

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 1 of 27

- 1- Johnson Agency
- 1- School Help Wanted
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- PEO Scholarship
- 2- Vicki Strom Scholarship
- 2- Renee McKiver Scholarship
- 2- Kuehnert Memorial Scholarships
- 3- Brenda Harms Scholarship
- 3- Full Circle Ag Scholarships
- 4- Omaha Steaks
- 5- Eighth Grade Principal's Honor Roll
- 5- Treeline Tree Service ad
- 6- Update from DI Globals
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Local Forecast
- 10- National Weather Map
- 10- Local Weather
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- News from the Associated Press

The Groton Area School District is seeking applicants for a full-time custodian. Daytime shift during summer months, afternoon/evening shift during school year. Starting wage \$11.00/hour. Benefits include paid sick leave, vacation, holidays, health insurance, matching retirement. Interested parties should contact Joe Schwan at 605-397-2351. More information available at www.grotonarea.com.

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance
Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424
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Saturday, May 23

Birthdays: Evan Sperry • Jessica Claussen • Robert Gibbs

Sunday, May 24

Birthdays: Noah Tullis • Blake Merkel • Katie Anderson

9:00 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran worship

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

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship.

3:00 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Golden Living Center

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Anniversary: Troy and Rhonda Carda

Birthdays: Jon Voss • JR Johnson • Kayla Fordham • Joni Groeblichhoff • Peggy DeHoet • Chris Kassube, Jaela Fliehs • Sandy Knudson

Tuesday, May 26

Birthdays: Heather McDonald • Stephanie Vedvei • Beth Gustafson • Drake Peterson

Cats anyone?

Anyone want a cat or two? We have two to give away. Contact Paul 397-7460.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 2 of 27



Groton PEO Scholarship
Rose Waage, Recipient Kasey Waage, Gloria Pharis



Nicole Lewandowski (Vicki Strom Memorial Scholarship) and Kathleen Groeblichhoff (Renee McKiver Memorial Scholarship)



Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Memorial Scholarships
Back - Jacob Milbrandt (Kuehnert Salutatorian Scholarship), Luke Smith (Kuehnert Trade, Technical, Science or Math Scholarship), Jackson Doeden (Kuehnert Athletic Scholarship)
Front - Kasey Waage (Kuehnert Financial Need Scholarship), Kathleen Groeblichhoff (Kuehnert Valedictorian Scholarship)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 3 of 27



**Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Harms, Maryn Howard, Sheldon Herr, Mike Harms**



**Full Circle Ag Scholarship recipients
Full Circle Ag representative, Landon Larson, Dylan Vogel, Spencer Knecht**

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 4 of 27



Home. Cooked. GOODNESS.

The taste of togetherness.



PERFECT FOR
FATHER'S DAY!



The Favorite Gift

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 Stuffed Baked Potatoes
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets

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Reg. \$164.00 | Now Only **\$49⁹⁹**

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4 more burgers
FREE



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Limit 2 pkgs. Your 4 free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes The Favorite Gift 49377. Limit of 1 free box of 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers per shipment. Standard S&H will be added per address. Not valid with other offers. Expires 6/30/15. ©2015 OCG | 505B120 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 5 of 27



Principal's Eighth Grade Honor Roll

Ten eighth graders in the Class of 2019 have been selected for the Principal's Middle School 8th Grade Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the eighth graders had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for two years.

The eighth graders named to the Principal's Honor Roll are pictured above.

Back – Jennie Doeden, Taylor Holm, Tylan Glover, Samantha Menzia, Shyla Larson

Front – Emily Thompson, AnneMarie Smith, Cassandra Townsend, Kaitlyn Anderson, Alexis Simon

Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal

DI Globals Update

It was another day of adventure in Knoxville as the two Groton Area DI teams took in the sights of Destination Imagination Global Finals. The "Out of the Boxers" team left the hotel early in the morning in order to get to campus to watch their Buddy team from Turkey perform. They also did a little pin trading, checked out the souvenir sales and attended the Movies in the Park at the World's Fair Park lawn.

Today was a big day for the "5 Confused People" team as they presented the solution to their Improv Games challenge for the final time. The team of three seniors; Breanna Marzahn, Luke Smith and Katie Groeblichhoff also participated in the 2015 Global Finals High School & College Graduation Ceremony held in the Alumni Memorial Building. They each received a certificate and an Alumni Ambassador pin. Following the ceremony the three graduates along with their team managers, Julie Milbrandt and Joni Groeblichhoff and driver, Shannon Wright celebrated at the local Waffle House!

The two teams shared time together when the "Boxers" supported "5 Confused People" by attending both their afternoon performance and the graduation ceremony. Cozy Dorton, SD DI Affiliate Director and Dean Fenenga, incoming SD Affiliate Director also attended the performance to wish our seniors well. Lots of applause and cheering was heard from the South Dakota group in their honor today and it was much appreciated.



Graduating seniors of the DI program are Katie Groeblichhoff, Luke Smith and Breanna Marzahn. (Photo by Joni Groeblichhoff)



(Photo by Joni Groeblichhoff)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 7 of 27



In back, left to right, are Coach Julie Milbrandt, Nathan Fjelstad, Lily Cutler, Trey Wright, Coach Clint Fjelstad, Luke Smith and Erin Smith; in front, left to right, are Coach Tara Fjelstad, Jenifer Fjelstad, Breanna Marzahn, SD DI Affiliate Director Cozy Dorton, Katie Groeblichhoff, Coach Joni Groeblichhoff and Keri Pappas.



(Photo by Julie Milbrandt)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 8 of 27

Today in Weather History

1882 - An unusual late season snow blanketed eastern Iowa, with four to six inches reported around Washington. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - The temperature at Hollis OK soared from a morning low of 70 degrees to an afternoon high of 110 degrees to establish a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was a busy day for thunderstorms in the central U.S. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Shreveport LA and golf ball size hail at Marfa, TX. Hobart, OK, received 3.55 inches of rain in the morning, and another 4.03 inches of rain that evening. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 8.5 inches of rain in two hours north of Potter, and 7.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes north of Minatare. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced five inches of hail at Greeley. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across much of the eastern U.S. Golf ball size hail was reported in Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Ohio. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms developing along a cold front resulted in 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Plains and Upper Mississippi Valley. Golf ball size hail caused a million dollars damage around Buffalo City, WI, baseball size hail was reported at Northfield and Randolph, MN, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 95 mph at Dunkerton, IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the south central U.S. Pueblo, CO, equalled their May record with a high of 98 degrees, and the high of 106 degrees at Midland, TX, marked a record six straight days of 100 degree heat. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A cold front crossing the western U.S. produced snow over parts of Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho and Utah, with five inches reported at Austin NV, and four inches at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. Strong winds behind the cold front sharply reduced visibilities in blowing dust over central California, and two multi-vehicle accidents resulted in one death and eighteen injuries. In northern Idaho, a cloud-burst washed tons of topsoil, and rocks as large as footballs, into the valley town of Culatesac. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Legion Post #39 Memorial Day services

8:00 am James
9:00 am Verdon
9:30 am Bates-Scotland
10:00 am Ferney
11:00 am Groton
Lunch to follow at Post #39



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 9 of 27

This Afternoon	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Memorial Day	Monday Night	Tuesday
Isolated Sprinkles	Thunderstorms Likely	Thunderstorms Likely	Chance Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms Likely	Chance Thunderstorms	Slight Chc Thunderstorms
High: 67 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 74 °F



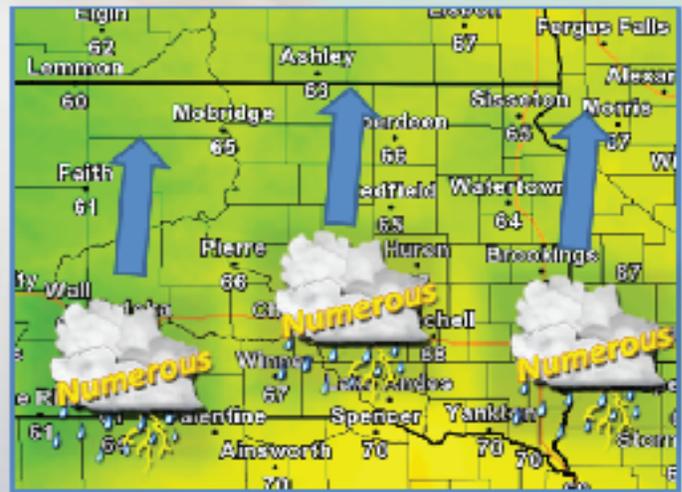
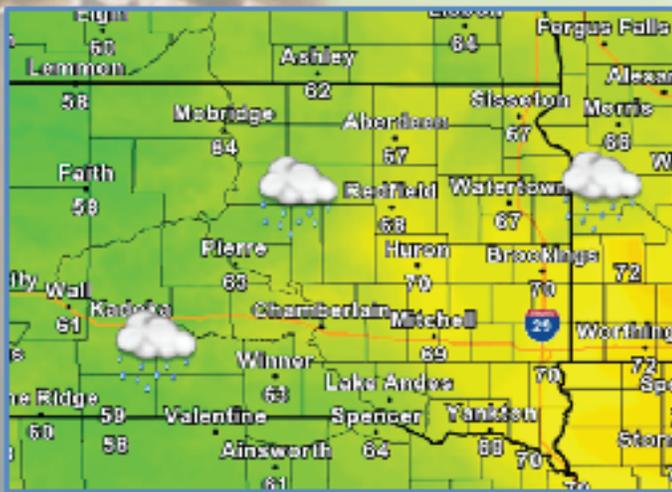
Rain Chances Through The Weekend

Today

More dry than wet!
Scattered showers & t'storms across the region

Overnight & Sunday

More wet than dry!
Numerous showers and t'storms & more significant rainfall



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 5/23/2015 4:20 AM Central

Published on: 05/23/2015 at 6:02AM

It will be more dry than wet today, however brief showers and thunderstorms cannot be ruled out. That changes quickly late tonight into Sunday. Numerous showers and thunderstorms are expected, with more significant rainfall possible. The wet pattern will persist into next week.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 10 of 27

Yesterday's Weather

High: 77.1 at 4:57 PM

Low: 47.0 at 6:40 AM

High Gust: 20 at 4:17 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1950

Record Low: 26° in 1897

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 47°F

Average Precip in May: 2.34

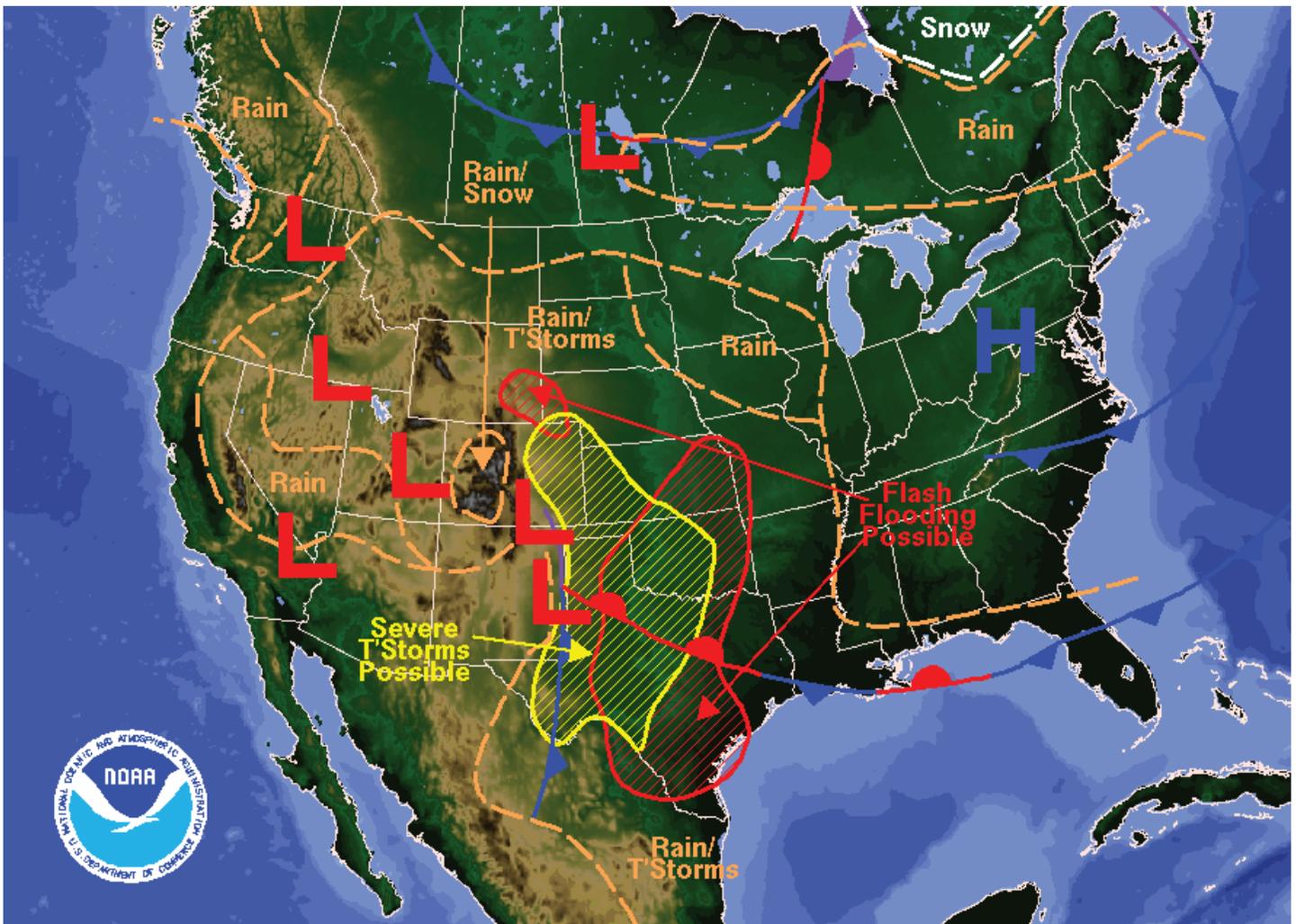
Precip to date in May: 3.32

Average Precip to date: 6.37

Precip Year to Date: 4.96

Sunset Tonight: 9:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 23, 2015, issued 4:24 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 11 of 27



TRY, TRY AGAIN!

Jeanie had a very bad day. Nothing seemed to go the way she intended it to go, and she ended up embarrassing herself several times.

That evening, as she read her Bible, she went to the Lord in prayer. Confessing her sins, she said, "Lord, make me a good girl, please!"

After thinking for a moment and realizing that it might be a difficult job even for the Lord, she quickly added, "If at first You don't succeed, Lord, try, try again!"

We can take great comfort in knowing that He will never give up on any of us, and more importantly, He will do all He can to help us succeed.

Paul said that "those who become Christians become new creations. They become brand new persons!" Hard to believe? Of course. Impossible for God? Indeed not!

Christianity differs from every other religion. It is not the teachings of our Founder that save us, it is His death, burial and resurrection. It was His death that canceled our sins and His resurrection that made our new life in Christ possible. We become new persons.

When there is sin in our life, He is anxious to forgive us. When we are trapped by habits that would destroy us, He wants to free us. "If we confess our sins, He will forgive us, cleanse us." He's always there to help.

Prayer: Lord, even though we are new persons, we often fail to be who we want to be. Help us to succeed. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

News from the Associated Press

Police in Sioux Falls investigating early morning stabbing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating a stabbing they say happened in the eastern part of the city early Saturday.

Officers were called to the 100 block of North Conklin Avenue around 3:45 a.m. There they found a 45-year-old man who had multiple puncture wounds in his back.

The man was transported to Avera McKennan Hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries.

State officials to rededicate Civil War Monument in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State officials and residents in Pierre are re-enacting the original dedication of a civil war monument on the grounds of the state capitol 95 years after it was first christened.

Officials will rededicate the Civil War Monument on June 1. The Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission has approved various upgrades to the monument site including sidewalks, lighting, benches, landscaping and a flagpole.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard will read the remarks made at the 1920 dedication by former Gov. Peter Norbeck. And other state officials will read remarks originally made by leaders of the National Grand Army of the Republic.

A group of Pierre citizens will also sing "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner," which were both performed at the original dedication.

Former South Dakota candidate says at trial she was a novice

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Former U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth said Friday shortly before testimony ended in her trial that it wasn't her intention to mislead anyone when she attested to signatures on campaign documents that she didn't actually witness.

Bosworth is seeking to avoid conviction on charges of violating South Dakota election law. The jury will reconvene next week to receive instructions and hear closing arguments.

Bosworth has said she was out of the country on a medical mission while some of her nominating petitions were circulating. She has also admitted that she didn't personally gather signatures from some Hutterite colonies, despite attesting on documents that she had witnessed people signing petitions.

Lawyers for the two sides elicited testimony over the trial that has provided contrasting portraits of Bosworth to the jury.

Bosworth's defense team has cast her as a political novice who did her best to follow complicated regulations but violated South Dakota election law under the guidance of her former attorney and political consultant, Joel Arends. Bosworth testified she hadn't reviewed the requirements well enough when she affirmed she had witnessed people sign certain petitions. She called her actions "careless."

"I was doing everything possible to get it right," Bosworth said. "I felt like I did a very good job trying. Clearly I'm sitting here because we screwed up."

Bosworth's attorneys say Arends told her she could properly call herself the petitions' "circulator" because they were circulated under her direction. Bosworth said Arends advised her on the subject during a specific instance at her medical office in 2014.

She appeared calm while testifying, at times smiling.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 13 of 27

"Were you trying to pull a fast one on anybody?" Defense attorney Bob Van Norman asked Bosworth. "No," she replied.

Arends testified Thursday that Bosworth is more knowledgeable about the political process than she is letting on, and called it "a lie" that he had advised her she didn't need to witness signatures. Ethan Crisp, a former campaign staffer who has been in a financial dispute with Bosworth, testified that Bosworth has the reputation of being "not truthful and deceitful."

Defense attorney Dana Hanna said Crisp was "here for a little revenge."

Bosworth has pleaded not guilty to felony charges of perjury and filing false documents. A conviction could jeopardize her medical license.

She received just 6 percent of the vote in a five-way Republican primary in 2014 that was won by former Gov. Mike Rounds. Rounds went on to win the U.S. Senate seat in the general election.

Egg prices surge to record on shortage caused by bird flu

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Egg prices reached record levels on Friday after a bird flu outbreak decimated the flock, leading to the death of more than 20 million egg-laying hens over the last month in the top producing state of Iowa.

The virus spread appears to have slowed but not stopped. Federal officials are planning an aggressive educational campaign to improve biosecurity around infected barns after tests have shown the disease is spreading from farm to farm.

Officials studying the worst bird flu outbreak in the U.S. say they're learning about the virus that has led to 40 million dead birds — mostly turkeys and egg-laying chickens — either from the disease or euthanized to prevent its spread. Following are some answers to questions about the current status of the outbreak.

WILL EGG PRICES KEEP GOING UP?

Yes, in the short term at least. With egg supplies dwindling, the price of eggs used in food products and shell eggs we eat for breakfast will climb higher. Carton egg prices reached a record Friday of \$2.32 a dozen for Midwest large eggs, said Rick Brown, a senior vice president for Urner Barry, a commodity market analysis firm. That's a 95 percent increase in a month. The previous record was \$2.27 set last Dec 4. Breaker eggs, those used to make ice cream, mayonnaise and other processed foods also set a record Friday. They reached the record \$2.13 a dozen, up 238 percent from 63 cents they were selling for on April 22 when the virus hit Iowa's egg-laying hen population.

HOW IS THE INDUSTRY COPING?

Efforts are underway to begin importing eggs and egg products from Europe, a measure the industry turned to during a bird flu outbreak in Pennsylvania and Virginia in 1983 when 17 million chickens and turkeys died. The U.S. typically produces an ample supply with 87 billion table eggs produced last year. The nation exported 352 million dozen but with a shortage of supply due to bird flu, the U.S. is expected to begin importing in the next few months, Brown said. Producers in France and the Netherlands are likely among those who may be tapped to help the U.S. in a pinch.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE VIRUS?

This is the first time the H5N2 strain of the virus has been found in enough wild birds to spread it over wide areas in the United States. The environment around poultry houses has been tested and the virus has been found even around farms not infected so it is quite pervasive in the countryside where wild waterfowl crossed over while migrating north. The virus is surviving well in the cool wet condi-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 14 of 27

tions this spring in the upper Midwest. Initially it was believed infections came only from the ducks and other waterfowl carriers flying overhead dropping the virus in their feces. Genetic testing has shown that the virus has spread from farm to farm and has been dragged from one barn to another, said Dr. Jack Shere, a veterinarian and associate deputy administrator at the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the agency overseeing the bird flu outbreak.

WHAT DOES THAT SPREAD OF THE VIRUS MEAN?

Biosecurity efforts, no matter how much they've been improved, are not yet good enough. We know the virus is spread mechanically by humans and can be spread on clothing, shoes and vehicles entering and exiting farms. It also now appears that in some barns it was carried by air on cold, wet, windy days.

"We have to consider the outside environment as contaminated and to protect the poultry we have to put all kinds of hurdles in place to keep that virus from getting into the poultry houses," Shere said.

CAN IT BE CONTAINED AND STOPPED?

It's going to take more work. Biosecurity is expensive. It requires disinfecting vehicles as they come and go and equipping workers with clothing changes and shoe disinfectant. But when a farm is infected all the birds are killed to prevent it spreading, which costs more. The key issue is education, Shere said. "Some of the folks that take care of these barns are the lowest paid and the least educated. We need to be sure that they know that not only are they putting their jobs at risk if they spread this disease but the birds are going to die," he said.

SO IS THE VIRUS HERE TO STAY?

There's no way of knowing that for sure but various strains have been in Asia since at least 2008 and perhaps before that, and there have been recurrent outbreaks. One encouraging fact is that the virus does change. It mutates and officials are hoping it mutates into something that won't infect the birds and kill them. It is also possible that the virus could mutate into something worse.

WILL WARMER SUMMER WEATHER HELP?

Yes. The current belief is that the H5N2 virus infecting birds in the Midwest begins to die at around 65 degrees and is completely dead at 85. Higher temperatures tend to dry out the virus and render it incapable of infecting birds. Temperatures consistently in the 70s should stop it. Iowa is expected to remain in 70s to low 80s for the next several days.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

USDA and industry will be working together during the summer to get everyone as prepared possible in hopes of minimizing commercial barn infections if the virus returns in the fall. Discussions between USDA officials and Congress will be held about what is needed to deal with the virus and how that will be funded. The current outbreak is estimated to cost U.S. taxpayers about \$400 million, Shere said.

Sturgis man claims Wild Card 2 lottery ticket worth \$6,000

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Sturgis man has claimed a Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Deadwood worth \$6,000.

Lottery officials say Gary Elton bought the ticket that matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card to pick up the game's second prize. The odds of winning it are 1 in about 127,000.

Elton bought the ticket at Big D Oil on Main Street in Deadwood. The retailer will receive a \$600 bonus for the sale.

Wild Card 2 is played in Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas. The jackpot is at \$230,000 for the Saturday drawing.

Rapid City police asking public to help find missing woman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police in Rapid City are seeking the help of the public in finding a woman who's been missing since Monday and is possibly in danger.

Twenty-two-year-old Jessica Rehfeld was last seen with two unknown men in the 3400 block of Hemlock Street on Monday night.

Rehfeld is 5 feet 10 inches tall and 110 pounds. She has blonde hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with any information about Rehfeld is urged to contact authorities at 605-394-4131.

Not even helmets help pro bull riders stave off concussions

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Kasey Hayes hopped on the bovine beast trapped in the narrow holding pen like he'd done hundreds of times. He adjusted a tight rope on his left hand, found his balance and signaled he was ready to dominate the bull for the next eight seconds — or, at least, hoped to.

The red metal gate swung open. The bull's spine rolled, the animal charged forward and stood on its rear legs. The crowd cheered as the first ride on this March evening appeared promising. After 3.72 seconds, Hayes lost control, hit the ground and got his head stomped on by the 1,600-pounder named Shaft. His hockey-like helmet split in two. The arena fell silent.

"Come on Kasey. Come on son. Wake up," a woman in the stands said as Hayes lay surrounded by doctors and athletic trainers. It took about a minute or so before Hayes could be helped to his feet. He had a concussion — the third in a 12-month period.

Serious injuries are occupational hazards for bull riders, but doctors, riders and researchers say the most pervasive injuries are concussions. The Professional Bull Riders' circuit provides a stable of doctors, requires helmets for anyone born after 1994 and insists concussed riders pass a test before getting back in the saddle.

But in this era of concern about head injuries in the NFL and NHL, the circuit's lead medical staffer says he hasn't seen a drop in the number of concussions despite the widespread use of helmets. There are no multimillion-dollar contracts or unions in professional bull riding; if you don't ride, you don't eat, leading to athletes to push themselves back into action.

Few researchers have looked into the number of rodeo injuries, and very little data is available to detail the rate of concussions. The largest available set, collected from 1981 through 2005 at nearly 2,000 Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association-sanctioned events, shows 859 concussions were registered during various competitions such as calf roping, bareback riding and bull riding.

That amounted to 52.1 percent of all major injuries, and "anecdotally, the vast majority of them were bull riders," according to Don Andrews, a retired athletic trainer who established the first sports medicine program in rodeo and assembled the data.

Concussions are the result of the brain banging against the skull. Side effects range from loss of balance, constant headaches, confusion, dizziness and vomiting. Recovery can take weeks or months, depending on the severity.

More than a decade ago, a group of health care experts — including the PBR's longtime medical team leader, Dr. Tandy Freeman — developed a set of guidelines to prevent and manage concussions and encourage the use of protective head gear.

Currently, all circuit riders must wear a protective vest, but only those born on or after Oct. 15, 1994, are obligated to use a helmet. Freeman said that the PBR, much like the NHL in the 1970s, decided to grandfather in helmet usage, though most riders wear them now. But helmets don't prevent concus-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 16 of 27

sions, Freeman said.

"What I can tell you is that there does not appear to be a statistically significant difference between riders with helmets versus without helmets in the number of concussions received yet," Freeman said.

Freeman and the athletic trainers who travel to the nearly two-dozen events a year gather baseline cognitive data at the beginning of the season, noting each rider's memory, balance and reaction time. If a rider sustains a concussion, the medical team administers the tests again. Freeman can sideline the rider if he fails.

"About 16 percent of the injuries we deal with are concussions then from there everything is broken up pretty much into thirds," Freeman said.

The only visible sign of Hayes' close encounter was a scratch extending from behind his left ear to his jaw.

"It was my turn I guess," the 29-year-old Liberal, Kansas, native said. "When we get on bulls, things usually don't go bad; you usually do what you're supposed to do ... But when things go wrong for us, it's a little worse I think than in other sports."

Hayes was ordered to take at least a week off from competition, an order he said he'd follow; he hopped on three bulls the following weekend. Hayes currently is sidelined after breaking three lumbar vertebrae in late April.

Some riders lie about their symptoms to try to fool doctors into letting them ride again.

"If you don't compete, you don't get paid at all," said 26-year-old Stetson Lawrence, of Trenton, North Dakota, who last suffered a concussion a couple years ago. "Most guys, just to do a test on their bodies, ride a horse to get the movement and see if you can handle it and see if you are dizzy after, you get off."

The most serious consequence of repeated blows to the brain is chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a neurodegenerative disease. Symptoms include memory loss, anxiety and progressive dementia, and can only be diagnosed after death.

"We don't know if people who have had one concussion are at a higher risk to develop this or if it takes three concussions or if it takes a lot more than that ... some of the evidence that's out there showing that if you do sustain multiple concussions you are at a potentially higher risk to have CTE or issues later on in life," according to Dr. Richard Figler, co-director of the Cleveland Clinic's Concussion Center.

CTE has been diagnosed in former NFL players (including Hall of Famer Junior Seau), NHL players (most recently, late defenseman Steve Montador) and boxers, but no research has shown whether former bull riders have been affected.

If Thad Bothwell started his career all over again, he'd likely wear a helmet instead of a cowboy hat. Bothwell, who retired in 2002, broke several body parts and logged about a half-dozen concussions.

"My son competes now and he wears a helmet," said the 46-year-old from Rapid City, South Dakota. "I recommend helmets. Now they are really trying to keep riders from really messing themselves up."

"Back in my days, if you knocked your face, you got on. Back then, we didn't have someone making that decision for us."

Former teacher gets 15 years for relationship with student

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former Sioux Falls middle school teacher who admitted to having a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old student has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Thirty-three-year-old Tonya Drueppel was charged in a five-count indictment last year. She pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual contact with a child younger than 16 in February.

Both the victim and the victim's mother testified during Friday's sentencing hearing. The Argus Leader reports the victim said she is going to forgive Drueppel because "it's the right thing to do."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 17 of 27

Drueppel worked for the Sioux Falls School District between 2009 and 2013. She was a teacher at Axtell Park Middle School.

Police began investigating her after a referral from the Department of Social Services.

7 decades on, Pearl Harbor kin seek new ID tests and closure

ALLEN G. BREED, Associated Press

AUDREY MCAVOY, Associated Press

CARY, N.C. (AP) — Dawn Silsbee and her siblings never knew their Uncle Bert — he died years before they were born. But they saw what his loss did to their family.

“Our grandmother openly wept, every year — every Dec. 7,” the North Carolina woman said. “And I think part of it was because she really didn’t know where Bert was.”

Bert Jacobson’s family has always known the details of his death: That he went down on the USS Oklahoma during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. But his remains — and those of more than 400 other sailors and Marines who died on the battleship that day — were never identified, but were instead commingled in a dormant volcanic crater a few miles from Pearl.

Now, nearly three-quarters of a century after that day of “infamy,” their families might soon get the closure Bert Jacobson’s mother was denied.

Last month, the Department of Defense announced plans to exhume the Oklahoma remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, commonly known as the Punchbowl. Work is expected to begin in a few weeks, after the state health department issues the permits.

“We now have the ability to forensically test these remains and produce the identifications,” says Debra Prince Zinni, a forensic anthropologist and laboratory manager at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Hawaii. “They just did not have the same capabilities back in the ‘40s when these remains were recovered.”

Past attempts to identify casualties of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack have ended in failure. And this renewed effort has spawned a debate over how best to honor their sacrifice and, in effect, whether these men belong to the families or to the nation.

In a way, Silsbee and her siblings — Bradley McDonald and Colleen Williams — owe their Uncle Bert everything.

During boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Jacobson became fast friends with O.C. McDonald, an orphan from South Dakota. During a visit to Bert’s home in Grayslake, Illinois, “Mac” fell in love with Jacobson’s sister, Norma.

“If he hadn’t brought my dad home to meet his sister, my mother, we — the three of us — would not be here,” Williams said as she balanced in her lap a scrapbook dedicated to Bert and her father.

At Navy tech school, Jacobson and McDonald formed one half of a group of buddies that called themselves “The Four Musketeers.” The others were Henry Ford II, grandson of the car magnate, and Chet Jankowski.

When training was through and assignments were handed out, Jacobson and Jankowski couldn’t believe their luck — and couldn’t wait to rub it in.

“They came up waving their orders in their hand and waving them in the face of my father saying, ‘We got paradise. We’re going to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii,’” says Brad McDonald. “And my dad was stuck with a set of orders for the North Atlantic during the winter, which wasn’t too nice.”

Jacobson and Jankowski ended up on the USS Oklahoma, a Nevada-class battleship commissioned in 1916.

The Japanese attacked on a Sunday. According to shipmates the siblings met at a USS Oklahoma re-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 18 of 27

union, Jacobson had spent the hours before the attack helping ferry men to shore for liberty. He'd been up all night and had likely just turned in when the Japanese planes struck.

"Poor Bert died before he knew there was a war going on," says McDonald.

When the first torpedo hit, Harold Johnson, who worked in the powder handling room for No. 4 turret, was four levels down, preparing to go ashore for a date with a local woman.

"I'd just got out of the shower and was in my skivvies and I was shining my shoes," he says, when suddenly an alarm went off. "Everybody growled," thinking it was a drill on a Sunday — until the division officer's voice came booming over the horn.

"It's the real thing," he shouted.

As he rushed to his battle station, Johnson could feel the ship begin to list. He got up the ladder and out the hatch just as the sea began rushing in.

The following day, several of Johnson's gun crew were cut out by rescue workers. Other survivors' tapping on the hull could be heard for more than two weeks, but they could not be reached.

The Oklahoma was hit by at least nine torpedoes. A total of 429 men on the ship that day lost their lives.

Engineers didn't refloat the battleship until November 1943. Remains recovered during the salvage operation were initially interred as unknowns at two nearby cemeteries.

The Oklahoma graves were reopened in 1947, and dental comparisons conducted on the remains. But after proposed identifications for 27 of the unknowns were disapproved, all the remains were re-interred at the Punchbowl.

Soaked in oil and exposed to the elements for two years, the remains were bundled in military blankets and placed into caskets. Many gravesites have multiple sets of remains in them, a typical stone reading: "12 Unknowns, USS Oklahoma, Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941."

In 2003, about 100 sets of Oklahoma remains were dug up as part of another identification effort, but it was unsuccessful. In a letter to families last year, the Department of the Navy signaled its opposition to any further exhumations.

"The sailors and Marines of USS Oklahoma would be outside the sanctity of the grave for a third time following their heroic sacrifice at Pearl Harbor," wrote Russell Beland, deputy assistant secretary for military manpower and personnel.

Last month, however, the Department of Defense pulled rank and said the dis-interments would proceed.

"The secretary of defense and I will work tirelessly to ensure your loved one's remains will be recovered, identified, and returned to you as expeditiously as possible, and we will do so with dignity, respect and care," Deputy Secretary Bob Work told relatives.

With dental and medical records, genetic material from relatives, and modern techniques and equipment, the government lab "is prepared to begin this solemn undertaking," said Rear Adm. Mike Franken, the agency's acting director.

Over the next several months, workers will open 45 graves containing a total of 61 caskets. The agency says the forensics could take up to five years, with a success rate of 80 percent.

Jacobson's nieces and nephew gave DNA samples during an event several years ago. Silsbee wants to see this through for her grandparents — her grandmother, in particular — who had Bert's name etched between theirs on a gravestone back in Illinois.

"As she didn't have closure and didn't know where he was, we would like to have that," Silsbee says, sitting beneath a color print of the Oklahoma in its pre-attack glory. "Because we remember all those years of her being so unhappy on Dec. 7th, and how this perhaps would bring that closure to all of us."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 19 of 27

If their uncle's remains are identified, they would like to see him moved to Arlington National Cemetery.

Of the roughly 60,000 people who survived the attack, only around 2,000 are estimated to still be alive. Chet Jankowski is one of them.

At 93, the Swansea, Illinois, man has difficulty remembering his old buddy, Bert Jacobson. "I had a lot of friends that lost their life," the old sailor said during a recent interview, his voice barely audible.

Reflecting on those lost friends, his shipmate and fellow survivor Harold Johnson has doubts about trying again to identify those who have rested at the Punchbowl for more than seven decades now. He thinks that's where they should remain.

"They were all together, and they died together," he says. "And I think they should be buried together."

Director named for Confucius Institute at Northern State

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Northern State University has named a director for its new Confucius Institute.

Naomi Ludeman Smith will lead the new Chinese language and cultural center, the first of its kind in the Dakotas. Smith comes to the South Dakota school from Peace Catalyst International in Denver, where she served as director of development and learning.

Smith also was on the faculty for 29 years at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She holds master's and doctoral degrees from Bethel University and Seminary.

"Dr. Ludeman Smith has an exceptional background in innovative global learning initiatives with a proven track record in building community and international partnerships," Northern State President James Smith said in a statement.

Ludeman Smith begins her duties Tuesday at the Confucius Institute, which will begin offering courses in Mandarin in the fall. The South Dakota Board of Regents in March approved the institute in conjunction with the University of Jinan in China.

A Confucius Institute allows partner universities to exchange instructors, students and academic information, and work on joint research and seminars. Before the approval, there were institutes in nearly every state except the Dakotas.

The North Dakota Board of Higher Education in 2011 gave Dickinson State University permission to establish a partnership with a Chinese university and set up a Confucius Institute, but it never materialized. A majority of faculty members voted against the idea, and state officials also found that the university had given Chinese exchange students hundreds of unearned diplomas.

Wildlife habitat conservation program reaches million acres

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Conservation Reserve Program offshoot that's aimed at boosting wildlife habitat has surpassed 1 million acres, thanks to a recent signup of land in North Dakota.

The amount of land in the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement program is double what the federal government envisioned when it launched the effort seven years ago. The program has given a boost to wildlife in three dozen states — from pheasants in the Upper Midwest to sparrows on the east coast to mule deer and elk in the Pacific Northwest.

The SAFE program pays landowners to idle land for 10-15 years and offers financial help with creating or improving wildlife habitat.

"As it enhances the flora and fauna of the countryside, it can also create recreational opportunities for the sportsman, which is an investment in the rural economy as well," federal Farm Service Agency

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 20 of 27

Administrator Val Dolcini said in a statement.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said in January 2008 its goal was to restore or enhance 500,000 acres of wildlife habitat through the program. The recent enrollment of about 300 acres of land in southeastern North Dakota's LaMoure County put the program over the 1 million acre mark. One acre is about the size of a football field without the end zones.

Harry Schlenker of rural Jud, who enrolled the millionth acre, said the combined benefits to himself as a farmer and rancher and to hunters including his sons helped draw him to the program.

"It keeps the soil from eroding, and we'll also have pasture and hay if a drought happens to strike, and it almost did this spring," said Schlenker, 82. "And it benefits wildlife — there's ducks and geese, and wild animals like fox and coyotes."

The SAFE program is proving more popular than expected because landowners can enroll smaller chunks of land for more targeted purposes and they like the added benefit to wildlife, especially if they happen to also be hunters, said Aaron Krauter, the Farm Service Agency's state director in North Dakota. The general Conservation Reserve Program, which pays landowners to idle environmentally fragile land, has seen waning interest in recent years, particularly as commodity prices have risen and farmers have turned more land back into crop production.

"People are getting more specific in the contracts that they want to sign," Krauter said. "It's a program that has just fine-tuned itself."

For example, he said, in North Dakota, land can be enrolled in one of four geographic areas, to benefit waterfowl such as ducks and geese, grouse, prairie chickens or pheasants.

The general CRP also has been criticized for taking cropland out of production and for paying farmers not to farm. The benefits to wildlife through the SAFE program "dampen that criticism a little," Krauter said. "You're not seeing large tracts of productive land being put in. You're finding those more specific areas."

California farmers agree to drastically cut water use

ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California farmers who hold some of the state's strongest water rights avoided the threat of deep mandatory cuts when the state accepted their proposal to voluntarily reduce consumption by 25 percent amid one of the worst droughts on record.

Officials hope the deal agreed upon on Friday will serve as a model for more such agreements with growers in the nation's top-producing farm state, where agriculture accounts for 80 percent of all water drawn from rivers, streams and the ground.

"We're in a drought unprecedented in our time. That's calling upon us to take unprecedented action," Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the state Water Resources Control Board, said in announcing the agreement.

The rare concession from the farmers is the latest indication of the severity of the water shortage in California, which is suffering through its driest four years on record.

California water law is built around preserving the rights of so-called senior rights holders — farmers and others whose acreage abuts rivers and streams, or whose claims to water date back a century or more, as far back as Gold Rush days.

The offer potentially could cover hundreds of farmers in the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 21 of 27

ivers, the heart of California's water system. About 25 percent of all California river water runs through the delta, according to the state's Department of Water Resources.

Some of the farmers made the offer after state officials warned they were days away from ordering the first cuts in more than 30 years to the senior water rights holders' allotments.

The state already has ordered cities and towns to cut their water use by 25 percent, and it has curtailed water deliveries to many other farmers. But in recent weeks, many city dwellers and others have complained that agriculture should be made to share more of the sacrifice.

Rudy Mussi, whose family farms about 4,000 acres in the delta southwest of Stockton, reacted with mixed emotions about state approval of the deal.

"The 25 percent savings, that gives us certainty," Mussi said. "But at the same time I'm being asked to give up 25 percent of my paycheck."

By itself, the delta farmers' offer would not go far enough to save shrinking waterways statewide. But if more farmers sign on across the state, California could save significant amounts of water, since the nearly 4,000 senior water rights holders alone consume trillions of gallons a year.

The agreement "is an illustration of creative practical approaches that water managers in the state of California are taking to help get us all through this devastating drought," said Michael George, state water master for the delta.

California produces nearly half of the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the U.S., but agriculture experts say they would expect only modest immediate effects on food prices from any reduction in water for the senior water rights holders. Other regions would be able to make up the difference, economists say.

Under the deal, delta farmers have until June 1 to lay out how they will use 25 percent less water during the summer. That could include irrigating their crops less or leaving some of their land fallow.

In exchange, the state gave assurances to the farmers it will not cut the remaining 75 percent of the water to which they are entitled.

"When your back is up against the wall, I guess you'll do anything," said Paul Wenger, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation and an almond grower in the Modesto area, outside of the delta. He said he is skeptical the deal will protect the farmers if the drought worsens.

Senior water rights holders last saw their water cut in 1977, but that move applied only to dozens of people along a stretch of the Sacramento River.

Ellen Hanak, a water policy expert at the Public Policy Institute of California think tank, said senior water rights holders don't necessarily face complete water cutoffs, as people with less venerable claims to water have endured.

"It's important for people to realize that there are haircuts that are partial — they don't necessarily mean shaving everything off," Hanak said.

Any accord with delta farmers would probably rely largely on the honor system. California currently does not require monitoring or meters for superior rights holders.

AP News in Brief

Unable to gain an extension, McConnell sets up last-minute vote on provisions of Patriot Act

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unable to end a struggle over how to deal with government surveillance programs, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell scheduled a last-minute session to consider retaining

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 22 of 27

the National Security Agency's bulk collection of domestic phone records.

McConnell, R-Ky., warned against allowing the controversial NSA program and other key surveillance activities under the USA Patriot Act to expire at midnight May 31. He said he would call the Senate into session that day, a Sunday, and seek action before the deadline.

Sen. Rand Paul, Kentucky's other senator and a Republican presidential candidate, called the Senate's failure to allow an extension of the surveillance programs during a late-night session Friday into Saturday a victory for privacy rights.

"We should never give up our rights for a false sense of security," Paul said in a statement. "This is only the beginning — the first step of many. I will continue to do all I can until this illegal government spying program is put to an end, once and for all."

By the time senators broke for the holiday, they had blocked a House-passed bill and several short-term extensions of the key provisions in the Patriot Act.

Senate passes trade bill sought by Obama on bipartisan vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Senate passed bipartisan legislation Friday night to strengthen the administration's hand in global trade talks, clearing the way for a highly unpredictable summer showdown in the House.

The vote was 62-37 to give Obama authority to complete trade deals that Congress could approve or reject, but not change. A total of 48 Republicans supported the measure, but only 14 of the Senate's 44 Democrats backed a president of their own party on legislation near the top of his second-term agenda.

Obama hailed the vote in a statement that said trade deals "done right" are important to "expanding opportunities for the middle class, leveling the playing field for American workers and establishing rules for the global economy that help our businesses grow and hire."

Separate legislation to prevent parts of the anti-terror USA Patriot Act from lapsing on June 1 was caught in a post-midnight showdown between a pair of Kentuckians — Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on the one hand, and presidential hopeful Rand Paul on the other.

McConnell favored renewal of a program of bulk telephone collection by the National Security Agency, while Paul was unyielding in opposition. "My filibuster continues to end NSA illegal spying," he tweeted.

Syrian activists document rise of chlorine attacks in war as world searches for ways to act

BEIRUT (AP) — With only a cloth mask for protection, Firas Kayali rushed to try to rescue the residents of a house in a village in rebel-held northern Syria after a barrel bomb, suspected to be filled with chlorine gas, hit nearby.

Once a house painter and now a member in a volunteer rescue team, Kayali tried once, twice, three times to break into the house, but he was overcome by the gas and passed out. Only 20 minutes later, after the gas dissipated, was the team able to get into the house.

Inside, they found a toddler dead, still wrapped in his blankets in bed, Kayali told The Associated Press, recounting the May 2 attack. The child's father died a few days later, his lungs collapsed, in a hospital near the Turkish border.

"I blamed myself first. But then again I go back and say if we had equipment and outfits, maybe," Kayali said. "Then again, 'if' will not change anything now. ... God destined and what he destined happened."

Frustrated and despairing, Syrian opposition activists are trying to garner international pressure to stop a growing number of attacks using chlorine gas, which they say are undoubtedly carried out by government aircraft.

UN chief says save migrants, deal with cause of flight as search for boats continues

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday urged Southeast Asian nations to deal with the causes behind a growing humanitarian crisis that has forced thousands of Rohingya from Myanmar and Bangladeshi migrants to flee by sea, leaving many still stranded in boats.

Ban said he has been discussing the emergency with regional leaders in Myanmar, Malaysia and Thailand, among others, and urged them to provide search and rescue operations and options for resettlement and reintegration.

"It's important to save human lives," he said on a visit to Hanoi, Vietnam. But it's also important "not to send them back to a dangerous circumstance or situation."

More than 3,600 migrants — about half of them Bangladeshi and the others minority Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar — have landed ashore in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand since May 10. Thousands more are believed to be trapped at sea, and the United Nations has warned that time is running out.

Four Malaysian navy ships began searching for boats Friday, according to navy chief Abdul Aziz Jaafar, who said three helicopters and three other ships were on standby. The Malaysian search is a positive sign, but the country's operation is limited to the country's territorial waters.

Both sides in Ireland's gay marriage referendum say 'yes' side has won resounding victory

DUBLIN (AP) — Leaders on both sides of Ireland's gay marriage campaign say advocates of legalization have won a resounding victory with the ballot count still underway.

Senior figures from the "no" campaign, who sought to prevent Ireland's constitution from being amended to permit gay marriage, say the only question Saturday is how large the "yes" side's margin of victory will be from Friday's vote.

An Irish Cabinet minister, Leo Varadkar, who came out as gay at the start of the government's campaign, says Dublin looks to have voted about 70 percent in favor of gay marriage, while most districts outside the capital also were reporting strong "yes" leads. Official results come later Saturday.

Varadkar said: "We're the first country in the world to enshrine marriage equality in our constitution and do so by popular mandate. That makes us a beacon, a light to the rest of the world of liberty and equality. It's a very proud day to be Irish."

AP Analysis: At Mideast forum, today's purgatory overwhelms hope for future prosperity

SOUTHERN SHUNEH, Jordan (AP) — Against a backdrop of Iraq and Syria in flames, Middle Eastern political and business leaders sought to focus on a future of growth and investment for a region that for long has lagged behind. But present-day reality proved rather difficult to ignore, with the Islamic State group wreaking havoc not far from these Dead Sea shores.

"We are all aware of the crises in the news," host King Abdullah of Jordan told invitees at the regional

World Economic Forum, held at a Dead Sea resort whose calm belied the mayhem raging a few hours' drive away.

"But there is another, deeper reality," the monarch optimistically went on. "Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, more than 350 million people are striving, economies are growing, youth are achieving, obstacles are being tackled. ... New possibilities, new human potential, new assets are uncovered."

There is validity in the claim of a glass part-full.

Egypt's economy may be turning after several disastrous years since the 2011 overthrow of Hosni Mubarak ushered in a period of instability and violence; its stock market flourishes and its credit rating inches ahead. The emirates of the Gulf are veritably booming. Tunisia's democratic transformation flirts with bona fide success. And Jordan itself, despite a flood of refugees from Syria, has maintained a modest level of economic growth.

Authorities believe 'others' helped jailed ex-con terrorize and kill family for \$40,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — An ex-convict likely had help from others holding a family captive inside their mansion for at least 18 hours, authorities said.

During their ordeal, the business executive and his wife told others to stay away — even ordering a pizza deliverer to leave two pies at the door — as they frantically arranged for \$40,000 in cash to be dropped off at the home.

But once the money was left on the seat of a red sports car in the family's garage, Daron Dylon Wint struck and stabbed Savvas Savopoulos, the CEO of the American Iron Works company where he had once worked as a welder, Wint's charging document said. At a court hearing Friday, Wint was ordered held in jail on a murder charge.

Savopoulos' wife, Amy, their 10-year-old son Philip and their housekeeper Veralicia Figueroa also were killed, and then the house was set on fire with matches and a flammable liquid.

The fire began on the queen-sized mattress where the boy's body was stabbed and burned, authorities said.

AP Interview: Gloria Steinem, in North Korea to cross DMZ, says isolation policies have failed

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Iconic women's rights activist Gloria Steinem may be in North Korea, but she is as outspoken as ever.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the 81-year-old feminism pioneer said she decided to join a group of women in a rare and in some quarters highly controversial walk across the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea because she thinks efforts to force change by isolating the North have failed. But, she said, she has no intention of letting the North's leadership off the hook for its own human rights record.

Steinem and a group of 29 other women from 15 countries are set to walk across the DMZ on Sunday after obtaining a rare green light from both governments. The permission didn't come easily — they had to alter their plans to go through the symbolic truce village of Panmunjom, where the Korean War armistice was signed in 1953, because officials in Seoul and the United Nations Command responsible for security in the area said they could not guarantee the group's safety.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 25 of 27

Instead, the women will take a route that links the two Koreas to the Kaesong industrial complex, a joint North-South business venture near the border.

"We paid for tickets, we came here we had no idea whether we could actually cross the DMZ or not," Steinem told the AP in Pyongyang before the group set off for Kaesong. "Here we are doing this with the consent of two opposed governments. I think that is quite remarkable in itself. North and South Korean women can't walk across the DMZ legally. We from other countries can. So I feel we are walking on their behalf."

1 year after coup, Thailand is calm but tensions simmer as generals shape politics

BANGKOK (AP) — Shortly after seizing power in a coup that followed months of debilitating street protests, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha vowed to end Thailand's decade of political upheaval once and for all. In his words, "to bring everything out in the open and fix it."

One year later, the military can boast it has restored stability and kept this Southeast Asian nation calm. But the bitter societal fissures that helped trigger the putsch are still simmering below the surface, unresolved.

"Our differences have just been pushed under the rug by a junta that prohibits freedom of expression. Nothing has been done to address the root causes of Thailand's deep divide," said Sunai Phasuk, a senior researcher for Human Rights Watch.

He said what is happening now is the imposition of peace by force. "There's no guarantee that whenever the junta lets go of their iron grip, the country will not fall back into conflict," he said.

On Friday, the anniversary of the takeover, police quashed a small student demonstration in Bangkok, triggering scuffles. At least 37 people were detained overnight and released Saturday after 11 hours of questioning. Seven others who staged a similar protest in the northeastern city of Khon Kaen were also freed.

B.B. King viewing in Las Vegas draws more than 1,000 mourners, some family ahead of memorial

LAS VEGAS (AP) — B.B. King kept drawing fans in Las Vegas, and a family feud simmered, during a public chance to say goodbye ahead of a weekend memorial service and a final King of the Blues road tour leading back home to the Mississippi Delta.

More than 1,000 people streamed past the body of the music legend during a four-hour public viewing Friday, said Matt Phillips, manager of the Palm South Jones Mortuary several miles west of the Las Vegas Strip.

Ushers ran out of 900 printed cards bearing King's dates of birth and death and lyrics to his signature song, "The Thrill is Gone."

A steady string of King's hit songs — "Everyday I Have the Blues," "Sweet Little Angel," "Why I Sing the Blues" — never stopped as ushers directed people to move past a casket framed by floral arrangements and two of his guitars, always called Lucille.

King died May 14 at home in Las Vegas. He was 89.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 26 of 27

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2015. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships, an action which precipitated war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1975, comedian Jackie "Moms" Mabley, 81, died in White Plains, New York.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers. "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," starring Harrison Ford, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1995, the computer programming language Java was publicly released at the Sun World Conference in San Francisco.

Ten years ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeye) met at the White House with President George W. Bush, who declined to promise Karzai more control over thousands of American troops in Afghanistan. A string of car bombs and suicide attacks in Iraq killed dozens of people.

Five years ago: In a new al-Qaida video, U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki (who would die in a U.S. drone attack in September 2011) advocated the killing of American civilians, accusing the U.S. of intentionally killing a million Muslim civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Space shuttle Atlantis undocked from the international space station. The Czech Republic captured the ice hockey world championship, ending Russia's 27-game tournament winning streak with a 2-1 victory in Cologne, Germany. The final episode of the supernatural castaway drama "Lost" aired on ABC after six seasons.

One year ago: A 22-year-old armed with knives and a gun went on a rampage near the University of California, Santa Barbara; Elliot Rodger killed six students and wounded 13 other people before taking his own life. In a report potentially exposing the Catholic Church to new legal arguments by clerical sex abuse victims, a U.N. committee found that the Vatican did exercise worldwide control over its bishops and priests, and had to comply with the U.N.'s anti-torture treaty.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 90. Actress Barbara Barrie is 84. Actress Joan Collins is 82. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 79. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 71. Actress Lauren Chapin is 70. Country singer Misty Morgan is 70. Country singer Judy Rodman is 64. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 64. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 61. Singer

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 294 ♦ 27 of 27

Luka Bloom is 60. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 57. Actress Lea DeLaria is 57. Country singer Shelly West is 57. Actor Linden Ashby is 55. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 54. Actress Melissa McBride is 50. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 48. Actress Laurel Holloman is 47. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 45. Singer Lorenzo is 43. Country singer Brian McComas is 43. Actor John Pollono is 43. Singer Maxwell is 42. Singer Jewel is 41. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 41. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 35. Actor Lane Garrison is 35. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 34. Actor Adam Wylie is 31. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 29. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 24.

Thought for Today: "Life is like a game of poker: If you don't put any in the pot, there won't be any to take out." - Jackie "Moms" Mabley (1894-1975).