

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 1 of 23

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Titan Machinery - Justin Hanson
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Drought Monitor
- 3- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 3- Prairie Mixed Bowling
- 3- Classifieds
- 4- 3 Day Blinds Ad
- 5- Bevitized Column
- 6- DI Race to Globals
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Local Forecast
- 9- National Weather Map
- 9- Local Weather
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- Gerber Life Insurance Ad
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Friday, March 27

Birthdays: Dwight Strom, Gail Schinkel, Michelle Walter

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Fish nuggets, French fries, romaine salad, fruit, muffin.

Saturday, March 28

Anniv: Gail & John Zeck

Birthdays: Craig Dunker, David Johnston, John Wheeting, Lana Jondahl, Neil Warrington, Riley Thurston, Bennett Suther
State DI in Huron

Sunday, March 29

Birthdays: Alexander Kern, Darcy Albrecht, Sharon Wheeting, Tyrel Telkamp

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

9:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

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.

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

TITAN
MACHINERY

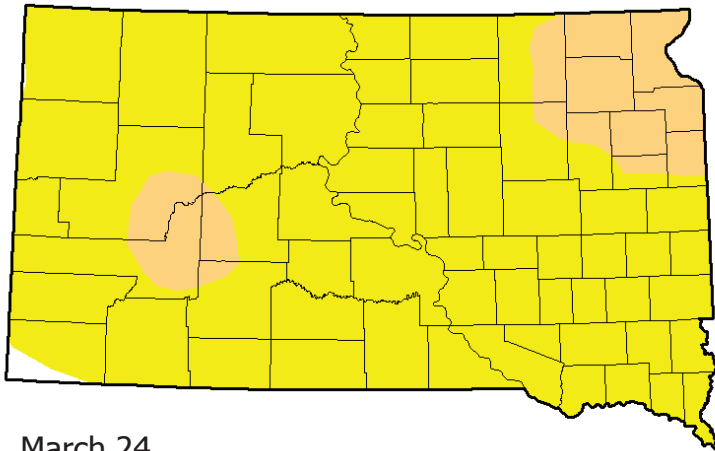
CASE IH
AGRICULTURE

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
justin.hanson@titanmachinery.com

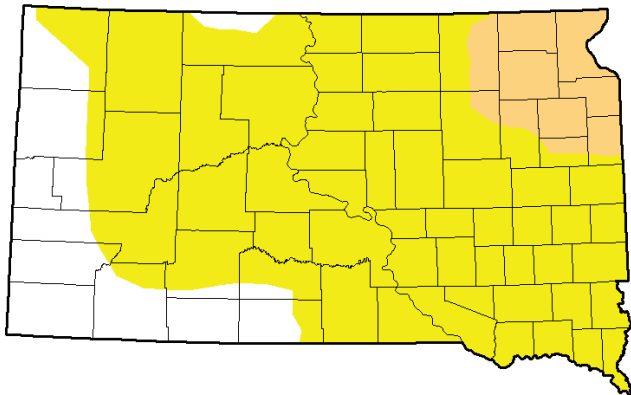
605-380-1120

Weekly Drought Monitor

Chilly but dry conditions in eastern portions of the Midwest contrasted with warm weather and areas of light rain in western portions of the region. In the Great Lakes, Abnormal Dryness (D0) was introduced in southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio as well as central and northern portions of Michigan and Wisconsin. Precipitation in these locales has totaled locally less than 50 percent of normal over the past 90 days, reducing soil moisture for spring growth.



March 24



March 17

March 24, 2015

(Released Thursday March 26, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Statistics type: Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.) Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2015-03-24	0.57	99.43	12.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week	2015-03-17	17.74	82.26	8.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago	2014-12-23	48.53	51.47	4.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	2014-12-30	48.53	51.47	4.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year	2014-09-30	97.46	2.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago	2014-03-25	90.33	9.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Population Affected by Drought: **132,149**

[View More Statistics](#)

Intensity:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

Author(s):

Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 3 of 23

Groton Prairie Mixed

Shih Tzus 19 ½, Jackelopes 18, Pocket Gophers 16 ½, Foxes 12, Coyotes 10, Chipmunks 8

High game: Men - Brad Waage 233, 206, Mike Siegler 200, Lance Frohling 194
Women – Vicki Walter 224, Sue Stanley 210, Dar Larson 172

High series: Men – Brad Waage 609, Brad Larson 562, Mike Siegler 549
Women – Vicki Walter 504, Sue Stanley 475, Dar Larson 465

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.

Lineman wanted

Electric lineman who will assist with miscellaneous City maintenance duties. Certified Journeyman mandatory. EOE. Send resume to City Finance Office, PO Box 587, 209 N Main, Groton, SD 57445 by April 17.

Inventory



PRICEREDUCTIONS

**Hundreds of new
markdowns
40%-75% off
regular prices**

Going on *now!*

**Olde Bank
Floral**
"N More"

*Fresh flowers, silks, home
decor & so much more*
101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650
www.oldebankfloral.com

Flower Shop  bloomnet  Olde Bank Floral

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 4 of 23



3 DAY BLINDS®
YOU'LL LOVE THE TREATMENT

CUSTOM BLINDS, SHADES,
SHUTTERS & DRAPES

SAVE 20%*
ON CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS



Call To Schedule Your **FREE**
In-Home Design Consultation

(800) 285-7132

PERSONALIZED EXPERIENCE | FAST SERVICE | TRUSTED BRAND

*For showroom or in-home design consultation orders, this offer must be presented at the time of purchase. Offer valid on 3 Day Blinds and Hunter Douglas brand products only. Hunter Douglas proprietary products not included. Minimum purchase of \$1,000 required. Offer excludes Special Orders, installation, sales tax, shipping and handling. Not valid on previous purchase or with any other offer or discount. **Offer Code ZFYZ. Offer Expires 2/28/15.**

AZ State Contractor's License ROC 264398. CA State Contractor's License #943877. OR State Contractor's License #189332. WA State Contractor's License #3DAYBDB914PZ. © 2014 3 Day Blinds Corporation.

Bevitized: Who says you need gravy for the potatoes at every holiday meal?



by Beverly Patterson

For many years Thanksgiving was celebrated at my parent's house, Christmas was celebrated at my sister's house and Easter became our holiday after I got married. I'll never forget the very first year I became the Easter hostess and I know the kitchen curtains and drain in the sink won't either.

I'm not sure what I was thinking, but in those early years of entertaining I would wear myself out in an attempt to make everything as perfect as I possibly could. I remember cleaning every speck of dirt I could find and washing and pressing all the curtains and waxing the kitchen floor and washing all the throw rugs. By the time the holiday arrived I was almost too tired to stay awake and enjoy our guests.

Finally our first Easter had arrived. I had been a homemaker for almost a year so I was hoping to impress my guests with my culinary skills. I remember my mother-in-law being the first to arrive. It was sort of nerve racking as she was a very good cook. Shortly after her arrival my

parents came through the door and I knew the rest of our guests would not be far behind so I decided it would be a great time to begin my gravy. I sent both my mother and my mother-in-law into the dining room so I had plenty of room in our small kitchen to do what I needed to do. I remember both ladies offering advice on gravy making and I remember quite clearly that they both agreed using the potato water would be the thing to do. Well, that threw a wrench in my plans. Hmmm, should I listen or just go with the plan I had in place before they arrived. I decided I better give the potato water a try as I didn't want these more experienced cooks to think I thought I knew more than them so I filled my Tupperware shaker 3/4's full of the hot steamy potato water and added about 3/4's cup of corn starch. I put the little blending wheel at the top and then snapped the lid in place. I took hold of that innocent container and began to shake it. What happened next was one of the biggest shocks I had ever encountered. The shaker EXPLODED spewing hot potato water with corn starch chunks all over my clean, perfectly pressed kitchen curtains!! I would most likely never forget hot liquid in a Tupperware shaker was not a good idea so I opted to not jot down any notes for future gravy endeavors provided there were some.

What this left me with was plan B. It was the original plan I had for the gravy and there were no attempts to talk me out of it after witnessing what had just happened. I remember giving the shaker a second chance but this time I was using cold milk. We were both still a little tense when I started the shaking process but everything went fine and before I knew it, the milk and corn starch were perfectly blended and ready to pour into the turkey drippings waiting in the saucepan. Everything blended so nicely. As the gravy began to cook it took on an impressive smooth, velvety appearance with absolutely no lumps. This gravy was the kind I was going to need to impress those two experienced cooks in the other room. I needed to smooth things over as I was worried they were still in a bit of shock due to all the screaming they heard when the first attempt blew up.

I remember pouring this glorious gravy into a bowl but before I sat it on the table I remember getting

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 6 of 23

the salads and relish trays out of the frig. About then, the rest of the family arrived so we got distracted for a few minutes and when I came back to the kitchen to grab the gravy I noticed something very strange. Liquids slosh around and this gravy was liquid but it wasn't sloshing. I found this very odd so I made an attempt to "dip" my finger into it and I discovered a problem. Apparently 3/4th's of a cup of corn starch is perhaps just a bit too much for gravy unless you're making enough for 75 people. During the time lapse from saucepan to bowl my gravy had turned into a solid mass much like the consistency of jellied cranberries! I surely wouldn't be able to serve it unless my guests were open to eating a slice of gravy so I made an attempt to dump it down the drain! Dump it, yeah right! I had to cut it in small pieces before the drain would even consider swallowing it!

Everyone survived our first Easter dinner including me. Everyone was fine without gravy that year. I switched to flour as my thickening agent and we've gotten along very well. I still have some corn starch in the cupboard but the chances of me using it again are quite slim. As for the boiling hot potato water, I effortlessly dump it down the drain every time I make gravy! I'm sure you can understand.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NEW!
5K
WALK OR RUN
RELAYS!

3rd Annual * 5K WALK/RUN, BIKE, or RELAYS
GROTON AREA SCHOOL
Destination Imagination's
Race To Globals



*** SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH ***

Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

SCLARK@NVC.NET for information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NEW!
5K
WALK OR RUN
RELAYS!

3rd Annual * 5K WALK/RUN, BIKE, or RELAYS
GROTON AREA SCHOOL
Destination Imagination's
Race To Globals



*** SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH ***

Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

SCLARK@NVC.NET for information

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 7 of 23

Today in Weather History

March 26, 1977: During an early morning severe weather event, hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter fell 1 mile NE of Watertown in Codington County. In addition, hail up to 1.50 inches in diameter fell in Milbank, Grant County.

March 26, 1995: Heavy snow fell over most of central South Dakota, as well as in the northern Black Hills. Heavier accumulations included 14 inches at Murdo, 13 inches at Lead, and 12 inches at Eureka, Leola, and Buskala Ranch. Only a few traffic accidents were reported, although many other vehicles slid into ditches. There was some damage to power lines and poles. Some livestock losses were feared, as the snow fell during the calving season, although this could not be assessed in the short term.

March 26, 2008: An area of low pressure moving across the Northern Plains brought strong lift and heavy snow from 6 to 15 inches in a band across much of central and northeast South Dakota from the evening to the early morning hours. Schools were delayed or cancelled and road travel was difficult, if not impossible. Some snowfall amounts included: 6 inches at Stephan, Willow Lake, Harrold, Miller, and near Hoven; 7 inches at Hayti, east of Hayes, and Eagle Butte; 8 inches at Highmore and Doland; 9 inches at Orient, Bryant, and near Onida; 10 inches at Gettysburg and Faulkton; 11 inches at Seneca and Redfield. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included: 12 inches 23 miles north of Highmore; 13 inches near Agar; 15 inches 24 miles north of Highmore.

1890 - An outbreak of tornadoes occurred in the Ohio Valley. One of the tornadoes struck Louisville KY killing 78 persons and causing four million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Good Friday tornadoes moved from Terre Haute to Redkey, Indiana killing 20 people. 80% of the town of Coatesville was destroyed, and 16 people were killed. The path was a half mile wide.

1950 - A three day snowstorm in the High Plains Region finally came to an end. The storm produced 34 inches of snow in 24 hours at Dumont, located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and a total of 50 inches. (David Ludlum)

1984 - The temperature at Brownsville, TX, soared to 106 degrees, and Cotulla, TX, reached 108 degrees, equalling the March record for the U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The second blizzard in less than a week hit eastern Colorado and western Kansas. Snowfall totals ranged up to 24 inches at San Isabel CO. Winds gusted to 50 mph at Goodland KS. The high winds piled snow into massive drifts, closing roads for days and killing thousands of cattle. Snow drifts thirty feet high were reported in northwest Kansas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Temperatures rose quickly, then dropped just as rapidly, in the central U.S. Eight cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 80s. In southeastern Colorado, the temperature at Lamar CO reached 91 degrees. Strong southerly winds gusted to 63 mph at Gage OK. Strong northwesterly winds, gusting to 61 mph at Goodland KS, then proceeded to usher much colder air into the area. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. Two tornadoes were reported, and there were 77 other reports of large hail and damaging winds. Baseball size hail was reported at Willow OK and Bartlesville OK. Twenty-six cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Yankton SD with a reading of 84 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1990 - Temperatures dipped into the teens and single numbers in the northeastern U.S. Scranton PA tied their record for the date with a morning low of 18 degrees. Temperatures warmed into the 60s and lower 70s in the Pacific Northwest. The afternoon high of 65 degrees at Astoria OR equalled their record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2009 - The proof is in the pudding - A NOAA Weather Radio can save your life. Near Belk, AL, a family was alerted to a tornado by their weather radio; they went to their storm cellar. They heard the "jet roar" of the EF1 tornado as it damaged their home; they were unhurt.

Groton Daily Independent


Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 8 of 23

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
 60%	 30%		 40%			
Snow Likely	Chance Snow	Breezy	Chance Rain	Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 37 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 57 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 66 °F

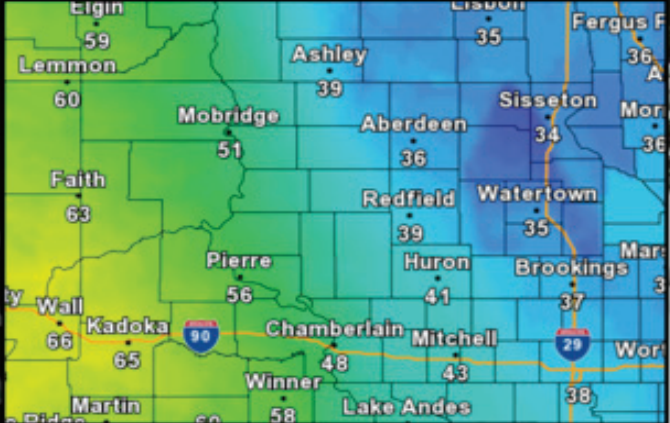


Light Snow Possible, Mainly North

Snow Moves From West to East Today




High Temperatures




Today: Light snow (possibly mixed with rain in the afternoon) will move from west to east across the region. Up to 1 inch of snow possible.


Saturday: A warm dry afternoon will be followed by light rain and gusty winds late Saturday into Sunday morning.



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 03/27/2015 at 5:22AM

A weak system will move from west to east across northern SD, moving into west central MN later this afternoon. Light snow may mix with light rain in the afternoon. Up to an inch of snow is possible for far northeast SD and west central MN. Saturday afternoon will be warm and dry, but conditions will quickly turn windy and wet late Saturday into Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 9 of 23

Yesterday's Weather

High: 36.7 at 5:17 PM

Low: 21.6 at 11:26 PM

High Gust: 23 at 3:36 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1946

Record Low: -12° in 1913

Average High: 46°F

Average Low: 24°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.92

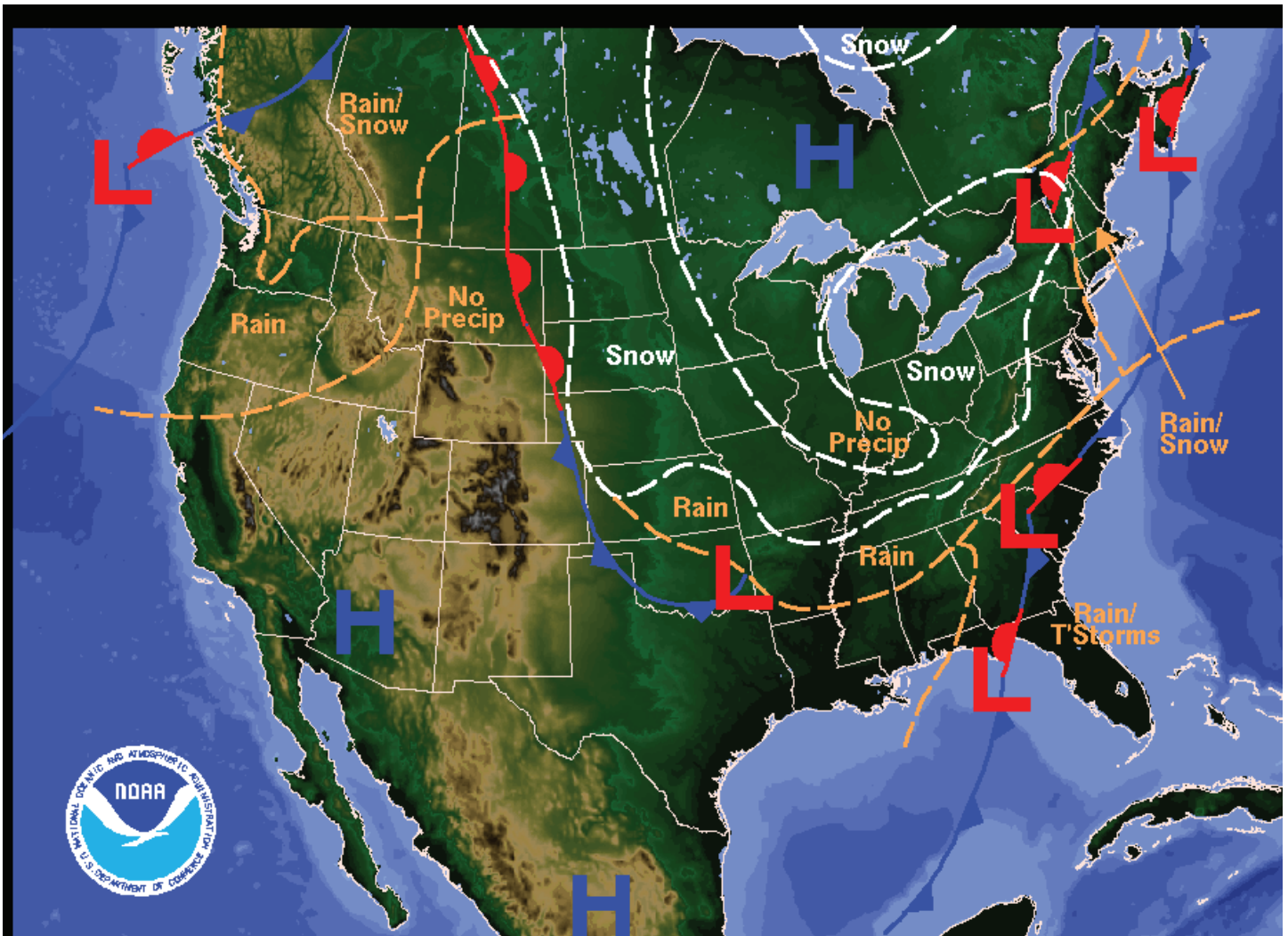
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.94

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 7:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:22 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Mar 27, 2015, issued 3:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 10 of 23



THE COMMON BOND

Life, more often than not, seems to be determined by "boundaries." While many are set for us by others, we often set them for ourselves. These boundaries separate the rich from the poor, educated from uneducated; railroad tracks that separate the impoverished from those living in mansions, hippies from the elite. If there is some way to establish a boundary to make one group "better" or "different" or "weirder" than another group someone, sooner than later, will discover it.

Fortunately for us, God has no favorites nor does He recognize any boundaries. "Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is Maker of them all," wrote Solomon. The Hebrew word for "common" conveys the meaning that "everyone meets or stands together" before God - their Creator and Sustainer.

We each have our own particular way of looking at others. We tend to look at them through various lenses. Sometimes we "clump" them together and label them by color or class or creed. Even though we are advised not to "profile" anyone for any reason, we do it automatically even though we have been warned against doing so. Right or wrong, it is a convenient way to classify someone and "set them aside" or reach out to them.

No doubt the way we see and respond to others has developed over the years. It depends on our education and the experiences we have had in life as well as the influence of our family and friends. We like people who are like us and avoid people who are different from us. But thank God He is not like us. He will not reject any person for any reason. He is the "Maker" of us all and His Son, our Redeemer and Savior said, that "whoever believes in Me shall not perish but have eternal life!" The "whoever" includes each of us.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your love that includes everyone. Thank You for making Your salvation available to everyone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 22:2 Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.

ATTENTION

Parents and Grandparents:

Help give your child a head start for just pennies a day with individual whole life insurance from the

Gerber Life Grow-Up[®] Plan

A Plan that Grows

Affordable premiums that never increase, guaranteed cash value* and coverage that doubles over time.

A Gift that Doubles

The Grow-Up[®] Plan provides up to \$50,000 of whole life insurance that automatically doubles during age 18 at no extra cost!

Applying is simple!

Call 800-299-6202

**NOW for FREE information
or to apply!**



**Gerber Life
Insurance Company**

Home Office: White Plains, NY 10605

**As long as premiums are paid*

Form# PA-02 (0814)
Policy Form# ICC12-GPP
Policy Form Series GPP-12

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 12 of 23

News from the Associated Press

3 suspects in custody in 2 armed robberies in Aberdeen

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Police have suspects in custody in two armed robberies in Aberdeen.

Two men have been arrested in connection with a Jan. 19 holdup at Casino Korner. Charges also are pending against another man in a March 13 robbery at Sooper Stop. That person is currently in the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

No one was hurt in either robbery, though police say shots were fired in the Casino Korner holdup.

Man sentenced in standoff-hostage case in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Box Elder man who held a 2-year-old boy hostage during a six-hour standoff at a Rapid City home that he was trying to burglarize has been sentenced.

Thirty-three-year-old Raymond Cuny was ordered to serve six years in prison and pay more than \$14,000 in restitution.

Cuny pleaded guilty earlier to burglary and grand theft charges in the case last July. He also pleaded guilty to a driving under the influence charge linked to an October car crash while he was out on bond in which he hit two parked city vehicles. No one was hurt.

Cuny in court admitted to having a drug problem.

73 students competing in Aberdeen in state geographic bee

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — More than 70 South Dakota students are in Aberdeen for the National Geographic State Bee.

The 10 to 14 year olds won their school competitions and are competing Friday at Northern State University.

The winner out of the field of 73 receives \$100 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to represent South Dakota in the national championship at National Geographic Society headquarters in May. The top prize there is a \$50,000 college scholarship.

The National Geographic Bee is organized by the National Geographic Society. This year's state bee sponsors are Google Inc. and Plum Creek.

Animal anthrax confirmed in 2 heifers in Stanley County

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's state veterinarian says animal anthrax has killed two young cows in Stanley County.

Dr. Dustin Oedekoven tells The Mitchell Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/1M7k2TK>) that the 11-month old replacement heifers died suddenly last week. Laboratory testing has confirmed the cause of death to be anthrax.

South Dakota ranchers see a few cases of animal anthrax each year. The disease causes death in livestock quickly and without warning.

This group of replacement heifers was not vaccinated but the rest of the herd has a good vaccination history.

Typically, the only risk for humans from the disease in the U.S. comes from indirectly handling carcasses or fluids from affected livestock without protective clothing. Anthrax can be consumed through

infected meat, but veterinarians say that isn't a concern in developed nations.

BIA superintendent who was stabbed now in stable condition

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent who was stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition.

Department of the Interior spokeswoman Nedra Darling says Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery. Duffy is the superintendent on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation and was attacked at BIA headquarters in Fort Thompson, which is about 60 miles southeast of Pierre.

The BIA says its Office of Justice Services is continuing to investigate the attack. It said on Wednesday evening a suspect was in custody.

Darling says the BIA and the Indian Health Service are providing counselling services to employees at the Crow Creek Agency. The agency will remain closed until Monday.

As superintendent, Duffy oversees BIA facilities in Fort Thompson and manages tribal land.

Unprecedented sage grouse protection deal signed in Nevada

SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — An unprecedented attempt to protect sage grouse habitat across parts of more than 900 square miles of privately owned land in Nevada will begin under a deal Thursday involving the federal government, an environmental group and the world's largest gold mining company.

The agreement comes as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approaches a fall deadline for a decision on whether to protect the greater sage grouse, a bird roughly the size of a chicken that ranges across the West, under the Endangered Species Act.

Commercial operations, including mining companies and oil and gas producers, are entering into such deals in an effort to keep the bird off the threatened or endangered list because the classification would place new restrictions on their work.

The deal involves Barrick Gold Corp., The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service. It establishes a "conservation bank," providing the mining firm credit for enhancing critical habitat, in exchange for flexibility in future operations. It aims to preserve and restore more habitat than is lost through development while at the same time providing Barrick with more certainty as it maps out new mining plans.

"This is the kind of creative, voluntary partnership that we need to help conserve the greater sage grouse, while sustaining important economic activities on western rangelands," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

The agreement "strikes the right balance between economic development and conservation," said Michael Brown, executive director of Barrick's U.S. operations.

Similar efforts already are underway on a much smaller scale involving ranching operations in Oregon and Wyoming.

Scientists estimate the sage grouse population is less than half what it was in the early 19th century it inhabited an estimated 450,000 square miles of sagebrush across the West.

Growing threats to its nesting grounds include wildfires, invasive plants, livestock grazing, mining and oil and gas exploration. The risks have led land managers to consider new protections.

It's difficult to estimate what Barrick will spend on the conservation efforts but it "likely will be in the millions," company lawyer Patrick Malone said. He said much of the bird's most important range in Nevada is on private land.

"The bird benefits in ways that can only really happen through this public-private partnership," Malone told The Associated Press.

Michael Cameron, The Nature Conservancy's associate state director for Nevada, acknowledged the agreement may not be embraced by some conservation groups who argue against development of any lands with habitat critical to the survival of the sage grouse.

"Our overriding objective in this is to achieve lofty conservation results on the ground," Cameron told the AP. "Certainly, in a case like this where we have the potential to achieve conservation improvements on potentially hundreds of thousands of acres, it is the kind of opportunity, frankly, that we have an obligation to try to approve."

BLM Nevada Director Amy Leuders likes the advance nature of the agreement. She said, "It's certainly to the benefit of the sage grouse and its habitat for conservation actions to occur before other impacts from mining operations occur."

SD regents to consider 5.7 percent average tuition increase

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Tuition and fees for South Dakota's six public universities will increase by an average of 5.7 percent for the upcoming school year if the state Board of Regents adopts the proposed hikes during its meeting next week.

The board, which oversees the state's public universities, will begin meeting Tuesday at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion in part to discuss the hikes. Lack of state support this session killed the prospect of another year of frozen tuition for on-campus resident students, which lawmakers put nearly \$4 million toward during the 2014 Legislature. The tuition and fee hikes the regents will consider range from 4.3 percent at Northern State University to 6 percent at South Dakota State University.

Under the proposal, the average cost of tuition and fees at a South Dakota public university for on-campus resident students for the upcoming school year will be \$8,377.66, up from \$7,924.73. The state ranks third of eight nearby states when it comes to in-state residents' cost of attendance, which also includes lodging and meals, according to a regents report.

"I think all of us would say we'd love to not have to raise tuition ever," Northern State University President James Smith said. "Our costs of doing business go up."

Funding salaries and hikes for pay competitiveness and inflation are projected to cost the regents an additional \$5.7 million for the upcoming fiscal year, according to a report to the board. Tepid state revenues also left lawmakers little spare cash to fund dramatic cost-reduction programs for higher education when they set the state budget earlier in March. A proposal to fund an increase to the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, for example, had to be scaled back by roughly \$1 million after state economists predicted revenue collections for the next budget year will fall short of previous projections.

Lawmakers debated a \$3.2 million proposal to freeze tuition, which failed to gain traction and petered out amid the gloomier budget picture. Board of Regents Executive Director and CEO Jack Warner said tuition freezes or buydowns are important to the regents, but he acknowledged the situation that lawmakers were in when they set the budget.

"We are certainly aware that new money was scarce, and we're also confident that keeping tuition and fees low (are priorities) for the governor and the Legislature, so we look forward to future investments in that regard," Warner said.

South Dakota Student Federation Executive Director Jess Peterson said student leaders anticipated the increase because lawmakers didn't pass funding for tamping down tuition hikes. Peterson, who at-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 15 of 23

tends the University of South Dakota, said students plan to vigorously lobby lawmakers next session to successfully secure funding to stave off future increases.

"We are disappointed just because there's more money coming out of the students' pockets, and that's not what we want for our state at all," Peterson said.

State prison inmate dies in hospital after 'lengthy illness'

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 56-year-old state prison inmate has died in Sioux Falls following a 'lengthy illness.'

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says Curtis Dosch passed away Thursday in a local hospital.

Dosch was sentenced to a suspended prison term of 28 years in 2007 after being convicted of third-degree burglary, grand theft and multiple counts of possession of a controlled substance. His first chance at parole would have been in February of 2020.

Corrections spokesman Michael Winder says further details about Dosch's illness cannot be released because of medical privacy laws.

8 to interview for North Dakota University System's top job

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The search for the next North Dakota University System chancellor was narrowed down to eight applicants Thursday, including a man who held the job until quitting nine years ago amid a power struggle with a university president.

Robert Potts gained several close friends when he led the system from 2004 to 2006, but he departed after a dispute that began with former NDSU president Joseph Chapman and ended when some board members sided with Chapman. Chapman later resigned over criticism of his spending.

Potts went on to become chancellor of Arkansas State University and president of that state's university system. James H. McCormick, a consultant for the search, told board members that Potts agonized about applying for his old job, but is interested in reuniting with old friends.

"As far as I know, things went real well for him in Arkansas," McCormick said.

Potts and the other seven applicants will be invited to participate in video interviews on April 14. The board will then pick finalists for face-to-face interviews.

The pool includes state Sen. Tim Flakoll, provost for the Tri-College University in Fargo, who advanced despite worries by some board members that he doesn't have the highest degree awarded in his field. Flakoll made it to the final round in the last chancellor search, but lost out to Hamid Shirvani.

Another applicant with local connections is Mark Hagerott, a Mandan native and Rhodes scholar who became a leading cybersecurity expert and professor with the Navy. Board members said they were impressed with Hagerott's application letter, in which he talked about his desire to come home.

Rounding out the field are Paul Turman, vice president for academic affairs for the South Dakota Board of Regents; Sylvia Moore, former deputy commissioner for academic research and student affairs for the Montana university system; Michael Thomas, president and CEO of the New England Board of Higher Education; Keith Miller, former president of Virginia State University; and Robert Donley, executive director and CEO of the Iowa Board of Regents.

The board bought out Shirvani's contract two years ago after receiving complaints from some students, faculty and school presidents over his leadership style. Shirvani, who spent about a year in the position, said he was given a mandate to improve graduation rates and was merely doing his job.

Unprecedented sage grouse protection deal signed in Nevada

SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — An unprecedented attempt to protect sage grouse habitat across parts of more than 900 square miles of privately owned land in Nevada will begin under a deal Thursday involving the federal government, an environmental group and the world's largest gold mining company.

The agreement comes as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approaches a fall deadline for a decision on whether to protect the greater sage grouse, a bird roughly the size of a chicken that ranges across the West, under the Endangered Species Act.

Commercial operations, including mining companies and oil and gas producers, are entering into such deals in an effort to keep the bird off the threatened or endangered list because the classification would place new restrictions on their work.

The deal involves Barrick Gold Corp., The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service. It establishes a "conservation bank," providing the mining firm credit for enhancing critical habitat, in exchange for flexibility in future operations. It aims to preserve and restore more habitat than is lost through development while at the same time providing Barrick with more certainty as it maps out new mining plans.

"This is the kind of creative, voluntary partnership that we need to help conserve the greater sage grouse, while sustaining important economic activities on western rangelands," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

The agreement "strikes the right balance between economic development and conservation," said Michael Brown, executive director of Barrick's U.S. operations.

Similar efforts already are underway on a much smaller scale involving ranching operations in Oregon and Wyoming.

Scientists estimate the sage grouse population is less than half what it was in the early 19th century it inhabited an estimated 450,000 square miles of sagebrush across the West.

Growing threats to its nesting grounds include wildfires, invasive plants, livestock grazing, mining and oil and gas exploration. The risks have led land managers to consider new protections.

It's difficult to estimate what Barrick will spend on the conversation efforts but it "likely will be in the millions," company lawyer Patrick Malone said. He said much of the bird's most important range in Nevada is on private land.

"The bird benefits in ways that can only really happen through this public-private partnership," Malone told The Associated Press.

Michael Cameron, The Nature Conservancy's associate state director for Nevada, acknowledged the agreement may not be embraced by some conservation groups who argue against development of any lands with habitat critical to the survival of the sage grouse.

"Our overriding objective in this is to achieve lofty conservation results on the ground," Cameron told the AP. "Certainly, in a case like this where we have the potential to achieve conservation improvements on potentially hundreds of thousands of acres, it is the kind of opportunity, frankly, that we have an obligation to try to approve."

BLM Nevada Director Amy Leuders likes the advance nature of the agreement. She said, "It's certainly to the benefit of the sage grouse and its habitat for conservation actions to occur before other impacts from mining operations occur."

County officials reopen state Highway 11 near Corson

CORSON, S.D. (AP) — Minnehaha County officials have reopened state Highway 11 in Corson after closing it for several hours because of a nearby fire.

Officials closed the road from Interstate 90 to north of Corson, a town east of Sioux Falls. The state Transportation Department said fire trucks and personnel on the highway had made it impassable for motorists. KSFY-TV reports officials reopened the road around 1 p.m.

Fire crews were battling a blaze at the site of a former grain elevator. The fire started as a controlled burn and spread to a building that was slated to be demolished.

Minnehaha County Emergency Manager Lynn DeYoung says firefighters are planning to let the blaze burn out.

Authorities do not believe any other buildings in the area are in danger.

Rapid City man gets another 10 years for witness tampering

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man serving a 25-year sentence in prison for drug charges has bought himself another 10 years for tampering with a confidential informant.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says 43-year-old Derek Vice was sentenced on Thursday for conspiracy to commit tampering with a witness.

Vice was sentenced to 25 years for distribution and possession of methamphetamine in August of 2012. He admitted to tampering with a confidential informant prior to trial.

His new 10-year prison term will follow his existing 25-year sentence.

Westra adds top state Republicans to group backing Jeb Bush

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota lawmaker who formed a group to back potential presidential candidate Jeb Bush is being joined by some top state legislators.

Sioux Falls Republican Rep. Steve Westra says Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave and seven others have signed on to his volunteer group.

Westra says he has gathered hundreds of names, and his was the first group in the nation to urge Bush to run.

The former Florida governor has not declared that he's going to run but is expected to announce in the coming weeks his candidacy for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination.

Belle Fourche teen dies after rollover crash

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — A 14-year-old Belle Fourche boy has died from critical injuries suffered in a rollover crash.

The Butte County Sheriff's Office says Jeremiah Helton was a passenger in a pickup truck driven by another 14-year-old boy on Tuesday evening. The office says the driver lost control of the truck and overcorrected, causing the vehicle to roll and come to a rest on its roof.

Helton was thrown from the pickup and later died at a hospital. The driver was treated at a hospital and released.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says neither teen was wearing a seatbelt. The Patrol says alcohol wasn't a factor in the crash, but an investigation is ongoing.

Helton was a Belle Fourche High School student and Belle Fourche Fire Department cadet.

Dakota Wesleyan men's basketball team No. 2 in final poll

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The Dakota Wesleyan men's basketball team is No. 2 in the final NAIA Division II poll after its runner-up finish in the national tournament.

It's the highest ranking in school history for the Tigers, who set a single-season program record with 32 wins.

Dakota Wesleyan lost to Cornerstone 66-45 last week in the championship game of the NAIA Division II National Tournament in Point Lookout, Missouri.

Cornerstone is No. 1 in the final poll, followed by Dakota Wesleyan, Embry-Riddle, Davenport and Indiana Wesleyan.

AP News in Brief

German police search for hints of motive in homes of co-pilot amid depression reports

BERLIN (AP) — Police have searched the homes of co-pilot Andreas Lubitz in two German cities in search of an explanation for why he may have crashed a passenger plane into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board.

German tabloid Bild reported Friday that Lubitz had a "serious depressive episode" six years ago and that a medical problem was noted in aviation records.

The Federal Aviation Office couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

French investigators believe the 27-year-old locked himself inside the cockpit and then intentionally smashed the Germanwings plane into a mountainside.

A spokeswoman for Duesseldorf police, Susanna Heusgen, said "no crucial piece of evidence has been found yet" after the searches in Duesseldorf and Montabaur.

The Latest: Germanwings sets up family assistance center for crash victims' relatives

10:25 a.m. (0925 GMT, 5:25 a.m.)

Germanwings says it is setting up a family assistance center in Marseille for relatives of the 150 people killed when one of its planes crashed in the French Alps.

Investigators believe Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz intentionally crashed the plane into a mountainside during Tuesday's flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf.

Germanwings spokesman Thomas Winkelmann said in a statement that "in these dark hours our full attention belongs to the emotional support of the relatives and friends of the victims of Flight 9525."

The airline, a subsidiary of German carrier Lufthansa, says some grieving relatives took part in a religious service Thursday afternoon near the crash site.

Little effort is applied to vetting airline pilots for mental health issues, US experts say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite U.S. and international regulations requiring that airline pilots be screened for mental health problems, little effective, real-world checking takes place, pilots and safety experts say.

The crash of Germanwings Flight 9525 into an Alpine mountain, which killed all 150 people aboard,

has raised questions about the mental state of the co-pilot. Authorities believe the 27-year-old German deliberately sought to destroy the Airbus A320 as it flew Tuesday from Barcelona to Duesseldorf.

In the U.S., the Federal Aviation Administration requires that pilots receive a physical exam from a flight surgeon annually or every six months depending upon the pilot's age. The International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency that sets global aviation standards, also requires that pilots receive a periodic medical exam including a mental assessment.

Technically, doctors are supposed to probe for mental problems, but pilots said Thursday that's usually not how it works.

"There really is no mental health vetting," said John Gadzinski, a captain with a major U.S. airline and former Navy pilot. In 29 years of physicals from flight surgeons he's never once been asked about his mental health, he said.

Senate follows House in passing GOP plan to balance budget, dismantle Obama health care law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans muscled a balanced-budget plan through the Senate early Friday, positioning Congress for months of battling President Barack Obama over the GOP's goals of slicing spending and dismantling his health care law.

Working into Friday's pre-dawn hours, senators approved the blueprint by a near party-line 52-46 vote, endorsing a measure that closely follows one the House passed Wednesday. Both budgets embody a conservative vision of shrinking projected federal deficits by more than \$5 trillion over the coming decade, mostly by cutting health care and other benefit programs and without raising taxes.

The Senate was beginning a spring recess after approving the measure, leaving Congress' two GOP-run chambers to negotiate a compromise budget in mid-April. The legislation is a non-binding blueprint that does not require Obama's signature but lays the groundwork for future bills that seem destined for veto fights with the president.

"Republicans have shown that the Senate is under new management and delivering on the change and responsible government the American people expect," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Democrats viewed the document differently, saying it relied on gimmickry and touted the wrong priorities.

Arabs inch closer to longtime dream of creating a joint Arab force

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Arab leaders meeting this weekend in this Egyptian Red Sea resort are moving closer than ever to creating a joint Arab military force, a sign of a new determination among Saudi Arabia, Egypt and their allies to intervene aggressively in regional hotspots, whether against Islamic militants or spreading Iranian power.

Creation of such a force has been a longtime goal that has eluded Arab nations in the 65 years since they signed a rarely used joint defense pact. And there remains reluctance among some countries, particularly allies of Iran like Syria and Iraq — a reflection of the divisions in the region.

Foreign ministers gathered in Sharm el-Sheikh ahead of the summit, which begins Saturday, agreed on a broad plan for the force. It came as Saudi Arabia and its allies opened a campaign of airstrikes in Yemen against Iranian-backed Shiite rebels who have taken over much of the country and forced its U.S.- and Gulf-backed president to flee abroad.

The Yemen campaign marked a major test of the new policy of intervention by the Gulf and Egypt.

The brewing Yemen crisis — and Gulf fears that the rebels are a proxy for Iranian influence — have been one motivator in their move for a joint Arab force. But it also signaled that they are not going to wait for the Arab League, notorious for its delays and divisions, and will press ahead with their military coordination on multiple fronts.

Egyptian officials said the Yemen airstrikes are to be followed by a ground intervention to further weaken the rebels, known as Houthis, and their allies and force them into negotiations. They have also moved ahead with action in Libya after its collapse into chaos since 2011 and the rise of militants there — including now an affiliate of the Islamic State group that has overrun much of Iraq and Syria. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have both carried out airstrikes against Libyan militants in the past year.

Utility says inspectors found faulty work before blast tore through NYC building, injuring 19

NEW YORK (AP) — An hour before an apparent gas explosion sent flames soaring and debris flying at a Manhattan apartment building, injuring 19 people, utility company inspectors decided the work being done there was faulty.

The blast on Thursday in the East Village caused the building's collapse, and largely destroyed another structure. It left four people in critical condition, more than a dozen others injured and one family searching for a loved one.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said preliminary evidence suggested a gas explosion amid plumbing and gas work inside the building that collapsed was to blame. A plumber was doing work connected to a gas service upgrade, and inspectors for utility company Con Edison had been there, company President Craig Ivey said. But the work failed the inspection, partly because a space for the new meters wasn't big enough, Con Ed said.

The state Department of Public Service was monitoring Con Ed's response.

Restaurant diners ran out of their shoes and bystanders helped one another to escape the midafternoon blast, which damaged four buildings as flames shot into the air, witnesses said. Passers-by were hit by debris and flying glass, and bloodied victims were aided as they sat on sidewalks and lay on the ground, they said.

US strategy across Mideast is complicated, in large part because of complex US-Iran dynamic

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Iranian diplomats gather at a Baroque palace in Europe, a historic nuclear agreement within reach. Over Iraq's deserts, their militaries fight a common foe. Leaders in Washington and Tehran, capitals once a million miles from each other in ideological terms, wrestle for the first time in decades with the notion of a rapprochement.

Yet the old adversaries are locked in proxy war across an ever more volatile region. In Syria, the United States arms insurgents seeking to oust the Iran-backed government. In Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and elsewhere, Iran supports militant groups determined to end Israel's existence. And now in Yemen, the U.S. is backing a military intervention by Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia against a Shiite rebellion aided by Iran.

Nothing is simple amid the overlapping fault lines of Sunnis and Shiite, Arabs and Persians, Muslims and Jews, and the countless tribal affiliations that define that part of the world. And six years after President Barack Obama swept into office hoping to simplify America's role there by ending the long

war in Iraq, engaging Iran and Syria and trying to advance a long-sought Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, U.S. involvement in the region — and its relationship with Iran — seem more complicated than ever.

The Obama administration insists its Middle East policy follows long-standing principles: defeating terrorism, halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction, stabilizing weak states, advancing democracy and human rights, spurring economic development. At the heart of each objective is counteracting Iran. The U.S. accuses Tehran of sponsoring terrorism around the world, destabilizing neighboring countries and trying to achieve nuclear weapons capability.

"There's no contradiction," State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said Thursday as he was questioned on the Mideast's concurrent crises. "We have made clear throughout the process of the nuclear negotiations with Iran that we have serious concerns about Iranian behavior in a number of areas. Talk about terrorism, talk about human rights, talk about the fate of American citizens who are inside Iran in detention. The focus of the nuclear negotiations is on the nuclear issue."

Fish, critters found in extreme Antarctica hint that life could thrive elsewhere in cosmos

DECEPTION ISLAND, Antarctica (AP) — Deep below the ice, far from the playful penguins and other animals that bring tourists to Antarctica, is a cold and barren world that by all indications should be completely void of life.

But recently, scientists researching melting ice watched a half-foot-long (15-centimeter) fish swim by. Not long after that, they saw shrimp-like creatures.

In even more remote places on the continent, areas that haven't been exposed to sunlight for millions of years, scientists found a surprise right out of an alien movie: the DNA of a microscopic creature that looks like a combination of a bear, manatee and centipede.

Life that is simultaneously normal and weird, simple and complex thrives in this extreme environment. To the scientists who brave the cold and remoteness to find life amid the ice, it's a source of surprise and wonder. For extreme life experts, it's a testimony to the power of evolution.

"It really shows how tenacious life is," said Reed Scherer, a micropaleontology professor at Northern Illinois University. "The possibilities are just beyond our prediction."

Lawyer says kidnapping wasn't a hoax, woman cooperating with police

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP) — Declaring a reported kidnapping wasn't a hoax, the attorney for California woman who went missing for two days says she has met with police and is cooperating with their investigation.

Denise Huskins met with Vallejo Police detectives for several hours Thursday "with the hope of clearing her name because she is absolutely, unequivocally, 100 percent, positively a victim," attorney Doug Rappaport said.

He said her abduction wasn't staged as police have suggested.

"This is no hoax," he said.

Rappaport said Huskins has been emotionally and physically broken and hurt even more by being considered a suspect.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 22 of 23

Kentucky looks unbeatable, but Irish have slain Goliaths; Wisconsin's Bo didn't change a thing

Bo Ryan is no fan of change.

He said so himself answering the question — “What’s the most important change your team needs to make here?” — as he left the locker room to start the second half, down by two to North Carolina in Thursday’s Sweet 16 matchup.

Wisconsin was shooting just 37 percent, almost 30 points lower than the pass-completion percentage posted last season by that other icon of the Badger state, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who was in the stands with girlfriend Olivia Munn in LA.

“Well, we don’t need to change here,” Ryan practically growled in response to sideline reporter Rachel Nichols. “We just have to play better.”

Coaches have been saying that since the dawn of time. Ryan wasn’t around then, but he’s only changed so much in his 67 years.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 27, the 86th day of 2015. There are 279 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 27, 1945, during World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told reporters in Paris that Germany’s main defensive line on the Western Front had been broken.

On this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon (hwahn pahns duh LEE’-ohn) sighted present-day Florida.

In 1884, the first telephone line between Boston and New York was inaugurated.

In 1912, first lady Helen Herron Taft and the wife of Japan’s ambassador to the United States, Viscountess Chinda, planted in Washington the first two of 3,000 cherry trees given as a gift by the mayor of Tokyo.

In 1933, Japan officially withdrew from the League of Nations.

In 1940, Alfred Hitchcock’s first American movie, “Rebecca” starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine, premiered in Los Angeles.

In 1958, Nikita Khrushchev became Soviet premier in addition to First Secretary of the Communist Party.

In 1964, Alaska was hit by a magnitude 9.2 earthquake (the strongest on record in North America) and tsunamis that together claimed about 130 lives.

In 1975, construction began on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which was completed two years later.

In 1977, 583 people were killed when a KLM Boeing 747, attempting to take off, crashed into a Pan Am 747 on the Canary Island of Tenerife (ten-uh-REEF’).

In 1980, 123 workers died when a North Sea floating oil field platform, the Alexander Kielland, cap-sized during a storm.

In 1990, the U.S. began test broadcasts of TV Marti to Cuba, which promptly jammed the signal.

In 1995, “Forrest Gump” won six Academy Awards, including best picture and a second consecutive best actor Oscar for Tom Hanks; Jessica Lange won best actress for “Blue Sky.”

Ten years ago: Pope John Paul II delivered an Easter Sunday blessing to tens of thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square, but the ailing pontiff was unable to speak and managed only to greet

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 242 ♦ 23 of 23

the saddened crowd with a sign of the cross. In a live Internet interview with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Michael Jackson declared himself "completely innocent" of child molestation charges, and said he was the victim of a conspiracy.

Five years ago: Lights were switched off across the world from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time to mark Earth Hour, an event organized by the World Wildlife Fund to highlight concerns about global warming. President Barack Obama announced he would bypass a vacationing Senate and name 15 people to key administration jobs using recess appointments. Mao Asada of Japan beat Olympic champion Yuna Kim of South Korea to win her second title at the World Figure Skating Championships, held in Turin, Italy.

One year ago: Face to face at the Vatican for the first time, President Barack Obama and Pope Francis focused on their mutual respect and shared concern for the poor. The U.S. Air Force took the extraordinary step of firing nine midlevel nuclear commanders and announcing it would discipline dozens of junior officers at a nuclear missile base, responding firmly to an exam-cheating scandal. A judge in Missoula, Montana, sentenced Jordan Graham to more than 30 years in prison for killing Cody Johnson, her husband of eight days, by pushing him from a cliff in Glacier National Park. James Schlesinger, 85, who'd held a long string of Cabinet and other high-level positions in three U.S. administrations, died in Baltimore.

Today's Birthdays: Dance company director Arthur Mitchell is 81. Actor Julian Glover is 80. Actor Jerry Lacy is 79. Hall of Fame racer Cale Yarborough is 76. Actor-director Austin Pendleton is 75. Actor Michael York is 73. Rock musician Tony Banks (Genesis) is 65. Rock musician Andrew Farriss (INXS) is 56. Jazz musician Dave Koz (kahz) is 52. Movie director Quentin Tarantino is 52. Rock musician Derrick McKenzie (Jamiroquai) is 51. Rock musician Johnny April (Staind) is 50. Actress Talisa Soto is 48. Actress Pauley Perrette is 46. Singer Mariah Carey is 45. Rock musician Brendan Hill (Blues Traveler) is 45. Actress Elizabeth Mitchell is 45. Actor Nathan Fillion is 44. Hip-hop singer Fergie (Black Eyed Peas) is 40. Actress Megan Hilty is 34. Actress Emily Ann Lloyd is 31. Actress Brenda Song is 27. Pop singer/songwriter Kimbra is 25. Actress Taylor Atelian is 20.

Thought for Today: "Fanaticism consists in redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim." - George Santayana, American philosopher (1863-1952).