assurances in place that it won't offend anybody's delicate sensibilities.

In a letter to the Legislature detailing her concerns, Noem lamented how industrial hemp could pose problems for law officers who might struggle to tell the difference between it and its distant cousin, mari-

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juana, which is illegal in South Dakota.

And she expresses concern that U.S. Department of Agriculture rules concerning industrial hemp won't be released until later this year.

But it seems unlikely that any industrial hemp would have been grown in South Dakota this year anyhow. And then there's this:

"Finally, I am concerned that this bill supports a national effort to legalize marijuana for recreational use. I do not doubt the motives of this bill's legislative champions. However, an overwhelming number of contacts I have received in favor of this bill come from pro-marijuana activists. There is no question in my mind that normalizing hemp, like legalizing medical marijuana, is part of a larger strategy to undermine enforcement of the drug laws and make legalized marijuana inevitable."

Doubtless, those who want to legalize marijuana are in favor of industrialized hemp. That's a given.

But to make the jump that allowing industrialized hemp will lead to the recreational use of marijuana being legalized in South Dakota is a stretch. That will only happen when and if the state's citizens vote to allow it. If that happens years from now, it will be the result of majority rule, nothing more. It won't be because somebody wants to grow hemp to manufacture oils or clothing or pet bedding or anything else.

Some see industrial hemp as a viable, more eco-friendly replacement (or at least a greener version) for environment-damaging plastics. Hemp, which has been around and in use for decades, has thousands — one estimate is 50,000 — of uses.

Some see as the next billion-dollar idea in farm country.

One of the problems with South Dakota saying no to hemp, at least for now, is that it is an emerging industry. And these days, industry moves at a lightning pace.

Plans for hemp processing and manufacturing plants not only are being dreamed of and discussed, they are being put together. Noem's veto likely has excluded South Dakota from such conversations.

How much economic damage and how many jobs will this veto cost us? None? A little? A lot? We will never know, but we think we shouldn't have risked that loss.

Perhaps very few South Dakota farmers will ever even try to plant hemp. And perhaps the transition would have come with some challenges for government officials, law enforcement and others. We'll probably find out eventually.

But until then, farmers in this state won't be able to tap into a market that could help them dig out of considerable financial woes. That's both penny and pound foolish.

Noem's concerns about industrial hemp seem overblown. And her philosophy on the issue seems to buck that of most of the ag community and, indeed, most members of her own party.

South Dakota falls behind again. This time our farmers pay the price.

Madison Daily Leader, Madison, March 13

Records created by or maintained by a government entity belong to the public.

Governments are a different institution than individuals or businesses. Governments are essentially "owned" by the public, and taxes levied on citizens fund operations of governments.

Sometimes, government officials consider public records as their own. If they have experience in business, health care or law (which have certain legal rights to confidentiality), they may think public records can be kept a secret.

In other cases, public officials or employees simply don't know or haven't considered the law. New employees or officials are sometimes sent to training to learn their jobs and responsibilities.

Fortunately, the recent trend in South Dakota favors the citizen. Laws have been passed by the legislature in recent years that clarify the open nature of public records. More local government employees are understanding open records laws.

Yet there is still a resistance among some officials and employees to make records available to the public. Lack of knowledge? Embarrassment of what is in the record? A power play to show who's in charge?

The 2019 state Legislature passed another good open records law, which bans local governments from

entering into confidential settlements. Let's say a contractor or a local government didn't fulfill its obligations in a project. A settlement was negotiated, and usually money exchanged hands.

In the past, local governments would argue that the contract they negotiated had a confidentiality clause in it, so details could not be known by the taxpayers who paid (or received) the money. The new law prevents the local government into entering into such a contract in the first place.

It's another good step in sound government practices. We're glad to see it take place, and we're eager to see similar progress in the future.

Deployed airman finally meets new son

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota airman who spent 7 months serving in South Korea has returned home to meet his newborn son for the first time.

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Fedrick says a wave of emotion came over him when he got to hold his youngest son, Everett, Saturday at the Rapid City Regional Airport.

Fedrick says he stayed up for 36 hours in South Korea waiting for the phone call about his son's birth, but he says actually holding him is amazing. Fedrick will return to South Korea in a few weeks to finish his year-long tour.

Fedrick tells KOTA-TV missing his son's birth wasn't ideal, but duty to country came first. He says it's part of the job so his children can have a bright future.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

High profile arrest led Alabama police to genealogy testing

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

OZARK, Ala. (AP) — A truck-driving preacher accused of killing two teenage girls from Alabama nearly 20 years ago was found with the same genealogy database techniques used to apprehend the suspected "Golden State Killer" last year.

Law enforcement interest in using genetic genealogy to crack cold cases has ballooned since the high-profile arrest of a suspect in the California serial killings, who was found by running crime scene DNA through a genealogy database, said CeCe Moore, chief genetic genealogist with Parabon NanoLabs. The same company did the searches in the Alabama case.

Tracie Hawlett and J.B. Beasley, both 17, disappeared after setting off for a party in southeastern Alabama on July 31, 1999. Their bodies were found the next day in the trunk of Beasley's black Mazda along a road in Ozark, a city of 19,000 people about 90 miles (145 kilometers) southeast of Montgomery. Each had been shot in the head.

The case sat unsolved for nearly two decades, until the Golden State killer arrest .

Ozark Police Chief Marlos Walker, who said he always believed the case could be solved, said "let's try that."

Police arrested Coley McCraney, 45, of Dothan, on Friday after the Alabama crime scene sample was analyzed and uploaded to GEDMatch, a public genetic database repository where more than a million people have uploaded profiles from at-home ancestry kits.

"We are looking for second, third, fourth cousins and then we reverse engineer the family tree based on the people who are sharing DNA with that crime scene sample," Moore said.

The police chief said the genetic genealogy work identified a family — which means at least one of McCraney's relatives had uploaded information — and kinship testing narrowed the potential suspects to a single person. The police chief said they obtained DNA from McCraney — he did not say how — and the state crime lab matched it to the DNA from the 1999 crime scene.

Moore said the company is now fielding calls for help in decades-old cases as interest grows in this technique. Since May, the company has helped provide law enforcement with identifications in 43 cases,

she said.

She said genetic genealogy can help provide answers for families who have seen their loved one's murders go unsolved for years. "The fact that we can finally provide those is just incredibly important," Moore said.

While investigators seeking new leads in cold cases are intrigued, others see red flags.

"There are huge privacy concerns," said Jennifer Friedman, a public defender in Los Angeles who has been involved in cases involving DNA since the late 1980s. She said there are multiple problems with tying people to crimes using family genetic information, including the fact that most people probably wouldn't want a relative arrested based on their DNA sample.

Moore said she only uses a database where people have uploaded their information and are told it can be used this way. She said only a small fraction of the estimated 23 million people who have taken a consumer DNA ancestry test are in GEDMatch.

David Harrison, McCraney's lawyer, said he's an outstanding member of the community and a married man with children and grandchildren. He's been a truck driver and had his own church where he preached as recently as three weeks ago, Harrison said.

At the press conference announcing the arrest, Carol Roberts wore a brooch over her heart with a photograph of her daughter Tracie Hawlett, showing her youthful smile frozen forever in time. She had grown to doubt the case would ever be solved as the years slipped by.

"We've been through pure hell the last 20 years," said Mike Roberts, Hawlett's stepfather. "DNA don't lie," he said.

Tracie had planned since she was a little girl to become a doctor, her mother said. She would have turned 37 this month.

In their last conversation, the night she disappeared, Tracie asked if her friend could sleep over and go to church the next day.

"Last words out of her lips were, 'Mama, I love you.' Last words out of my mouth to her were, 'I love you.'"

Associated Press writers Jeff Martin in Atlanta and Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, contributed to this report.

AP finds hot records falling twice as often as cold ones

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and **NICKY FORSTER** Associated Press

Over the past 20 years, Americans have been twice as likely to sweat through record-breaking heat rather than shiver through record-setting cold, a new Associated Press data analysis shows.

The AP looked at 424 weather stations throughout the Lower 48 states that had consistent temperature records since 1920 and counted how many times daily hot temperature records were tied or broken and how many daily cold records were set. In a stable climate, the numbers should be roughly equal.

Since 1999, the ratio has been two warm records set or broken for every cold one. In 16 of the last 20 years, there have been more daily high temperature records than low.



This Saturday, March 16, 2019 booking photo provided by the Dale County Sheriff's Office, shows Coley McCraney. Al.com reported McCraney, of Dothan, was arrested Saturday and charged with rape and capital murder in the 1999 deaths of 17-year-olds Tracie Hawlett and J.B. Beasley. Ozark police and Dale County sheriff's officials are scheduled to hold a press conference about the case on Monday, March 18. Authorities in Alabama said a DNA match found through a genealogy website led to the arrest. (Dale

County Sheriff's Office via AP)

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The AP shared the data analysis with several climate and data scientists, who all said the conclusion was correct, consistent with scientific peer-reviewed literature and showed a clear sign of human-caused climate change. They pointed out that trends over decades are more robust than over single years.

The analysis stopped with data through 2018. However, the first two months of 2019 are showing twice as many cold records than hot ones. That's temporary and trends are over years and decades, not months, said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate monitoring chief Deke Arndt.

"We are in a period of sustained and significant warming and — over the long run — will continue to explore and break the warm end of the spectrum much more than the cold end," Arndt said.

Former Weather Channel meteorologist Guy Walton, who has been studying hot and cold extreme records since 2000, said the trend is unmistakable.

"You are getting more extremes," Walton said. "Your chances for getting more dangerous extremes are going up with time."

No place has that been more noticeable than the southern California city of Pasadena, where 7,203 days went by between cold records being broken. On Feb. 23, Pasadena set a low temperature record, its first since June 5, 1999.

Vermont native Paul Wennberg felt it. He moved to Pasadena in 1998 just before the dearth of cold records.

"Even with the local cold we had this past month, it's very noticeable," said Wennberg, a California Institute of Technology atmospheric sciences professor. "It's just been ever warmer."

In between the two cold record days, Pasadena set 145 hot records. That includes an all-time high of 113 degrees last year.

"Last year was unbelievable here," Wennberg said. "The tops of a lot of the hedges, they essentially melted."

Scientists often talked about human-caused global warming in terms of average temperatures, but that's not what costs money or sends people to the hospital. A study this month found that in just 22 states, about 36,000 people on average go to the hospital because of excessive summertime heat.

"The extremes affect our lives," Arndt said, adding that they are expensive, with hospital stays, rising energy bills and crop losses.

National Center for Atmospheric Research climate scientist Gerald Meehl, who has published peer-reviewed papers on the rising hot-to-cold ratio, said people pay more attention to climate when records are broken.

The AP counted daily records across 424 stations starting in 1920 and ending in 2018. The AP only considered daily — not all-time — high maximum temperatures and low minimum temperatures and only used stations with minimal missing data. Temperatures that tied previous records were counted in addition to



FILE - In this July 1, 2018 file photo, the sun sets behind the Statue of Liberty in New York as record high temperatures were recorded over the week in the U.S. and elsewhere. An AP data analysis of records from 1999-2019 shows that in weather stations across America, hot records are being set twice as often as cold ones. (AP Photo/

Andres Kudacki, File)

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temperatures that broke previous records.

More typical than Pasadena is Wooster, Ohio. From 1999 on, Wooster saw 106 high temperature records set or broken and 51 cold ones. In the previous eight decades, the ratio was slightly colder than one to one.

At MW Robinson Co., people are lining up for air conditioning installation as the climate seems to get have been getting hotter over the years, said Lori Bowersock, who coordinates the firm's HVAC installations.

"It's more and more every year," Bowersock said. "Usually we don't have them lined up like this."

The AP's other findings:

— Since Jan. 1, 1999, just under half the stations had at least twice as many hot records set than cold ones, including Wooster.

— In all, 87 percent of the weather stations had more hot records than cold since 1999. There have been 42 weather stations that have at least five hot records for every cold one since 1999, with 11 where the hot-to-cold ratio is 10-to-1 or higher, including Pasadena.

— All nine of NOAA's climate regions have seen more hot records set than cold ones since 1999, with the West, Southwest and Northeast having a 3-to-1 ratio.

— All four seasons have had more hot records broken than cold for the same time period.

— Most decades in the 20th century had close to an even ratio of hot to cold. The 1930s, driven by Dust Bowl summers, had about 1.4 hot records for every cold. The 1960s and 1970s had about 1.5 cold records for every hot. The 21st century has a 1.9-to-1 hot-to-cold ratio.

"As a measure of climate change, the dailies (temperature records) will tell you more about what's happening," said climate scientist Chris Field of Stanford. "The impacts of climate change almost always come packaged in extremes."

Borenstein, an AP science writer, reported from Washington. Forster, an AP data journalist, reported from New York. Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears .

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Christchurch harbored white supremacists before massacre

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT** Associated Press

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — The leafy New Zealand city where a self-proclaimed racist fatally shot 50 people at mosques during Friday prayers is known for its picturesque meandering river and English heritage. For decades, Christchurch has also been the center of the country's small but persistent white supremacist movement.

An expert on such fringe groups says it's probably more than coincidence that the accused mosque shooter, 28-year-old Australian Brenton Tarrant, settled in the region, known for a whiter demographic than the country's north, after frequently traveling abroad in 2016-2018 in what appears to have been an extreme-right pilgrimage.

He went mostly to areas of Europe with a long history of sectarian dispute, including clashes between Renaissance Europe and the Ottoman Empire and the breakup of Yugoslavia following its ethnic and religious conflicts.

The attack has upended New Zealand's image as one of the world's safest and most tolerant countries. It also has highlighted apparent failings by security and intelligence services to view white supremacists as a real threat or to take seriously warnings from Muslim groups of a rise in Islamophobic and xenophobic incidents in recent years.

Tarrant planned his attack on two mosques meticulously and had resolved two years earlier to kill Muslims, according to a manifesto he published moments before the massacre. He actively planned the Christchurch shootings for the past three months, he said in the manifesto posted online and emailed to the office of New Zealand's prime minister minutes before driving to his first target, the golden-domed Al

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Noor mosque.

Police say they are certain Tarrant was the only gunman but may have had support and are investigating that possibility. He had five guns, two of which were converted into semi-automatic weapons. It's likely that at least some were legally purchased online from a Christchurch gun store.

Possible links between the shooter and white supremacists in New Zealand's south have been alleged by recreational gun user and hunting guide Pete Breidahl.

In a video posted on Facebook on Saturday, he said he complained in late 2017 to an arms officer — a local police officer who monitors people's gun licenses — about the disturbing behavior of members of a rifle club in the southern city of Dunedin that Tarrant reportedly joined.

In the video and comments posted online, Breidahl said the club members had Confederate flags, wore camouflage clothing with rank insignia, vilified Muslims and had homicidal fantasies. He claimed to have met Tarrant, calling him "not right." Police said they have no record of a complaint but are looking into Breidahl's claims further.

Academic Paul Spoonley, who has extensively researched white supremacist groups in New Zealand, said they have been relatively quiet in Christchurch since a 2011 earthquake that forced whole neighborhoods to move and altered the city's demographics with an influx of migrant workers for reconstruction.

"They've been quieter recently but they haven't gone away. They are still here," he said, citing a 2016 incident in which pigs' heads were left at the Al Noor mosque, where 42 people died in Friday's massacre.

A business owner in Christchurch has also attracted media attention since the massacre because his company's vans were emblazoned with neo-Nazi references including the "black sun" symbol that Tarrant's guns were covered with. The same images, which are used as the company's branding, appear on its website.

When AP visited the registered business address, located in one of Christchurch's poorer neighborhoods, three of its vans were parked opposite, their "black sun" imagery removed but still identifiable by a company website address on them. A visibly hostile man standing beside the vans, who did not appear to be the business owner, did not want to answer questions.

Police on Tuesday said they had arrested a 44-year-old man in Christchurch for distributing objectionable material and he would appear in court the next day.

According to Spoonley, the level of hate crimes in New Zealand is low compared with other countries as is the number of white supremacists, but it's "always a challenge to get people to accept that they exist."

"There's a reluctance to see equivalence between the risks presented by right-wing extremist groups and radical Islamic and leftist groups," he said.



In this Saturday, March 16, 2019, file photo, flowers lay at a memorial near the Masjid Al Noor mosque for victims in last week's shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand. The leafy New Zealand city where a self-proclaimed racist fatally shot 50 people at mosques during Friday prayers is known for its picturesque meandering river and English heritage. For decades, the southern city of Christchurch also has been the center of the country's small but persistent white supremacist movement. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu, File)

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Neighboring Australia's white supremacist scene is more virulent, in part reflecting the history of its "White Australia" immigration policy which existed in various forms from soon after Federation in 1901 to as late as 1973. In modern times, the rise of a succession of prominent right-wing politicians — starting with Pauline Hanson and her One Nation Party in the mid-1990s — also legitimized such views.

Spoonley estimates there are 200-250 hardcore white supremacists in New Zealand and about 300-400 people on the edges.

"I would be very surprised if Tarrant didn't make some sort of contact," he said.

The groups, which emerged in the late 1960s, have evolved over time, coalescing for years around fear of New Zealand moving too far from its British roots, anti-Semitism and opposition to Maori sovereignty and Asian immigrants, and then shifting to Islamophobia following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the U.S.

Spoonley, who researched extreme-right groups in the U.K. in the 1970s, said when he returned to New Zealand in the 1980s he was told by authorities there were no similar organizations.

But he quickly found more than 70 extreme-right groups, many of them in Christchurch. He attributes three murders in New Zealand since 1989 to white supremacists, including two that were ideologically motivated — a South Korean tourist in 2003 and a homeless gay man in 1999.

As Tarrant plotted more recently, Muslim groups in New Zealand were growing increasingly concerned by a rise in abuse against the community but say they were ignored.

"There has been an increasing trend which has been brought to the attention of the authorities several times in the last three to four years, including police," said Anwar Ghani, a spokesman for a federation of Islamic organizations. "It was treated not so seriously."

Verbal abuse, hate emails, hate phone calls and assaults that seem to have an Islamophobic and racist motivation, or a combination of the two, are among the hate crimes experienced by Muslims in New Zealand, he said.

The country does not have an official hate crimes database, making it difficult to measure the trend, but some incidents have been widely reported, causing outrage but sparking no real official measures.

Ghani said there are dotted lines between Friday's massacre, hostility to Muslims among a segment of the New Zealand population and the global rise of extreme right-wing movements.

"If the issue is not addressed in a proper manner then the problem will continue to increase," he said. "They are getting bolder and bolder."

Paul Buchanan, a former policy analyst and intelligence consultant for U.S. government security agencies, said the failure of intelligence agencies to detect Tarrant reflects politically based decisions to concentrate resources on monitoring the small number of Islamic extremists in New Zealand.

"My interpretation is that in the past 20 years and since 9/11 a political decision was made to prioritize detection and prevention of homegrown jihadists," he said.

"They decided to go whole hog, 80-85 percent of resources into detecting jihadists," he said. "The rest was devoted to Marxists, environmentalists, animal rights activists. They went for the left."

One such jihadi from New Zealand, along with an Australian, was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in November 2013 while fighting for al-Qaida.

There was no political advantage in targeting alienated young white men seen by the wider population as mostly harmless "Pakeha losers," a Maori word for white New Zealanders, Buchanan said.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has said the government will convene an inquiry into the intelligence and security services, seeking to understand why Tarrant was able to escape detection.

Tarrant, according to Buchanan, may have been part of a small cell.

"There could be tacit enablers," he said.

"He was planning for two years," Buchanan said. "To be able to do that in utter secrecy suggests someone had to have an inkling that the guy was going to do something and said nothing about it."

Brazil's new president signals better relations with the US

By BEN FOX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The president of Brazil made an unusual visit to CIA headquarters and later spoke of his admiration for the United States on the second day of a trip that reflected his country's shift to a more pro-American stance.

President Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right politician who succeeded a leftist who at times had a frosty relationship with the United States, arrived in the country with a half-dozen ministers and a goal of expanding trade and diplomatic cooperation between the two largest economies in the Western Hemisphere.

He was expected to meet on Tuesday with President Donald Trump to discuss a range of issues, including ways to increase U.S. private-sector investment in Brazil and ways to resolve the political crisis in Venezuela.



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro speaks at the Chamber of Commerce in Washington, Monday, March 18, 2019. (AP)

Photo/Susan Walsh)

"Nowadays, you have a president who is a friend of the United States who admires this beautiful country," Bolsonaro told an audience at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Monday.

Bolsonaro underscored the difference between his administration and that of former President Dilma Rousseff by stopping by CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, to discuss "international themes in the region," according to his son, Eduardo, a Brazilian lawmaker accompanying him on his first bilateral overseas trip.

Eduardo Bolsonaro described the CIA as "one of the most respected intelligence agencies in the world," in a tweet that was likely to raise eyebrows back home in Brazil, where the U.S. and its spy services have been regarded with suspicion in recent years.

In 2013, leaks from Edward Snowden revealed that the National Security Agency had wiretapped conversations of Rousseff, leading to several years of tense relations between the U.S. and Brazil.

"No Brazilian president had ever paid a visit to the CIA," said Celso Amorim, who served as foreign minister under former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and is a Bolsonaro critic. "This is an explicitly submissive position. Nothing compares to this."

The CIA had no comment on the visit.

The far-right Bolsonaro was elected last year and is an admirer of Trump. He sought to underscore his pro-America stance with a tweet upon his arrival Sunday.

"For the first time in a while, a pro-America Brazilian president arrives in DC," he said in the tweet. "It's the beginning of a partnership focused on liberty and prosperity, something that all of us Brazilians have long wished for."

Bolsonaro's insurgent candidacy against the candidate of Rousseff's party has been compared to Trump's victory in 2016. The Brazilian president made the comparison himself in his speech to the Chamber of Commerce, describing how he has had to contend with "fake news" and tough coverage from established news organizations.

"We want to have a great Brazil just like Trump wants to have a great America," he said.

The speech came after the two countries signed several bilateral agreements, including one that allows

the United States to use Brazil's Alcantara Aerospace Launch Base for its satellites, and Brazil announced an end to visa requirements for U.S. tourists who visit the country.

Brazil is seeking U.S. help with its efforts to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and to expand trade. The Bolsonaro administration is seeking to reduce public-sector spending and privatize state enterprises to reduce debt and grow its economy.

A senior U.S. administration official noted that the U.S. does have a \$27 billion trade surplus with Brazil and that there are opportunities to bring the nations' business communities closer. He said there are expected to be new initiatives on energy infrastructure.

The official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, noted that Brazil has a close relationship with Venezuela's military and may be able to serve as a go-between with the security forces that continue to support Maduro.

Brazil, like the U.S., has recognized the leader of the National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as Venezuela's interim president under the argument that Maduro's re-election last year was illegitimate.

"We have to sort Venezuela out," Bolsonaro said. "We cannot leave them the way they are. We have to free the nation of Venezuela."

Associated Press writers Mauricio Savarese in Madrid and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. 'YOU WON'T HEAR ME SPEAK HIS NAME'

New Zealand's prime minister says she will do everything in her power to deny the accused mosque gunman a platform for elevating his white supremacist views at trial.

2. FRANTIC RESCUE UNDERWAY FOR MOZAMBIQUE FLOOD VICTIMS

Hundreds are dead, many more missing and thousands at risk from massive flooding in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe caused by Cyclone Idai and persistent rains.

3. DUTCH ARREST 3rd OVER DEADLY TRAM SHOOTING

Police in the Netherlands arrest a third person on suspicion of involvement in the tram shooting in Utrecht that left three people dead and five injured.

4. COURT TO HEAR LATEST CASE OF RACIAL BIAS IN JURY SELECTION

Justices are again considering how

to keep prosecutors from removing African-Americans from criminal juries for racially biased reasons.



Mourners react at a memorial site for victims in last week's mass shooting near the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, Tuesday, March 19, 2019. Streets near the hospital that had been closed for four days reopened to traffic as relatives and friends of the victims of last week's shootings continued to stream in from around the world. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

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5. BRAZILIAN LEADER VISITING WHITE HOUSE

Trump and Jair Bolsonaro are expected to discuss ways to increase U.S. private-sector investment in Brazil and ways to resolve Venezuela's political crisis.

6. FEDS PROBING DEVELOPMENT OF BOEING JETS

The U.S. Justice Department will investigate the way Boeing's 737 Max jets were regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration, a source tells AP.

7. HEAT RECORDS FALLING AT RAPID PACE

An AP data analysis shows that in weather stations across America, hot records are being set twice as often as cold ones, a sure sign of global warming, scientist say.

8. WHAT ELIZABETH WARREN IS BACKING

The Democratic presidential hopeful embraces a congressional proposal to study a framework for reparations to African-Americans hurt by the legacy of slavery.

9. MISSOURI RIVER OVERTOPS, BREACHES LEVEES

Hundreds of homes flooded in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas after rivers breached at least a dozen levees following heavy rain and snowmelt in the region.

10. NFL UNLIKELY TO CHANGE REPLAY RULE

There's not a lot of support to change the rule that played a major factor in the outcome of the NFC championship game between the Rams and Saints because of the time it would add to games.

Supreme Court set for case on racial bias in jury selection

By **JEFF AMY** and **MARK SHERMAN** Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Curtis Flowers has been jailed in Mississippi for 22 years, even as prosecutors couldn't get a murder conviction against him to stick through five trials.

Three convictions were tossed out, and two other juries couldn't reach unanimous verdicts.

This week, the Supreme Court will consider whether his conviction and death sentence in a sixth trial should stand or be overturned for a familiar reason: because prosecutors improperly kept African-Americans off the jury.

The justices on Wednesday will examine whether District Attorney Doug Evans' history of excluding black jurors should figure in determining if Evans again crossed a line when he struck five African-Americans from the jury that most recently convicted Flowers of killing four people.

In overturning Flowers' third conviction, the Mississippi Supreme Court called Evans' exclusion of 15 black prospective jurors "as strong a prima facie case of racial discrimination as we have seen" in challenges to jury composition. This time around, though, the state's high court has twice rejected Flowers' claims, even after being ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court to take another look.

Wednesday's arguments at the high court are the latest stop on a twisting path that began on July 16, 1996. That's when four people were found dead inside Tardy Furniture in downtown Winona. Shot in the head were 59-year-old owner Bertha Tardy and three employees — 45-year-old Carmen Rigby, 42-year-old Robert Golden and 16-year-old Derrick "Bobo" Stewart.

It was months before officials arrested and charged Curtis Flowers for the murder. Prosecutors say Flowers was a disgruntled former employee who sought revenge against Tardy because she fired him and withheld most of his pay to cover the cost of merchandise he damaged. Nearly \$300 was found missing after the killings.

Defense lawyers, though, say witness statements and physical evidence against Flowers are too weak to convict him. A jailhouse informant who claimed Flowers had confessed to him recanted in recorded telephone conversations with American Public Media's "In the Dark" podcast. There's a separate appeal pending in state court questioning Flowers' actual guilt, citing in part evidence that reporters for "In the Dark" detailed.

Flowers, now 48, has been imprisoned at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman since 1997,

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following his first conviction. That and two subsequent convictions were overturned by the Mississippi Supreme Court. Then two hung juries couldn't reach verdicts. Finally, Evans won conviction in Flowers' sixth trial, in 2010, the case at issue here.

The first two cases were overturned in part because Evans impermissibly introduced evidence relating to all four deaths in cases where Flowers was on trial for killing only one person. In the second trial, Evans got into trouble for striking black jurors, with a judge overruling one of the strikes. Then, the state Supreme Court overturned the third verdict, again citing racial bias in removing jurors. Lawyers for Flowers argue the guilty verdict from the sixth trial should be tossed for the same reason, noting Evans has overwhelmingly used his ability to strike individual jurors to remove black people.

"Mr. Evans has a history of keeping black folks off the jury ... so he can guarantee himself a victory, pretty much," said Ray Charles Carter, who represented Flowers in his last four criminal trials.

A spokeswoman for Attorney General Jim Hood's office declined to comment. Evans did not reply Monday to a request for comment.

In the course of selecting a jury, lawyers question potential jurors and first try to weed out people for specific reasons including unwillingness to impose a death sentence or personal relationships with people involved in the case.

Both sides also can excuse a juror merely because of a suspicion that a particular person would vote against their client. Those are called peremptory strikes, and they have been the focus of the complaints about discrimination.

Evans has removed black jurors at 4.5 times the rate that he struck white jurors, according to an "In the Dark" analysis of 6,700 jurors in 225 trials over 26 years.

The U.S. Supreme Court tried to stamp out discrimination in the composition of juries in *Batson v. Kentucky* in 1986. The court ruled then that jurors couldn't be excused from service because of their race and set up a system by which trial judges could evaluate claims of discrimination and the race-neutral explanations by prosecutors.

Justice Thurgood Marshall, who had been the nation's pre-eminent civil rights attorney, was part of the *Batson* case majority, but he said the only way to end discrimination in jury selection was to eliminate peremptory strikes.

Flowers' case had previously come to the U.S. Supreme Court's attention. In 2016, the justices ordered Mississippi's top court to re-examine racial bias issues in Flowers' case following a high court ruling in favor of a Georgia inmate because of a racially discriminatory jury. But the Mississippi justices divided 5-4 in upholding the verdict against Flowers. The state, defending the conviction, argues that justices must narrow the focus from Evans' broader record to the case at hand.

"Any potential relief must be confined to the events of this, his most recent conviction and sentence," Assistant Attorney General Jason Davis, who will argue the case for the state, wrote in a brief.

The state argues that each of the five black women who were removed from the jury were struck for legitimate reasons — that they knew Flowers, worked with his relatives, had been sued by Tardy Furniture,



This Aug. 3, 2017 photo provided by Mississippi Department of Corrections shows Curtis Flowers, who's murder case has gone to trial six times. Supreme Court justices are again considering how to keep prosecutors from removing African-Americans from criminal juries for racially biased reasons, this time in a case involving a Mississippi death row inmate who has been tried six times for murder. (Mississippi Department of Corrections via AP)

or opposed the death penalty on principle.

"The race-neutral reasons provided by the state were valid and were not the result of pretext," Davis wrote.

Cyclone's death toll into the hundreds in southern Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Hundreds are dead, many more are missing and thousands are at risk from massive flooding in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi caused by Cyclone Idai and persistent rains.

Aid agencies and government officials were scrambling on Tuesday to rescue families trapped by rivers that burst their banks and were still rising.

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi has said the death toll could reach as high as 1,000. Although emergency workers warn they do not know whether the fatalities will reach that estimate, they say this is the region's most destructive flooding in 20 years.

Hardest hit is Mozambique's Beira port, a city of 500,000 where thousands of homes have been destroyed.

The city and surrounding areas have no power and nearly all communication lines have been destroyed. Beira's main hospital has been badly damaged. The cities of Dondo and Chimoio in central Mozambique are also badly affected.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders said its work in Beira and other local health centers had "ceased completely" but it was working to resume operations. The group anticipates that water and hygiene needs will remain high in the coming days.

In Zimbabwe the death toll has risen to 98, the government said. The mountain town of Chimanimani was badly hit. Several roads leading into the town have been cut off, with the only access by helicopter.

Malawi's government has confirmed 56 deaths, three missing and 577 injured amid the severe flooding. Rivers have burst their banks, leaving many houses submerged and around 11,000 households displaced in the southern district of Nsanje.



A man stands on the edge of a collapsed bridge in Chimanimani, about 600 kilometers southeast of Harare, Zimbabwe, Monday, March 18, 2019. (AP Photo/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi)

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Bernie Sanders' opening argument: I am electable. Really.

By **JUANA SUMMERS** and **HUNTER WOODALL** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders spent much of 2016 talking of revolution. In 2019, he's turned to a subject that's a bit more pragmatic: electability.

As he revs up his second presidential campaign, the Vermont senator and his supporters are putting his case for winning the general election at the center of the argument. The emphasis is meant to aggressively confront the perception that Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, is too liberal to win over the coalition needed to win the White House. That question dogged Sanders' campaign for the Democratic nomination four years ago. This time he is trying to shake it early.

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On the trail, Sanders is quick to note that some of his policy ideas have moved from the fringe to the mainstream of the Democratic Party. His strategists argue he's best positioned to win over voters in the three Rust Belt states that Democrat Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump in 2016. Trump, the campaign argues, won Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan, the keys to his Electoral College victory, by offering a version of Sanders' populist economic message.

What Trump was offering "was faux-Bernie Sanders in order to beat Hillary Clinton," Sanders campaign manager Faiz Shakir said, adding that Sanders plans to focus on the three states even as he fights off a crowded field of Democrats vying for the nomination in states with early primary contests.

"We will invest, we will go to these states and demonstrate through real action, and hopefully data and numbers, that we can beat Donald Trump."

The early focus on the general election is just one of the many ways Sanders has evolved from the freewheeling candidate of 2016 to a front-runner. Already, the campaign has 70 staffers on its payroll, compared to 30 in July 2015, his advisers told reporters last week on a conference call arranged to discuss Sanders' "path to victory more than 600 days before Election Day. In less than a week as a declared candidate, Sanders flexed the power of his robust donor list, raising \$10 million from donors, the campaign said, a sum that dwarfed his rivals.

Sanders' viability-first focus comes as the Democratic field continues to expand. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke jumped into the presidential race last week, and former Vice President Joe Biden appears on the cusp of announcing his plans. Biden and O'Rourke are each expected to infuse a more centrist strain of politics into the race, and supporters of both men say they could also appeal to white working-class voters who backed Trump in 2016.

Kayleigh McEnany, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said: "We are happy to go toe to toe with any Democrat 2020 contender, especially in states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. President Trump expanded the map, winning states that have not been won by a Republican since the 1980s."

Whether Sanders would have beaten Trump in 2016 is, of course, unknowable. Indeed, like Trump, Sanders appealed to voters with populist promises to upend Washington and fight for the forgotten. It is possible that, if Sanders had been the nominee, he may have won some disillusioned or disconnected voters who ultimately voted for Trump over Clinton. But Sanders had weak spots with other key parts of the Democratic coalition — notably African-American voters. It's impossible to know whether he would have matched Clinton's overwhelming support from those voters.

Sanders' campaign argues that he's starting his 2020 bid in a stronger place among African-American and Latino voters. But this case isn't yet about convincing independent or moderates, but rather about convincing the Democratic base.

"The polls have been pretty consistent that Democratic primary voters are very focused on which candidate has the best chance to beat Trump, so I expect all the candidates to argue why they are uniquely



2020 Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks at a rally Saturday, March 16, 2019, in Henderson, Nev. (AP Photo/John Locher)

positioned to win," said Dan Pfeiffer, a former senior adviser to President Barack Obama.

"Bernie Sanders has a strong case that his economic message works in the states that delivered Trump the presidency in 2016, but his challenge is going to be articulating how he can defend himself against attacks that he is a socialist," Pfeiffer said.

Karine Jean-Pierre, a Democratic strategist and senior adviser at MoveOn, argued against the notion that a more centrist candidate is inherently more electable. "Often you'll hear arguments from centrist, or more corporate-aligned, Democrats that a candidate needs to run as a centrist to win — but those comments say more about the commenters' interests and ideology. They don't actually tell you much useful about political outcomes," she said.

"This year's primary is obviously a different dynamic than 2016, when there were only two Democrats, and much of that debate centered on electability — and then the candidate presumed by the Democratic establishment to be most 'electable' lost," Jean-Pierre said.

So far, Sanders has been focused on Democrats' shared goal of defeating Trump, whom he's called the most dangerous president in American history. But he's also placed himself as a standard-bearer in today's political environment.

"In 2016, this is where the political revolution took off," Sanders said during a recent trip to New Hampshire, a state that he won by 22 percentage points. He said that he began the race far behind Clinton, campaigning on ideas "considered by establishment politicians and mainstream media to be 'radical' and 'extreme.'"

Sanders says that now his ideas are supported by a majority of Americans, particularly Democrats and independents, as well as his rivals in the race.

Many of the hundreds who braved a snowstorm to hear Sanders speak said they believe Sanders is the Democratic candidate best suited to end the Trump era.

Kimberly Taylor, a 53-year-old who works at a veterinary clinic, said she was a huge supporter of Sanders in 2016 and is inclined to support him again.

"I know there's a huge running list and that there are a lot of people out there, but I think a lot of them are just reiterating what he's been saying pretty much his whole life," Taylor said of the Democratic field.

Asked whether Sanders is Democrats' best opportunity to beat Trump, she replied, "God, I hope so."

Woodall reported from Concord, New Hampshire.

Over 1,000 feared dead after cyclone slams into Mozambique

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — More than 1,000 people were feared dead in Mozambique four days after a cyclone slammed into the country, submerging entire villages and leaving bodies floating in the floodwaters, the nation's president said.

"It is a real disaster of great proportions," President Filipe Nyusi said.

Cyclone Idai could prove to be the deadliest storm in generations to hit the impoverished southeast African country of 30 million people.

It struck Beira, an Indian Ocean port city of a half-million people, late Thursday and then moved inland to Zimbabwe and Malawi with strong winds and heavy rain. But it took days for the scope of the disaster to come into focus in Mozambique, which has a poor communication and transportation network and a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy.

Speaking on state Radio Mozambique, Nyusi said that while the official death toll stood at 84, "It appears that we can register more than 1,000 deaths."

Emergency officials cautioned that while they expect the death toll to rise significantly, they have no way of knowing if it will reach the president's estimate.

More than 215 people were killed by the storm in the three countries, including more than 80 in Zimbabwe's eastern Chimanimani region and more than 50 in Malawi, according to official figures. Hundreds

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more were reported injured and missing, and nearly 1,000 homes were destroyed in eastern Zimbabwe alone.

Doctors Without Borders said rivers have broken their banks leaving many houses fully submerged and around 11,000 households displaced in Nsanje, in southern Malawi.

U.N. agencies and the Red Cross helped rush emergency food and medicine by helicopter to the stricken countries.

Mount Chiluvo in central Mozambique was badly hit by flooding. One resident said he heard a loud noise, like an explosion, and suddenly saw a river of mud rolling toward his home.

"I was indoors with my children, but when we looked we saw mud coming down the road towards the houses and we fled," Francisco Carlitos told Lusa, the Portuguese News Agency. The family lost their home and possessions but safely reached higher ground.

The country's president, who cut short a visit to neighboring Swaziland over the weekend because of the disaster, spoke after flying by helicopter over Beira and two rural provinces, where he reported widespread devastation.

"The waters of the Pungue and Buzi rivers overflowed, making whole villages disappear and isolating communities, and bodies are floating," Nyusi said.

The United Nation's humanitarian office said the government issued flood warnings and said heavy rains were forecast for the next 24 hours, including in areas already hit hard by Idai.

The Red Cross said 90 percent of Beira was damaged or destroyed. The cyclone knocked out electricity, shut down the airport and cut off access to the city by road.

U.N. officials cited reports that Beira Central Hospital's emergency room was flooded and without power, and that much of the building's roof had collapsed. Doctors Without Borders said it had completely ceased operations in Beira hospital, local health centers and throughout the community.

The destruction in Beira is "massive and horrifying," said Jamie LeSueur, who led a Red Cross team that had to assess the damage by helicopter because of the flooded-out roads.

The U.N. also warned of devastation outside Beira, in particular of livestock and crops.

"As this damage is occurring just before the main harvest season, it could exacerbate food insecurity in the region," the U.N. humanitarian office known as OCHA said.

Mozambique is a long, narrow country with a 2,400-kilometer (1,500-mile) coastline along the Indian Ocean. It is prone to cyclones and tropical storms this time of year.

In 2000, Mozambique was hit by severe flooding caused by weeks of heavy rain, a disaster made much worse when a cyclone hit. Approximately 700 people were killed in what was regarded as the worst flooding in 50 years.

Mozambique won independence from Portugal in 1975 and then was plagued by a long-running civil war that ended in 1992. Its economy is dominated by agriculture, and its exports include prawns, cotton, cashews, sugar, coconuts and tropical hardwood timber.



Seen from a drone Praia Nova Village, one of the most affected neighbourhoods in Beira, razed by the passing cyclone, in the coastal city of Beira, Mozambique, Sunday March 17, 2019. Families are returning to the vulnerable shanty town following cyclone high winds and rain. More than 1,000 people are feared dead in Mozambique four days after a cyclone slammed into the southern African country. (Josh Estey/CARE via AP)

More recently it has been exporting aluminum and electric power, and deposits of natural gas were discovered in the country's north.

Edith M. Lederer contributed to this report from the United Nations.

Hawaii weighs first-in-nation plastic bans at restaurants

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii would be the first state in the U.S. to ban most plastics at restaurants under legislation that aims to cut down on waste that pollutes the ocean.

Dozens of cities across the country have banned plastic foam containers, but Hawaii's measure would make it the first to do so statewide. The liberal state has a history of prioritizing the environment — it's mandated renewable energy use and prohibited sunscreen ingredients that harm coral.

A second, more ambitious proposal would go even further and prohibit fast-food and full-service restaurants from distributing and using plastic drink bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, bags and straws.

The Hawaii efforts would be stricter than in California, which last year became the first state to ban full-service restaurants from automatically giving out plastic straws, and broader than in Seattle, San Francisco and other cities that have banned some single-use plastics.

Activists believe the foam container measure has a better chance of passing in Hawaii.

"We have this reputation of setting the example for the world to follow, and that's what we're trying to do here," state Sen. Mike Gabbard, lead author of the more ambitious measure, said to the Senate. "Our state can once again take the lead in protecting our environment."

Gabbard, father of Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, said 95 percent of plastic packaging worldwide is thrown out after being used once. In the U.S., 500 million plastic straws are used and thrown out every day, he said.

Discarded, slow-to-degrade plastic is showing up at sea, as in a massive gyre northeast of the Hawaiian islands, and on beaches.

Plastics also contribute to climate change because oil is used to make them, said Stuart Coleman, Hawaii manager for the Surfrider Foundation.

Eric S.S. Wong, co-owner of two fast-food establishments on Oahu, said not being able to serve food in plastic foam containers would drive up his costs at a time when he faces rising health insurance charges for his employees and a possible minimum wage hike that lawmakers also are considering.



In this Thursday, March 14, 2019 photo, Belinda Lau, manager of the Wiki Wiki Drive Inn takeout restaurant in Honolulu, holds a polystyrene foam box containing an order of roast pork, rice and salad. Hawaii would be the first state in the nation to ban most plastics used at restaurants, including polystyrene foam containers, if legislation lawmakers are considering is enacted. The aim is to cut down on waste that pollutes the ocean. (AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy)

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He said he'll have to raise prices.

"Now all of the sudden, your family's \$30 dining experience became \$37 or \$38," Wong said.

His Wiki Wiki Drive Inn takeout counter in Honolulu sells sandwiches, breakfast meals and Hawaii favorites like Loco Moco, which features white rice topped with a hamburger patty, fried egg and gravy.

A package of 200 foam boxes costs him \$23, while the same number of biodegradable boxes would cost \$57, he said.

Chris Yankowski of the Hawaii Restaurant Association, which represents 3,500 restaurants, said lawmakers are trying to do "too much too fast."

Yankowski, who is also president of Triple F Distributors, argued that good alternatives to plastic products are not yet available. Hawaii's cities and counties also don't provide composting facilities, so there is no organized place to dispose of compostable containers that lawmakers say restaurants should use instead, he added.

"It's almost like we want to do great things for the environment, but we're not ready to handle it when we change it over," Yankowski said.

The Hawaii Food Industry Association, which counts the state's biggest supermarkets and convenience stores as members, initially opposed the foam container ban but now supports it.

The group said in written testimony that it's encountered difficulties coping with varied local regulations and it wants the state to create a consistent standard. Two main counties — Hawaii and Maui — have already adopted plastic foam bans. Maui's took effect on Dec. 31, while Hawaii's takes effect on July 1.

The association still opposes the broader measure, which also would ban plastic garbage bags.

The president of Island Plastic Bags, a Hawaii company that makes plastic bags, said the legislation would prohibit his company from selling trash bags to nursing homes and hospitals as well as restaurants and hotels.

Grocery stores wouldn't be able to sell trash can liners, Adrian Hong said in written testimony. It would create a "public health crisis," he said.

Gabbard said his proposal was in the early stages so lawmakers have time to address such concerns.

The state Senate has passed both bills. They still must get through several House committees and the full House before heading to the governor.

Cindy McMillan, a spokeswoman for Gov. David Ige, said he hasn't stated a position on the measures yet.

Justin Macia, a pharmacist in Honolulu, said he would like people to use less plastic and stop using plastic foam entirely because of how long it takes to degrade. Cardboard containers would be a great alternative, he said.

"It's definitely something that's got to go," he said, after eating a sandwich from a foam takeout box.

AP source: Justice Dept. probing development of Boeing jets

By HOPE YEN and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. prosecutors are looking into the development of Boeing's 737 Max jets, a person briefed on the matter revealed Monday, the same day French aviation investigators concluded there were "clear similarities" in the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 last week and a Lion Air jet in October.

The Justice Department probe will examine the way Boeing was regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the inquiry is not public.

A federal grand jury in Washington sent a subpoena to someone involved in the plane's development seeking emails, messages and other communications, the person told The Associated Press.

The Transportation Department's inspector general is also looking into the FAA's approval of the Boeing 737 Max, a U.S. official told AP. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The Wall Street Journal reported on the probe Sunday said the inspector general was looking into the plane's anti-stall system. It quotes unidentified people familiar with both cases.

The anti-stall system may have been involved in the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air jet off of Indonesia that killed 189 people. It's also under scrutiny in the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet that killed 157.

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The Transportation Department's FAA regulates Chicago-based Boeing and is responsible for certifying that planes can fly safely.

The grand jury issued its subpoena on March 11, one day after the Ethiopian Airlines crash, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press.

Spokesmen for the Justice Department and the inspector general said Monday they could neither confirm nor deny the existence of any inquiries. The FAA would not comment.

"Boeing does not respond to or comment on questions concerning legal matters, whether internal, litigation, or governmental inquiries," Boeing spokesman Charles Bickers said in an email.

The company late Monday issued an open letter from its CEO, Dennis Muilenburg, addressed to airlines, passengers and the aviation community. Muilenburg did not refer to the reports of the Justice Department probe, but stressed his company is taking actions to ensure its 737 Max jets are safe.

Those include an upcoming release of a software update and related pilot training for the 737 Max to "address concerns" that arose in the aftermath of October's Lion Air crash, Muilenburg said. The planes' new flight-control software is suspected of playing a role in the crashes.

The French civil aviation investigation bureau BEA said Monday that black box data from the Ethiopian Airlines flight showed the links with the Lion Air crash and will be used for further study.

Ethiopian authorities asked BEA for help in extracting and interpreting the crashed plane's black boxes because Ethiopia does not have the necessary expertise and technology.

The Ethiopian Accident Investigation Bureau intends to release a preliminary report within 30 days.

The United States and many other countries have grounded the Max 8s and larger Max 9s as Boeing faces the challenge of proving the jets are safe to fly amid suspicions that faulty sensors and software contributed to the two crashes in less than five months.

Both planes flew with erratic altitude changes that could indicate the pilots struggled to control the aircraft. Shortly after their takeoffs, both crews tried to return to the airports but crashed.

Boeing has said it has "full confidence" in the planes' safety. Engineers are making changes to the system designed to prevent an aerodynamic stall if sensors detect that the jet's nose is pointed too high and its speed is too slow.

Investigators looking into the Indonesian crash are examining whether the software automatically pushed the plane's nose down repeatedly, and whether the Lion Air pilots knew how to solve that problem. Ethiopian Airlines says its pilots received special training on the software.

Dennis Tajer, an American Airlines pilot and a spokesman for their union, said Boeing held a discussion



FILE- In this March 13, 2019, file photo people work in the flight deck of a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for TUI Group parked next to another MAX 8 also designated for TUI at Boeing Co.'s Renton Assembly Plant in Renton, Wash. U.S. prosecutors are looking into the development of Boeing's 737 Max jets, a person briefed on the matter revealed Monday, the same day French aviation investigators concluded there were "clear similarities" in the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 last week and a Lion Air jet in October. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, file)

with airlines last Thursday but did not invite pilots at American or Southwest, the two U.S. carriers that use the same version of the Max that crashed in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

Tajer said airline officials told the unions that Boeing intends to offer pilots about a 15-minute iPad course to train them on the new flight-control software on Max jets that is suspected of playing a role in the crashes. He called that amount of training unacceptable.

"Our sense is it's a rush to comply — 'let's go, let's go, let's go,'" Tajer said. "I'm in a rush to protect my passengers."

A spokesman for the pilots' union at Southwest Airlines also said Boeing representatives told that union they expected the upgrade to be ready the end of January.

The spokesman, Mike Trevino, said Boeing never followed up to explain why that deadline passed without an upgrade. Boeing was expected to submit a proposed fix to the FAA in early January.

Krisher reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers David Koenig in Dallas and Michael Balsamo in Washington contributed to this report.

White House foresees long economic boom where others don't

By JOSH BOAK AP Economics Writer

Contrary to the views of most economists, the Trump administration expects the U.S. economy to keep booming over the next decade on the strength of further tax cuts, reduced regulation and improvements to the nation's infrastructure.

The annual report from President Donald Trump's Council of Economic Advisers forecasts that the economy will expand a brisk 3.2 percent this year and a still-healthy 2.8 percent a decade from now. That is much faster than the Federal Reserve's long-run forecast of 1.9 percent annual economic growth.

The administration's forecast hinges on an expectation that it will manage to implement further tax cuts, incentives for infrastructure improvements, new labor policies and scaled-back regulations — programs that are unlikely to gain favor with the Democratic-led House that would need to approve most of them.

Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House council, insisted that the president's economic agenda would provide enough fuel to drive robust growth at a time when the majority of economists foresee a slowdown due in part to the aging U.S. population.

He said the biggest risk to growth would be if financial markets anticipate that Trump's existing policies would be reversed. Without getting into specifics, Hassett said the risk would be if markets expect that the winner of the 2020 presidential election would shift away from policies such as the tax overhaul that



FILE - In this Monday, March 4, 2019, file photo, Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, talks to media outside of the White House in Washington. Contrary to most economists, the Trump administration expects the U.S. economy to keep booming over the next decade on the strength of further tax cuts, reduced regulation and improvements to the nation's infrastructure. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

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Trump signed into law in 2017.

"Uncertainty over the policies themselves could slow their positive impact," Hasset said.

The tax cuts added roughly \$1.5 trillion to the federal debt over the next decade, not accounting for economic growth. The report suggests that the lower tax rates have increased business investment in ways that will make the economy more productive, while also creating a surge in people coming off the sidelines to search for work.

The administration's optimism comes amid signs of slowing global economic growth, as well as a recent slowdown in manufacturing production and weakness in retail sales in January and December.

Asian shares mixed in muted trading ahead of US Fed meeting

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed in muted trading Tuesday as investors awaited the U.S. Federal Reserve meeting later in the week.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.3 percent to 21,528.23 in early trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged down 0.1 percent to 6,182.10. South Korea's Kospi inched down less than 0.1 percent to 2,178.91. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose nearly 0.1 percent to 29,429.99, while the Shanghai Composite gained 0.3 percent to 3,104.89.

U.S. stock indexes finished modestly higher Monday, extending the market's solid gains from a rally last week.

The S&P 500 gained 10.46 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,832.94. The benchmark index is now up 13 percent for 2019 so far, which is a bigger gain than it's had in four of the last five full years. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 65.23 points, or 0.3 percent, to 25,914.10.

The Nasdaq composite added 25.95 points, or 0.3 percent, to 7,714.48. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 10.39 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,563.93.

On market players' mind is the Federal Reserve meeting later in the week, and speculation it may slow its pace of increases for interest rates. The worry in December was that the central bank would raise rates too fast in the face of a slowing global economy and choke off growth. The Fed will meet to discuss interest-rate policy this week, with an announcement scheduled for Wednesday, but economists expect it to announce no change to rates.

Some economists say the Fed could release documents Wednesday that would suggest one rate increase in 2019, or possibly zero, after the Fed raised rates four times in 2018 and three times in 2017.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil slipped 3 cents to \$59.06 a barrel. It rose 1 percent to \$59.09 a barrel Tuesday. Brent crude gained 1 cent to \$67.55 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 111.21 yen from 111.56 yen Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1341 from \$1.1335.



An investor plays a mobile chess game while watching stock prices at a brokerage in Beijing, China, Tuesday, March 19, 2019. Asian shares are mixed in muted trading as investors await the U.S. Federal Reserve meeting later in the week. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

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Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, March 19, the 78th day of 2019. There are 287 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 19, 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the carrier USS Franklin off Japan (the ship was saved). Adolf Hitler ordered the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands in his so-called "Nero Decree," which was largely disregarded.

On this date:

In 1918, Congress passed the first law establishing daylight saving time in the United States, with clocks to be moved forward one hour from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October. (This law was repealed in August 1919.)

In 1920, the Senate rejected, for a second time, the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by a vote of 49 in favor, 35 against, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed for approval.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1953, the Academy Awards ceremony was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1966, the Texas Western Miners defeated the heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats, 72-65, to win the NCAA Championship played in College Park, Maryland; making the contest especially noteworthy was that Texas Western became the first basketball team to start five black players in a national title game as it faced an all-white Kentucky squad.

In 1976, Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Princess Margaret and her husband, the Earl of Snowdon, after 16 years of marriage.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its floor proceedings; the live feed was carried by C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), which was making its debut.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary.

In 1993, Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White announced plans to retire. (White's departure paved the way for Ruth Bader Ginsburg to become the court's second female justice.)

In 2003, President George W. Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

In 2005, Police in Citrus County, Florida, found the body of 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford, more than three weeks after she'd disappeared from her bedroom. (Convicted sex offender John Evander Couey was later sentenced to death for kidnapping, raping and burying Jessica alive; he died of natural causes in September 2009.)

In 2013, Pope Francis officially began his ministry as the 266th pope, receiving the ring symbolizing the papacy and a wool stole exemplifying his role as shepherd of his 1.2-billion strong flock during a Mass at the Vatican.

Ten years ago: An Austrian jury sentenced Josef Fritzl, 73, to life in a psychiatric ward for locking his daughter in a dungeon for 24 years, fathering her seven children and letting an eighth die in captivity as a newborn. Pope Benedict XVI, visiting Cameroon, told Muslim leaders that true religion rejected violence; the pontiff also held up peaceful coexistence between Christianity and Islam in the country as "a beacon to other African nations."

Five years ago: In her first news conference as Federal Reserve chair, Janet Yellen said with the job market still weak, the Fed intended to keep short-term rates near zero for a "considerable" time and would raise them only gradually. Toyota agreed to pay \$1.2 billion to settle an investigation by the U.S. government, admitting that it had hidden information about defects that caused Toyota and Lexus vehicles to accelerate unexpectedly, resulting in injuries and deaths. Robert Strauss, 95, a prominent Democratic party powerbroker and former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, died in Washington. Former Iran-Contra

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chief prosecutor Lawrence E. Walsh, 102, died in Oklahoma City. Fred Phelps, founder of the Westboro Baptist Church that preached hatred of gay people, died at age 84.

One year ago: Speaking in New Hampshire, a state ravaged by opioids, President Donald Trump called for stiffer penalties for drug traffickers, including the death penalty. Former tennis star Martina Navratilova said she was "extremely angry" to learn that the BBC paid John McEnroe at least 10 times more than her for their broadcasting roles at Wimbledon. Former "Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon announced that she would challenge New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo in a Democratic primary in September. (Cuomo easily beat back the challenge.)

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft is 94. Actress Renee Taylor is 86. Actress-singer Phyllis Newman is 86. Actress Ursula Andress is 83. Singer Clarence "Frogman" Henry is 82. Singer Ruth Pointer (The Pointer Sisters) is 73. Actress Glenn Close is 72. Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is 67. Actor Bruce Willis is 64. Actress-comedian Mary Scheer is 56. Playwright Neil LaBute is 56. Actor Connor Trinneer is 50. Rock musician Gert Bettens (K's Choice) is 49. Rapper Bun B is 46. Rock musician Zach Lind (Jimmy Eat World) is 43. Actress Virginia Williams is 41. Actress Abby Brammell is 40. MLB pitcher Clayton Kershaw is 31. Actor Craig Lamar Traylor is 30. Actor Philip Bolden is 24.

Thought for Today: "As a woman I have no country. As a woman my country is the whole world." — Virginia Woolf, English author (1882-1941).