

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 1 of 28

- 1- Frost Construction ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Golden LivingCenter Help Wanted Ad
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Book Fair to be held Feb. 11
- 2- Groton Garden Club News
- 2- Groton Prairie Mixed
- 3- State average gas price drops 12 cents
- 4 - Today in Weather History
- 4- Livestreaming Weddings Ad
- 5- Local Weather Forecast
- 6- National Weather Map
- 6- Local Weather
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8 - News from the Associated Press

## Thursday, January 21

State FFA District Officer Training in Pierre

**School Breakfast:** French toast, link, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Cheese sticks, tater tots, lettuce salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

**Birthdays:** Ella Johnson, Landon Larson, Rachel Zoellner, Steve Young, Valerie Kavanaugh

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting

6:00pm: Wrestling at Clark with Britton-Hecla

6:30pm: GBB hosts Webster Area

## Friday, January 22

Debate at Watertown

**Senior Menu:** Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple and mandarin orange sauce.

**Birthdays:** Mickie Locke Claeyes, Trevor Larson.

3:00pm: JHBBB at Webster (7th at 3:00, 8th at 4:00)

5:15pm: BBB at Webster (C game at 5:15, JV at 6:30, Varsity at 8:00)

## Saturday, January 23

Debate at Watertown

**Birthdays:** Andre Bonn, Bruce Sippel, Collin Townsend, Jeff Flihs, Laura Schuster, Lori Westby,

**Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!**

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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## Book Fair to be held February 11

### What:

Groton Area Elementary will host a Scholastic Book Fair on Thursday, February, 11, 2016, from 1:30 to 8:00 pm. Funds raised will help purchase books to expand the elementary library. Families, faculty, and the community are invited to attend this fun reading event that helps inspire children to become lifelong readers.

Brett Schwan, Elementary Principal, will preview books with the students by reading books or selections from books throughout the week of February 8th.

### When:

The Book Fair will be open daily during school hours for the students to preview books. Purchases may be made on Thursday afternoon from 1:30 until 8 pm. Online shopping will be available February 9-29. An app is also available that will give book levels, price and a synopsis. All you do is scan the book with your cell phone and the information is at your fingertips.

### Where:

Groton Area Elementary is located at 810 N 1st.

### More:

The Book Fair offers specially priced books and educational products, including popular series, award-winning titles, new releases, adult bestsellers, and other great reads from dozens of publishers.

Book Fair customers may help the school build classroom libraries by purchasing books through the Classroom Wish List program. In addition, the Book Fair will feature the All for Books™ program, where students can share the thrill of reading with others by donating loose change to purchase books from the Book Fair for expanding the title selection at the elementary library. Scholastic Book Fairs® then matches those monetary donations with a donation of up to one million dollars in books from The Scholastic Possible Fund, which distributes books to children in need through organizations, such as Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc. and the Kids In Need Foundation.

If you are interested in helping with the book fair – setting up (Feb 5), helping students select books and cashiering (Feb 11), packing up (Feb 12) – please contact Julie Milbrandt at [julie.milbrandt@k12.sd.us](mailto:julie.milbrandt@k12.sd.us).

## Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden Club met at the home of Beverly Sombke with Eunice McCollister assisting on January 18. Nine members answered roll call with "how to stay warm." The Christmas collection of \$54 was given to the transit system and a thank you was read from Arlis DOEDEN. Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl posters were judged on January 20. New business included announcement of the state Garden Club Convention to be held in Milbank, June 18, at the Lantern Inn. The February 15, meeting will be held at the home of Linda Gengerke with Ruby Donavon assisting. Linda will also give the program. Following the meeting Marj Overacker gave the program on "the importance of Mulch."

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Coyotes 15, Pocket Gophers 10, Jackelopes 9 1/2 , Shih Tzus 9, Foxes 8 1/2, Chipmunks 8

**Men's High Games:** Roger Spanier 234, 204, Ryan Sperry 213, 204, Brad Larson 201

**Women's High Games:** Vicki Jorgensen 188, Sue Stanley 179, Dar Larson 168

**Men's High Series:** Roger Spanier 580, Ryan Sperry 569, Rick Carlson 553

**Women's High Series:** Sue Stanley 485, Vicki Jorgensen 465, Dar Larson 450

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 3 of 28

## South Dakota Pump Price Average Drifts Lower State average has fallen 12 cents in past month.

Jan. 20, 2016 – Tumbling crude oil prices around the world have helped send the South Dakota retail average price for gasoline to \$1.86 per gallon, nine cents lower than the price a year ago and 12 cents below the price one month ago, AAA reports. The price average in Rapid City is 47 cents more than the price in Sioux Falls today.

“Crude oil’s in free fall amid plentiful supplies, increased exports from Iran, and concerns that problems in the Chinese economy will reduce fuel demand,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. “These low gas prices are making driving more affordable, incentivizing motorists to hit the highway and take a good-fashioned American road trip, weather permitting.”

	Today	Last Week	Change	Dec. 15	Change	Last year
<b>Aberdeen</b>	\$1.871	\$2.018	-\$0.147	\$2.048	-\$0.177	\$2.079
<b>Brookings</b>	\$1.802	\$1.955	-\$0.153	\$2.032	-\$0.230	\$1.999
<b>Huron</b>	\$1.970	\$1.972	-\$0.002	\$2.026	-\$0.056	\$2.003
<b>Mitchell</b>	\$1.854	\$1.938	-\$0.084	\$1.983	-\$0.129	\$1.977
<b>Pierre</b>	\$1.844	\$2.038	-\$0.194	\$2.177	-\$0.333	\$2.014
<b>Rapid City</b>	\$2.076	\$2.073	\$0.003	\$2.134	-\$0.058	\$1.918
<b>Sioux Falls</b>	\$1.610	\$1.759	-\$0.149	\$1.832	-\$0.222	\$1.805
<b>Vermillion</b>	\$1.735	\$1.804	-\$0.069	\$1.849	-\$0.114	\$1.886
<b>Watertown</b>	\$1.870	\$1.895	-\$0.025	\$1.920	-\$0.050	\$2.065
<b>Yankton</b>	\$2.002	\$1.935	\$0.067	\$2.018	-\$0.016	\$1.919
<b>South Dakota</b>	\$1.863	\$1.962	-\$0.099	\$2.027	-\$0.164	\$1.952

National retail gas price averages have fallen for 63 of the past 74 days, for a total savings of 34 cents per gallon, reaching today’s price of \$1.88 per gallon. Gas prices are down seven cents per gallon on the week, which is the fastest pace gas prices have dropped since the middle of November. Motorists typically enjoy falling gasoline prices in early winter due to decreased demand for gasoline and that also is helping to push prices downwards. Despite recent declines, the national average price of gas is only 18 cents per gallon cheaper than a year ago since prices also were very low in early 2015.

Across the country, Oklahomans are paying the least at the pump for regular gasoline, \$1.58. Only Missouri comes close at \$1.60. According to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com, California has the nation’s most expensive fuel today with a statewide average of \$2.74, followed by Hawaii at \$2.64.

A total of 38 states are posting averages below \$2 per gallon and gas prices are below the \$1.75 benchmark in 17 states, seven states more than a week ago.

National retail gas price averages have fallen for 64 of the past 75 days, for a total savings of 35 cents per gallon, reaching today’s price of \$1.87 per gallon. Gas prices are down eight cents per gallon on the week, which is the fastest pace gas prices have dropped since the middle of November. Motorists typically enjoy falling gasoline prices in early winter due to decreased demand for gasoline and that also is helping to push prices downward. Despite recent declines, the national average price of gas is only 18 cents per gallon cheaper than a year ago.

In light of the recent downward shift in oil and gasoline, the Energy Information Administration has lowered its forecasts for the year. The EIA expects regular gasoline to average \$2.03 per gallon, 37 cents lower than initial estimates and 40 cents below last year’s average.

Earlier this month, the EIA also forecast that monthly gasoline averages would reach as high as \$2.56 in July; this year’s monthly average peak has been revised to \$2.18 in June. The price for West Texas Intermediate crude oil is now forecast to average \$38.54 per barrel, \$10.13 lower than last year.

The price of oil has dropped more than 70 percent compared to the June 2014 high of \$107.26 per barrel, and is at its lowest level since 2003. The rout in oil prices has continued this week with WTI closing yesterday at \$28.46 per barrel on the NYMEX, a loss of 96 cents on the day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 4 of 28

## Today in Weather History

January 21, 1999: Widespread dense fog and freezing drizzle created treacherous driving conditions across part of northeast South Dakota from the evening of the 21st to around noon on the 22nd. The freezing drizzle ended in the early morning hours of the 22nd. As a result, slippery conditions developed, especially across Hamlin, Deuel, and Codington counties. Many vehicles slid into the ditch. There were a few accidents resulting in minor injuries. Numerous activities were canceled the evening of the 21st and many schools had delayed starts on the 22nd.

1985: Jacksonville, Florida recorded its all-time record low of 7 degrees. Macon, Georgia had its coldest day ever with a temperature of 6 degrees. It was the coldest Inauguration day in history as President Reagan is sworn in for a second term during cold and winds that resulted in wind chill readings of 30 degrees below zero. Because of the bitter cold temperatures, many of the outdoor Inauguration events were cancelled and President Reagan was sworn in the Capitol Rotunda.

1999: A major tornado outbreak occurred from southwest into central and northeast Arkansas during the afternoon and evening. In the Little Rock Area, 30 tornadoes tracked across 15 counties. Homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed in areas like Little Rock, Beebe, McRae, and in areas farther north and east. Eight deaths resulted from the tornadoes with 140 to 150 injuries also reported.

1863 - A severe coastal storm dropped heavy rain on the Fredericksburg area of Virginia. It disrupted a Union Army offensive in an ill famed "mud march." (David Ludlum)

1982 - The second of two major snowstorms to hit southern Minnesota came to an end. Minneapolis received 20 inches of snow in 24 hours to break the previous record of 17 inches in 24 hours established just a few days earlier. A record 38 inches of snow covered the ground following the two storms, with drifts ten feet high. (David Ludlum)



# Think of it!

## Livestream your wedding!






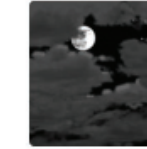

## How cool would that be?!

## And with that, you get an HD DVD of the wedding.

## Call Paper Paul at 605/397-7460 for details.

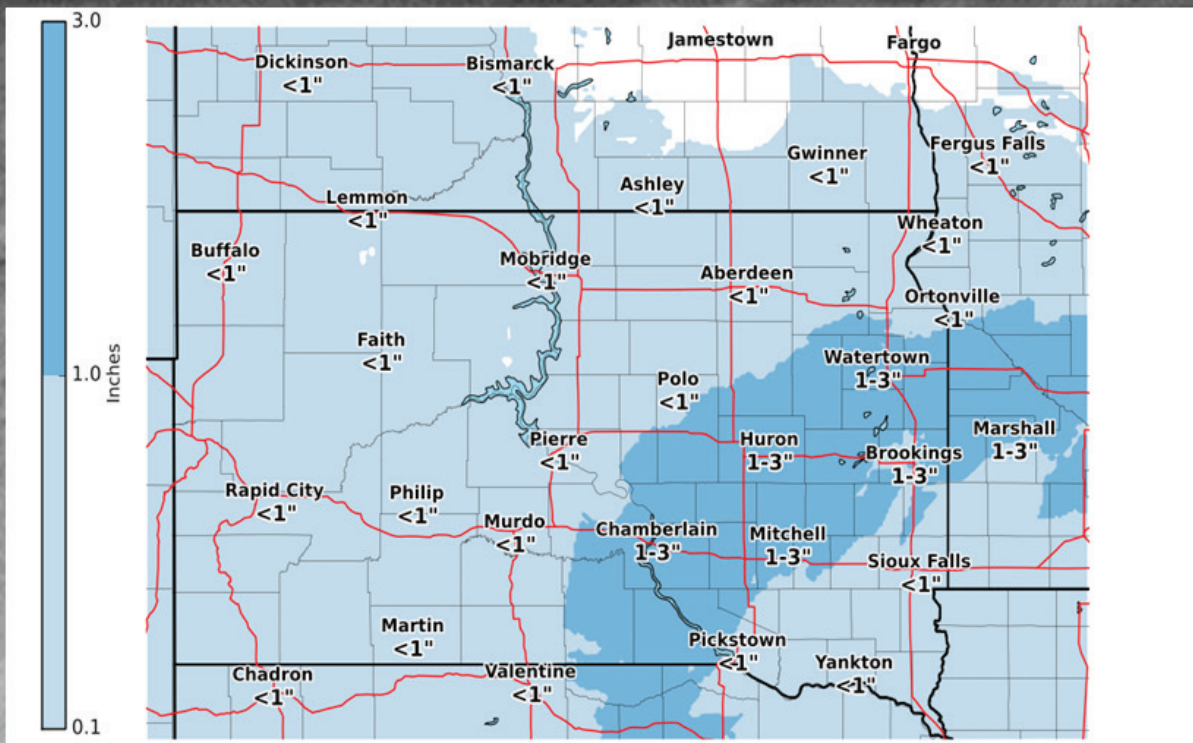
# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 5 of 28

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
 30%						
Chance Snow and Patchy Fog	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
High: 19 °F	Low: -1 °F	High: 19 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 31 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 29 °F



## Expect Light Snow Today



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 01/21/2016 at 5:29AM

An upper level low pressure system will cross the region today, bringing light snow to the area. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 3 inches are expected across southern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Dry conditions are expected from tonight through the first half of the weekend.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 6 of 28

## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 28.3 at 2:40 PM

**Low:** 18.9 at 12:08 AM

**High Gust:** 22 at 4:24 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 57° in 1942

**Record Low:** -31° in 1949

**Average High:** 23°F

**Average Low:** 1°F

**Average Precip in Jan.:** 0.34

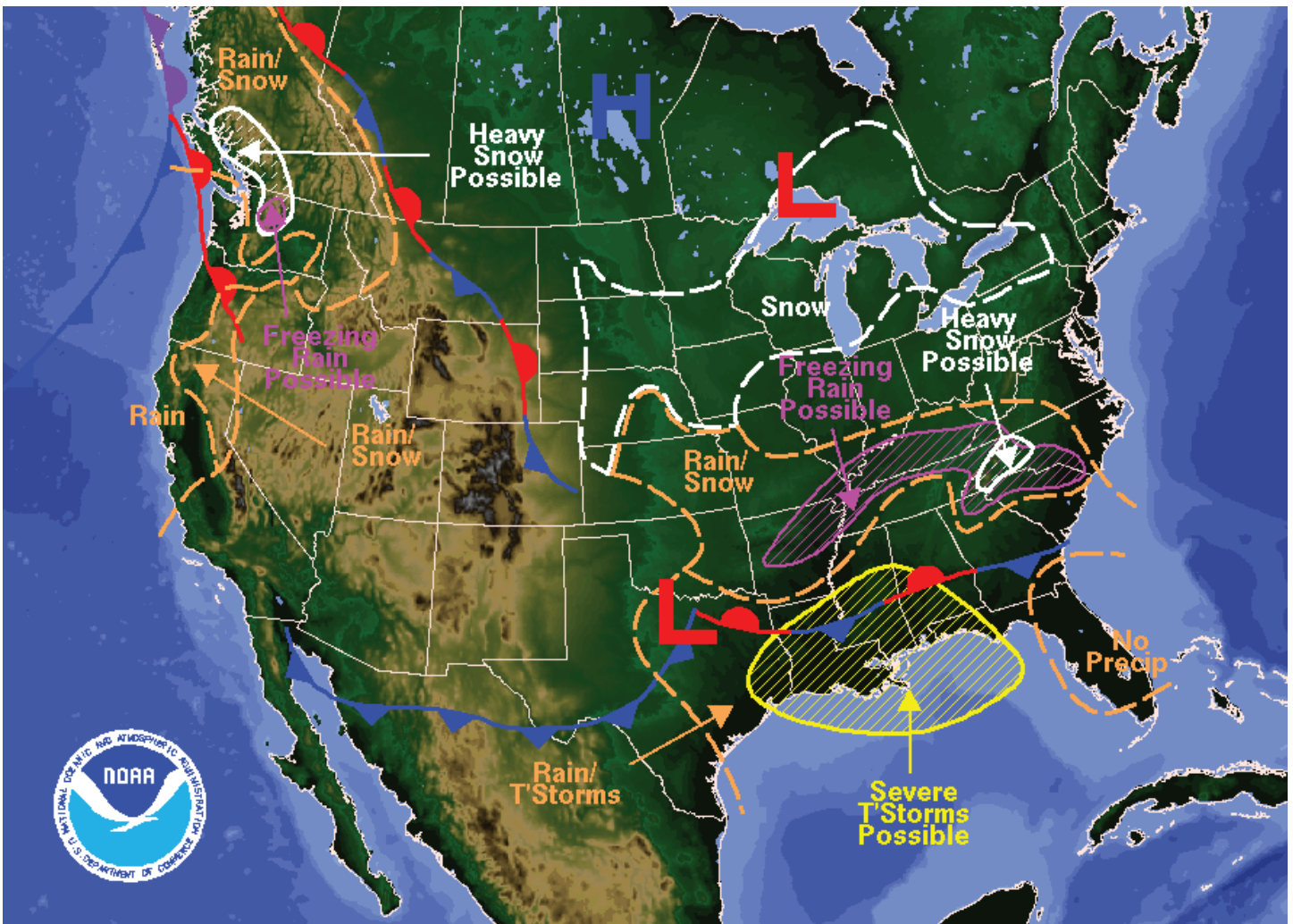
**Precip to date in Jan.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 0.34

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.00

**Sunset Tonight:** 5:24 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:05 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jan 21, 2016, issued 2:38 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## FUTURE OR FORTUNE?

The Anderson's were having a delightful time at the county fair, enjoying the different foods and the many attractions. As they made their way through the booths and games they came to a large scale that read: YOUR WEIGHT AND FORTUNE: 25 CENTS.

Miriam urged, "George, let's see how much you weigh and what's going to happen."

Getting on the scale, George put in a quarter and out came a little card. Miriam grabbed it and began to read the results. "Look at this," she said. "It says you are handsome, kind and rich." And then she began to laugh as she said, "And it's got your weight wrong, too!"

We all know that the Bible does not tell us our fortune, but it does accurately predict one's future: It is either heaven or hell. Jesus said, "All who believe in God's Son have eternal life." In a few simple, carefully chosen and easily understood words, the Lord clearly placed in front of everyone the greatest choice that all of us must ultimately make. Each of us must make that decision at one point in our lives: is it heaven or will it be hell.

This is a simple choice – although for some it is not easy. God wants us to choose Him and life. Otherwise, "the wrath of God awaits."

**Prayer:** Lord, we don't know the future, but we do know that we have this moment to choose You and have eternal life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Officials unveiling Don Meyer cancer center in Aberdeen**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A \$14.5 million cancer center in Aberdeen named for legendary college basketball coach Don Meyer and his wife is being unveiled.

Officials scheduled the grand opening of the Don and Carmen Meyer Center of Excellence on Thursday afternoon.

The center will be home to the Avera Cancer Institute. It's nearly triple the size of Avera's current cancer facility, and has state-of-the-art equipment and expanded services. Patient service is to begin Feb. 1.

Meyer was one of the winningest coaches in college basketball history, compiling 923 victories in 38 seasons at Northern State University in Aberdeen, Lipscomb University in Nashville and Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The native of Wayne, Nebraska, died of cancer in May 2014.

### **9 bands to be inducted into SD Rock and Roll Hall**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Rock and Roll Music Association will induct nine bands into its Hall of Fame this April.

The list includes: the Postmen, Tripp; the Tensions, Tyndall; White Wing, Rapid City; Military Pickle, Brookings; the Handy Brothers Chessman Show, Sioux Falls; the Spectacle Rhythm and Blues Soul Revue, northwest Iowa; the American Music Band, Watertown; Ivory, the Black Hills; and Crow, Minneapolis.

The groups will be honored during a two-day celebration at the Ramkota Inn Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls on April 15 and 16. A Friday night concert will feature the Pilgrims and a jam session featuring several Hall of Fame inductees.

The association also recognizes DJs, ballrooms and dance halls, music stores, booking agents, promoters and radio stations.

### **2 South Dakota students selected for US Senate Youth Program**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two high school students from southeast South Dakota have been selected as the state's delegates to the annual U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington, D.C.

Manaal Ali of Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg and Caroline Moriarty of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls were selected. They will participate in a weeklong study of the federal government and will receive \$5,000 college scholarships from the Hearst Foundations.

The two will be among the 104 delegates — two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Activity — headed to the nation's capital in March.

The program aims to teach students about the American political process and inspire a lifelong commitment to public service.

### **Agriculture Department hires ag development representatives**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture says it has hired two new agricultural development representatives.

The agency announced the hiring Wednesday of Ben Stout and Bill Hansen.

Agricultural development representatives work with producers, local leaders, landowners and developers to find growth opportunities necessary for the long-term sustainability of rural communities.

Stout will be based in Brookings to serve the eastern part of the state, while Hansen will cover the southeast region and help with the department's finance programs.

Paul Kostboth is director of Agricultural Development. He says both new hires have the skills to help find



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 9 of 28

solutions to the challenges that come with responsible development.

## **Jury finds Sioux Falls teen not guilty in 2015 shooting**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A jury has acquitted a Sioux Falls teenager accused of fatally shooting another teen after a car chase.

KSFY-TV and the Argus Leader report jurors found Conner Hanson not guilty of all charges he faced in the January 2015 killing of 18-year-old Anthony Gabriel. Hanson was 17 at the time but was tried as an adult.

The verdict was reached after more than 10 hours of deliberations Wednesday.

Prosecuting attorney Randy Sample told the jurors that Hanson's decision to shoot and kill Gabriel was premeditated and was not justifiable.

Defense attorney Jeff Larson argued Hanson fired at Gabriel in self-defense.

The Argus Leader reports families involved in the case declined comment after the verdict.

## **Kasperburger, South Dakota sink Western Illinois 76-67**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Casey Kasperbauer was 6 for 8 from 3-point range and scored 26 points to help South Dakota beat Western Illinois 76-67 on Wednesday night.

Kasperbauer scored 11 during a 19-0 run that gave the Coyotes (10-10, 2-4 Summit) the lead for good, turning a five-point deficit at 12:58 into a 66-52 lead less than five minutes later.

The Leathernecks (7-10, 0-6) traded baskets before answering with eight straight points to get within 68-62 on J.C. Fuller's 3-pointer with 6:27 left. They would get no closer and went scoreless over the final 2:13.

Tre Burnette added 14 points and 13 rebounds for South Dakota. D.J. Davis scored 13.

Fuller led Western Illinois with 16 points. Garret Covington added 13 points and Tate Stensgaard scored 10. The Leathernecks had a five-point lead at halftime and stretched it to 47-37 with 17:23 to go.

## **Husband of former US Senate candidate Bosworth avoids jail**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The husband of former Republican U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth has taken a deal and avoided jail time for charges related to his wife's 2014 campaign.

Chad Haber appeared Wednesday at the Hughes County Courthouse. He pleaded no contest to two misdemeanors related to not reporting criminal activity to authorities.

He was originally indicted on felony charges of perjury and offering false or forged instrument for filing.

Haber says that under advice from his lawyer he attested to witnessing signatures to nominate Bosworth from an elderly couple he knew. He was actually in the Philippines at the time.

Haber says his wife and children have been through enough. Bosworth is appealing her conviction to the state Supreme Court.

Hughes County also agreed not to pursue further related charges against Haber.

## **Sioux Falls officers to kill up to 75 deer over next month**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officers with the Sioux Falls police department will hunt and take up to 75 deer over the next month in an effort to curb the city's deer population and reduce property damage.

The police department says the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has approved an expansion of the city's deer management program, which began last year.

Last year, officers removed 30 deer from the southeast portion of the city. The city moved to increase the number of deer harvested after taking input from citizens. Officers this year will also focus on the northeast portion of Sioux Falls.

The meat collected from the program will be donated to area food banks.

Officers are expected to be finished by Feb. 15.

## Legislative committees diverge on county funding plans

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota counties won approval Wednesday from a Senate committee to receive a share of alcohol tax funds, but House lawmakers shot down a more substantial plan to allow counties to impose sales taxes.

Supporters of additional funding for counties urged legislators on the House and Senate committees to recognize the lack of revenue options and escalating costs, frequently for courts and jails.

"It's something like a cancer that's growing out of control that we have to contend with," Minnehaha County Commissioner Jeff Barth said.

The Senate Local Government Committee unanimously approved a measure that would distribute a quarter of the revenue from an alcohol tax to the counties. The measure now heads to the full chamber.

Counties frequently deal with alcohol-related criminal costs, advocates said, so they should get a share. That tax brought in about \$14.4 million last fiscal year.

But in the House, the State Affairs committee overwhelmingly voted down the 1 percent county sales tax plan, which faced opposition from the state Department of Revenue. Republican Rep. Elizabeth May said she plans to try to revive the proposal later, though it could have some changes.

South Dakota counties get most of their revenue from property taxes, but state law limits yearly hikes. About 80 percent of county spending is required by law, which limits flexibility for officials searching for a balanced budget.

Hughes County Commissioner Tom Tveit told the House committee that his county faces a significant budget shortfall next year with dwindling reserves. He said funding for a 4-H program was eliminated after this year and that the county has seen ballooning mandatory spending on attorneys. The options, he said: "either quit doing things that are required by the state or find a new revenue source."

Jackson County is so understaffed, May said, that its auditor couldn't testify before the committee because the courthouse would have to close. She asked legislators what will happen if a county goes bankrupt.

"Somebody's going to have to pick up the tab," May said.

Republican Rep. Roger Solum, who voted to kill the sales tax plan, said it is "a little drastic" and that other measures under consideration could generate money for the counties.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard has said he opposes both measures considered Wednesday. The governor's office has also pointed to new road and bridge funding for local governments last session.

## Sioux Falls couple arrested on pimping, prostitution charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say a married couple has been arrested for trying to recruit men and women online to become escorts.

Forty-nine-year-old Nicole Parenteau and 52-year-old Brian Prince each face felony charges of promoting prostitution and pimping.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the couple posted an online ad recruiting people for an escort service. Clemens says a female police officer followed up with the ad to investigate and found that the couple was actually trying to recruit prostitutes.

Officers arranged to meet with Prince on Tuesday evening in northwest Sioux Falls. The husband arrived and was arrested. Parenteau was later arrested following a traffic stop.

Clemens says the situation is unusual. He says people don't usually post ads online looking to recruit prostitutes.

## North Dakota regulators approve Dakota Access Pipeline

**JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota regulators on Wednesday approved the biggest-capacity crude pipeline proposed to date that would move nearly 600,000 barrels daily from the oil patch to Illinois. Some things to know about the \$3.8 billion, 1,150-mile project that crosses four states:

### WHAT HAPPENED?

The North Dakota Public Service Commission had been reviewing Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' permit for 13 months. The three-member, all-Republican panel long signaled support, saying the pipeline would reduce truck and oil train traffic, cut natural gas flaring and create more markets for the state's oil and gas. The commission voted 2-0 to approve the permit; Commissioner Randy Christmann abstained because his mother-in-law has been negotiating an easement for the project.

### WHAT NOW?

Energy Transfer Partners hopes to complete the pipeline by year's end. The North Dakota's portion is the longest leg (about 360 miles) and the most expensive (\$1.4 billion).

Regulators in South Dakota and Illinois have already approved permits. Iowa still remains, though the company says it expects that approval to come next month. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also must approve the pipeline because it would cross beneath the Missouri River twice in North Dakota, near Williston and Mandan.

### PIPELINE'S PATH

Energy Transfer Partners says it has easement agreements on 85 percent of the properties along the pipeline's path, which crosses 50 counties, and will use eminent domain if agreements with landowners can't be reached voluntarily. Easements can bring significant money for landowners: A couple in south-central North Dakota said they signed a 99-year easement worth almost \$50,000 to allow a half-mile of pipeline on their farm.

### SAFETY MEASURES

The steel pipeline will vary in diameter from 12 inches to 30 inches and would be buried at least 4 feet below ground — up to 64 feet at Missouri River crossings. The company says it would have safeguards including leak detection equipment, and that workers who remotely monitor the pipeline from Texas could close block valves on the pipeline within three minutes if a breach is detected.

## Pickup crash north of Lake Preston kills 38-year-old man

LAKE PRESTON, S.D. (AP) — A single-vehicle crash in Kingsbury County has killed a man.

The Highway Patrol says the 38-year-old man lost control of the pickup truck he was driving about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and it went into a ditch and struck a tree about 4 miles north of Lake Preston.

The man was alone in the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The patrol did not immediately identify him.

## Pierre hiring consultant to study proposed events center

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Pierre City Commission is hiring a Minneapolis consulting firm to analyze how much it will cost to run a proposed recreation and events center.

Architects are designing a \$14.5 million facility to replace the old downtown City Auditorium, which hosted everything from sporting events to governor inaugurations but was closed in 2010 because of structural issues and later demolished.

The city estimate it will cost about \$450,000 a year to run the proposed events center. City Manager Leon Schochenmaier says many members of the public want more solid data.

The city will pay \$15,000 to the Conventions, Sports & Leisure International firm for an analysis. The report is due by April 1.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 12 of 28

## Residents of 8-unit Sioux Falls apartment displaced by fire

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Residents of an eight-unit apartment building in Sioux Falls are getting help from the Red Cross after being displaced by a fire.

Firefighters responded to the two-story building about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday after a resident reported a mattress on fire. They had the fire under control in a matter of minutes, but the building filled with smoke.

One resident was seen by paramedics at the scene and then took private transportation to a hospital with unknown injuries. The Red Cross says a cat died in the fire.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the fire. The Red Cross says two apartments are damaged, but residents of the remaining six will be allowed to return once electricity and gas have been restored to the building.

## State Library accredits 8 South Dakota public libraries

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Library has accredited eight more of the state's public libraries.

The eight libraries will be honored in front of lawmakers, library colleagues and community members at the state Capitol rotunda on Wednesday afternoon.

The South Dakota Department of Education says accredited libraries demonstrate that they meet important benchmarks for providing high quality library services to their communities.

The newly accredited libraries are in Brookings; Watertown; Dell Rapids; Edgemont; Madison; Hill City; Scotland; and Gettysburg.

## The Latest: Light snow brings gridlock Washington region

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest on the heavy snowfall expected to the Washington area and possibly the Northeast. (all times local)

7:15 a.m.

A light snowfall during evening rush hour that was more intense than expected led to icy gridlock throughout the Washington area with backups that lasted through the night in some areas.

Treated roads are clear Thursday morning, but some elevated roads, ramps and side streets are icy with drivers inching along.

Maryland Department of Transportation spokesman Charlie Gischlar says crews got stuck in lengthy backups Wednesday night, slowing their progress. He says major delays continued through the night on the Capital Beltway in Prince George's County, but crews are making progress Thursday morning.

Virginia Department of Transportation spokeswoman Jennifer McCord says in northern Virginia minor accidents built to gridlock and ramp closures continued through the night. She described, "a long night for a lot of people trying to get home."

Heavy snowfall is predicted by the weekend from the Appalachians to Philadelphia and maybe farther north.

7:15 a.m.

The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard watch for New York's Long Island starting Saturday morning as the Washington area and the Northeast brace for heavy snowfall.

The Weather Service said Thursday morning that nor'easter-like conditions are expected to hit Long Island, New York City and parts of New Jersey, starting Saturday morning.

The watch means there's potential for 8 to 12 inches of snow, northeast winds 25 to 35 mph and temperatures in the lower 30s.

4:20 a.m.

With heavy snowfall predicted by the weekend from the Appalachians to Philadelphia, people throughout the region readied themselves for blocked roads, power outages and canceled flights.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 13 of 28

The National Weather Service said Wednesday that 12 to 16 inches of snow could come down between Friday night and Sunday morning around the Interstate 95 corridor. As much as a foot of snow is possible for Philadelphia's northern suburbs.

Mitchell Gaines of the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, New Jersey, said people should be prepared for strong winds, heavy, wet snow and power outages.

The National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center warns of heavy, "perhaps crippling" snow across the northern mid-Atlantic region, including Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia, probably beginning Friday.

## Russian ruble keeps on falling, hits new record low

**JAMES ELLINGWORTH, Associated Press**

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian ruble has hit another historic low against the dollar as currencies slid across the former Soviet Union against the backdrop of low oil prices.

The ruble traded above 85 to the dollar for the first time in Moscow early Thursday afternoon, a fall of more than three percent, which beat the previous low of 82.4 to the dollar set in trading Wednesday evening. It later recovered slightly to trade around 84.2.

Thursday's slip means the ruble is at its lowest level since the currency was redenominated in 1998, during Russia's worst post-Soviet economic crisis. President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov, however, said the situation was not critical.

"I wouldn't use the word 'collapse.' The rate is really changing, the rate is volatile, but it's far from a collapse," he said Thursday in comments reported by Russian news agencies. Putin has no plans for any emergency meetings, he added.

The steep decline in oil prices— now at a 12-year low below \$28 a barrel— has been a severe blow to Russia's oil-dependent economy. The ruble's new lows this week follow the lifting of international sanctions against Iran, which increases the supply of oil on global markets.

The IMF predicted Tuesday that Russia's economy will contract 1 percent in 2016 following a fall of 3.7 percent last year, before returning to 1 percent growth next year. The ruble has lost more than half its value against the dollar in the last two years.

Also Thursday, the Russian central bank said it had revoked the license of Vneshprombank, one of the country's top 50 lenders, after finding evidence that "persons exercising control over the bank" had stripped its assets, adding that law enforcement would be involved in tracking the missing money. The funds may have been spent in Russia, Europe and the U.S. on property such as real estate, shares and "expensive vehicles," the central bank said in a statement.

Vneshprombank reportedly holds funds for major Russian state companies.

Thursday's fall in the ruble was accompanied by slides in other post-Soviet currencies. The Belarusian ruble slid 5.1 percent to the dollar, trading at 21.564 Thursday afternoon. It has lost around 14 percent of its value against the dollar since January 1.

In the Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan, another major ex-Soviet oil producer, the tenge currency fell to a record 383.91 against the dollar Thursday as the economy feels the pressure of low energy prices. Central bank head Daniyar Akishev ruled out introducing capital controls and said he did not expect major shocks for the country's balance of payments since "most of the negative scenarios ... have already happened."

## Young Chinese scale Great Firewall to flood Taiwan media

**DIDI TANG, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — The Facebook page of Taiwan's president-elect was flooded Thursday with tens of thousands of pro-China comments following a campaign by young mainlanders to jump the country's "Great Firewall" into normally forbidden overseas social media to express displeasure over the recent election.

President-elect Tsai Ing-wen is from a party that less friendly toward Beijing and the notion of eventual

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 14 of 28

reunification than the previous one, angering many residents in China, which considers Taiwan part of its territory.

A youth-dominated online forum on the mainland with millions of members launched the crusade late Wednesday to flood Tsai's Facebook page as well as news sites, including Taiwan's SETN.com and Hong Kong-based Apple Daily, with comments and conversation. Thousands of mainland Web users appear to have answered the call.

One of Tsai's Facebook posts drew 42,000 comments, with most warning that China "firmly opposes any independence." Some taunted the island to declare formal independence so Beijing has an "excuse to annihilate the bandits."

Though some Chinese have long chafed at Internet restrictions aimed at insulating residents from forbidden, harmony-eroding ideas from outside, this is the first major public groundswell to scale the wall in the opposite direction, for Chinese Internet users who want to flaunt their unswerving nationalism abroad.

Though Chinese authorities tolerate eruptions of nationalist sentiment, they also do not like to see them spiral out of control. Beijing is wary of efforts to break out of the confines of the Chinese cyberspace and has hinted that the use of virtual private networks, or VPNs, to access banned websites could be considered illegal.

Beijing-based journalist Zhang Heng said the outpouring among young Chinese was the result of youthful exuberance and being "brainwashed for more than a dozen years by thought and politics courses" in school.

The crusade's silver lining was that many young people are learning how to access the global Internet, he said.

"I think that's a good skill to have," Zhang said. "At least some of the young people will see a more colorful world on the other side of the wall. When they are exposed to more information, they won't be easily manipulated by a single political thought."

The campaign was organized by an online forum named after former Chinese football player Li Yi that has bred some of the most popular expressions in China's Web culture. Forum members planned further forays over the Great Firewall into Taiwan's cyberspace later this week.

Supporters in China have cheered the online aggression as a spontaneous manifestation of the will of China's young generation, while critics there have derided the crusaders as "little pinkos" who blindly follow the propaganda of the "red" Communist Party.

On Tsai's Facebook page, the Taiwanese president-elect did not directly address the storm of comments but posted a picture with the line: "The greatness of this country lies in that everyone has the right to be oneself."

On the Facebook page for the news site SETN.com, the web administrator for its entertainment page engaged with the "crusaders." When some of them inquired if they were on the right page, the web administrator helpfully provided the link to the site's political news page.

When a crusader posted a long list of the yummy Chinese delicacies as an enticement for fellow youth in Taiwan to look toward the joining with the mainland, the administrator replied: "You are quite a cook."

In an interview with PingWest, a website devoted to tech news in China, a person who described himself as a backroom staffer for the crusade detailed how the action was organized. He said he was responsible for translating replies in foreign languages. PingWest said it withheld the man's name because he feared his own Facebook page would be attacked if he were identified.

The man said others were tasked with "liking" the comments by team members, or engaging outsiders in conversation.

"We pretended to be picking fights, but then we found what we brought to the battle was bread and not bricks," the unnamed participant told PingWest. "In the end we were talking about food, and scenic sites.

"The purpose of the Facebook battle is not to convince one side but let the two sides know we are all living beings instead of enemies with labels."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 15 of 28

## China publicizes landing drills near Taiwan after elections

**CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese forces recently held live-fire landing exercises along the coast opposite Taiwan, the military's official television channel said Thursday, days after the self-governing island elected an independence-leaning president.

CCTV7 said the drills were staged by the 31st Group Army based in Xiamen near the Taiwanese-held island of Kinmen, considered one of the People's Liberation Army's "frontline" units for any action regarding Taiwan. It said only that the exercises were held "recently" without giving an exact date.

Equipment used in the drills included long-range rockets, self-propelled howitzers, amphibious tanks and helicopters, the channel said. No details on the numbers of troops or equipment were given.

The Defense Ministry did not immediately say whether the drills were related to Saturday's election that was won by Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party.

China routinely says its exercises are planned well in advance and not timed to respond to specific events.

However, noting the units involved and the physical similarity of the exercise area to parts of Taiwan's coastline, the popular Sina Military website said that "given the certain amount of risk the two sides are facing today, the hypothetical target of the 31st Group Army's exercises might be those 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces."

The 31st Group Army is one of three army groups within the Nanjing Military District that has primary responsibility for eventualities involving Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province to be reunited with by force if necessary.

During the 1950s, sections of the army took part in the shelling of forces on Kinmen in a continuation of the Chinese civil war that forced Chiang Kai-shek's forces to shift his Nationalist government to Taiwan in 1949. Units of the army also joined in military drills and missile tests in 1995 and 1996 aimed at intimidating Taiwanese into voting for pro-unification candidates in the island's first direct presidential election.

That attempt at intimidation ultimately backfired as defiant voters re-elected Lee Teng-hui and the U.S. Navy stationed two aircraft battle groups into waters near Taiwan.

Tsai has refused to endorse Beijing's "one-China principle," which states that the island and the mainland are part of the same Chinese nation. However, she has also pledged to maintain the status-quo, keep open channels of communication and not to provoke China.

## 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. UK JUDGE: TWO RUSSIANS KILLED EX-AGENT

Putin probably approved a plan by the FSB security service to kill Alexander Litvinenko, a vocal critic of the Russian president, Judge Robert Owen says.

### 2. MICHIGAN EMAILS SHOW DEBATE OVER BLAME FOR WATER

A day after doctors reported high levels of lead in Flint children, Gov. Rick Snyder's top aide told him the "real responsibility" for the issue rested with the local government.

### 3. STOCKS MIXED AFTER VOLATILE DAY ON WALL STREET

European stocks edge higher ahead of a central bank meeting while Asian markets fell, surrendering early gains as oil drifts down and sentiment remains fragile.

### 4. PAKISTAN MOURNS, BURIES VICTIMS

Two teachers are among the 21 dead, including a chemistry professor who is praised as a hero for shooting back at the attackers and allowing some students to escape.

### 5. WHO'S IN CROSSHAIRS OF BIG WINTER STORM

The eastern U.S. braces for a nor'easter and forecasters are warning of "potentially paralyzing" weather for parts of the northern mid-Atlantic region.

### 6. SANDERS HEALTH PLAN WOULD BE MORE GENEROUS THAN MEDICARE

The Democratic presidential candidate's program would include long-term care, no deductibles and no

copays.

## 7. EXTREMISTS' RADIO BEAMS PROPAGANDA, THREATS ACROSS AFGHANISTAN

In the impoverished country, a new Islamic State affiliate recruits fighters and silences critics with broadcasts from an elusive radio station.

## 8. SEX ABUSE SCANDAL ROCKS EXCLUSIVE PREP SCHOOL

Dozens of former students say they were raped or molested by employees or schoolmates at St. George's School in Rhode Island over the past four decades.

## 9. DOGFISH FINDING NEW LOVE ON MENUS

New England's seafood industry is putting more emphasis on "underloved" fish as more traditional staples such as cod and haddock decline or become the subject of tougher quotas.

## 10. BILLS MAKE HISTORY WITH HIRE

The NFL has its first full-time female coach: Buffalo promotes Kathryn Smith to take over as special teams quality control coach.

## **UK judge: Putin probably approved plan to poison ex-spy**

**JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — President Vladimir Putin probably approved a plan by Russia's FSB security service to kill former agent Alexander Litvinenko, who died three weeks after drinking tea laced with poison at a London hotel, a British judge said Thursday.

In a lengthy report, Judge Robert Owen said that he is certain Litvinenko was given tea with a fatal dose of polonium-210, a radioactive isotope that is deadly if ingested even in tiny quantities, in November 2006.

He said there is a "strong probability" that the FSB, successor to the Soviet spy agency the KGB, directed the killing, and the operation was "probably approved" by Putin.

Before he died, Litvinenko accused Putin of ordering his killing, but this appears to be the first time anyone has officially linked Putin to it.

Moscow has always strongly denied involvement in Litvinenko's death, and Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zhakarova said Thursday that the government does not consider Owen's conclusions to be objective or impartial.

"We regret that a purely criminal case has been politicized and has darkened the general atmosphere of bilateral relations," Zhakarova said in a statement. She said Britain's decision to hold a public inquiry on the case was politically motivated and that the process was not transparent for the Russian side or the public.

Russia has refused to extradite the two main suspects, Andrei Lugovoi and Dmitry Kovtun.

Lugovoi is a member of the Russian parliament, which means he is immune from prosecution. In an interview with the Interfax news agency, he called the charges against him "absurd."

"As we expected, there was no sensation," he said. "The results of the investigation that were announced today once again confirm London's anti-Russian position and the blinkered view and unwillingness of the British to establish the true cause of Litvinenko's death."

Litvinenko, a former FSB agent, fled to Britain in 2000 and became a vocal critic of Russia's security service and of Putin, whom he accused of links to organized crime.

Owen said Litvinenko "was regarded as having betrayed the FSB" with his actions, and that "there were powerful motives for organizations and individuals within the Russian state to take action against Mr. Litvinenko, including killing him."

Litvinenko's widow, Marina, said outside the High Court on Thursday that she was "very pleased that the words my husband spoke on his deathbed when he accused Mr. Putin have been proved by an English court."

She called for British Prime Minister David Cameron to take urgent steps against Russian agents operating inside Britain in light of the report.

"I'm calling immediately for expulsion from the UK of all Russian intelligence operatives ... based at the London embassy," she said. "I'm also calling for the imposition of targeted economic sanctions and travel bans against named individuals including Mr (former FSB chief Nikolai) Patrushev and Mr Putin."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 17 of 28

She said Britain's Home Office had written to her Wednesday night promising action.

Home Secretary Theresa May is scheduled to discuss the report in Parliament later Thursday.

In his 326-page report, Owen said that based on the evidence he had seen, the operation to kill Litvinenko was "probably" approved by then-FSB head Nikolai Patrushev, now head of Putin's security council, and by Putin.

Owen said Litvinenko "had repeatedly targeted President Putin" with "highly personal" public criticism.

The British government appointed Owen to head a public inquiry into the slaying, which soured relations between London and Moscow. He heard from dozens of witnesses during months of public hearings last year, and also saw secret British intelligence evidence.

Announcing his findings at London's Royal Courts of Justice, Owen said that "there can be no doubt that Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned by Mr. Lugovoi and Mr. Kovtun" in the Pine Bar of London's luxury Millennium Hotel on Nov. 1, 2006. He died three weeks later of acute radiation syndrome.

"I have concluded that there is a strong probability that when Mr. Lugovoi poisoned Mr. Litvinenko, he did so under the direction of the FSB ... I have further concluded that the FSB operation to kill Mr. Litvinenko was probably approved by My. Patrushev, then head of the FSB, and also by President Putin."

## Sierra Leone has 2nd Ebola case after epidemic thought over

**CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY, Associated Press**

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — A second case of Ebola emerged in Sierra Leone after health officials thought the epidemic was over, with a close relative of the first victim testing positive for the virus that has killed more than 11,000 people, authorities said Thursday.

About 150 of the first victim's contacts have been under monitoring, and the new patient had been under quarantine.

Health Ministry spokesman Sidi Yaya Tunis said the new patient was one of the people who prepared the initial victim's body for burial. The 22-year-old died in mid-January, and relatives were allowed to hold a traditional funeral as authorities at the time did not suspect she had died from Ebola.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of victims, and corpses are especially contagious. Traditional funerals in the region where mourners touch the body were a major source of virus transmission during the epidemic in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

The new cases in Sierra Leone have marked a major setback for the region, as virus transmission had appeared to stop. Even in announcing the apparent end of the outbreak, though, World Health Organization officials had warned that additional "flare-ups" of new cases were still possible.

However, Sierra Leone's new cases are particularly worrisome to experts because no one identified the first victim as an Ebola patient, and burial precautions were not taken to prevent further infections. There also had not been any known cases in Sierra Leone for two months, and it is still not known exactly how the 22-year-old contracted the virus.

## Officials name top suspects in Iraq abductions of Americans

**SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Two powerful Shiite militias are top suspects in the abduction of three Americans last weekend in a southern neighborhood of the Iraqi capital, an Iraqi police commander and a Western security official in Baghdad said Thursday.

The Americans were abducted in Dora, a mixed neighborhood that is home to both Shiites and Sunnis, on Saturday. It was the latest in a series of brazen high-profile kidnappings undermining confidence in the Iraqi government's ability to control state-sanctioned Shiite militias that have grown in strength as Iraqi security forces battle the Islamic State group.

Two Shiite militias — Asaib Ahl al-Haq and Saraya al-Salam — were likely behind the attack, the Iraqi and Western official told The Associated Press on Thursday.

"Nobody can do anything in that neighborhood without the approval of those militias," the police com-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 18 of 28

mander said. The Western security official confirmed that Iraqi and U.S. intelligence assessments had narrowed down the suspects to those the two groups.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has confirmed that several Americans are missing and said they are working with Iraqi authorities to locate them.

Baghdad authorities said the three Americans were kidnapped from a "suspicious apartment" without elaborating, and have provided no other details. There has been no claim of responsibility.

The identities of the three were not made public and the two officials — the Iraqi commander and the Western official — did not elaborate on the investigation that is underway.

However, another Iraqi intelligence official told the AP this week that from the Dora neighborhood the Americans were taken to Sadr City, a vast and densely populated Shiite district to the east, and there "all communication ceased."

Following the dramatic collapse of the Iraqi security forces in the summer of 2014, Shiite militias filled the vacuum, growing more powerful militarily than the country's own security forces. In addition to being some of the most effective anti-IS forces on the ground in Iraq, Shiite militias also run security in many Baghdad neighborhoods.

The Iraqi government-allied militias are now officially sanctioned and known as the Popular Mobilization Committees.

But many trace their roots to the armed groups that battled U.S. troops after the 2003 invasion and kidnapped and killed Sunnis at the height of Iraq's sectarian bloodletting in 2006 and 2007. In the fight against IS, human rights groups have accused them of abuses targeting Sunni civilians, charges denied by militia leaders.

Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Iranian-backed and one of the most powerful Shiite militias operating in Iraq, has repeatedly spoken out against the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq in the fight against IS. Saraya al-Salam is run by Iraq's influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr whose Mahdi militia often battled with US forces between 2003 and 2011.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has struggled to balance the power and popularity of the Shiite militias with the government's dependence on the U.S.-led coalition's contributions to the fight against the Islamic State.

## European stock markets inch higher, Asia slides

**YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — European stocks edged higher ahead of a central bank meeting Thursday while Asian markets fell, surrendering early gains as oil drifted down and sentiment remained fragile.

KEEPING SCORE: Europe started weaker but soon stabilized. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.1 percent to 5,681.57. Germany's DAX added 0.1 percent to 9,395.74 and France's CAC gained 0.2 percent to 4,133.16. Futures augured more losses for Wall Street after Wednesday's sell-off. Dow futures lost 0.5 percent to 15,639.00 and S&P 500 futures dropped 0.4 percent to 1,847.50.

GLOBAL TURBULENCE: Stock markets have taken a beating along with the price of oil as investors believe stock prices have risen too high at a time when the near-term global economic outlook is for modest growth rather than a strong upswing. The IMF lowering its forecast for global growth this year to 3.4 percent, oil falling below \$30 a barrel and China's growth slowing to a 25-year low last year have all contributed to the sell-off this week. The European Central Bank is expected to keep interest rates on hold at ultra-low levels when its governing council meets later in the day as it monitors risks from turmoil in global markets.

THE QUOTE: "The main focus today will be with the ECB meeting result," Simon Smith, chief economist at FxPro in London, said in a report. "There are no expectations of further policy action, but naturally the euro will be sensitive to hints of easing measures given the recent volatility in financial markets and weakness of the oil price."

CHINA MOVE: People's Bank of China said it will inject 600 billion yuan (\$91 billion) into financial markets to support medium-term liquidity needs but the move did little to improve investor sentiment. It is

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 19 of 28

"a prudent move ahead of the (Chinese) holidays but seemed to be read as more extreme measures in market (or) economic control from Beijing," said Gavin Parry, managing director at Parry International Trading Ltd. in Hong Kong.

**ASIA'S DAY:** Asia surrendered early gains to finish the day sharply lower. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 2.4 percent to 16,017.26 and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.3 percent to 1,840.53. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 1.8 percent to 18,542.15. China's Shanghai Composite sank 3.2 percent to 2,880.48. Markets in Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia also were lower. But Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5 percent to 4,864.00.

**ENERGY:** The price of oil fell again after a brief pause. Benchmark U.S. crude for March delivery was down 30 cents to \$28.05 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The February contract, which expired Wednesday, dived 6.7 percent, or \$1.91, its worst daily drop since September, to close at \$26.55 in New York. It was U.S. oil's lowest since May 2003. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, lost 22 cents to \$27.66 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar fell to 116.99 yen from 117.19 yen in the previous trading session. The euro rose to \$1.0897 from \$1.0874.

## Ugandan rebel appearing before judges at pretrial hearing

**MIKE CORDER, Associated Press**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Fugitive warlord Joseph Kony's feared militia deliberately targeted civilians in its decades-long conflict with Ugandan government forces, murdering indiscriminately, abducting children to turn into killers "steeped in blood" and forcing girls and women into "marriages" with fighters, an International Criminal Court prosecutor said Thursday.

Prosecution lawyer Ben Gumpert was speaking at the start of a hearing to establish whether evidence against Dominic Ongwen, one of the most senior commanders in Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, is strong enough to merit putting him on trial.

Ongwen is the only member of Kony's murderous army in the court's custody. Kony remains free despite years of efforts in Northern Uganda and neighboring countries to track down and capture him.

Ongwen faces 70 charges including murder, rape, torture, forced marriage and using child soldiers stemming from his alleged involvement in attacks on refugee camps in Uganda in 2003 and 2004.

Gumpert said Ongwen "bears significant criminal responsibility" for the brutal attacks, during which civilians were killed and tortured, and women and children were abducted.

"Nursing mothers whose babies slowed up the progress or who simply cried too loudly saw them killed or thrown into the bush and left behind," Gumpert said.

He added that Ongwen played a crucial role in transforming abducted children into killers, whom Kony saw as "most easily molded into the ruthless killers he needed."

They were forced to perform "individual acts of torture and murder designed to convince recently abducted children that they were so steeped in blood that there could be no acceptance for them back in civilian society," Gumpert said.

Ongwen does not have to enter pleas to any of the charges until the start of his trial — if the court decides to schedule a trial.

When asked by Presiding Judge Cuno Tarfusser if he wanted the charges read out in court, Ongwen bowed to the three-judge panel and said in his Acholi language that it would be a waste of time.

"You may speak five words and only two are true," he said.

## Pakistan mourns, buries victims from university attack

**RIAZ KHAN, Associated Press**

CHARSADDA, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistanis buried their dead and observed a day of nationwide mourning Thursday following the brazen attack by Islamic militants who stormed a northwestern university the previous day, gunning down students and teachers and spreading terror before the four gunmen were

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 20 of 28

slain by the military.

Meanwhile, the death toll from the assault at Bacha Khan university in the town of Charsadda rose to 21, after another student died in hospital, said police official Tariq Khan.

Most of the victims were students and their families were inconsolable.

Two teachers were among the dead, including a chemistry professor who was praised as a hero for shooting back at the attackers and allowing some students to escape.

"My son was grown up, but still he was an innocent kid for me," said Gula Bibi, the mother of the second slain teacher, Iftikhar Ahmad, who was also the university librarian.

"My heart is breaking apart, I don't know what to do," she said.

The attack, which also wounded 22 students, raised grim echoes of the 2014 school massacre in the nearby city of Peshawar that left 150 dead, 144 of them children. It yet again raised questions about whether security forces are able to protect the country's educational institutions from extremists.

Flags on official buildings and the parliament were flying at half-staff and police stepped up security at schools and educational centers across the country.

A breakaway Taliban faction claimed responsibility for the assault — the same faction, headed by Khalifa Umar Mansoor, which had claimed the Peshawar school assault.

The university in Charsadda is named after one of Pakistan's greatest secular leaders who often espoused communist philosophy, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Bacha Khan. The attack coincided with the 28th anniversary of Bacha Khan's death on Jan. 20, 1988.

Most of the victims were buried quickly, according to Muslim tradition, with funerals overnight and early Thursday, said Khan, the police official.

Mohammad Khurasani. A spokesman for the main Taliban group in Pakistan disowned those behind the university attack, terming it "un-Islamic" and insisted the Pakistani Taliban were not behind it.

Wednesday's violence yet again exposed the vulnerability of schools in Pakistan, where extremists have sought to prevent Western-style education, especially for girls.

Malala Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize after the teenager was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012 outside her school in the Swat Valley because of her vocal support for gender equality and education for girls. She said she was "heartbroken" by the latest attack.

There was tight security all Pakistani schools and educational institutions Thursday, with schoolbags scanned and teachers and students checked before being allowed in.

The Bacha Khan university remained closed and its vice chancellor Fazal-ur-Rahim Marwat said classes would resume Monday.

"We need time to clean the campus, make more security arrangement and boost the morale of the students and teachers," he said.

Cricket legend-turned-politician Imran Khan, who heads the party that rules the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where Charsadda is located, said it was impossible to provide police guards at every school or educational center.

There're around 64,000 educational institutions in the province alone, he said, and defended measures already taken. The Bacha Khan university had 54 guards, he added — and still the attack happened.

"There were intelligence reports of a threat to schools some days ago," he said. "We sent kids home that day. We took all possible measures."

## From Appalachians to Philly, people get ready for heavy snow

**BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — With heavy snowfall predicted by the weekend from the Appalachians to Philadelphia and maybe farther north, people throughout the region readied themselves for blocked roads, power outages and canceled flights.

The National Weather Service said in a statement Wednesday that 12 to 16 inches of snow could come down between Friday night and Sunday morning around the Interstate 95 corridor. As much as a foot of snow is possible for Philadelphia's northern suburbs.

Mitchell Gaines of the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, New Jersey, said people should be pre-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 21 of 28

pared for strong winds, heavy, wet snow and power outages.

The National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center warns of heavy, "perhaps crippling" snow across the northern mid-Atlantic region, including Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia, probably beginning Friday.

In the District of Columbia, Mayor Muriel Bowser requested Humvees from the National Guard to reach isolated people and places if necessary.

"If this is a blizzard and we have sustained winds and people lose power, that would be my biggest concern," Bowser said at a news conference. "We can move the snow. We will move the snow."

In the areas where blizzard conditions are possible, the weather service warns that travel will be limited or impossible. The strongest winds and potentially life-threatening conditions are expected Friday night through Saturday night.

On Wednesday, the weather service issued blizzard and winter storm watches for parts of Maryland, Washington, Virginia, West Virginia and Arkansas. The watches start as early as Thursday and stretch into Saturday.

The storm will bring ice and freezing rain to Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky starting Thursday, prediction center meteorologist Rich Otto said Wednesday.

"There's a lot of details that are yet to be seen," Otto said. "Subtle changes can make a big difference. We've seen that in storms in the past."

## AIR TRAVEL

All major airlines have issued waivers for travel over the weekend, allowing passengers to rebook onto earlier or later flights to avoid the storms. The airports included vary by airline but include some cities in Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia all the way up the coast to New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

## THE FIRST FLAKES

Snow in much of Kentucky and Tennessee led school districts and some universities to cancel classes Wednesday and contributed to at least one traffic death, and officials warned motorists to be cautious of slick roads.

## GUARD READY IN WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin mobilized the West Virginia National Guard to assist in the upcoming storm. The National Weather Service says some areas of the state could get up to 2 feet of snow.

## GEARING UP IN PENNSYLVANIA

Mike Dunn, deputy communications director for Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, said city trucks would start treating some streets Wednesday night.

"At this point, it is all about being prepared," he said.

PennDOT mechanics were busy making sure trucks were cleaned and in good repair so all equipment is ready to go whenever the snow starts falling, spokesman Gene Blaum said.

"We've used virtually no salt," so far this season, he said. "But winter isn't over."

## MIXED IMPACT IN NEW ENGLAND

The storm's impact on southern New England remained uncertain Wednesday, but officials were preparing for the worst.

The National Weather Service said there's a potential for 6 inches of snow or more in the region. High winds and coastal flooding are possible.

The storm is expected to miss northern New England. Meteorologist Tom Hawley of the National Weather Service in Gray, Maine, says its path could shift but right now "all indications are that it will not amount to much" in the region.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 22 of 28

## ANTI-ABORTION MARCH STILL ON

Organizers of the March for Life say their annual anti-abortion rally in Washington will be held Friday, as scheduled.

The rally on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision is one of the largest events on the National Mall. Thousands of abortion opponents gather to listen to speeches before marching to the Supreme Court.

## STOCKING UP

While the snow fell, some people made their way to the grocery store to stock up on needed items. In Louisville, Kentucky, Adrian Gardner packed gallons of milk, laundry detergent and bags of groceries into his SUV. None of it was for him.

"It's for my momma," he said. "I don't want her to have to come out in this."

Cary Prince of McLean, Virginia, picked up rock salt at the hardware store, but struck out on snow blower fuel, which was sold out. Still, she was stocked up on the key provision, so all was well.

"I've got my wine," she said.

## China closes military newspapers as part of reform program

BEIJING (AP) — So long, People's Frontline. Adios, Comrade in Arms.

China's armed forces have shut down newspapers published by the country's seven military regions as part of a program to downsize and streamline the world's largest standing military.

The papers, also including War Flag, Vanguard and People's Armed Forces, have been gradually superseded by official news and propaganda television and websites for soldiers whose access to the Internet and smart phones is restricted.

The military's People's Liberation Army Daily said all the publications ceased publishing last week. The oldest, Soldiers News, dated from 1930.

The closures leave the storied PLA Daily as the military's sole remaining daily publication, although state broadcaster CCTV also devotes an entire channel to the armed forces staffed by uniformed officers.

China is in the process of cutting 300,000 personnel from the 2.3 million-member military, reorganizing its command structure and jettisoning non-essential functions such as arts troupes.

The reforms also aim to strengthen the Communist Party's ultimate control over the military, preventing any attempts to make it loyal instead to the people and nation rather than the ruling party.

They also come as China has become more assertive in pressing its claims to territory in the East China Sea and South China Sea, increasing tensions with its neighbors.

## Last run for current SAT this week; new one debuts in March

JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The current version of the SAT college entrance exam has its final run this weekend, when hundreds of thousands of students nationwide will sit, squirm or stress through the nearly four-hour reading, writing and math test. A new revamped version debuts in March.

Sixteen-year-old Alex Cohen, a junior at the Miami Country Day School in Florida, thinks he's solid on math, but he's been studiously cramming on vocabulary words to get ready for the exam.

"I don't want to study for the new one, so hopefully I'll do well on this one," he said.

Alex said his college adviser was worried about students being "guinea pigs" for the new SAT that rolls out March 5 and told him to focus on Saturday's exam. "There's a lot of vocabulary on this test so I've been trying to memorize as many words as I can per day," said Alex, who wants to study business and finance in college.

The College Board, the nonprofit organization that owns the SAT, says more than 351,000 students registered to take the Jan. 23 test. That's a nearly 10 percent increase over the number of students registered

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 23 of 28

for last January's exam. A major snowstorm could force cancellations along some parts of the East Coast. Make-up sessions would be offered with the current exam.

Looking ahead to March, College Board says the revamped exam is more representative of what students study in high school and the skills they need to succeed in college and afterward.

"Everything that's in the redesigned SAT is knowledge and skills that kids are learning in classrooms every single day. It's not left field," Cyndie Schmeiser, the board's chief of assessment, said in an interview. "No surprises. No mystery."

The test had last been revised in 2005.

The new makeover focuses less on arcane vocabulary words like "lachrymose" and more on real-world learning and analysis by students. There also is no longer a penalty for guessing on the redesigned exam, and the essay will be optional. Students who decide not to write an essay would see about 50 minutes shaved off the length of the test.

Phil Pine, who runs the test preparation company, Capital Educators, in the Washington, D.C., area, says he's dissuaded his students from rushing to take this weekend's scheduled test since that version will soon disappear and they won't be able to take the same test again if they don't score well.

But with so much material available on the current test, it's more familiar, so Pine said some students have told him, "this feels safer to me."

His advice for juniors has been to wait for the new SAT or take its competitor, the ACT, unless there's a compelling reason to take the test now — such as students who need early scores for coaches, specific academic programs or for those who spent months studying and feel ready.

College counselor Phillip Trout in Minnesota says very few of his students at Minnetonka High School are opting for Saturday's SAT, and he's advising them not to take the first administration of the new SAT.

"We're telling them to take the ACT," says Trout, president of the National Association for College Admission Counseling. "Let somebody else in America be the guinea pig."

Students at Minnetonka High School had already leaned heavily in preference toward the ACT anyway. About 90 percent of seniors had taken the ACT last year. Down the road, though, Trout says more of his students may embrace the SAT, with its shift to test subject mastery and its similarity to ACT.

Testing tutor Ned Johnson says he's seeing students sidestepping this SAT switchover altogether by just taking the ACT.

"The challenge with the change in test is that it basically just stresses people out," says Johnson, president of PrepMatters in Bethesda, Maryland. "The idea that students might have to prepare for the current SAT and then again for the new redesigned SAT is not particularly appealing."

The new SAT will continue to test reading, writing and math, with an emphasis on analysis. Some of the obscure vocabulary words that left kids memorizing flash cards for endless hours will vanish. Instead, more widely known words used in classroom learning will appear on the test and students will have to demonstrate their ability to determine meaning in different contexts.

Other significant changes:

—In math, students will see more algebra and problem solving, instead of testing a wide range of math concepts.

—Use of calculators will be limited. They will be allowed only on certain math questions, instead of on the entire math portion.

—Essay portion will be optional.

—Top score goes back to 1,600 with a separate score for the essay, compared with Saturday's possible total of 2,400.

The College Board has teamed up with online educator Khan Academy to offer SAT practice with the new exam — for free — to all students through diagnostic quizzes and interactive practice tests. The tests are available at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>.

## Sanders health plan would be more generous than Medicare

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders says his plan for a government-run health care system from cradle to grave is like Medicare for all.

But with full coverage for long-term care, most dental care included, no deductibles and zero copays, the Sanders plan is considerably more generous. Think of it as Medicare on growth hormones.

Setting aside ideological issues, the scope of Sanders' plan and its lack of detail have raised questions about its seriousness. Some health care experts see it mainly as a political document to distinguish Sanders' revolutionary ideas from Hillary Clinton's incremental approach.

Sanders runs the risk of looking "like he is living in a fantasy land, for putting forward an idea he can't possibly deliver during his term in office," said Drew Altman, president of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Last Sunday, the Vermont senator released an 8-page outline of his "Medicare For All" plan, an idea he's long advocated. The campaign estimates it would cost \$1.38 trillion a year, paid for with new taxes that would take the place of private health insurance premiums. Here's a look at some things Sanders left out:

### NOT LIKE MEDICARE

Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, not to mention dentures, and seniors face deductibles and cost-sharing when they go to the doctor. Many buy an additional private insurance policy to cover Medicare gaps. "BernieCare," as it is being called, would be above and beyond.

"It's not Medicare for all," said Republican economist Gail Wilensky, who ran Medicare under former President George H.W. Bush. "It's nonsense to talk about it as if it were. You're just giving people a comfort level that's inappropriate."

Even if there are important differences with Medicare, supporters of Sanders' plan say it's similar in the sense that virtually all seniors are covered under that program. Sanders' approach is also called 'single-payer,' because the government would become the steward of the health care system, currently about one-sixth of the economy.

### PATH TO SAVINGS UNCLEAR

Sanders says his plan will cost \$6 trillion less over 10 years than the current health care system. But his path to savings is unclear.

For starters, a government takeover of health care financing would eliminate all the useful signals about value that private payers generate. A few years ago, it became obvious Medicare had a problem paying for home medical equipment when government officials could find the same items on the Internet for much less.

"How do you learn about the value of things if you don't have an accompanying private sector?" asked economist Paul Hughes-Cromwick of the Altarum Institute, a Michigan-based nonprofit that does research and consulting. "All of a sudden you wouldn't have an empirical basis on which to build."

Altman, the Kaiser foundation president, said it's possible a single-payer system could produce substantial savings, for example by eliminating administrative duplication among insurers.

"I can't say how big those savings would be from the Sanders plan because all we have is a sketchy outline," he added. Any significant savings would have to come from reductions in payments to hospitals and doctors, not discussed in the campaign outline.

### TEST A LITTLE, BUILD A LITTLE?

Back in 2013, the Obama administration famously promised that the president's health care plan would launch on the same day in all 50 states. But when they flipped the switch, the HealthCare.gov website didn't work. Sanders' plan makes no mention of a phase-in, meaning the government would have to get everything right the first time.

The head of one of the nation's largest hospital groups said a test of some kind would seem prudent.

"If the nation wanted to experiment, we would be willing to look at the details and consider being supportive — but the details are huge," said Sister Carol Keehan, CEO of the Catholic Health Association.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 25 of 28

As nonprofits, Catholic hospitals are not locked into any particular payment model, Keehan explained. The U.S. could do better. "There is no question a lot of money in the delivery system is poorly spent," she said.

Sanders' own state had wanted to implement a single-payer under the umbrella of flexibility encouraged by President Barack Obama's health care law. But Vermont pulled back after the magnitude of expected tax increases became clear.

"Bernie may have a bigger job on his hands than he understands, trying to get people to just take a look at this," Keehan said.

## LESSONS FROM TAIWAN

Most economically advanced countries with government-run health care set up their systems long ago, but Taiwan's National Health Insurance is newer, recently celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Princeton University researcher Tsung-Mei Cheng said there are lessons from Taiwan for any country contemplating the move.

Taiwan's system has been very popular with the public, but the government had to expand the tax base to keep pace with costs. The system does have copays, although they are affordable for most middle-class households. Doctors' use of costly technologies such as MRIs is closely monitored. And it can take three to five years after expensive new drugs are introduced elsewhere for them to become widely available in Taiwan.

For single-payer to gain acceptance here, Cheng said Americans would have to change their mindset.

"You would have to have a social consensus that health care is a right, and not only everyone should have it, but everyone should have the same," said Cheng.

## Oregon governor calls on feds to act against armed group

**KRISTENA HANSEN, Associated Press**

**TERRENCE PETTY, Associated Press**

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's governor said she's frustrated with the way federal authorities are handling an armed group's continued occupation of a national wildlife refuge and it's time to end it.

Exasperated by a tense situation that has caused fear among some southeastern Oregon residents since it began Jan. 2, Gov. Kate Brown said at a news conference Wednesday that federal officials "must move quickly to end the occupation and hold all of the wrongdoers accountable."

"The residents of Harney County have been overlooked and underserved by federal officials' response thus far. I have conveyed these very grave concerns directly to our leaders at the highest levels of our government: the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House," Brown said.

The Democratic governor said the occupation has cost Oregon taxpayers nearly half a million dollars. "We'll be asking federal officials to reimburse the state for these costs," Brown said.

Brown spokeswoman Melissa Navas said in an email that number is coming from labor costs for an additional law enforcement presence in the area, including overtime, travel reimbursement, lodging and meals for officers.

Federal authorities did not return calls seeking comment.

Brown had scheduled the news conference to discuss her agenda for the upcoming legislative session, but she made it a point to deliver strong words about the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge by Ammon Bundy and his armed group.

Federal, state and local law enforcement officers have been sent to the remote area but so far have avoided doing anything that might provoke a confrontation. One occupier was arrested for unauthorized use of a vehicle after driving a vehicle owned by the refuge into the town of Burns, and a Montana man who was stopped by Oregon State Police last week for a lighting violation was arrested on charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

While many people in the region sympathize with Bundy's complaints about federal management of public lands, they have expressed fear as the occupation continues, and there's been a growing call for the occupiers to go home.

Harney County Judge Steve Grasty has been at the forefront of efforts among locals to show Bundy and

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 26 of 28

his followers they are not welcome. Grasty said Bundy — who is not from Oregon — should get the point that he and his followers need to go back to their home states and leave Harney County alone.

“It seems like he’s out of touch with reality,” Grasty told the AP from Burns.

Grasty said he would like law enforcement to turn up the heat on Bundy and his fellow occupiers — perhaps isolate them by closing off roads leading to the refuge.

“I hope they lock it down. People shouldn’t be coming and going. Maybe it’s time,” he said.

Bundy initially took over the refuge to protest prison terms for two local ranchers convicted of setting fires on federal lands. After the ranchers voluntarily reported to prison, Bundy has justified the occupation by saying he wants federal lands in Harney County turned over to local residents, among other demands. He has also said he is obeying a divine command.

The group’s spokesman — LaVoy Finicum — told Oregon Public Broadcasting on Wednesday they have “no plans to leave.”

“We are very strong, very firm. This facility will not go back to the federal government, ever,” Finicum told OPB.

## **Magnitude-6.4 quake strikes China, damaging dozens of homes**

BEIJING (AP) — A magnitude-6.4 earthquake struck a remote region of northwest China early Thursday, damaging a few dozen homes but causing no casualties.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the epicenter of the 1:13 a.m. quake was in an unpopulated area about 33 kilometers (20 miles) from the county seat of Menyuan in Qinghai province.

The U.S. Geological Survey put the quake’s magnitude at 5.9 and said it struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles) on the western edge of the Plateau of Tibet, where the collision of the India and Eurasia plates generates numerous earthquakes and makes the region one of the world’s most seismically hazardous.

Xinhua quoted local officials as saying the quake caused cracks in about 20 homes and other damage in more than 30 others. Authorities sent 700 tents to the area.

“The tremor lasted one to two minutes ... with a rumbling noise,” the agency quoted Menyuan country resident Ma Wulong as saying.

The tremor also was felt in the provincial capital of Xining.

## **Bills hire NFL’s first full-time female assistant coach**

**JOHN WAWROW, AP Sports Writer**

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The NFL has its first full-time female coach.

Kathryn Smith was promoted by the Buffalo Bills on Wednesday night to take over as special teams quality control coach on Rex Ryan’s staff.

She will assist special teams coordinator Danny Crossman and his assistant Eric Smith, filling the role that opened after Michael Hamlin was not retained following the season.

Smith’s appointment comes after Jen Welter served a six-week training camp internship last summer coaching inside linebackers for the Arizona Cardinals.

Smith is well-known within the Bills staff after spending this season as an administrative assistant for the team’s assistant coaches. She spent the past seven years working alongside Ryan.

She was the New York Jets player personnel assistant when Ryan took over as coach in 2009. Smith then served as Ryan’s assistant in 2014, his final year in New York before he was fired and then hired by the Bills.

“She certainly deserves this promotion based on her knowledge and strong commitment, just to name a couple of her outstanding qualities,” Ryan said in a statement released by the team. “She has proven that she’s ready for the next step, so I’m excited and proud for her with this opportunity.”

Bills offensive lineman Richie Incognito expressed his support for Smith in a tweet.

“Congrats Kathryn!! I know you will do a great job,” Incognito said in a post that included a thumb’s up and smiley face.

This is not the first time the Bills broke the gender barrier. Linda Bogdan, in 1986, became the NFL’s first

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 27 of 28

female scout, when she joined the team's player personnel department. Bogdan, who died in 2009, was the daughter of late Bills Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson.

Several NFL teams have employed women in prominent roles in the front office. Amy Trask was the Raiders' chief executive officer for owner Al Davis from 1997 until she resigned in 2013.

The Jets promoted long-time executive Jacqueline Davidson to director of football administration last season. She was previously the team's manager of football administration.

Dawn Aponte is Miami's executive vice president of football administration, and has been involved in the front offices of the Dolphins, Jets, Browns and the NFL for 25 years.

Among others on a quickly growing list of high-ranking women in NFL franchises include Katie Blackburn, Cincinnati's executive vice president; Jeanne Bonk, San Diego's executive vice president and chief financial officer; and Hannah Gordon, San Francisco's vice president of legal and government affairs.

But Smith's promotion is the latest step for women getting a chance to join the coaching ranks of North America's major professional sports.

In August 2014, former WNBA player Becky Hammon was hired by the San Antonio Spurs to join coach Gregg Popovich's staff, making her the NBA's first full-time paid female assistant coach.

Last month, the Seattle Mariners hired Amanda Hopkins as an area scout. In announcing the hiring, the team said Hopkins is believed to be the first female hired as a full-time scout by a major league team since the 1950s.

In promoting Smith, Ryan said he consulted with Cardinals coach Bruce Arians.

"You can see the success some of these young ladies are having in the coaching profession, such as the young lady that is an assistant to coach Popovich at the San Antonio Spurs, and realize how exciting this is for women like Kathryn Smith as well as the Bills organization," Ryan said.

Smith has 13 seasons of NFL experience, and began her career in 2003 as a Jets game-day/special events intern. Two years later, the Jets promoted her to become a college scouting intern, and eventually became the team's player personnel assistant in 2007.

## Today in History The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2016. There are 345 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 21, 1976, British Airways and Air France inaugurated scheduled passenger service on the supersonic Concorde jet.

### On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners whose states had seceded from the Union resigned from the U.S. Senate.

In 1908, New York City's Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public establishments (the measure was vetoed by Mayor George B. McClellan Jr., but not before one woman, Katie Mulcahey, was jailed overnight for refusing to pay a fine).

In 1915, the first Kiwanis Club, dedicated to community service, was founded in Detroit.

In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin died at age 53.

In 1937, Count Basie and his band recorded "One O'Clock Jump" for Decca Records (on this date in 1942, they re-recorded the song for Okeh Records).

In 1954, the first atomic submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Connecticut (however, the Nautilus did not make its first nuclear-powered run until nearly a year later).

In 1968, the Battle of Khe Sanh began during the Vietnam War. An American B-52 bomber carrying four hydrogen bombs crashed in Greenland, killing one crew member and scattering radioactive material.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 179 ♦ 28 of 28

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

In 1982, convict-turned-author Jack Henry Abbott was found guilty in New York of first-degree manslaughter in the stabbing death of waiter Richard Adan in 1981. (Abbott was later sentenced to 15 years to life in prison; he committed suicide in 2002.)

In 1994, a jury in Manassas, Virginia, found Lorena Bobbitt not guilty by reason of temporary insanity of maliciously wounding her husband John, whom she'd accused of sexually assaulting her.

In 2010, a bitterly divided U.S. Supreme Court, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, vastly increased the power of big business and labor unions to influence government decisions by freeing them to spend their millions directly to sway elections for president and Congress.

**Ten years ago:** Rescuers in West Virginia found the bodies of two miners who'd disappeared after a conveyor belt caught fire deep inside a coal mine. A Red Cross-chartered helicopter used for earthquake relief in Pakistan went missing (the wreckage of the copter and the bodies of the seven people on board were found in June 2006).

**Five years ago:** Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, seriously wounded in a shooting rampage, was transferred from the University Medical Center trauma center in Tucson to Texas Medical Center in Houston to undergo months of therapy. President Barack Obama visited Schenectady, New York, the birthplace of the General Electric Co., to declare that his job was "putting our economy into overdrive." South Korean special forces stormed a hijacked freighter in the Arabian Sea, rescuing all 21 crew members and killing eight Somali pirates. Keith Olbermann abruptly announced on his MSNBC program "Countdown" that it was his last broadcast for the network. Ed Mauser, the oldest living member of a 101st Airborne Division company that became known as the "Band of Brothers" during World War II, died in Omaha, Nebraska, at age 94.

**One year ago:** Defying President Barack Obama, House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) announced that he'd invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stand before Congress and push for new sanctions against its archenemy Iran. (Netanyahu addressed Congress on March 3, 2015.) In an embarrassing setback, House Republicans abruptly decided to drop planned debate of a bill criminalizing virtually all late-term abortions after objections from GOP women and other lawmakers left them short of votes.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Ann Wedgeworth is 82. World Golf Hall of Famer Jack Nicklaus is 76. Opera singer-conductor Placido Domingo is 75. Singer Mac Davis is 74. Actress Jill Eikenberry is 69. Country musician Jim Ibbotson is 69. Singer-songwriter Billy Ocean is 66. Former U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke is 66. Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder is 65. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is 63. Actor-director Robby Benson is 60. Actress Geena Davis is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon is 53. Actress Charlotte Ross is 48. Actor John Ducey is 47. Actress Karina Lombard is 47. Rapper Levirt (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 46. Rock musician Mark Trojanowski (Sister Hazel) is 46. Rock singer-songwriter Cat Power is 44. Rock DJ Chris Kilmore (Incubus) is 43. Actor Vincent Laresca is 42. Singer Emma Bunton (Spice Girls) is 40. Actor Jerry Trainor is 39. Country singer Phil Stacey is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nokio (Dru Hill) is 37. Actress Izabella Miko (MEE'-koh) is 35.

**Thought for Today:** "I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate." — George Burns, American comedian (1896-1996).