

Groton Daily Independent

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Mark Your Calendars

Groton Will be hosting the Region DI Tournament on March 5, 2016

Monday, March 30

Birthdays: Bonnie Cooper, Gordon Nelson, Jessica Osterman, Lori Seelye, Melenie Sombke, Sandy Tullis, Taylor Schmidt, Vickie Sippel
Student Congress at Milbank High School

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, Lemon buttered broccoli, fruit dessert, French bread.

School Breakfast: Cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken wings, sweet potato tot, veggie cups, fruit.

Tuesday, March 31

Birthdays: Abby Cutler, Aiden Strom, Barb Waage, Brett Sombke, Caralee Heitmann, Megan Cutler, Rick Carlson, Renee Hanlon

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, Pineapple Strawberry Ambrosia, Whole Wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit,

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

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Get Ready for Spring With Wash Brushes & Squeegees

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The Life of John Sieh



Memorial Mass of Christian Burial for John Sieh, 89, Aberdeen is 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church with Father Mike Kelly, Celebrant. Inurnment at Groton Union Cemetery with military honors by Groton American Legion Post 39. John died Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor.

There will be a wake service at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 31 at the church in Groton.

John Sieh was born in Aberdeen, S.D., on November 26, 1925. He was raised on a farm 20 miles east-northeast of Aberdeen. He went to grade school at the 2-room Yorkville school and high school in Groton. One of his favorite classes was debate, but he also enjoyed 4-H.

He served in the Army and was honorably discharged from Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

After his military service, he went to work for the National Farmer's Union. He travelled extensively in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, finding all the best diners and restaurants in those states. This served the family well as they travelled years later on vacation. He always knew "a place with the best biscuits and

gravy," or any other type of food.

During his time with the National Farmer's Union, he met and married his wife of 29 years, Lois Ann Porter, who also worked with the organization. They were married in Beloit, Kan., in 1956.

They moved back to the family farm in 1957 to take the land over from his father, William J. Sieh, and to raise their family.

During the late 1960s and '70s, John became active in the fight against the Oahe Irrigation Project. With the help of his many friends and political allies, John became the chairman of the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict board and was eventually able to help redirect the Oahe Irrigation Project funding into the creation of the WEB Rural Water System - the first system of its kind in the United States.

At the same time, he was building an egg production company, Red Barn Eggs, which delivered eggs from Webster to Mobridge, S.D., and was awarded the Egg Producer of the Year. In the late 1970s, a fire destroyed the primary Red Barn Eggs production facility, and after a number of years working the egg business out of Aberdeen, John redirected his efforts to the creation of the John Sieh Agency, an independent insurance agency in Aberdeen. John worked with his daughter, Kathryn Johnson, at the agency until his retirement.

John's wife, Lois, died of cancer in March 1985. After living alone on the farm for a few years and a long trip to Europe, John met and married Leone Kriech in 1991.

John then embarked on one of his most ambitious projects: the Granary Rural Cultural Center. The core of the cultural center was the granary originally built by his father, William J. Sieh. But with the help of innumerable volunteers, the campus grew to include the original Putney Hall and an interpretive sculpture walk. The Granary's featured event was the All Dakota High School Fine Art Exhibition, which hosted art students from North and South Dakota High Schools. The Granary Rural Cultural Center was donated to Brown County in the spring of 2012.

Throughout John's life, he hired young men from the area to work on the farm and the Granary. There was hardly a time when these men weren't at table with the family, and in many cases were treated as members of the family.

He was a member of Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton, SD.

He leaves his children William Sieh, David Sieh and Kathryn (Sieh) Johnson and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, William J. Sieh; his mother, Dorothy (Wallace) Sieh; his sister Betty (Sieh) Ries; his first wife and mother of his children Lois (Porter) Sieh; and his second wife of 24 years, Leone (Kriech) Sieh.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be sent to the Granary Rural Cultural Center (<http://brown.sd.us/granary> - Dacotah Prairie Museum, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen SD, 57401).

Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Name: Paula Larson Jensen

Jobwise what are you doing today? I am the Funds Development Director at GROW South Dakota based in Sisseton, South Dakota. GROW SD is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides programs and loan products to advance housing, community, and economic development. My current duties include:

Researching and compiling grant and loan applications from various local, state, and federal funding sources. Annually, I write approximately 70 grant or loan applications and capture approximately \$5 million annually.

Coordinate regional activities and provide technical assistance to 18 committed regional communities to raise the profile of the northeast South Dakota region and build the capacity of individual organizations to collaboratively assist in the growth of the region.

How long have you been working at the current job? 7.5 years

How did you get your current job? Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives me in my personal and professional life. When I was recruited to my job as a grant writer for GROW South Dakota, I had never written a federal grant, but had written several community grants to support activities in my hometown of Langford. I was comfortable and successful at telling the story of my community and describing our needs to others. Marcia Erickson, also from Langford and CEO of GROW South Dakota, recognized my ability to do the job of Funds Development Director before I did.



Paula and Daren Jensen



Left to right: Tyler, Trey, Tate

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If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there.

Jensen Auto Service - 1993 to current - Bookkeeper

USPS – 2005 to 2007 – Postmaster Relief

Motherhood – 1999 - 2007

Langford State Bank – 1992-1999 - Teller

Spiry & Frohling Law Office – 1988 – 1992 – Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate? 1985 Graduate of Langford High School

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? Northern State University 1985-1988 Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting with Honors

What advice would you give the high school students today? No matter where you go or what you do, be a leader that is actively involved in creating the community that you want to live in. ~ Paula Jensen

One of my favorite quotes: "If you don't act, then you shouldn't be surprised when no one else acts either." ~Becky McCray Small Biz Survival

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. Raising my boys

Daren and I have owned and operated Jensen Auto Service for the past 22 years.

After 113 years, being the first woman to ever serve on the Town of Langford Board of Trustees

As the Mayor of Langford, Getting a phone call from Governor Janklow saying Langford would be granted a Governor's Daycare Home and it is still operating successfully and serving a need in the community

Helping to establish Glacial Lakes Area Development and serving as their Chairman for the past nine years.

Co-founder of the Langford Area Community Foundation to establish an annual source of income for the communities of Pierpont, Claremont, and Langford to complete improvement projects.

Co-founder of Langford Main Street Center Inc. which will create a gathering place for the community

Are you married? I have been married to Daren Jensen for 27 years and we reside in our hometown of Langford. Daren grew up in Langford and Smithville, TX.

How did the two of you meet? Basically, I married my prom date!

Do you have any children? If so what are their names and ages and if they are no longer staying at home where are they at and what are they doing today. Tyler Jensen, age 22, Jamestown, North Dakota, High Performance Engine Machiner at Dakota Engine Builders; Tate Jensen, age 18, Senior at Langford Area High School, will be attending Lake Area Technical Institute for Energy Technology in the Fall of 2015; Trey Jensen, age 14, 8th grader at Langford Area High School

Last question: do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? I believe high school and college are just the beginning of a life-long learning cycle. The academic learning from school was only a small part of my educational career. Attending small schools like Langford and NSU, I had the chance to build my confidence as a person and a leader by trying out new skills with the supervision of my teachers and community members whom I trusted. I had the opportunity to do so many things from sports and music to pep club, annual staff and student leadership. Sometimes we were pushed outside our comfort zones, but because of those experiences we learned could do it and we learned to try more things and push ourselves further. Those experiences taught me more than academics alone and have helped me accomplish goals I have set for myself.

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Groton Lions Easter Egg Hunt

The Groton Lions Club held its Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at the Groton City Park.



A group of kids line up getting ready to run out and get some eggs.

Carnival of Silver Skates Queen Allison Weber is pictured with the bunny, Kaylin Kucker.



Left to right in the back Justin Olson, Mark Wattier, Dave Pigors, Topper Tastad, Kaylin Kucker as the bunny, Allison Weber, Chris Kucker, Mayor Scott Hanlon, in front Lee Schinkel and Chris Frost

South Dakota Farmers Union President Granted Audience with Pope Francis & Vatican Leaders to Discuss Importance of Family Farming and Ranching

HURON, S.D. - South Dakota Farmers Union President, Doug Sombke was among five Farmers Union state presidents who were granted an audience with Pope Francis, March 25, 2015.

Sombke met with the Pope following a weeklong series of meetings with Vatican officials and rural-based non-governmental organizations to discuss the important role family farmers play in food security as well as the fact that most food produced in the U.S. is produced by family farmers.

"This was an incredible opportunity for South Dakota Farmers Union and our brother organizations across the United States to work with the Vatican and network with others in Europe for the future of family farming," said Sombke, a fourth-generation Conde crop and livestock farmer. "It also affords us the opportunity to let the world know what farming in the United States is truly like."

Sombke added that one of its biggest challenges the Farmers Union delegation faced was dispelling the widely held myth that U.S. agriculture is completely dominated by large, multinational corporations. "Many see American farmers as corporate-controlled and nothing else."

The delegation also spent time with Caldoritti, the largest farm organization in Italy, the International Catholic Rural Association and the secretary general of the World Farmers Organization. These meetings were held prior to an international symposium of faith, food and the environment that will take place in Milan, Italy, June 24 to 27, 2015.

The two principal organizations representing the U.S. were National Farmers Union and the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The findings of earlier symposiums and these meetings in Rome both will be used to develop *The Vocation of the Agricultural Leader*, a set of resources that Catholic Rural Life is developing with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in the Vatican.

"All religions are concerned about stewardship and the environment. And this is a belief that can help unite a very divided world," said Dave Velde, National Farmers Union chief counsel, about the discussions that took place in Rome, which he felt transcended all national borders and religious beliefs.

Alan Merrill, president of Montana Farmers Union agreed. "After spending time revisiting the values we hold, with the emphasis on our spiritual, moral and physical responsibilities to the land and the production of food, Farmers Union grassroots membership should be proud that these same ideas are held high around the world."

Discussion not only included land use and conservation, but also a resource that is increasingly scarce: fresh water. "In discussions with Vatican officials on environmental issues, one of their concerns is water and the availability in the major agriculture producing regions of the world. Whether it's drought or contamination we need to make sure that the water supply remains safe and abundant," said Darin Von Ruden, Wisconsin Farmers Union president.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Cancer and Keeping Your House in Order

There is something about that word cancer, the big C.

When the pathology report displays those abnormal type cells on biopsy and the report spells out those six black letters, then, whether it is a simple treat-

able condition or one that will most certainly predict an earlier death, the patient hears cancer and it changes everything.

Through the years, I have had to inform too many patients about a new diagnosis of cancer and have learned there is often a paralyzing fear that comes with the word. Due to advancements in science, many more people with cancer are surviving than when I started. Still, when I have had to say to anyone of them, "You have cancer," often the word cancer is the only word they will remember for days, and so I always plan to keep readdressing the topic until plans can be clarified.

Unfortunately, some people who hear the word cancer come to face their mortality for the very first time, even when the chance of cure is good. I dare say this goes for too many of us, resulting both from unrealistic expectations in this scientifically advanced world, and the cover-up of the dying process in this everything-is-going-to-be-alright society.

This week a friend told me she and her husband were preparing to sell their house by thinning out their stuff collected over 15 years, and remodeling with that new carpet they've needed for a long time. It reminded me of what a realtor friend once said, that he keeps his house ready for sale at all times. Why not put in the carpet, paint the bedroom, and fix the step so that he can enjoy it right now?

In a similar vein, I have heard it said that every once in a while, perhaps yearly, we should all have some kind of significant brush with death and then be rescued. Maybe that would help us to get and keep our house in order.

And then when each of us has our turn to cross the river into that land of the Sweet Bye and Bye, we can feel what the young neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi, said before dying of cancer, "(I have found a joy)...unknown to me in prior years... a joy that does not hunger for more and more, but rests... satisfied in this time, right now..."

We shouldn't have to come down with cancer to get our house in order.

Kalanithi, Paul, MD. "Before I go: A Stanford neurosurgeon's parting wisdom about life and time." The Washington Post, March 12, 2015.

Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H

This Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H met March 29, 2015 at Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by Dylan Frey. The American Pledge was led by Kaitlin Anderson and the 4-H was led by Braden Boe. Roll call topic was Favorite Season. Treasure Report was approved by Hannah Sumption and second by Braden Boe. Secretaries Report was approved by Trey Wright and second by Kaitlin Anderson. Old Business was Fundraisers. Hanna Miller and second by Jakob Sumption. New Business was the Newshound. Colin Frey closed New Business and Landon Marzahn second News Business. Other Business is Phonathon. Meeting was adjourned by Kaitlyn Ringgenberg and second by Landon Marzahn. Trey Wright gave a demonstration talk on Steer Wrestling. Lunch was served by Elizabeth Sanderson. After the meeting we toured the Newport Hutterite Colony.

Submitted by Kaitlyn Ringgenberg

Putney Putovers

The Putney Putovers 4-H Club met Sunday, March 1st, at the Groton Community Center. The meeting was called to order by President Carly Wheeting. Flag pledges were led by Axel Warrington, Lane Tietz, and Carly Wheeting. Roll call was answered with a spring flower. The secretary's report was approved by Hailey Monson and seconded by Lucas Simon. Ashley Gibbs gave the treasurer's report. It was approved by Alexis Simon and seconded by Alexis Hanten. There were no bills. Reporting on community service, Lucas Simon served at mass, Cole Simon helped at concessions, Carly Wheeting worked concessions at a wrestling tournament, and Alexis Simon added Ken's and Kesslers receipts for a teacher at school.

In new business, the Northeast Youth Livestock clinic will be held March 20th, the annual phonathon will be on March 29th and 30th, fruit pickup will be March 17th, Brown County Leadership Scholarship is due May 1st, and Public Presentation days are April 6th and July 8th. Leadership opportunities for 10-18 yr olds, judging school dates, FFA/4-H judging on March 21st, Little I contest in Brookings, and market sheep, swine and meat goat weigh-in were also included in new business.

Hostesses for this meeting were Brenna and Porter Johnson. Cole Simon gave a talk on The Importance of Wearing a Helmet. Lucas Simon gave a demonstration on DIY ooze. Carly Wheeting gave a talk on How to Run a Meeting. The next meeting will be April 13th, at the Groton Community Center. Hostesses will be Axel Warrington and Jillian Hughes. The adjournment was moved by Ashley Gibbs and seconded by Cole Simon.

-Alexis Simon, secretary

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Today in Weather History

March 30, 1967: Prolonged strong southerly winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts to 55 mph, caused areas of blowing dust in eastern South Dakota, reducing visibilities to near-zero. A metal roof on a lumber shed in Vermillion was blown off. The strong winds also piled ice along the shore of Lake Poinsett to heights of 20ft, causing damage to some cabins along the lake shore.

March 30, 2009: A major winter storm moved across the Northern Rockies and into the Northern Plains producing from 2 to 22 inches of snowfall along with widespread blizzard conditions. Most area schools and events were canceled. Travel was extremely difficult and not advised. Interstate 29 from Watertown to the North Dakota line and Interstate 90 across Jones and Lyman counties were both closed during the storm. There were several vehicle accidents with no serious injuries reported. However, this storm took a toll on area ranchers as calving season was underway. Storm total snowfall amounts included; 6 inches in Blunt, Timber Lake, Gettysburg, and Wilmot; 7 inches in Doland and Pierre; 8 inches in Clark, Clear Lake, Leola, Hosmer, Gettysburg, southeast of McIntosh, and Kennebec; 9 inches south of Bristol, Waubay, and near Chelsea; 10 inches in Eagle Butte and Mobridge; 11 inches in Pollock and Turton. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included; 12 inches in Aberdeen, Britton, Andover, Sisseton, and Faulkton; 13 inches at Lake Sharpe, Roy Lake, and eight miles southwest of Keldron; 14 inches in Miller, Redfield, and Webster; 15 inches near Highmore and near Columbia; 16 inches southwest of Stratford; 17 inches 14 miles northeast of Isabel; 20 inches in McLaughlin, Ree Heights, and 4 miles northeast of Victor with almost 22 inches northwest of Stephan.

March 30, 2010: Scattered light rain showers falling into a very dry air mass were responsible for several heat bursts that occurred across central South Dakota from Pierre to Onida during the evening hours of March 30th. Between 853 pm and 1053 pm CDT, observations from the Pierre airport (KPIR) showed a marked increase in temperature (+10F), decrease in dew point temperature (-4F), pressure falls, and gusty surface winds (a peak wind gust of 48 mph). On a farm outside of Pierre, winds were estimated up to 70 mph as some shingles were blown off the roof along with damage to several outbuildings. The Onida airport recorded a peak wind gust of 66 mph in the early evening.

1890 – On this date through March 31st, 20.4 inches of snow fell at St. Louis, Missouri. This is the greatest 24-hour snowfall total on record for this location.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

3rd Annual * 5K WALK/RUN, BIKE, or RELAYS

GROTON AREA SCHOOL

Destination Imagination's

NEW!
5K
WALK OR RUN
RELAYS!



Race To Globals

* SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH *

Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

SCLARK@NVC.NET for information

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Today



Breezy

High: 69 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 36 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 70 °F

Tuesday Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 47 °F

Wednesday



Breezy

High: 70 °F

Wednesday Night



Breezy

Low: 37 °F

Thursday



Breezy

High: 51 °F



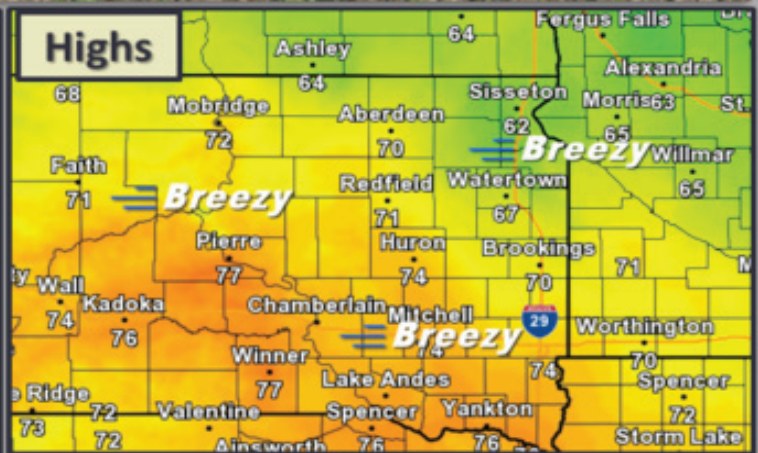
Red Flag Warning For Much of SD Today



Extreme Fire Danger Today.

Gusty west northwest winds expected this afternoon.

Humidity will drop below 25% in the afternoon.



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, South Dakota



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/30/2015 4:26 AM Central

Published on: 03/30/2015 at 4:38AM

Winds will increase from the west northwest, becoming gusty this afternoon. Winds, combined with dead grasses and relative humidity values below 25 percent, will result in extreme fire danger across much of South Dakota today. Well above normal temperatures will persist through mid-week, followed by a slight cool down later in the week. The forecast remains dry through the near term however, and until vegetation really starts to green up, expect fire danger to be high and use caution.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 57.4 at 5:42 PM

Low: 36.2 at 11:14 PM

High Gust: 41 at 7:38 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.07

Today's Info

Record High: 81° in 1943

Record Low: -14° in 1969

Average High: 48°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in March.: 1.06

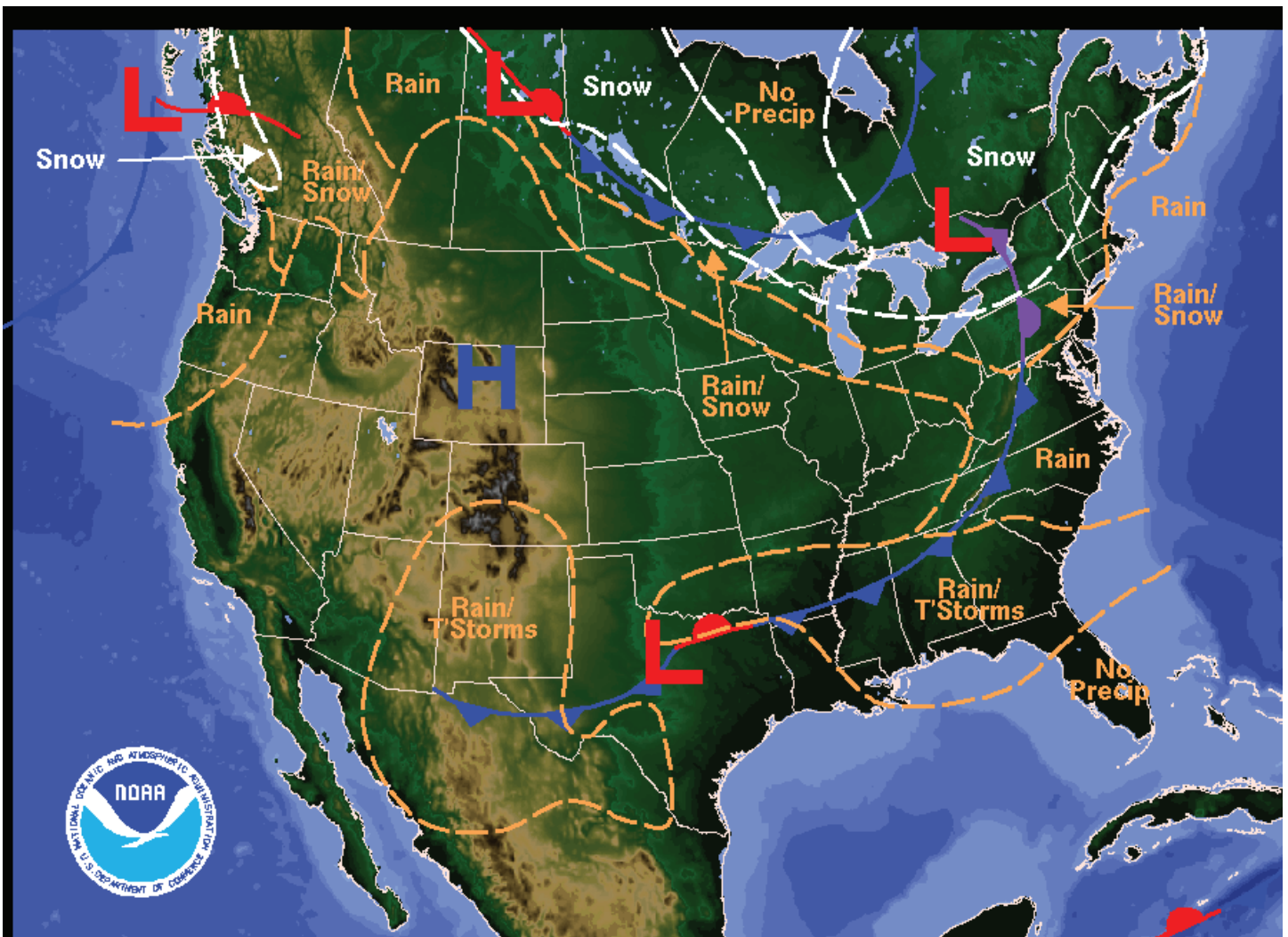
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.08

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 7:59 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:16 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Mar 30, 2015, issued 3:34 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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JUST BEFORE GIVING UP...

...remember these words: "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord."

The temptation to be jealous and envious of those who have more or better things than we do can become a distraction to those who struggle to live a righteous life. It is not introduced in this verse as a warning of something new and different. Rather, there is a preview of it in the Psalms: "Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong"... (to gain the treasures and pleasures of this world). "Trust in the Lord and do good...delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (if they are consistent with His blessings.)

Although not specifically stated in this proverb, we must never forget the fact that what the ungodly have and the things they possess are temporary. We have been conditioned to believe that the "things of this world" will bring happiness and hope, joy and satisfaction, pleasure and success, strength and security.

"Envy" is an interesting Hebrew word. It contains the idea that being envious will force us into action to do more and work harder. However, that can be good. One can be envious of the sinful or the righteous. The choice is ours!

One translator provides an interesting interpretation: "Do not sinfully envy the temporal and momentary benefits that the sinful seem to enjoy, instead, set your heart upon zealously possessing the fear of the Lord."

If we are always zealous in our fear of the Lord and "set our hearts on things above, not on the things of this world" and "give the battle to the Lord," there can be little doubt about the outcome. The key is to "set" and "give" to the Lord.

Prayer: We admit, Father, that it is so easy to be tempted by that which has no eternal value. Guard our heart from deception. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.

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Sioux Falls incident involves vehicle ramming, shots fired

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police arrested two suspects in a weekend incident they say involved a hammer, a vehicle ramming and a shooting.

Authorities say a woman driving a sport utility vehicle intentionally rammed a car Saturday evening, and a man with a handgun got out of the Jeep and fired several rounds as the car's three occupants fled. They escaped unharmed.

The man earlier in the day had allegedly tried to attack the car with a hammer.

The two suspects were apprehended as they tried to flee the area in a different vehicle.

Authorities say a dispute involving the people in the two vehicles apparently sparked the incident.

Wildfire burns 10 square miles of land in Harding County

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire that started over the weekend scorched more than 10 square miles of forest and grasslands in Harding County.

Sheriff Wyatt Sabo says no evacuations have been ordered, no injuries have been reported and no homes have been damaged in the Sheep Draw Fire. Hundreds of firefighters battled the flames, along with two South Dakota National Guard helicopters.

Cindy Hansen with the Great Plains Fire Information office says it might be several days before the fire is fully contained. The cause wasn't immediately determined.

A separate grass fire near Hot Springs on Saturday burned two garages, a camper and an abandoned house before firefighters brought it under control. No occupied structures were lost.

Local artist to paint two-story mural on Rapid City theatre

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City organization that promotes economic development has commissioned a local artist to paint a two-story mural depicting the Badlands on a downtown theatre.

Destination Rapid City says artist Aaron Percy will paint the mural on the Elks Theatre building over the next three weeks. The 960-square foot mural will sit above Botticelli Ristorante and will overlook the Badlands Tapestry Garden of The Sculpture Project at Main Street Square, which inspired its design.

Percy also painted the fire men mural on the patio wall of the Firehouse Brewing Company.

The work is being funded through the Bush Prize for Community Innovation, which Destination Rapid City received in 2014.

Man, 58, dies in 1-vehicle crash northeast of Huron

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 58-year-old Huron man was killed in a one-vehicle crash in eastern South Dakota.

The accident happened between 3 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Friday on a road just northeast of Huron.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says David William Jones failed to stop for a stop sign while driving his pickup truck through an intersection. It says his pickup struck an embankment, went airborne and came to rest in a field.

The Highway Patrol says Jones wasn't wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

An investigation is ongoing.

Federal funding in short supply for rural water projects

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A pipeline project intended to bring billions of gallons of water a year to a drought-stricken section of eastern New Mexico represents a lifeline to parched communities that are quickly running out of water.

The lifeline, however, might not reach the region for more than a decade, even though officials say some areas don't have that long before wells dry up.

The slow pace of construction in what would be the state's most expensive infrastructure project to date underscores the challenges faced by a number of states eyeing such projects.

During the widespread drought, officials are struggling to finish large-scale water infrastructure projects while populations are growing, drinking water resources are dwindling, and federal dollars are diminishing.

The federal government is responsible for paying about \$3 billion to complete several rural water projects around the country. The amount — expected to grow by the time the work is done — represents a fraction of the more than \$600 billion needed to address the nation's water and wastewater needs over the next 20 years.

That has left states and local water authorities scrambling to fill the financial void.

Of the many pipeline proposals in the West, one calls for moving water from four remote valleys in eastern Nevada to Las Vegas to reduce the region's reliance on the Colorado River. Others call for piping water from Lake Powell to southeastern Utah and for taking water from Wyoming across Colorado's Front Range and on to Denver.

In New Mexico, officials are desperate to head off the shrinking of the Ogallala aquifer, an underground supply of water that stretches through eight states and is being rapidly depleted along the Texas-New Mexico border.

"People are going to have to understand that in the West, that old saying 'whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting' — that's where we are right now," said Gayla Brumfield, chairwoman of the Eastern New Mexico Water Utility Authority.

Some studies show pockets of eastern New Mexico might have less than a decade before wells run dry. Others could have 40 years, but all signs point to demand outpacing supply as surface and groundwater sources dwindle across the West.

The pipeline would funnel more than 5.3 billion gallons of water each year from the Ute Reservoir south to Clovis, Portales, Cannon Air Force Base and other small communities.

It includes a \$19 million intake system at the reservoir, pump stations and more than 150 miles of pipe that will serve about 70,000 people.

The price for the Ute project has ballooned to more than \$550 million, and the federal Bureau of Reclamation acknowledges it could end up costing \$750 million.

The lure for communities to pursue these costly infrastructure projects has been the promise of federal funding, said Denise Fort, a water law expert and professor at the University of New Mexico.

"It's like a shiny red apple and that can be hard to turn down," she said.

Critics say the Ute project will do little to solve the region's drinking water woes and has only given way to bigger questions about the benefits and sustainability of high-dollar rural water projects that depend on shrinking rivers, reservoirs and aquifers.

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Funding for rural projects managed by the Bureau of Reclamation has been shrinking, forcing Brumfield and others to make regular trips to Washington, D.C., to fight for whatever money is left.

It's no different for Red Arndt, chairman of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System. That \$570 million project is designed to supply drinking water to 300,000 people in more than a dozen cities in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. The states and local water authorities have contributed their share of close to \$154 million. Some customers are getting water now, but the pipeline comes to a dead end in a field near the Minnesota border.

Arndt said the Obama administration talks about improving the nation's infrastructure and boosting economic development but hasn't followed through with any meaningful investment. If a business comes to the area, local leaders must ask how much water they're going to use. If it's too much, Arndt said the businesses are told to move on.

"They want infrastructure and they want economic growth and what's more important than anything? Water. If you don't have water, you don't have growth of anything," he said.

In January, Vice President Joe Biden announced steps the administration would take to attract private investment. He told reporters: "It's one of the hardest things to deal with because it costs so much money, and it is not anything that the people can see."

The federal Bureau of Reclamation has about \$36 million for rural water projects for the next fiscal year. In its most recent analysis, the agency estimates the projects could be completed by 2029 with a total federal investment of about \$3 billion.

The federal government is obligated to pay for three-quarters of the Ute pipeline.

For the amount of water being moved and the population served, the Natural Resources Defense Council estimates it's one of the most expensive projects in the West. Critics question whether it's worth the effort given the cost and the uncertain supply of water.

They cite the situation facing the \$390 million San Juan-Chama Project, designed decades ago and completed in 2008 to funnel extra water through the Rio Grande Valley for Albuquerque and Santa Fe to keep from sucking local aquifers dry. Thanks to years of drought, this is the first year the project will see a shortage of water.

Those who live near Ute Reservoir fear a similar situation and see the project as a boondoggle. The town of Logan, for example, lives and dies by the reservoir, and persistent drought has reduced its levels.

"It seems like there is just such tunnel vision in Portales and Clovis," said Warren Frost, an attorney for the village who also owns property near the lake. "They're hell-bent to do this project regardless of whether it makes sense and I don't understand that."

Conference focuses on violence against American Indian women

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A one-day conference in Rapid City on Tuesday is focusing on violence against women on American Indian reservations.

The conference is on tribal implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. It's sponsored by the acting U.S. attorneys in both Dakotas, the U.S. attorney in Nebraska and the University of South Dakota law school.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 was recently signed into law. It increases legal protections for Native American women and other victims, puts an emphasis on tribal governments protecting their people and gives tribal courts more power.

The conference is free and open to the public. It will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rushmore Plaza

Holiday Inn.

Custer park hosting Earth Day birdhouse-making workshop

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. (AP) — Rangers at Custer State Park in the Black Hills will mark Earth Day this year by teaching people how to make bluebird houses.

Two sessions will be held on Saturday, April 18, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center.

Attendees will build a bluebird house from scrap wood to promote recycling as well as an appreciation of birds. They'll also learn why bluebirds nest in the boxes and other facts, and be able to take their birdhouse home with them.

Each session has a limit of 20 participants and reservations are required by calling 605-255-4464. Everyone also needs to provide a hammer.

SD lawmakers to gather in Pierre for last day of Legislature

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Legislature is convening for the final day of the 2015 legislative session to consider three tax-related bills that Gov. Dennis Daugaard has vetoed.

Lawmakers gather Monday in Pierre to finish up the session. Major business, including the state budget, finished up earlier this month.

A smaller group of lawmakers plan to meet Monday to discuss potential topics to study over the summer.

It's unclear if advocates will get the required two-thirds margins necessary to override the governor's vetoes.

One bill would help determine whether South Dakota's property tax burden is a barrier for affordable housing businesses. Daugaard also dismissed a plan would exempt the earnings of amateur baseball coaches from the state sales tax.

The other measure Daugaard vetoed would slightly reduce the tax burden on rural electric companies.

South Dakota's up-and-down snowmobile season ends Tuesday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Snowmobilers have a couple of days left to hit any South Dakota trails that still have snow.

The Game, Fish and Parks Department says the snowmobiling season ends Tuesday, capping off a season with snow conditions that fluctuated every couple of weeks.

Black Hills trails manager Shannon Percy says it started out well until the end of January when there was a two-week warmup. It snowed again on Presidents' Day weekend, but that was the end of it.

Most of South Dakota's 1,585 miles of trails have been empty for weeks due to the warm weather and lack of new snow.

GFP says the season was slow both in the Black Hills and East River as well as North Dakota, Wyoming and Minnesota.

South Dakota's snowmobile trails reopen Dec. 15.

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10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS DOWN TO WIRE

Differences still remain less than two days before a deadline for the outline of an agreement that would curb Tehran's atomic activities.

2. WHAT FEDS MAY DO TO PROTECT INVESTORS

AP's Bernard Condon says the White House is backing tougher standards for brokers at a time when more Americans are relying on them for retirement planning.

3. EX-ISRAELI PREMIER CONVICTED IN BRIBERY CASE

Ehud Olmert was found guilty in a retrial of corruption charges, the latest chapter in the downfall of a man who had hoped to achieve peace with the Palestinians.

4. HOW PHYSICAL THERAPY CAN HELP ICU PATIENTS

AP's Lauran Neergaard finds some hospitals manage to help critically ill patients stand or walk even though they are on life support, exercise that may speed recovery.

5. TOURISM DECLINE HITS JORDANIAN CITY

Petra is a big tourist draw, yet nearby hotels stand virtually empty and business is at a standstill because of the kingdom's role in the battle against Islamic State militants.

6. THREE GENERATIONS OF FAMILY PERISH IN FRENCH ALPS JET CRASH

Three women named Emma — a 12-year-old, her mother and her grandmother — were from an affluent family known for their love of sports in a beautiful Barcelona suburb.

7. LOOK AT WHAT'S MAKING A COMEBACK

Mothballed by Ford last decade, the Lincoln Continental is back, a nod to the car's improved sales in the U.S. and an appetite for luxury brands in China.

8. FEEL WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A U.S. SENATOR

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate will be opening to the public, featuring a replica of the chamber where Kennedy served for 47 years.

9. JUST CALL THEM THE IHEARTTAYLORSWIFT AWARDS

The pop singer cleaned house at the iHeartRadio Music Awards, winning artist of the year and song of the year for "Shake It Off."

10. FINAL FOUR SET

Michigan State will face Duke and undefeated Kentucky will meet Wisconsin as three No. 1 seeds survive to the NCAA Tournament's championship weekend.

AP News in Brief

Saudi-led airstrikes shake Yemen's capital as Shiite rebels, allies push south toward Aden

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A series of airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition have shaken Yemen's capital into the early morning amid the group's campaign against Shiite rebels and their allies.

The strikes Monday in Sanaa come as the rebels, also known as Houthis, pushed south toward the port city of Aden, Yemen's economic hub and the latest seat of power for those allied with embattled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Hadi fled Yemen last week, sparking the airstrike campaign.

Monday marked the fifth day of the airstrike campaign against the Houthis and their allies, largely forces loyal to deposed leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. The strikes have targeted fighters, jets, air defense

systems and Scud missile launch pads that could threaten Saudi Arabia.

French police official: Crash probe centers on psychological state of German co-pilot

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — A French police official says European investigators are focusing on the psychological state of the 27-year-old German co-pilot who deliberately smashed an Airbus carrying 150 people into an Alpine mountainside.

Returning Monday from a meeting with counterparts in Germany, judicial police investigator Jean-Pierre Michel told The Associated Press that authorities want to find out “what could have destabilized Andreas Lubitz, or driven him to such an act.”

Lubitz was the co-pilot of Germanwings Flight 9525, which slammed into a mountain near Le Vernet, France, last week en route from Barcelona, Spain, to Duesseldorf, Germany.

Germanwings chief operating officer Oliver Wagner was meeting with relatives of the victims Monday in the southeastern French city of Marseille. He said a total of 325 family members have come to France.

Iran nuclear talks hit crunch time 2 days before deadline for framework deal

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program entered a critical phase on Monday with differences still remaining less than two days before a deadline for the outline of an agreement.

With the March 31 target fast approaching, the top diplomats from the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Germany and Iran were meeting to try to bridge remaining gaps and hammer out the framework deal that would be the basis for a final accord to be reached by the end of June.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif, have been meeting in the Swiss town of Lausanne since Thursday in an intense effort to reach a political understanding on terms that would curb Iran’s nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

Officials say the sides have made some progress, with Iran considering demands for further cuts to its uranium enrichment program but pushing back on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms. In addition to sticking points on research and development, differences remain on the timing and scope of sanctions removal, the officials said.

And, in a sign that a deal is unlikely on Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will leave the talks, just a day after arriving, to return to Moscow for previously planned meetings, according to his spokeswoman Maria Zarakhova. Lavrov will return to Lausanne on Tuesday if there is a realistic chance for a deal, she said.

Spain: 3 generations of same family, all named Emma, die in jet crash in French Alps

SANT CUGAT DEL VALLES, Spain (AP) — From a lush suburban valley near bustling Barcelona, three generations of a well-heeled family set off last week for a fun trip to Manchester, England: 12-year-old Emma Solera Pardo, her mother Emma Pardo Vidal, and grandmother Emma Vidal Bardan.

They were on their way to pick up the youngest Emma’s teen brother as he finished a semester abroad to hone his English, do some sightseeing and then head home together.

But the Germanwings flight 9525 taking them to Duesseldorf for a connecting flight to Britain slammed into the French Alps. Prosecutors say co-pilot Andreas Lubitz locked the pilot out of the cockpit and aimed the aircraft down in an eight-minute descent until it hit the ground and disintegrated.

Juan Pardo Yanez — little Emma's grandfather, the father of her mother and the former husband of the eldest Emma — was virtually speechless after returning from a trip for relatives of the 150 crash victims to the accident zone in Seyne-Les-Alpes, France, where investigators working in a ravine were collecting small pieces of the plane and body parts ahead of a painstaking identification effort.

"There is nothing that can be done or could be said to me to change the loss of these three so dearly loved ones," Pardo Yanez told The Associated Press and other journalists outside a Barcelona crisis center set up for victims' relatives.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert found guilty in retrial on corruption charges

JERUSALEM (AP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was convicted Monday of unlawfully accepting money from a U.S. supporter in a retrial on corruption charges, the latest chapter in the downfall of a man who only years earlier hoped to lead the country to a historic peace agreement with the Palestinians.

The conviction could land Olmert five years in prison, in addition to a six-year prison sentence he received last year in a separate bribery conviction, all but ensuring the former premier won't return to politics for many years to come.

"His behavior constitutes a breach of trust which harms the public, harms morality, and harms the public's trust, in how he behaved corruptly," prosecutor Uri Korev said following the verdict.

Olmert's lawyers said they would likely appeal the ruling by the Jerusalem District Court. A sentencing hearing is slated to take place in May.

Olmert has claimed he was on the brink of a historic agreement with the Palestinians when he was forced to resign in early 2009 amid corruption allegations. His departure cleared the way for hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu's election, and subsequent peace efforts have not succeeded.

Single mom, retirees say nest eggs hit after they put too much faith in fee-hungry brokers

NEW YORK (AP) — Susan Bernardo trusted her stockbroker. She wound up losing a fortune.

Her broker, David Harris, advised her to sell \$400,000 worth of relatively safe municipal bonds, she says, and sink the proceeds into real estate and energy partnerships in hopes of earning more income. She had received the money from a settlement after her husband died in an accident and needed it to raise her small son.

More than six years later, those investments are in trouble. The stream of interest payments she used for living expenses has mostly dried up and the value of her portfolio is half of what it was, according to a financial planner who helped her file a claim against the broker.

Bernardo says Harris never told her how risky the new investments were, or about the fat 5 percent commission that brokers typically get selling them. Harris hasn't returned calls seeking comment.

That her broker might not have acted in her best interest never occurred to her, until recently.

HEALTHBEAT: Helping ventilator patients exercise not easy; mouse study shows why it can help

WASHINGTON (AP) — The intensive care unit is a last frontier for physical therapy: It's hard to exercise patients hooked to ventilators so they can breathe.

Some hospitals do manage to help critically ill patients stand or walk despite being tethered to life support. Now research that put sick mice on tiny treadmills shows why even a little activity may help speed recovery. It's work that supports more mobility in the ICU.

"I think we can do a better job of implementing early mobility therapies," said Dr. D. Clark Files of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, who led the research and whose hospital is trying to get more critically ill patients up, ventilator and all.

Hospitals have long nudged less critical patients out of bed, to prevent their muscles from wasting away. But over the past several years, studies in ICUs have shown that some of the sickest of the sick also could benefit — getting out of intensive care sooner, with fewer complications — once it's medically feasible for them to try.

This isn't just passively changing a patient's position. It could involve helping them sit on the side of the bed, do some arm exercises with an elastic band or in-bed cycling, or even walk a bit with nurses holding all the tubes and wires out of the way. It takes extra staff, and especially for patients breathing through tubes down their throats, it isn't clear how often it's attempted outside specialized centers.

AP chief says killing, kidnapping of journalists should be war crimes under international law

HONG KONG (AP) — The president and CEO of The Associated Press called Monday for changes to international laws that would make it a war crime to kill journalists or take them hostage.

Gary Pruitt said a new framework is needed to protect journalists as they cover conflicts in which they are increasingly seen as targets by extremist groups.

"It used to be that when media wore PRESS emblazoned on their vest, or PRESS or MEDIA was on their vehicle, it gave them a degree of protection" because reporters were seen as independent civilians telling the story of the conflict, Pruitt said.

"But guess what: That labelling now is more likely to make them a target," he said in a speech at Hong Kong's Foreign Correspondents' Club.

Last year was a particularly deadly year for the AP -- four of the news cooperative's journalists were killed on assignment. Globally, 61 journalists were killed in the line of duty in 2014, bringing to more than 1,000 the number who have died since 1992, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Taylor Swift big winner at iHeartRadio Music Awards; Justin Timberlake offers positive words

The iHeartRadio Music Awards should be called the iHeartTaylorSwift Awards.

The pop singer cleaned house at the show Sunday, winning artist of the year and song of the year for "Shake It Off," and even assisted Madonna by strumming her guitar onstage while the pop icon sang a new song.

"More than anything in the world, I just hope that any of the fans watching know how much I adore you ... we've gotten closer and closer with each year, not further apart," a glossy-eyed Swift said at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. "Like, you make me so happy."

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The pop star also won best lyrics for her other hit song, "Blank Space."

Madonna, whose recent awards show performances were energetic and upbeat, toned it down when singing "Rebel Heart" while Swift played guitar next to her.

Final Four field is set: Kentucky vs. Wisconsin and Michigan State vs. Duke

If you liked the look of last year's Final Four, you will love the 2015 edition.

One game — Kentucky vs. Wisconsin — is not only a matchup of two No. 1 seeds, it's a replay of last year's semifinal won by Kentucky, 74-73.

Seventh-seeded Michigan State will face Duke, a four-time national champion led by coach Mike Krzyzewski, who is in his 12th Final Four, tying the legendary John Wooden.

It is the fifth time at least three No. 1 seeds reached the Final Four. The only top-seed sweep was in 2008.

This is the third straight year one conference has had two teams in the Final Four with Wisconsin and Michigan State coming from the Big Ten. The Southeastern Conference did it last year with Kentucky and Florida and the Big East had Louisville and Syracuse in 2013.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 30, the 89th day of 2015. There are 276 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 30, 1945, during World War II, the Soviet Union invaded Austria with the goal of taking Vienna, which it accomplished two weeks later.

On this date:

In 1135, the Jewish philosopher Maimonides was born in Cordoba in present-day Spain.

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited denying citizens the right to vote and hold office on the basis of race, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish. Texas was readmitted to the Union.

In 1909, the Queensboro Bridge, linking the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Queens, opened.

In 1923, the Cunard liner RMS Laconia became the first passenger ship to circle the globe as it arrived in New York.

In 1955, "On the Waterfront" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1954, while its star, Marlon Brando won best actor; in what was regarded as an upset, Grace Kelly won best actress for "The Country Girl," beating out Judy Garland for "A Star Is Born."

In 1959, a narrowly divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Bartkus v. Illinois*, ruled that a conviction in state court following an acquittal in federal court for the same crime did not constitute double jeopardy.

In 1964, John Glenn withdrew from the Ohio race for the U.S. Senate because of injuries suffered in a fall. The original version of the TV game show "Jeopardy!," hosted by Art Fleming, premiered on NBC.

In 1975, as the Vietnam War neared its end, Communist forces occupied the city of Da Nang. James Ruppert, 41, killed 11 members of his family at his mother's home in Hamilton, Ohio, on Easter Sunday.

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In 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously wounded outside a Washington D.C. hotel by assailant John W. Hinckley Jr.

In 2002, Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth died at Royal Lodge, Windsor, outside London; she was 101 years old.

Ten years ago: Under heavy protection, U.S. first lady Laura Bush visited the capital of Afghanistan, where she talked with Afghan women freed from Taliban repression and urged greater rights. The Supreme Court ruled that federal law allowed people 40 and over to file age bias claims over salary and hiring even if employers never intended any harm. Fred Korematsu, who'd challenged the World War II internment policy that sent Japanese-Americans to detention camps, died in Larkspur, California, at age 86.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama signed a single measure sealing his health care overhaul and making the government the primary lender to students by cutting banks out of the process. The world's largest atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, threw together minuscule particles racing at unheard of speeds in conditions simulating those just after the Big Bang. Math teacher Jaime Escalante, who inspired the movie "Stand and Deliver," died in Roseville, California, at age 79. Morris Jeppson, a weapons test officer aboard the Enola Gay who helped arm the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima, died in a Las Vegas hospital at age 87.

One year ago: Four hours of talks in Paris between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov failed to break a tense East-West deadlock over the crisis in Ukraine. Actress Kate O'Mara, 74, best known for her role in the 1980s soap opera "Dynasty," died in southern England. Harry Richard Black, 92, an artist who created the "Mr. Clean" advertising icon, died in Kettering, Ohio.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Peter Marshall is 89. Actor Richard Dysart is 86. Actor John Astin is 85. Actor-director Warren Beatty is 78. Rock musician Graeme Edge (The Moody Blues) is 74. Rock musician Eric Clapton is 70. Actor Justin Deas is 67. Actor Robbie Coltrane is 65. Actor Paul Reiser is 58. Rap artist MC Hammer is 52. Singer Tracy Chapman is 51. Actor Ian Ziering is 51. TV personality Piers Morgan is 50. Actress Donna D'Errico (TV: "Baywatch") is 47. Singer Celine Dion is 47. Actor Mark Consuelos is 44. Actress Bahar Soomekh is 40. Actress Jessica Cauffiel is 39. Singer Norah Jones is 36. Actress Fiona Gubelmann is 35. Actress Katy Mixon is 34. Actor Jason Dohring is 33. Country singer Justin Moore is 31. Actress Tessa Ferrer is 29. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 25.

Thought for Today: "We do not talk - we bludgeon one another with facts and theories gleaned from cursory readings of newspapers, magazines and digests." - Henry Miller, American author (1891-1980).