TIMES-NEWS

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IDAHO LAW STUDENT PENS LAW TO BAN SALE OF REMAINS

KYLE PFANNENSTIEL, IDAHO CAPITAL SUN

Desalyn Swank said she enrolled in law school to help pass legislation and policy "to protect those that have passed that are being taken advantage of."

Mortician's daughter sought to quash human remains retail industry

KYLE PFANNENSTIEL
Idaho Capital Sun

When Desalyn Swank applied to law school at University of Idaho, she said she made it clear she wanted to reform the state's laws.

Before her first year at law school ended, she already had.

This year, the Idaho Legislature passed, and the governor signed, a bill she wrote to strengthen the state's laws to criminalize the possession and sale of human remains.

Inspired by her faith and her upbringing as the daughter of a mortician, she worked with coroners, law enforcement and others to craft a bill that didn't receive a single no vote from any of Idaho's 105 state lawmakers — all in the final few weeks of this year's legislative session, when lawmakers often discourage new bills.

But she doesn't take all the credit.

"I don't think that I really carved the path forward," Swank said in an interview. "I think that it it carved the path for itself because ... the human remains retail market is so heinous, and it's so against what we stand for as a nation and as humanity and what we hold as our values."

The law, which took effect July 1 through House Bill 856, makes it a felony to sell own,, buy or lease "any artifacts or any human remains taken from a cairn, grave, or burial site," or to "sell or advertise the sale of any material advertised as real human remains." The law carves out several exceptions, including actions to perform government duties, such as work done by law enforcement or coroners, or by licensed medical practices, mortuaries, cemeteries, or medical research facilities.

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ECONOMY

Investors pan Treasury's surprise bond buyback

Yields rise; Bessent says Treasury might increase repurchases

DAVID LAWDER, SUSAN HEAVEY, RAE WEE, HARRY ROBERTSON AND GERTRUDE CHAVEZ-DREYFUSS
Reuters

SINGAPORE — The U.S. Treasury's surprise bond buyback failed to quell lingering concerns about inflation and expanding government debt as bond yields rose Thursday, dragging the dollar higher as well.

The Treasury responded Wednesday to U.S. long-bond yields hitting the highest level since 2007 by doubling long-end buybacks to at least $4 billion per operation.

The move, after a sharp sell-off in long-duration debt, provided instant relief to a market that is under pressure from concerns about fiscal debt, inflation and competition from huge AI-related borrowing.

Investors, however, said they wanted the Treasury to take steps that would provide more lasting support — and they worried

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KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent speaks to reporters Thursday at the White House in Washington.

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