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## 'You Are Not Alone'

### Obama Speaks At Newtown Vigil; Gunman Had Many Ammo Rounds

BY MATT APUZZO AND PAT EATON-ROBB  
Associated Press

NEWTOWN, Conn. — The gunman in the Connecticut shooting rampage was carrying an arsenal of hundreds of rounds of especially deadly ammunition — enough to kill just about every student in the school if given enough time, authorities said Sunday, raising the chilling possibility that the bloodbath could have been even worse.

Hours later, President Barack Obama told mourners at a vigil that the nation is failing to keep its children safe. He pledged to seek change in memory of



Obama

the 26 staffers and schoolchildren who were killed in the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. "What choice do we have?"

Obama said. "Are we really prepared to say that we're powerless in the face of such carnage, that the politics are too hard?"

The gunman, Adam Lanza, shot himself in the head just as he heard police drawing near to the classroom where he was slaughtering

helpless children, but he had more ammunition at

the ready in the form of multiple, high-capacity clips each capable of holding 30 bullets.

The disclosure on Sunday sent shudders throughout this picturesque New England community as grieving families sought to comfort each other during church services devoted to impossible questions like that of a 6-year-old girl who asked her mother: "The little children, are they with the angels?"

With so much grieving left to do, many of Newtown's 27,000 people wondered whether life could



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT

Residents of Newtown, Conn., comfort each other during an interfaith vigil on Sunday. Twenty-six people were shot dead, including twenty children, after a gunman identified as Adam Lanza opened fire in the school.

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## Hagel In Line For Pentagon Top Job

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel is a contrarian Republican moderate and decorated Vietnam combat veteran who is likely to support a more rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

As President Barack Obama's top candidate for defense secretary, Hagel has another credential important to the president: a personal relationship with Obama, forged when they were in the Senate and strengthened during overseas trips they took together.

Hagel, 66, emerged last week as the front-runner for the Pentagon's top job, four years after leaving behind a Senate career in which he carved out a reputation as an independent thinker and blunt speaker.

Wounded during the Vietnam War, Hagel backed the Iraq war, but later became a fierce and credible critic of the Bush administration's war policies, making routine trips to Iraq and Afghanistan. He opposed President George W. Bush's plan to send an additional 30,000 troops into Iraq — a move that has been credited with stabilizing the chaotic country — as "the most dangerous foreign policy blunder in this country since Vietnam, if it's carried out."

While Hagel supported the Afghanistan war resolution, over time he has become more critical of the decade-plus conflict, with its complex nation-building effort.

Often seeing the Afghan war through the lens of his service in Vietnam, Hagel has declared that militaries are "built to fight and win wars, not bind together failing nations." In a radio interview this year, he spoke broadly of the need for greater diplomacy as the appropriate path in Afghanistan, noting that "the American people want out" of the war.

If nominated — an announcement could come this week — and confirmed by the Senate, Hagel would succeed Defense Secretary Leon Panetta. Panetta has made it clear he intends to leave early next year, but has not publicly discussed the timing of his departure. He took the Pentagon job in July 2011.

At the same time, Obama is considering one of Hagel's former Senate colleagues, Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts, for the job of secretary of state.

To political and defense insiders, Obama's preference for Hagel makes sense.

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## MMC, USD: December's Rites



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Jim Reese, associate professor of English at Mount Marty College, spoke to the school's fall graduates during December commencement exercises Saturday at Marian Auditorium.

## USD: Grads Get A List For Success

BY DAVID LIAS  
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VERMILLION — South Dakota Chief Justice David Gilbertson told graduates of the University of South Dakota Saturday that what they've learned during their time at the university is no doubt important, exceeded only by "how" they've learned.

"The world's knowledge is increasing every 10 years, and in some areas, every four years," he said. "Coming out of this institution knowing how to think and how to reason may be your greatest asset as you head out into your life, because your education is going to continue, whether you go on to further your formal education or whether you do it in a self-taught manner. The days when you can leave a university with a degree knowing you are set for life are gone with the wind."

Gilbertson was keynote speaker at USD's 37th winter commencement exercises at held Saturday at the DakotaDome. He is a native of northeast South Dakota and a 1975 graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Law.

Putting a somewhat contemporary twist on the standard graduation speech format, the chief justice offered to the university graduates what he describes as "the top 10 things I think you should know."

10: Do not be afraid of failure. Learn from your past experiences and your past mistakes, and the ex-



DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

Mary L. Collins of Vermillion is "hooded" by Professor Garreth Zalud during the 37th winter session commencement exercises of the University of South Dakota, held Saturday in the DakotaDome at Vermillion. The hooding ceremony marks Collins' earning a doctor of education degree from the university.

## MMC: Reese Tells Grads To Use Their Voice, Enjoy Creativity

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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Already an established professor and published writer, Jim Reese walked into his first day of a creative writing workshop at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp and quickly realized he was in for a challenge.

The first question tossed at the associate professor of English at Mount Marty College?

"What's the difference between poetry and prose?"

Re-tooling his approach to the course, Reese eventually spent seven months with the prisoners that first session — a "hardcore writing process," he calls it — and helped them eventually develop a book.

"Everyone wants to be a writer, but they have to earn it," said Reese, the commencement speaker at Saturday morning's Mount Marty College fall graduation ceremony at Marian Auditorium. "They have to come up with something that really matters, something from the heart."

Speaking to just more than 50 graduates, Reese reflected on his time with the inmates. He said that more than simply showing them how to craft sentences and construct paragraphs, he tried to go deeper.

"The thing about prisoners is, you can teach them a trade in prison, you can teach a person to be a plumber," he said. "That's all great and good. But unless you can teach that person to tap into the emotional instabilities that brought them to prison in the first place, you're just going to send an angry plumber right back out into society."

Reese, who also serves as director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty and editor-in-chief of *Paddlefish* (MMC's literary journal), said that while "tension was present" in his session with inmates, he is confident that he was able to break through. He shared with the graduates a class reflection that one inmate wrote at the conclusion of the session.

"I have learned so many wonderful things about creative writing from the teachers and the writers that we've had the pleasure to meet," Reese said, quoting Smith. "I now understand the actual mechanics of writing and sculpting involved in developing a good piece of literature. I now write every day, and although it's work, it is work that I now find very enjoyable."

It's that enjoyment that was a prevalent theme in Reese's nearly 10-minute speech Saturday.

Following the statement, "Don't ever underestimate the power of your own voice," Reese said that the first essay he has his beginning writing class students tackle is to share an example of how they use their voice to make a difference.

"Sometimes they look at me oddly. Some say, 'I'm not sure I've ever used my voice to make a difference,'" he said. "I reassure them that they have. And with time and further discussion, they produce some wonderful writing."

The classroom can be a "haven" for creativity and a place where ideas can eventually be turned into words on a page, Reese said. He encouraged the graduates to "read and write frequently, never a day without a line."

"I find it imperative to help students find their voice through extended practice writing and speaking, discovering and developing uses for writing that will serve

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## OH, DEER!

Some members of the Yankton Area Summer Band wore their holiday spirit on their sleeves — and heads — during Sunday's annual holiday concert, held at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. The band, led by guest conductor Kevin McLouth of Bon Homme, presented a rousing performance to the crowd of approximately 250. Scheduled selections included "Jingle Bell Rock," "Yuletide Fantasy" and the summer band's signature holiday tune, "Sleigh Ride." To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).



## McGovern To Be Buried In D.C.

MITCHELL (AP) — Family members of the late Sen. George McGovern say his cremated remains will be buried early next year in a historic Washington, D.C., cemetery.

The remains are currently in Sioux Falls, where McGovern died in October at the age of 90, nephew Matt McGovern told the *Daily Republic*.

"We plan to do it sometime in mid-February," Matt McGovern said. "It's just a matter of when we can come together to do it. He's been cremated. It's something he decided to do."

McGovern, the 1972 Democratic

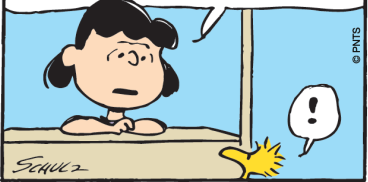
nominee for president, lost the election to Richard Nixon in an electoral landslide.

In his later years, McGovern became known for his advocacy for world nutrition, a cause he continued long after leaving public office. In 2008, he was awarded the World Food Prize along with former Republican Sen. Bob Dole.

When McGovern's 85-year-old wife, Eleanor, died in 2007, she was interred at City Cemetery in Mitchell. Her remains were moved to Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington later that year.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, WOODSTOCK... MOST FAMILIES PREFER LARGER BIRDS FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER.



Dec. 17  
8 shopping  
days to Christmas