

Nightly News, a graduate from Yankton High School.

Yankton is celebrating its sesquicentennial with a variety of artists playing a diverse selection of music. This three day concert event will honor the people that have made Yankton their home, from the first rugged settlers to the children of today.

Yankton continues to be a vibrant community and a great asset to South Dakota. Yankton boasts a thriving economy, various tourist destinations, and tremendous opportunities for outdoor recreation. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Yankton, and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the city on this historic milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO RANDY SCHOEN

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the work of Medford Chief of Police Randy Schoen, and all the officers, citizens, dispatchers, and volunteers being recognized at the Medford Police Awards Banquet.

The Medford Police Department is doing its community a great service in holding the annual Medford Police Awards Banquet, acknowledging and encouraging the kind of work that keeps our citizens safe and makes our communities great.

Chief Schoen has contributed much to his department and to the city of Medford, OR. He developed the department's first K9, SWAT, and drug and gang enforcement units. He has used technology to make the department more effective and responsive. He has rolled out programs that have increased the Medford Police Department's efficiency, community involvement, and clearance rates. Chief Schoen is a terrific example of what it means to be a public servant. He is now retiring after 25 years of meritorious service. His hard work will be missed.

Also worthy of praise are the many other individuals being honored at the Medford Police Awards Banquet. These citizens and officers are receiving awards for Outstanding Achievement, Meritorious Lifesaving, and Citizen Recognition. Many of these individuals have risked personal harm to save the life of another, or ensure that justice is done. I thank the Medford Police Department for honoring them.

I join the Medford Police Department and the people of Medford in commemorating the great work of Chief Schoen and all those receiving awards at this banquet. These individuals represent the ideals of civil service, personal heroism, and a just society. I thank them for their service and wish them all the best in their endeavors to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDA CANNON

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I honor Linda Cannon, deputy director of intergovernmental relations for the city of Seattle, who is retiring after serving over 35 years with the city.

Ms. Cannon's legacy can be seen throughout the city. She has served for many years as the city's primary contact with the U.S. military as it relates to the base realignment and closure process. The most significant of these projects was her work on the ongoing redevelopment of Sand Point, a former Naval Air Station and later Support Activity Center for the Navy, closed in 1991. Linda served as the key staff person coordinating with the Navy, community members, Native American tribes, and a host of interest groups over the redevelopment of this significant resource. Linda worked to balance all these interests while ensuring that the values of the community were also upheld. The crown jewel of this redevelopment is Warren G. Magnuson Park which honors Washington State's late great Senator Magnuson. Her leadership throughout this process has been critical to its success.

Ms. Cannon also served as a mentor and trusted colleague to hundreds of city staff through the years. She is known for her grace under pressure, her clearheaded approach to problems, and keeping everything in perspective. Her attitude and work ethic always served as a model for those around her.

Ms. Cannon represents the best of public service in this country. Her professionalism, integrity, institutional knowledge, and understanding of the role of public employees in serving the people have been a huge asset to the city and will be sorely missed. There are hundreds of thousands of public servants around the country like Ms. Cannon who are quietly serving their communities every day. We all should be grateful for their dedication and service. I would like to wish Ms. Cannon the best in her retirement and a heartfelt thank you.●

RECOGNIZING BIOVATION, LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, for 25 years, the Smaller Business Association of New England, SBANE, has been recognizing the accomplishments and innovations of small businesses throughout the Northeast with its innovation awards. The Rising Star category is reserved for those small businesses that will have a significant impact in their industry or sector in the near future.

Today I rise to recognize Biovation LLC, a small manufacturing firm in the coastal Maine town of Boothbay that creates antimicrobial chemical and nonwoven fiber products for both food packaging and wound care. Biovation beat out nearly 200 nominees and 20 finalists to win the coveted Rising Star category of the SBANE's Innovation Awards, a truly worthy and aptly named recognition for this up-and-coming firm.

The company was nominated for the SBANE award by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, with which it has worked to increase efficiency, productivity and competi-

tiveness. Rosemary Presnar of the Maine MEP has noted that Biovation possesses "a rare combination of engineering capability and entrepreneurial zeal; and they're visionary in applying their technology to develop new products and create new market opportunities." This commitment to improvement is a source of inspiration, and is an example of the blossoming technological and R&D sector that is transforming Maine. Biovation received the award at SBANE's annual gala dinner on May 11 in Massachusetts, joining Maine companies such as Tom's of Maine and Wright Express, which have been recognized in previous years.

Biovation aspires to become a worldwide leader in the product safety and wound care sectors within the next decade, and the company is off to a resounding start. Biovation has developed a process where textile fibers are infused with antimicrobial chemical formulations; these fibers can be used for bandages and dressings to prevent the spread of disease by inhibiting the growth of bacteria and fungi. Clearly, this is a perfect tool for use in hospitals and medical facilities worldwide in efforts to eradicate the transmission of infections between patients.

In April of this year, Biovation shipped out its first orders of food safety products, and by this time next year, it expects to complete contract negotiations with a medical company for its wound care products. Additionally, the U.S. Marines have expressed interest in acquiring absorbent liners to keep soldier's boots dry. Because countries like Iraq and Afghanistan lack the proper infrastructure, it is difficult to use electric dryers for such tasks. Biovation's unique products can provide an affordable, lightweight pad to help our troops stay comfortable during their critical missions in extreme temperatures and conditions.

It will take America's nearly 30 million small businesses working to out-innovate and out-produce the rest of the world to provide for a lasting economic recovery. With companies like Biovation leading the way, I am confident that we are well-poised to move our economy forward. I thank everyone at Biovation for their dedication and forward-thinking, and congratulate them on their success.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM MCAVOY

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I recognize a native Puebloan, sometimes critic, and staple of Colorado's political journalism, Tom McAvoy.

Tom McAvoy has been with the Pueblo Chieftain newspaper in Colorado for over three decades, including 21 years of covering the Colorado statehouse. For the past 7 years, he has served as the Chieftain's editorial research director and a member of its editorial board. He will retire at the end of May, but I hear he will continue to make an occasional appearance in the editorial section.

Tom graduated from Pueblo's Central High School in 1964 and from the Southern Colorado State College in 1968, before going on to earn a master's degree in journalism from Ohio State University. He served in the National Guard after college and went on to work for the Associated Press, joining the Chieftain in 1977.

Coloradans have truly benefited from Tom's canny political analysis over the years. He set the standard for reporters covering State government and politics for regional papers, keeping in mind the big picture for the State even as he paid special attention to what was important from the local angles.

In particular, he has been a faithful fighter for shedding light and stimulating public discourse about the lifeblood of the West: water. In numerous articles and editorials, he has outlined for his readers the issues surrounding and complicating water use in the agricultural heartland that is southern Colorado and served as a megaphone for their interests to legislators.

Tom wrote in an editorial last year, "Our obligation is to the public, not the office-holder." To recognize his committed coverage of the Colorado statehouse, the Colorado Press Association awarded Tom its inaugural Shining Star in 1995 for being the best all-around reporter.

Many reporters who cut their teeth on Colorado politics will tell you that Tom's example and mentorship helped them become better eyes and ears for their own communities.

He also proved that showing up is half the story: there is a legend that the only time Tom ever took a leave of absence is when he came down with the West Nile virus. That dedication to his work speaks of a deep love and sense of responsibility for his hometown community, and it earned him the respect of his peers and his subjects alike.

Southern Colorado will miss Tom McAvoy's voice on the issues that matter to the region, but I have a feeling his wife Sue and their three children will have to share him in retirement with his continued service to his community.●

OIT WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls has long been a leader in America's effort to develop geothermal energy, and it's also a power in men's basketball, winning national titles in 2004 and 2008.

Now, it is the national champion in women's softball. It is the first women's team to win a national championship at OIT, but I am sure it won't be the last.

The Hustlin' Owls entered the national tournament ranked 18th in the Nation. They came out 1st in the Nation. They were led by a stellar performance from their pitcher and MVP, Jackie Imhof. In the final game, she pitched a shutout, allowing only four

hits and striking out seven. Through the tournament, Imhof was 6-1 with an amazing earned run average of 0.59. Imhof and two other teammates, catcher Kayde Schaefer and shortstop Shauna Collins, made the all tournament team.

Congratulations to coach Greg Stewart and the Hustlin' Owls of OIT. Clearly, they are doing something right at Oregon Institute of Technology.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1216. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

At 8:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 990) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1216. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1125. A bill to improve national security letters, the authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1873. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fire-Resistant Fiber for Production of Military Uniforms" ((RIN0750-AH22) (DFARS Case 2011-D021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1874. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Eric T. Olson, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1875. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan for Fiscal Year 2012 and the succeeding 4 years, Fiscal Years 2013-2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1876. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requests for Modification or Revocation of Toxic Substances Control Act Section 5 Significant New Use Notice Requirements; Revision to Notification Regulations" (FRL No. 8858-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1877. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee: Chattanooga; Determination of Attaining Data for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standard" (FRL No. 9312-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1878. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Permits for Construction and Major Modification of Major Stationary Sources of Air Pollution for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9311-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1879. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determination of Attainment for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9313-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1880. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the