

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 1 of 23

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Treeline Tree
- 1- Today's Information
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 2- Rounds Weekly Column
- 2- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 3- Change your clock, batteries
- 3- Hunting party sizes clarified
- 3- Classifieds
- 4- Thune's Weekly Column
- 5- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Local Forecast
- 8- National Weather Map
- 8- Local Weather
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- News from the Associated Press

Saturday, March 7

Birthdays: Allan Merkel, Blanca Sperry, Brian Bahr, Dale Strom, Jamie Herron, Jeraka Rossow, Patty Harms, Pierce Kettering, Rev. Terry Kenny, Shannon Hjermstad, Tom Cutler.

Anniv: Richard & JoAnn Krueger

State Debate at Harrisburg

Region DI Tournament in Groton

10 a.m. to Noon: Emmanuel Lutheran serves at Kids Against Hunger

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time - Turn Clocks ahead 1 Hour

Birthdays: Jonathan Doeden

9:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School

9:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

Monday, March 9

Birthdays: Betty Strom, Collette Van Cleave, Jamie Jorgensen, Jessica Grenz, Megan Fliehs, Samuel Schlosser

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken noodle soup, turkey sandwich, veggie cups, fruit.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 2 of 23



Stopping Iran's Nuclear Threat

I recently had the opportunity to attend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to a Joint Meeting of Congress. His speech to us focused on the important bond between the U.S. and Israel, as well as our shared goal of preventing Iran from ever obtaining nuclear weapons. I was pleased to hear the Prime Minister's thoughts, especially as the Administration negotiates with Iran to eliminate their nuclear program.

Iran is a dangerous nation that threatens the security of the entire world. This terrorist regime supports Bashar Al-Assad in Syria, the Houthi militia in Yemen, Hezbollah and Hamas – all of which have targeted or killed Americans. The country's radical and hostile agenda, including plans to destroy Israel, must be opposed.

The administration's deadline for laying out a framework of the agreement is the end of March. Prime Minister Netanyahu expressed his serious reservations about the administration's approach to these negotiations. I hope the President will carefully consider the Prime Minister's concerns. I believe the government of Iran is an enemy that cannot be trusted.

Previous nuclear talks with Iran have been unproductive, and the Administration has been unable to secure a long-term deal that would force Iran to suspend its nuclear enrichment program.

I am a cosponsor of the Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act, which would reimpose economic sanctions on Iran if an agreement is not reached. Imposing sanctions on Iran will demonstrate our resolve and encourage Iran to end their nuclear program. Iran's weak economy would suffer immensely under more sanctions. The Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act also requires that any agreement reached with Iran would be subject to Congressional approval.

If we allow Iran to maintain a nuclear program capable of creating nuclear weapons, other countries in the Middle East will certainly pursue nuclear weapon programs, ultimately creating a nuclear arms race in the most volatile region in the world.

I am pleased Prime Minister Netanyahu addressed the Joint Meeting of Congress on this important issue. The United States has no greater ally in the Middle East than Israel.

Israel has remained a steadfast ally, working with us to prevent the spread of violent extremism and the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, especially in Iran. Our relationship with them transcends both time and political theater, and it is imperative we continue to work together to defeat our enemies who would destroy us. A nuclear Iran threatens the entire world. This cannot be tolerated.

Spring Open House

Thursday-Saturday, March 5-7

- Daily door prizes
- Food samples
- 30% off kids merchandise
- 50-75% clearance merchandise
- 40% off cold weather head & hand
- Select wine discounts

Watch Facebook for further daily discounts

First 20 customers each day receive a free item!

Olde Bank Floral @ 

101 N. Main St.
Groton ~ 397-8650
www.oldebankfloral.com



Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries

Pierre, S.D. – Daylight saving time begins this weekend. That means it's time to change your clock AND change your batteries.

The South Dakota fire marshal's office is asking South Dakotans to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when resetting their clocks for daylight saving time.

"This is a great opportunity for all to make sure the batteries in their smoke detectors are still working. Just hit the test button on the alarm. If it doesn't sound, you likely need new batteries," said Paul Merriman, South Dakota fire marshal.

Merriman offers these additional guidelines for keeping you and your family safe from fire:

- At least once a month, press the test button to check your detector.
- For maximum protection, install smoke detectors on every level of your home.
- Smoke detectors lose sensitivity over time and should be replaced periodically. They are usually good for about 10 years.
- Periodically clean smoke detectors using a vacuum attachment. This removes particles that could interfere with the detector's proper operation.
- Finally, brush up on your family's emergency exit plan. If your family doesn't have a plan, this is an ideal time to develop one.

GFP Commission Proposes Clarification to Hunting Party Sizes

PIERRE, S.D. - Currently, South Dakota administrative rule states that "no more than 20 persons may hunt in a group, except when hunting jackrabbits or predators." This rule has led to some confusion regarding who is counted in the party of a hunting group; primarily when pheasant hunting.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has proposed a rule clarification stating that "only those persons carrying firearms or bows would count against the limit of 20, except when hunting a predator/varmint." Unarmed persons who may be involved as walkers, observers or drivers would not be counted against the party size.

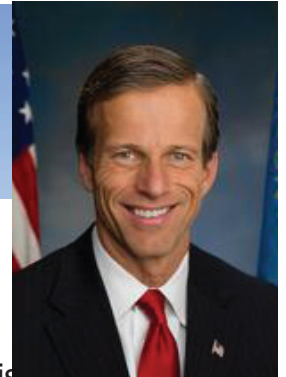
The Commission will finalize this proposal during their April 1-2 meeting at the Brookings Days Inn in Brookings. To view these rule proposals in their entirety, please visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/default.aspx>. Written comments on this proposal can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be included in the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on April 1, and have your full name and city of residence.

Classifieds

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Black Hills Future Uncertain Due to Long-Eared Bat

Hundreds of different wildlife species call the Black Hills National Forest home. Bison, deer, elk, coyotes, and antelope are all part of the vast array of wildlife that make the Black Hills a unique place to visit. Among the lesser-known wildlife species that call the Black Hills their home is the northern long-eared bat.

Unfortunately, northern long-eared bats are dying at alarming rates in parts of the country. Researchers have determined that the leading cause of death among northern long-eared bats is a disease in certain areas of the country known as white-nose syndrome. While this disease has been found in 22 states across the country, it has not been detected in South Dakota.

In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reached a secret sue-and-settle agreement with two radical environmental groups resulting in endangered species listing determinations for more than 250 species across the United States, including the northern long-eared bat. Despite the lack of evidence suggesting white nose syndrome exists in our state, if the FWS chooses to list the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) it would likely institute a number of restrictive measures in the Black Hills to “preserve” the long-eared bats’ habitat, including severely limiting active forest management.

Active forest management is critical to combating the spread of pine beetles, preventing forest fires, and cultivating a healthy forest in the Black Hills. Maintaining forest health isn’t just for the purpose of preserving the beauty and majesty of this treasured area of our state, but also represents an important sector of our state’s business interests. The FWS’s proposed forest management restrictions would significantly curtail the timber industry in the Black Hills at a cost of more than 1,500 jobs and \$119 million in lost revenue to local economies. Additionally, widespread forest fires or pine beetle advances could jeopardize the state’s second largest industry, tourism; and ironically destroy the habitat of the species it is trying to protect under the listing.

After working closely with the Black Hills communities and timber industry, I introduced a bill on March 4 to prevent the FWS from listing the northern long-eared bat under the ESA. Since learning of the potential listing late last year, I have been actively engaging with the FWS and stakeholders to prevent these unintended consequences from impacting the Black Hills, including sending two separate letters calling on the FWS to stand down on its listing of the long-eared bat and resulting misguided forest management policies.

Limiting forest management practices due to listing the long-eared bat as endangered is unnecessary, reckless, and irresponsible. Rather than limiting active forest management in the Black Hills, the FWS should be focusing its efforts on eradicating white-nose syndrome. Over the past 10 years, no wildlife species has been listed by the FWS naming disease as a primary cause, which makes listing the long-eared bat even more questionable. I will continue working with my colleagues in the Senate to stop the FWS’s ESA listing, and advocate for common-sense policies that protect the forest and the animals that call it home.



Preserving A Way Of Life Through Ag Development

In South Dakota, agriculture is more than just a sector of our economy. It's a way of life. Whether it's a small family farm, a sizeable cattle ranch or a dairy operation, all forms of agricultural businesses are important to that way of life.

In 2013, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) began offering counties a service called the County Site Analysis Program. This service helps counties use data to identify sites suitable for agriculture-related development, and to avoid sites which are not suitable.

Ag investments are vital, especially in rural South Dakota, but development must be done responsibly. Because not every new project is a good fit in every location, the program helps county commissioners and landowners determine where projects best fit.

Through the County Site Analysis Program, SDDA looks at local zoning ordinances, locations of roads, utilities and other infrastructure, as well as other local permitting requirements. This information is used to rate property locations on their suitability for things such as manufacturing, commodity processing or livestock-related enterprises.

This program respects local control, because local officials must initiate the process by a formal resolution, requesting SDDA assistance. County commissions, planning and zoning boards, and landowners can use the produced data to make well-informed decisions. Local leaders use the data in their comprehensive planning efforts; landowners have concrete information outlining options for their land; and agribusinesses learn where their investments will be welcomed.

Even though the County Site Analysis Program is fairly new, a majority of counties have already expressed interest in participating. Since the program's launch, 49 counties have requested a site analysis, and SDDA has completed analyses in 15 counties.

In addition to this program, local governments may soon have another way to pave the road for economic development. There's a proposal in the Legislature right now that would revise state law on conditional use permits. Conditional use permits are local zoning exceptions which allow property to be used for specific purposes. Cemeteries, churches, golf courses, gravel pits and livestock barns are some examples of projects that might require this kind of permit.

Under current state law, local governments must have a two-thirds majority to approve conditional use permits. House Bill 1201 would allow local governments to change that requirement to a majority vote, if they so choose. Like the County Site Analysis Program, this proposal respects local control. It does not mandate that local governments change the current supermajority requirement. It gives the option. This bill could make it easier to start an agribusiness in South Dakota within our counties and municipalities who invite those opportunities.

Agriculture's preeminence in our state economy is not something that is inevitable. Local leaders understand this and they know they must be intentional about allowing for opportunities. The County Site Analysis Program and House Bill 1201 seek to broaden those opportunities.

By furthering ag development in our state, we'll not only be maintaining our number one industry, but we'll be preserving a way of life.

Today in Weather History

March 7, 1998: A winter storm tracked across South Dakota resulting in heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches across most of central South Dakota from the evening of the 6th into the afternoon of the 7th. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Fort Pierre and near Stephan, 7 inches at Blunt, Pierre, and Murdo, and 8 inches across far southern Jones and Lyman counties. Many activities were canceled and travel was significantly disrupted, especially on Interstate-90.

1717 - The Great Snow, a composite of four winter storms to hit the eastern U.S. in nine days, finally came to an end. Snow depths averaged 60 inches following the storm. Up to four feet of snow fell around Boston MA, and snow drifts 25 feet high were reported around Dorchester MA. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1932 - A severe coastal storm set barometric pressure records from Virginia to New England. Block Island RI reported a barometric pressure reading of 28.20 inches. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Forty-five cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Huron SD hit 80 degrees, and Pickstown SD reached 81 degrees. Rochester MN and Rockford IL smashed their previous record for the date by sixteen degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - High winds along a sharp cold front ushered snow and arctic cold into the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Northern Plains. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to sixteen inches at Brighton. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Rapid City SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Blustery northwest winds ushered arctic cold into eastern U.S. Burlington VT reported a record low of 14 degrees below zero. Snow and ice over the Carolinas replaced the 80 degree weather of the previous day. High winds and heavy surf caused five million dollars damage along the North Carolina coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A major ice storm left much of Iowa under a thick coat of ice. It was the worst ice storm in at least twenty-five years for Iowa, perhaps the worst of the century. Up to two inches of ice coated much of western and central Iowa, with three inches reported in Crawford County and Carroll County. As much as five inches of ice was reported on some electrical lines. The ice downed 78 towers in a 17-mile stretch of a high voltage feeder near Boone costing three electric utilities fifteen million dollars. Damage to trees was incredible, and clean-up costs alone ran into the millions. Total damage from the storm was more than fifty million dollars. (Storm Data)

1997 - The worst was finally over for states hit hard by the flooding Ohio River. The river crested on the 6th at Louisville, Kentucky, at 15 feet above flood stage, after topping out at nearly 13 feet at Cincinnati, Ohio and more than 7 feet at Huntington, West Virginia.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 7 of 23

TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Partly Sunny High: 41 °F	Wintry Mix Low: 22 °F	Sunny High: 43 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 23 °F	Sunny High: 53 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 27 °F	Sunny High: 52 °F



Mild Temperatures Continue

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Issued: March 7, 2015

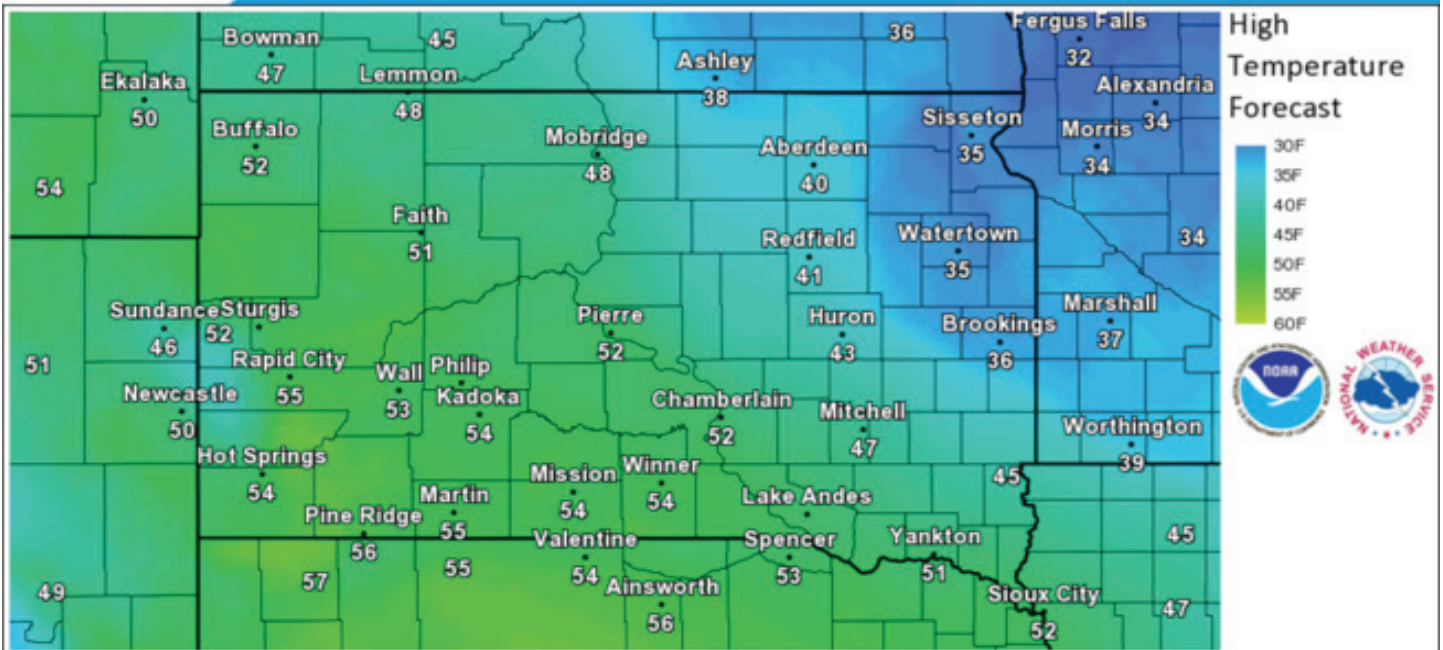
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Valid ending Saturday March 7th, 2015 at 6 PM CST

Created Saturday March 7th, 2015 at 5:18 AM CST

Published on: 03/07/2015 at 5:25AM

Highs today will be fairly similar to Friday, with 30s to around 40 degrees east, and warmer readings in the upper 40s to low 50s over central South Dakota. An upper level disturbance will bring chances of mixed precipitation across portions of the region tonight. Much warmer temperatures will arrive on Monday and are expected to remain over the region through the entire week.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 8 of 23

Yesterday's Weather

High: 40.8 at 4:20 PM

Low: 9.6 at 7:04 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 14 at 12:28 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 69° in 1987

Record Low: -24° in 1995

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 16°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.17

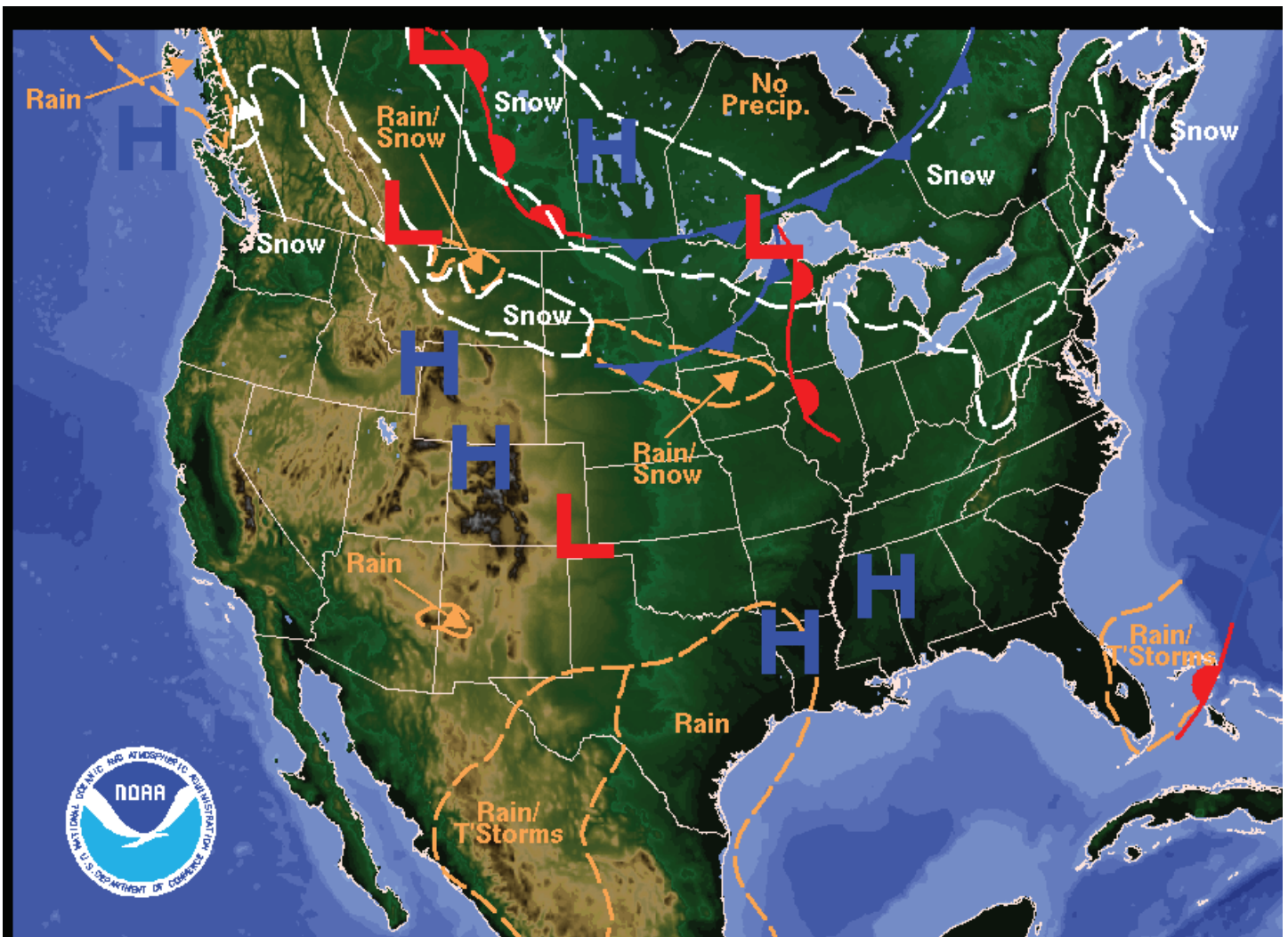
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.19

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:29 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:00 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Mar 07, 2015, issued 3:26 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Ryan based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 9 of 23



THE DANGER OF BEING A NONCONFORMIST

It's only natural to want to "be my own person" or "follow the little drummer in my head" and "find my path and follow it." Who does not want to be an "individual, a one-of-a-kind, no-one-else like me?" Is that not what God really created me for? To be me and do "my thing?"

All of that "stuff" is good - if not great - as long as it is done while staying obedient and true to God's "instructions." Otherwise, following one's own ways leads to death. A very stern warning. So, if we want to guard our life and live well and not become involved in behaviors that lead to a premature death, what do we do?

According to Solomon, "He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of His ways will die." The word "instruction" is not open to our personal interpretation. It is instruction that comes from God through His Spirit. This is a "life or death proposition" that demands our unquestionable obedience if we want "the best, longest lasting life possible."

Keeping God's instructions is one of the best things we can do. In fact, a non-believer once said to me, "I cannot accept Jesus' virgin birth or the miracles or the resurrection. But I do know that if I live according to the "instructions" of God and the teachings of Jesus I will live a long, productive and rewarding life." However, he was talking about principals - not power that comes from God through Christ. And herein lies the difference.

The "contemptuous" person is one who does not value living their life under God's instructions. They look at His way as being a matter of choice rather than an obligation to be blessed with a long and blest life. "Will die" is the exact opposite of "well-being and a long life." It refers to a "premature death" by being disobedient to God's instructions - His laws and precepts.

Prayer: Give us, Lord, a willingness to be obedient to Your ways. You have given us the power of choice: may we choose life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 19:16 Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 10 of 23

News from the Associated Press

Summit League games to be streamed as well as on cable TV

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fans of teams playing in the Summit League Basketball Championships in Sioux Falls can access TV coverage even without cable.

For the first time, all men's and women's games can be viewed live on the Web and hand-held devices, in addition to national coverage on Midco Sports Network and ESPN.

The Midco telecasts will be shown throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and parts of rural Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The games will also stream on ESPN3, a multi-screen sports network that enables viewers to watch games online at www.thesummitleague.org/espn and on smartphones, tablets and other devices through the WatchESPN app.

South Dakota, South Dakota State and North Dakota State are among the men's and women's teams playing this weekend in quarterfinals. Semi-final and championship games are Monday and Tuesday.

Legislators to finish budget, mull transportation and autism

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers will pass a state budget this week to largely wrap up their work for the 2015 legislative session.

Lawmakers will hear updated state revenue estimates on Monday, which will shape budget decisions. Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave said the state's surplus revenue appears smaller than anticipated.

A proposal to hike funding for roads and bridges is one of the proposals Gov. Dennis Daugaard is watching most closely.

The other proposal Daugaard has his eye on is a measure to overhaul the state's juvenile justice system. The measure is also expected to be heard on the House floor and aims to shift juvenile offenders toward community-based treatments and significantly decrease the number committed to the state Department of Corrections.

Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

District 1AA Third Place:

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 58, Brookings 34

Championship: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 47, Watertown 35

District 2AA Third Place: Yankton 47, Brandon Valley 34

Championship: Sioux Falls Washington 50, Sioux Falls Lincoln 46

District 3AA Third Place: Aberdeen Central 85, Mitchell 50

Championship Pierre 66, Huron 63

District 4AA Third Place Sturgis 63, Spearfish 58:

Championship: Rapid City Stevens 68, Rapid City Central 52

District 3A: Semifinals: ell Rapids 82, Flandreau 54

Region 3A: Regional Semifinal: Madison 52, Sioux Falls Christian 49

Region 5A Regional Semifinal:

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 11 of 23

McCook Central/Montrose 43, Tri-Valley 40
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 58, West Central 57
District 3B Championship: Potter County 55, Eureka/Bowdle 42
District 4B Championship: Hitchcock-Tulare 51, Sully Buttes 45
District 7B Championship: Chester 65, Elkton-Lake Benton 52
District 8B Championship: Hanson 69, Canistota 47
District 9B Championship: Parker 52, Freeman 45
District 10B Championship: Irene-Wakonda 61, Centerville 54
District 11B Championship: Corsica/Stickney 51, Platte-Geddes 39
District 12B Championship: Gregory 57, Colome 43
District 13B Championship: White River 93, Lyman 50
District 14B Championship: Rapid City Christian 69, Philip 50
District 15B Championship: McLaughlin 58, McIntosh 55
District 16B Championship: Faith 56, Harding County 47

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Region 1A Regional Final: Webster 57, Milbank 34
Region 2A Regional Final: Clark/Willow Lake 60, Sioux Valley 49
Region 6A Regional Final: Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 62, Winner 53
Region 1B Regional Final: Summit 39, Warner 35
Region 3B Regional Final: DeSmet 53, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 43

Panel votes down measure allowing more municipal sales taxes

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure to allow municipalities to temporarily collect up to an additional cent of sales tax for infrastructure projects fell victim on Friday to concerns about hiking taxes, even though supporters said it would help communities thrive.

The House State Affairs Committee voted 7-6 to defeat the proposal, which would have required voter approval before a tax hike could be imposed. Opposing lawmakers argued that the Legislature is already considering revenue increases for transportation funding and said new taxes would harm South Dakota's business-friendly climate.

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch questioned whether the hikes are necessary. Opposition group Americans for Tax Prosperity South Dakota argued the measure could have added more than \$150 million in new taxes if every city implemented it.

"If I took money out of your pockets, I could do a landscaping project around my house," Gosch said. "I don't know that I need that, but maybe I want it, and so it's kind of that discussion of need versus want."

Supporters scoffed at characterizations that the new taxing authority would lead to such a large hike and urged lawmakers to understand municipalities' needs. Mark Lee from the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce said voters would have to sign off on tax increases for specific projects.

Representatives from cities across the state highlighted adding more parking in a tourist hotspot to road projects to required airport renovations as examples of projects that could benefit from the bill.

Republican Rep. Scott Munsterman, a former Brookings mayor who is sponsoring the proposal, said the measure would give cities another tool for that type of necessary construction.

"I've been known to say that next to a mayor's spouse, the sexiest thing to a mayor is water and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 12 of 23

sewer because it lays the infrastructure for a community to develop and to grow and to prosper, and that's what we're asking," Munsterman said.

Yvonne Taylor, executive director of the South Dakota Municipal League, said cities weren't looking for a state handout but instead to take control at the local level — and only if the voters approved it.

"We call it the perfect bill," Taylor said after the vote. "I'm sure I'm going to go out and explain (the defeat) to people this spring when we do our legislative update, and they're going to go, 'but why?'"

Bison man pockets more than \$53,000 in Dakota Cash drawing

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Bison man has claimed more than \$53,000 in a Dakota Cash drawing.

Lottery officials say Merle Hulm purchased the winning ticket at the Bison Bar, which will receive more than \$2,600 as a bonus for the sale.

In addition to paying bills, Hulm says he plans to buy a car for one of his daughters and five cows for himself. He says the most he had ever won before in a lottery was \$500 on a scratch ticket.

The Dakota Cash jackpot currently sits at \$20,000 for Saturday's drawing.

States say Obama administration misled judge on immigration

JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A coalition of states suing to stop President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration alleges the government misled a judge about not implementing part of the plan before the judge temporarily halted it.

The allegation comes after the Justice Department said in court documents this week that federal officials had given 100,000 people three-year reprieves from deportation and granted them work permits under a program that protects young immigrants from deportation if they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Justice Department attorneys had previously said federal officials wouldn't accept requests under an expansion of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, until Feb. 18.

The federal government's immigration actions regarding DACA as well as a program that would extend deportation protections to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years, were put on hold on Feb. 16 by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Brownsville, Texas. Justice Department attorneys have asked Hanen to lift his hold while they appeal the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Hanen has not made a decision on that request.

Obama's action, first proposed in November, could spare from deportation as many as 5 million people who are in the U.S. illegally. Many Republicans strongly oppose his action and 26 states, most of them led by Republicans, sought to block the Obama orders as unconstitutional.

"News that tens of thousands of expanded work permits have already been issued to illegal immigrants while President Obama's executive action, which we believe is illegal, is being contested in the courts is both outrageous and unacceptable," Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said in a statement.

In court documents filed Tuesday, the Justice Department said that between Nov. 24 and Feb. 16, federal immigration officials granted the three-year reprieves to 100,000 individuals who were already eligible under the original 2012 guidelines of DACA.

The Justice Department said the federal government recognizes that its identification of Feb. 18 as the date when requests under the new and expanded eligibility would be accepted "may have led to confusion."

Justice Department attorneys said they don't believe the preliminary injunction requires federal of-

officials to take any steps to reverse the three-year reprieves already granted.

In court documents filed Thursday, the states said they don't understand why the U.S. government doesn't consider the approval of the 100,000 reprieves to have been done under the new and expanded guidelines of DACA.

The 2012 DACA guidelines provided two-year deportation reprieves and work permits. Obama's new immigration action would expand that to three years.

"This newly disclosed conduct is difficult to square with (the federal government's) prior representation to the Court that 'nothing is going to happen' until weeks after" a Jan. 15 court hearing on the preliminary injunction request, the states said in court documents.

The states, led by Texas, asked Hanen to allow them to request additional information from the federal government about how it approved the DACA requests while the lawsuit was going through the courts.

In his Feb. 16 decision on the injunction, Hanen wrote the federal government had indicated that Feb. 18 would be the date it planned to accept requests under the expansion of DACA. Hanen also wrote that while his injunction did not affect the 2012 DACA program, it did put on hold its expansions and additions proposed by Obama's action.

The other major part of Obama's immigration action extending deportation protections to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been in the country for some years, had not been expected to begin until May 19.

The other states seeking to block Obama's orders are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Daugaard helps save Jolene's Law Task Force on child abuse

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers and others fighting child sexual abuse in South Dakota ended an emotional week on Friday with some help from Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who promised funding to study the issue again this year.

A bill to continue the task force's work in 2015 faced an unexpected 10-2 defeat in the House State Affairs committee this week, which surprised supporters because the plan had passed through the state Senate without any dissent. The defeat spurred outrage among members of the Jolene's Law Task Force.

But Republican Rep. Roger Solum said shortly before the vote that there are funding limitations and said that he would hate to commit to the study when other issues may need to be examined.

Daugaard and members of the panel said on Friday that they would use grant funding to continue the group's work under the executive branch.

"In my estimation, this work is too important," Daugaard said. "I've heard that from many in the past couple of days who urged that it continue."

The task force is named after Jolene Loetscher, of Sioux Falls, who was a victim of sexual abuse as a teenager and has talked publicly about her story.

"I'm so relieved that people cared and that they were able to have their voice heard," Loetscher said. "There are a lot of people that have suffered that pain that I have, and they want to be sure it doesn't happen to someone else."

Republican Sen. Deb Soholt, who chairs the Jolene's Law Task Force, said the group could spend up to about \$21,000 to continue its work. Much of that would come from a federal grant, the administra-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 14 of 23

tion said.

Lawmakers are also considering a companion proposal that came from the task force's recommendations for this legislative session. The House State Affairs committee voted unanimously on Wednesday to pass the measure, which would require that a mandatory reporter — such as a teacher or school counselor — who first hears a child's account of abuse must be available to answer questions when the account is passed on to authorities.

Soholt has said that's to make sure the account doesn't become jumbled as it passes through multiple people on its way to authorities.

Members of the task force were happy that measure had passed, but were disheartened by the task force's defeat. Loetscher alleged politics had something to do with the derailed plan and praised Soholt for working to "make sure that this work was not killed off by what I would consider the ignorance and the politics of 10 other people."

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch, who chairs the House State Affairs Committee, said that there's a procedure in place for studies over the summer to go through and said it could have continued that way.

Loetscher said the task force wants to continue working on a broader public awareness campaign in part about the signs of abuse and to improve how K-12 students, volunteers, teachers and parents are educated about abuse, among other initiatives.

"Relief is the name of the day, and the work goes on," Loetscher said. "It's just the beginning."

Daugaard unsure whether to veto youth minimum wage proposal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he hasn't decided whether to veto a measure to exempt South Dakota's youngest workers from the \$8.50 minimum wage voters approved in November.

The Legislature has approved the measure. Daugaard said Friday he wants to consider arguments around the plan, which would carve out a \$7.50 youth minimum wage.

Daugaard said he wouldn't support a "direct attack" on the voter-approved measure such as a repeal of the cost of living increases attached to the wage.

The legislative proposal would affect people under 18, and the \$7.50 youth wage wouldn't be subject to future cost-of-living increases.

But Daugaard says a youth wage wasn't really discussed during the ballot question campaign ahead of the election.

Opponents have said the legislation goes against will of the voters.

Daugaard to sign repeal of state's so-called 'Daschle law'

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he will sign a measure to change the state's so-called "Daschle law" that bars a presidential candidate from seeking another office on the same South Dakota ballot.

Daugaard said on Friday he will approve a proposal to remove the prohibition.

The original Republican-backed measure in 2002 faced criticism from Democrats for targeting then-U.S. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, who was considered a possible 2004 Democratic presidential candidate.

Daugaard says the state should seize the opportunity to increase its political influence for candidates from both parties.

Democrats had fought against the change this session, but Senate Democrats largely ended up sup-

porting it to put an end to political games around the plan.

Daugaard says he voted against the 2002 bill when he was in the Legislature.

State GF&P Commission proposing to increase elk licenses

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Game, Fish and Parks Commission is proposing to allow more hunters to take elk in the Black Hills this season.

The commission met in Pierre this week for its March meeting. Commissioners proposed increasing the number of firearm elk licenses to 930, up from 2014's 630, for the Black Hills season.

The proposals includes 430 any elk licenses and 500 antlerless licenses.

The Capital Journal reports that the increase in licenses is the result of strong elk population growth in the last few years.

The commission also proposed increase the number of licenses for the archery elk season. They're looking at increasing licenses from 92 any elk and 15 antlerless elk to 144 any elk and 56 antlerless elk.

It will finalize the proposals at its April meeting.

3 reasons Apple's watch will _ or won't _ change the game

BRANDON BAILEY, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — No one can argue that Apple has changed the way people live their lives. The company's iPod, iTunes, iPhone and iPad have shaken up music, phone and computer markets worldwide. Is the Apple Watch going to be able to do the same?

The stakes are big for Apple CEO Tim Cook: the watch is the first brand-new Apple product to be launched without legendary co-founder Steve Jobs. But the market is awash in smartwatches that have gained little traction. Here are three reasons the Apple Watch will finally move the needle in the smart-watch industry — and three reasons it might not.

WHY IT WILL CHANGE THE GAME

MORE FEATURES THAN RIVALS: Along with email, texts and phone calls, Apple says its watch will present news, health readings and other notifications in creative ways that can be read at a glance. It will have a heart rate monitor and accelerometer, and an internal motor that can signal the wearer with a subtle "tap" on the wrist. And Siri and Apple Pay will be built in. Apple is working with outside companies to create more apps; Cook has talked about using the watch as an electronic "key" for hotel doors or even cars.

A POWERFUL BRAND: The world's biggest tech company has a reputation for quality and a direct conduit to customers — it operates more than 400 retail stores around the world. And it has deep pockets to spend on advertising — it is showcasing the watch this month with a sleek, 12-page insert in Vogue and other fashion magazines.

APPLE'S TRACK RECORD: This wouldn't be the first Apple product that revolutionized a market where rivals had struggled to break through. Other companies made digital music players before the iPod, smartphones before the iPhone and even tablets before the iPad. Most of those products failed to catch on until Apple made devices so appealing they set new standards and created new demand, said Forrester Research analyst J.P. Gownder.

OR NOT

WHAT'S THE NEED?: Most smartwatches — including Apple's — only work with a smartphone nearby, so you can't swap one expensive gadget for the other. "What we've seen is that it's not obvious why people would want a smartwatch," says Gownder. A recent Forrester survey found some respondents

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 16 of 23

didn't see a reason to buy one because they already owned a less-expensive fitness band or a full-featured smartphone (although it also found Apple fans ready to buy the new watch).

CONSUMERS NOT EXCITED: You can already buy smartwatches made by giant tech companies like Samsung, Sony or LG, or from a tech startup like Pebble, that track your heart rate, show you email and deliver other online services to your wrist. None of them have really caught on. Only about 5 million smartwatches were sold worldwide last year, according to market researchers at Strategy Analytics. By comparison, Apple sold 74.6 million iPhones in just the last quarter.

PRICE AND OBSOLESCENCE: Many of today's smartwatches sell for \$200 or less. Apple plans to sell three models, starting at \$349, but Piper Jaffray's Gene Munster predicts the average buyer will pay \$550 for a watch and extra, interchangeable bands. Apple's high-fashion "Edition" model, made with 18-karat gold, is expected to cost thousands. While affluent consumers might pay that for a watch they can wear for years, or even hand down to their children, it's a lot of money for something that could become outdated if Apple releases a new model every year or so — as it does with smartphones.

Cook will make his case for the Apple Watch at a press event Monday, where he's expected to show off more features and apps. Expectations are high.

But even the iPhone didn't become a mainstream blockbuster in its first year, notes Creative Strategies analyst Ben Bajarin. Of the Apple Watch, he says, "people need to understand more about what this product is, and what it does, and I think that will evolve over time."

Dow reshuffle: Apple joins blue-chip index, AT&T gets booted

BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writers

MAE ANDERSON, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple is in. AT&T is out.

In another milestone for the popular and profitable iPhone giant, Apple will replace AT&T in the venerable Dow Jones industrial average on March 19, the manager of the index announced Friday.

The move isn't likely to impact the 30-stock index much, and will have no effect on the fortunes of the two companies. But market experts say it does have symbolic importance, sort of like getting an Oscar at the Academy Awards — or at least a nomination.

The change cements Apple as "the gold standard of technology," says Daniel Ives, a financial analyst at FBR Research. "They've really become the modern-day Wright Brothers."

The reshuffling of the 119-year-old Dow, a barometer of market fortune and folly once dominated by railroads, also reflects a changed business world.

"It underscores that technology continues to be a critical driver of the overall economy," says Edward Jones analyst Bill Kreher.

Apple is the world's most valuable company. Its market value on the stock exchange, or what it would take to buy all its shares, closed last month above \$700 billion, a first for any company.

Apple won't get top billing in the Dow, though. Thanks to a quirk in the way the index is calculated, that honor will go to a company a little over a tenth as valuable: Goldman Sachs.

The Dow weights companies by how much it costs to buy a single share, not all of them. On Friday, a Goldman share fetched \$186.91 versus \$126.60 for Apple.

A look at the musical chairs at the world's most famous index:

THE REASON

For all the symbolic importance, the trigger for the move is less colorful. The manager of the index, the S&P Dow Jones Indices, said it's making the change in response to a planned stock split for Visa,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 17 of 23

another Dow member.

After its four-to-one split, Visa will wind up with a lower price. S&P said that would reduce the weight of the information technology sector in the Dow because Visa, a credit-card and payment-processing giant, counts as a tech stock. Adding Apple will help balance out this reduction.

TWEAKING THE INDEX

S&P Dow Jones Indices said the decision to fold in Apple won't alter the overall level of the index, which stood at 17,856 Friday.

S&P Dow Jones is casting the move as a sort of a housekeeping maneuver, a way to ensure that the index better reflects the U.S. economy and markets.

The switch is not a reflection of its view of Apple.

"This doesn't mean we like the stock, or don't like the stock, or something like that," says David Blitzer, chairman of the index committee at S&P Dow Jones.

CHALLENGES AT AT&T

While the Dow change wasn't triggered by anything AT&T did, it comes at a challenging time for the phone giant.

The nation's second-largest wireless carrier is facing pressure from smaller rivals T-Mobile and Sprint in a competitive environment in which most Americans already have a cellphone.

Its stock has risen just 3.5 percent in the past 12 months. That compares with a 10.4 percent gain in the Standard & Poor's 500. Apple, meanwhile, has jumped 67 percent.

To keep growing, AT&T has had to look beyond cellphones — to tablets and connected cars, for example. Adding a tablet to a phone plan gets AT&T another \$10 in monthly service fees.

The Dallas-based company is also trying to wean customers off equipment subsidies and shift them toward installment plans in which they ultimately pay full price for a phone.

In its most recent quarter, AT&T booked a loss due to one-time expenses. But its revenue rose 4 percent as it added 1.9 million subscribers, double the year-ago quarterly increase.

AT&T has bounced in and out of the blue chip average over the Dow's long history. It first entered in 1916 as American Telephone & Telegraph, joining Central Leather, Studebaker and other industrial giants in an elite club of 20 companies. Much later, in 2004, AT&T was kicked out only to return the following year when it merged with SBC Communications.

THE DOW STILL MATTERS

Created in 1896, the Dow is one of the oldest gauges of stocks. Grover Cleveland was U.S. president that year. Companies like the Pacific Mail Steamship were counted among its ranks.

The index tracks only 30 stocks. The Standard & Poor's 500 reflects the moves of 500.

The S&P 500 also ranks companies differently, assigning weights based on the value of all a company's shares, not just one. That gives Apple more influence on daily moves in the index than any other stock. It accounts for nearly 4 percent of the index.

Professional investors focus more on the S&P 500 because they think it reflects the stock market better. They tend to use that index, not the Dow, to judge the performance of their own portfolios.

Ordinary investors also prefer the S&P 500, judging from the money they've put into index funds that mimic its performance. Investors have \$4 trillion in 1,261 funds that track the S&P 500, according to Morningstar. That compares with just \$13.6 billion in 12 Dow-based index funds.

Still, the Dow can't be dismissed as a relic. It continues to be much cited and isn't seen as wildly distorted.

One reason is that, for all its flaws, the Dow has largely mirrored the ups and downs of the much larger S&P 500. In the past 12 months, for instance, the Dow has risen 8.7 percent versus the S&P

500's 10.4 percent.

The last big Dow shake-up came in September 2013, when Goldman Sachs, Nike and Visa knocked out Alcoa, Bank of America and Hewlett-Packard.

AP News in Brief

AP Essay: A missing airplane, a (still) vast planet, an enduring mystery that won't let go

BANGKOK (AP) — The towering Danish ship *Kobenhavn* set sail from Argentina one December day, bound for Australia with five dozen souls aboard. Eight days later, as it traversed the South Atlantic, it radioed a nearby ship. All seemed well.

That was Dec. 22, 1928. The vessel was never heard from again. There were reports of a "phantom ship" spotted through the haze, but searches of the icy waters turned up nothing. A year passed.

"Never in the history of shipping has a missing vessel been searched for more thoroughly," Associated Press correspondent Alex Gerfalk wrote then. "Science has exhausted its resources in an attempt to find a plausible explanation for the complete disappearance of the largest sailing vessel in the world."

And so it goes. For centuries, human beings have clambered aboard vessels and headed for the horizon, unsure if they would return. Sometimes they didn't. Sometimes search parties were dispatched to seek survivors, bodies, answers. Sometimes they were not.

Today, the world is a year into the mystifying disappearance of the enormous jetliner that was Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 without any sort of resolution. Searches of vast swaths of the Indian Ocean continue, pegged to a cocktail of science and optimism that we hope will provide some answers for those families left behind — and for the rest of us.

Malaysia's transport chief says if MH370 not found by end of May, it's back to drawing board

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — If the massive undersea search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 turns up nothing by the end of May, the three countries leading the effort will return to the drawing board, Malaysia's transport minister said Saturday.

Liow Tiong Lai told a small group of foreign reporters on the eve of the anniversary of the plane's disappearance that he remains cautiously optimistic the Boeing 777 is in the area of the southern Indian Ocean where the search is ongoing.

Despite the exhaustive search for the plane, which disappeared last March 8 during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, no trace of the jet has been found. Malaysia's government on Jan. 29 formally declared the incident an accident and said all 239 people on board were presumed dead.

"By the end of May, if we still can't find the plane, then we will have to go back to the drawing board," Liow said.

Asked if Malaysia might stop the search if there are no new leads by the end of May, when bad weather usually sets in, Liow said it was "too early to pre-empt anything now," and that the government would continue to rely on the group of experts leading the hunt.

Analysis: Divided Republican lawmakers empower Democrats in congressional minority

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winners in a bruising struggle with Republicans over homeland security funding and immigration, minority Democrats had unity on their side, along with a politician's understandable fear of terrorist attacks and the Constitution's separation of powers.

The tea party-aligned, bitter-end Republican losers had outrage, and in the House, an unbending unwillingness to compromise that some of their own rank and file judged counterproductive.

The result was a rout that some Republicans say — and Democrats no doubt hope — portends poorly for their party.

Republicans "have got to find a level of cohesion where we can at least pass legislation that we get to the president's desk," said Rep. Dennis Ross of Florida as the party's attempt to roll back President Barack Obama's immigration directives flamed out. "If we can't do that, we fail to govern and we lose 2016."

Whatever the long-term implications of Republican divisions, the lessons of this one episode seem simple.

Joint chiefs chairman optimistic about battle for Tikrit led by Iranian and Iraqi forces

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP) — The one-two punch of Iranian-back militias and Iraqi government troops is likely to prevail in the unfolding battle for Tikrit, but it would not have been possible if U.S. airstrikes had not tied down Islamic State fighters elsewhere in northern Iraq, the top U.S. general said.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was asked by reporters traveling with him from Washington to Iraq whether he believes the Islamic State group will be pushed out of Tikrit.

"Yeah, I do," he said. "The numbers are overwhelming."

Dempsey said about 23,000 Iranian-based Shiite militiamen and Iraqi soldiers are involved in the offensive, compared to only "hundreds" of IS fighters.

The offensive is not what the Americans would consider textbook military tactics, he said, describing a hodge-podge of Iraqi Humvees, trucks and other vehicles surging toward Tikrit like rush hour on the Washington Beltway.

In EU foreign policy, strength through unity is hard to come by; even makes leaders stutter

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — It was enough even for the normally unflappable European Union President Donald Tusk to start losing his cool. He stuttered, staggered his sentences, as he assessed what Russian President Vladimir Putin was doing to the EU's brittle sense of unity.

"One of the most important goals for President Putin today is to divide Europe," he said in off the cuff remarks to the European Parliament. He called it a key reason why he is "so obsessed about unity today."

He'd better be. For EU unity has been in short supply here on the shores of the Baltic Sea, where Europe's top diplomats gathered this week to forge a common strategy on the Ukraine crisis. When it comes to Russia, the 28-nation EU is roughly split in two. Several former Soviet bloc nations — includ-

ing the three Baltic states and Tusk's Poland — urge a tough line in the face of what they see as Russian aggression, while others like Germany and France are more careful to keep channels open.

At the same time, Putin has been wooing some nations like Hungary and Cyprus, making sure they can act as a thorn in the EU's side.

Since foreign policy is set by unanimity between 28 nations, Tusk will find it tough to speak forcefully when he meets with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington on Monday.

Moral clashes, power plays: Indonesian executions show difficulty of death penalty diplomacy

SYDNEY (AP) — Inside a remote island prison in Indonesia, two Australians facing death by firing squad await word of their fate. To some, they are ruthless drug smugglers who deserve to die. To others, rehabilitated do-gooders who deserve to live. The question of which characterization is correct has threatened ties between two once-close countries, both convinced they are right.

Australia's fight to save Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran from imminent execution, and Indonesia's fight to maintain control of its own legal system, has devolved into a diplomatic battle rife with accusations of hypocrisy, power plays and moral superiority. And it serves as a stark reminder of why the death penalty is often considered the ultimate diplomatic challenge: How do you negotiate the non-negotiable?

"For a diplomat, the death penalty cases are always the hardest ones because they involve a supreme act of sovereignty — the foreign state believing it has the right to take the life of someone that's committed a crime — but also a supreme loss of sovereignty that a country isn't able to protect its citizens overseas," said Andrew Carr, an international relations expert at The Australian National University. "You get the greatest clash of moral values in that some states believe this is right and proper to be applied and other states believe it's quite abhorrent."

There's inevitably tension whenever one country tries to tell another how to conduct its business. That becomes even more acute in death penalty cases, which involve the most extreme human emotions and become, unwittingly or not, symbols of a nation's strength — or lack thereof.

The Australian drug smugglers' case is a prime example of that. Chan and Sukumaran were arrested in 2005 and sentenced to death for planning to smuggle 8.3 kilograms (18 pounds) of heroin to Australia from Bali. Australia, which long ago abolished the death penalty, pleaded for clemency, arguing the men have been rehabilitated. Indonesia maintains the ultimate punishment is necessary to protect its citizens from a national drug crisis.

Obama to join in 50th anniversary of 'Bloody Sunday' in Selma

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and about 100 members of Congress are converging on Selma, Alabama, on Saturday for the 50th anniversary of a landmark event of the civil rights movement.

Obama will speak in the riverside town to commemorate "Bloody Sunday," the day in 1965 when police attacked marchers demonstrating for voting rights.

The violence preceded the Selma-to-Montgomery march, which occurred two weeks later. Both helped build momentum for congressional approval of the Voting Rights Act later that year.

Thousands of people attend the annual observance of the anniversary, and organizers expect an even larger crowd this year.

First lady Michelle Obama will travel with the president, and former President George W. Bush also

plans to attend. The congressional delegation will include U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, an Alabama native who was among the marchers seriously injured in the violence 50 years ago.

US Senator Menendez, amid federal probe, says he has always acted 'in accordance with the law'

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Amid a federal investigation, U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez insists he has always been honest in his more than 20 years in Congress and says he is “not going anywhere” even as a person familiar with the matter says he’s expected to face criminal charges soon.

The New Jersey Democrat has been dogged by questions about his relationship with a Florida doctor and political donor, whose office was raided by authorities two years ago. Now charges are expected to be filed against Menendez in the coming weeks, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is pending.

Attorney General Eric Holder declined to say whether he has authorized criminal charges against the senator.

At a press conference Friday in his home state, Menendez spoke in English and Spanish, chopping his hand down for emphasis.

“Let me be very clear, I have always conducted myself appropriately and in accordance with the law,” he said. “Every action that I and my office have taken for the last 23 years that I have been privileged to be in the United States Congress has been based on pursuing the best policies for the people of New Jersey and this entire country.”

Local artist wears suit of armor to protest sexual harassment on Afghanistan's streets

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan performance artist Kubra Khademi was just 4 years old the first time she was molested by a stranger on the street, and recalls thinking one thing: “I wish my underwear was made of iron.”

So more than 20 years later she donned a suit of armor with large breasts and buttocks and wore it on the streets of Kabul to protest Afghanistan’s endemic harassment.

The eight-minute performance was not well received: She is now in hiding and afraid for her life. But after a lifetime of being pinched and prodded on the streets — and being told to keep quiet about it — the 27 year old is determined to break her deeply conservative society’s silence on sexual harassment.

Women, even those who wear the all-encompassing burka, regularly endure verbal abuse and unwanted touching in Afghanistan, where the fight for gender equality is still in its infancy. After more than a decade of activism, girls are still sold into marriage, domestic violence goes largely unpunished, and few women occupy positions of public responsibility.

Khademi was four when a stranger touched her bottom while she was walking to a shop near her family’s home in Quetta, Pakistan, where they had joined a tide of refugees fleeing war and the brutal rule of the ultra-conservative Taliban. She was molested in the streets on many other occasions throughout her life, including one instance shortly after she had returned to Afghanistan in 2008 to take entrance exams to study fine arts at Kabul University.

5 things to know about Syracuse's sweeping violations that go against NCAA 'core values'

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Jim Boeheim has become used to the spotlight in his long career at Syracuse. It's awfully bright right now — for all the wrong reasons.

Boeheim and his men's basketball program took another hit on Friday from the NCAA, which suspended the Hall of Fame coach for nine league games next year and outlined a decade-long series of violations that included academic misconduct, improper benefits, and drug-policy failures.

The governing body of college sports said in a report that the school lost control of its athletic department and placed the Orange on probation for five years for breaking with the "most fundamental core values of the NCAA."

The bulk of the violations concerned athletic department officials interfering with academics and making sure star players stayed eligible.

"The behavior in this case, which placed the desire to achieve success on the basketball court over academic integrity, demonstrated clearly misplaced institutional priorities," the NCAA said.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 7, the 66th day of 2015. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what came to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolutionary Wars, France declared war on Spain.

In 1850, in a three-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.

In 1912, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen arrived in Hobart, Australia, where he dispatched telegrams announcing his success in leading the first expedition to the South Pole the previous December.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1955, the first TV production of the musical "Peter Pan" starring Mary Martin aired on NBC.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1983, the original version of The Nashville Network (now Spike) made its debut.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use." (The ruling concerned a parody of the Roy Orbison song "Oh, Pretty Woman" by the rap group 2 Live Crew.)

In 1999, movie director Stanley Kubrick, whose films included "Dr. Strangelove," "A Clockwork Orange" and "2001: A Space Odyssey," died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70, having just finished

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 7, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 223 ♦ 23 of 23

editing "Eyes Wide Shut."

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush nominated John Bolton to be U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, an appointment which ran into Democratic opposition, prompting Bush to make a recess appointment. The presidents of Syria and Lebanon announced that Syrian forces would pull back to Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley by March 31, but that a complete troop withdrawal would be deferred until after later negotiations. A prison fire in the Dominican Republic killed 134 inmates.

Five years ago: The Iraq war thriller "The Hurt Locker" received six Academy Awards including best picture, with Kathryn Bigelow accepting the first directing Oscar awarded to a woman. Iraq held an election in which neither the Sunni-backed coalition nor the Shiite political bloc won a majority, spawning an eight-month deadlock and stalling formation of a new government.

One year ago: Russia was swept up in patriotic fervor in anticipation of bringing Crimea back into its territory, with tens of thousands of people thronging Red Square in Moscow chanting, "Crimea is Russia!"

Today's Birthdays: Photographer Lord Snowdon is 85. TV personality Willard Scott is 81. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Janet Guthrie is 77. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 75. Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 73. Rock musician Chris White (The Zombies) is 72. Actor John Heard is 69. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 69. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 69. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Franco Harris is 65. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Lynn Swann is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 63. Actor Bryan Cranston is 59. Actress Donna Murphy is 56. Actor Nick Searcy is 56. Golfer Tom Lehman is 56. International Tennis Hall-of-Famer Ivan Lendl is 55. Actress Mary Beth Evans is 54. Singer-actress Taylor Dayne is 53. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 52. Opera singer Denyce Graves is 51. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 51. Actor Jonathan Del Arco is 49. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 48. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 44. Actress Rachel Weisz (wys) is 44. Classical singer Sebastien Izambard (Il Divo) is 42. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantric) is 41. Actress Jenna Fischer is 41. Actress Sarayu Rao is 40. Actress Audrey Marie Anderson is 40. Actor TJ Thyne is 40. Actress Laura Prepon is 35.

Thought for Today: "History and experience tells us that moral progress cannot come in comfortable and in complacent times, but out of trial and out of confusion." - Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States (1913-2006).