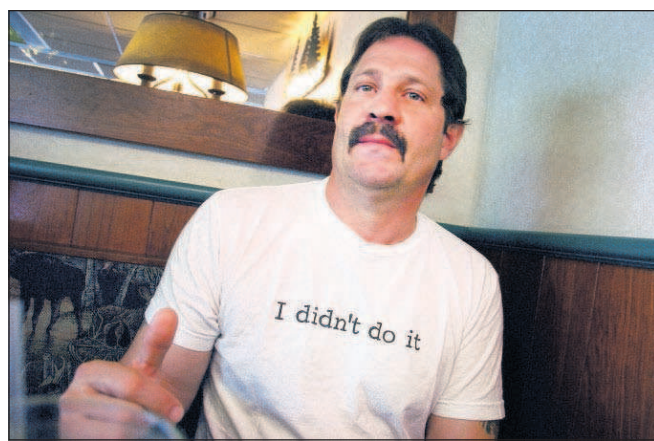




Daniel Zampogna/PennLive.com via AP

## Amish marathoner

In this photo taken on Sunday, Leroy Stolz of Gordonville runs in the 2015 Harrisburg Marathon in Harrisburg, Pa. The Pennsylvania man turned heads as he whizzed by fellow runners, not because of his speed, but because of his unusual racing attire. Stolz finished the 26.2-mile race in just over three hours and five minutes — all while wearing his community's traditional clothing.



AP Photo/Matthew Brown, File

This May 2013, file photo shows Barry Beach wearing a T-shirt that says "I didn't do it" at a Billings, Mont., diner.

## Man freed after three decades in prison calls moment 'surreal'

Associated Press

DEER LODGE, Mont. — A Montana man who spent three decades behind bars for a murder he says he did not commit walked out of prison Friday after the governor granted his clemency request.

Barry Beach, 53, told reporters gathered outside the Montana State Prison's front door that the moment was "surreal."

"I knew it was going to be here someday," Beach said. "The good Lord in heaven has always assured me that I'd reach this point. I never dreamed it was going to take this long."

He added there would be "a lot of healing and a lot of tears" during the four-hour drive to his Billings home, and he thanked Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock for keeping his word.

The governor, who was not present, previously said he'd look favorably on Beach's request.

Beach was serving a 100-year sentence with no possibility of parole for the 1979 beating death of Kimberly Nees, 17, on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeast Montana.

Bullock noted in his order that Beach was only 17 at the time and exhibited good behavior in prison.

The murder of Nees, an honor student, gripped the small town of Poplar after her body was found alongside a river at a popular place for teenagers to party. No arrests were made, and small-town gossip built until Beach confessed to out-of-state police who picked him up on an unrelated crime.

But Beach said his 1983 confession in Louisiana was coerced.

His long campaign for freedom drew support from hundreds, including

Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, former Gov. Brian Schweitzer and former Republican U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns.

A cousin of the victim, Glenna Nees Lockman, said Friday it was shameful Beach had been released without someone else being charged in the crime.

"Oh, my god. That's so not right," Lockman said. "Someone needs to be held accountable. If it's not Barry Beach, go to court and prove who it is."

Lockman for years counted herself among those who believed in Beach's innocence. She said she became uncertain over the past two years and came to view him as "a con, a manipulator" who was willing to hurt others for his own benefit.

In his order, Bullock did not directly weigh in on whether Beach was innocent or not, and a spokesman said the governor would have no further comment on the issue.

Beach was released for 18 months beginning in 2011 after Montana District Judge E. Wayne Phillips ordered a new trial, based on witness testimony that Nees died in a fight among a gang of girls.

But the state Supreme Court blocked the trial, sending Beach back to prison. Phillips, who has since retired, told The Associated Press on Friday he was pleased to see Beach finally free. Beach already has proven he can handle life outside prison by staying employed and out of trouble when he was previously released, Phillips said.

"Even assuming that he was guilty, he's shown himself to be reformed. Isn't that the goal of the American justice system?" Phillips said.

## Push to prevent gun sales to those on terror list

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — People on the U.S. government's terrorist watch list often can't board commercial airliners, but they can walk into a gun store and legally buy pistols and powerful military-style rifles.

Sensing a political opening from last week's Paris attacks, Democrats are renewing calls for Congress to pass legislation aimed at preventing terrorists from buying guns. Similar bills — including a post-9/11 measure backed by the Justice Department under Republican President George W. Bush — have been stymied for years, thanks in large part to opposition from gun-rights groups and congressional Republicans.

According to a March analysis by the Government Accountability Office, people on the FBI's consolidated Terrorist Watchlist successfully passed the background check required to purchase firearms more than 90 percent of the time, with more than 2,043 approvals between 2004 and 2014. The office is an investigative branch of Congress.

The FBI is notified when a background check for the purchase of firearms or explosives generates a match with the watch list, and agents often use that information to step up surveillance on terror suspects. Under current federal law, however, association with a terrorist organization doesn't prohibit a person from possessing firearms or explosives.

About 420,000 people are on the

list administered by the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, though only about 2 percent of those are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents legally able to buy guns.

The new Democratic push, which is considered unlikely to succeed in the GOP-controlled Congress, is focused on legislation by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., that would let the attorney general compile a list of known and suspected terrorists.

Federally licensed gun dealers would be barred from selling firearms to them, just as they are already prohibited from sales to people with felony convictions or serious mental illnesses. The proposed legislation would not prevent transactions that don't involve licensed dealers, such as those between private individuals at gun shows or many sales online, which don't currently involve background checks.

Feinstein introduced her bill in February, well before the mass killings in Paris injected new life into terrorism and public safety as top-tier political issues. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Feinstein's bill echoes legislation that the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., proposed repeatedly over the last decade. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., has also long pushed the same legislation to no avail.

Republicans took advantage of voters' newly aroused security concerns this week, when they easily pushed legislation through the House preventing Syrian and Iraqi refugees

from entering the U.S. until the administration tightens restrictions on their entry.

That issue put Democrats on the defensive. Forty-seven of them voted for the bill, ignoring a veto threat by President Barack Obama, who said the current screening system is already strong and accused Republicans of fanning fear among worried voters.

Democrats are hoping to turn the political tables on Republicans by focusing the debate instead on terrorists' access to guns.

Congress has yet to vote on Feinstein's proposal or on nearly identical ones that have been introduced for years. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has not said whether he would be open to allowing a vote.

The GOP-run House has not held any votes on major gun control measures since the killings of 26 children and adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., did not respond directly when asked Thursday if he favored barring people on the watch list from buying guns, saying, "We are just beginning this process of reassessing all of our security stances."

The National Rifle Association signaled this week it will oppose Feinstein's bill, as it did those before it.

NRA spokeswoman Jennifer Baker pointed to past instances where innocent people were added to the watch list either in error.

### BRIEFLY

#### Gunmen attack hotel in Mali's capital, killing 20

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Heavily armed Islamic extremists seized dozens of hostages Friday at a Radisson hotel, but Malian troops, backed by U.S. and French special forces, swarmed in to retake the building and free many of the terrified captives. At least 20 people, including one American, were killed along with two gunmen during the more than seven-hour siege, a Malian military commander said.

An extremist group led by former al-Qaida commander Moktar Belmoktar claimed responsibility for the attack in the former French colony, and many in France saw it as a new assault on their country's interests a week after the Paris attacks.

While French President Francois Hollande did not link the violence at the Radisson Blu hotel with last week's bloodshed in Paris, he declared that France would stand by the West African country.

Gunfire continued throughout the day at the hotel, which is popular with airline crews and other foreigners doing business in the capital of Bamako, but the shooting had stopped after dark.

Officials would not confirm that the entire complex had been secured by nightfall, although the only activity was firefighters carrying bodies to waiting

ambulances.

Malian state television said late Friday night that the government had announced a 10-day state of emergency beginning at midnight as well as a three-day period of national mourning.

#### E. coli outbreak linked to Chipotle expands to 6 states


NEW YORK (AP) — An outbreak of *E. coli* linked to Chipotle that originated in the Pacific Northwest has spread south and east and has now infected people in six states.

New cases have been reported in California, New York and Ohio, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Friday. The first cases were discovered late last month in Oregon and Washington, and more recently in Minnesota.

Investigators have yet to determine the ingredient linked to the illness.

So far, 45 people have been infected, with 43 of them saying they ate at Chipotle in the week before they became sick. The CDC said it is aware of illnesses starting on dates ranging from Oct. 19 to Nov. 8. The agency said that illnesses after Oct. 31 may not have been reported yet.

Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. closed 43 restaurants in Oregon and Washington in late October after health officials discovered most of the people sickened in the outbreak had eaten at its restaurants.



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