

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 1 of 30

- 1- Frost Construction ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Davies Bridal Shower
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Upcoming events on gdilive.com
- 2- Golden LivingCenter Help Wanted Ad
- 3- Brock Greenfield's Column
- 4 - Kumla dinner planned in Groton
- 5- Groton boys lose close one to Roncalli
- 7- School Land Lease Auction
- 7- Heartland offers financing
- 8 - Today in Weather History
- 8- Livestreaming Weddings Ad
- 9- Local Weather Forecast
- 10- National Weather Map
- 10- Local Weather
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12 - News from the Associated Press

Davies Bridal Shower

Open house bridal shower for Traci Davies will be held Saturday, February 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Groton. The bride is registered at Target.

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**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, February 16

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit, juice, milk.

Birthday: Pernell Graf

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Wednesday, February 17

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

Birthdays: Darien Shabazz, Lila Olson, Marie Gengerke

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Confirmation

6:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Lenten Meal (SS Serves)

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Lenten Service

Thursday, February 18

State FFA Proficiency Judging at Webster

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

Birthdays: Crystal Young, Zach Herron

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

5:15pm: GBB at Redfield (C at 5:15, JV at 6:30, Varsity at 8:00)

Friday, February 19

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

1994: Kara and Todd Anderson

Birthdays: Connor Hanson, Gaylene Voss, Heather Westby, Heidi Westby, Robert Sippel, Robin O'Neill, Terry Furman, Tyler Kampa

3:00pm: BBBJH at Groton (7th at 3 pm, 8th at 4 pm)



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 2 of 30



Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

Thursday, Feb. 18: GBB at Redfield (Varsity Only)

Friday, Feb. 19: BBB host Redfield-Doland (Varsity Only)

The Groton Area games for both boys and girls in the regions will be broadcast on gdilive.com. Watch for dates and details.

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!



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

The legislative session has now reached the halfway point of the 2016 session. The fifth week saw a number of issues taken up by the Senate. On Monday, I was attending a funeral, but a few bills of interest were taken up that day. SB 58 revises the restrictions on hunting predators using night-vision equipment. Several years ago, then-Representative Art Fryslie and I were the prime sponsors on the

original bill that allowed a landowner or occupant to be joined by one person to engage in the hunting of predators at night on the landowner or occupant's land. That bill allowed for the use of rimfire cartridges only (i.e.--.22 shells). This bill would increase the number of persons accompanying the landowner or occupant to four, and it would revise the law to allow for the use of bullets with a diameter less than .225 inches. After the bill hearing, I visited with some of the proponents who expressed that their support for the bill was one of humaneness. The slightly larger bullet travels faster and is more likely to dispatch such critters as coyotes, rather than just wounding them. The bill narrowly passed with the necessary 18 votes in favor of the bill. There were 14 "no" votes, with three Senators excused from the vote. I would have supported the bill.

SB 102 would allow the SD Board of Regents to permit the sale of malt beverages or wine on campus ONLY at certain events. It would not allow for off-sale transactions. The Regents have been looking into this matter and considering the pros and cons. I had heard this bill in committee during the previous week, and I felt the arguments boiled down to addressing the issue of dangerous binge drinking that occurs prior to events and the issue of event attendees sneaking in alcohol once the event begins. This bill requires a vendor to ensure that its employees are trained in techniques of alcohol management in order that they do not serve minors. Several other states allow for the sale of malt beverages and/or wine at sporting events, fine arts presentations, receptions and fundraising events. A peripheral issue is that, based upon the assumption that alcohol is already being consumed prior to and during any number of events, this represents an opportunity for the universities to enter into agreements with the vendors to provide additional revenues to the institutions. However, the main focus is providing a more controlled environment under which those of legal age can consume such beverages in a less destructive manner than binge drinking before and during intermissions at such events. Certainly, we all have heard of the ills, even deaths, associated with alcohol poisoning that results from over-indulgence that usually stems from consuming large amounts of alcohol in short periods of time. The hope is that this will help to alleviate such behavior. The bill passed the Senate 18-13.

SB 95 would have allowed candidates for certain offices to pay a fee to place their names on the ballot, rather than circulating nominating petitions. I have already spent more time discussing this matter than it deserves. Had I been able to cast a vote, the bill would have failed 8-25, rather than 8-24.

Last week, I also carried HB 1056 on the floor on behalf of our veterans' organizations. This bill states that if a person meets the definition of veteran under SD law, and if that person meets the minimum qualifications required by a PUBLIC employer who is advertising a job opening, that employer shall grant the veteran an interview. It does not guarantee that the veteran will be offered the job. It simply gives that person an opportunity to be given an interview in which he or she can showcase his or her unique qualifications to the public employer. Veterans and their families have made countless sacrifices for our state and country. Providing them with an opportunity to be interviewed for positions they qualify for is appropriate. In the instances they do not procure employment, they still gain valuable interview experience that will help them in the future. After I pitched the bill, I was called upon to answer several questions, after which the bill passed 34-1.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 4 of 30

Finally, HB 1008 passed the Education Committee 4-2. This bill establishes that locker room and restroom facilities in our public schools are to be used by persons of the same biological sex. Simply put, it restricts the co-mingling of boys and girls in these settings. In the past few years, there has been a nation-wide push by the LGBT community to allow students to utilize the locker room or restroom facility of their choice, based upon whether boys feel like girls or girls feel like boys at any given moment. Some people suffer from a condition that has been diagnosed as gender dysphoria, in which they have deeply held beliefs that they are not of the same gender as their biological sex would suggest. Some activists promote the idea that these students should have unfettered access to whichever facility they choose. The notion that thirteen- and fourteen-year-olds should be subjected to persons of the opposite sex changing and showering with them is not acceptable to many. Moreover, in some tragic situations, people who have been sexually assaulted by persons of the opposite sex harbor horrific feelings toward members of the opposite sex. To be thrust into a situation in which somebody of the opposite sex is literally in a state of undress within mere feet of such victims is unacceptable. For the vast majority of the people I have heard from, blurring the lines of who can be in the most intimate settings in the name of political correctness places our youth in some very precarious--even dangerous--situations. HB 1008 previously passed the House 46-10 and will be heard on the Senate floor this week where the vote will likely be razor-thin because the activists have been hard-at-work to kill the bill.

We are fast-approaching crossover day, when all bills must either be killed or passed by their house of origin. As that day approaches, bill loads in committees and on the floor will become heavier. Please continue to be in touch as issues of importance work their way through the process. God bless!



Kumla Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 28th, Serving 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Groton Community Center

Sponsored by Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 5 of 30

JAMES VALLEY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



jamesvalley.com

BLOCKER
CONSTRUCTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION
REMODELING
HOOP BARNs

(605) 216-2677 (605) 226-4062

S & S Lumber
HARDWARE HANK

201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361

Curtis C. Mitchell, FIC
Financial Representative

Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

311 S. 2nd St., Aberdeen SD 57401
605/725-6200 Cell: 605/216-6200 ~ Curtis.C.Mitchell@mwarep.org
www.modern-woodmen.org

Your \$5 Buck Lunch
just got sweet & smokey.

KC BBQ Bacon Cheeseburger

\$5 BUCK LUNCH

DQ
Grill & Chill

US 12, Groton ~ 605-397-8627

GROTON
Ford

GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackho

605/395-6531

HOWIE'S
TRAINING STUDIO

24 HOURS PERSONAL TRAINING

Call Caitlin
605-290-9719
for info
Downtown Groton

FULL CIRCLE LEAG
Tomorrow's Vision Today

Lance Frohling
Groton Location Manager
605-397-2671
frohlingl@fulleircleag.com

golden living

1106 N 2nd St.
(605) 397-2365
Physical Therapy
Services Also Available

Roncalli edges past Groton by two points

It was a typical Groton-Roncalli matchup Monday night in Aberdeen as the Cavaliers squeaked out a 46-44 win. Seric Shabazz made a free throw, missed the second but got the rebound and was fouled again. He made two free throws to give Groton a 44-43 lead with 49 seconds left in the game. Gus Reede answered on the other end with a three-pointer with 17 seconds and a last second shot by Groton did not go in.

There were 10 lead changes and the game was tied 11 times in the contest.

Hunter Lerew led the Tigers with 15 points followed by Sean Schuring with 13, Seric Shabazz had nine, Bennett Shabazz five and Aaron Severson added two points.

The Cavaliers were led by Connor Deutsch and Braden Sommers with 13 points each, Gus Reede had eight, Bronson Heier and Logan Karst each had four, Sam VanOrman had three and Connor Fiedler added one point.

Groton made 42 percent of its field goals while Roncalli made 41 percent. From the line, Groton was 10 of 18 for 40 percent off of Roncalli's 17 team fouls. Roncalli was four of 10 for 40 percent off of Groton's 15 team fouls. Groton had 14 turnovers with nine being steals (VanOrman with 3) while Roncalli had 12 turnovers with seven being steals (Seric Shabazz three). Roncalli had the edge on the boards, 30-27, with Sean Schuring having seven for Groton and Logan Karst having seven for Roncalli. Groton had 10 assists with Bennett Shabazz having five while Roncalli had seven assists with Sommers having three. Lerew had two blocks for Groton.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 51-18. Brandon Keith had five points, Austin Jones four, Frankie Wuestewald, Treyton Diegel and Peyton Johnson each had two and Truitt Rogers added a free throw.

Roncalli won the C game, 55-29.

Groton ends its regular season hosting Redfield on Friday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 6 of 30



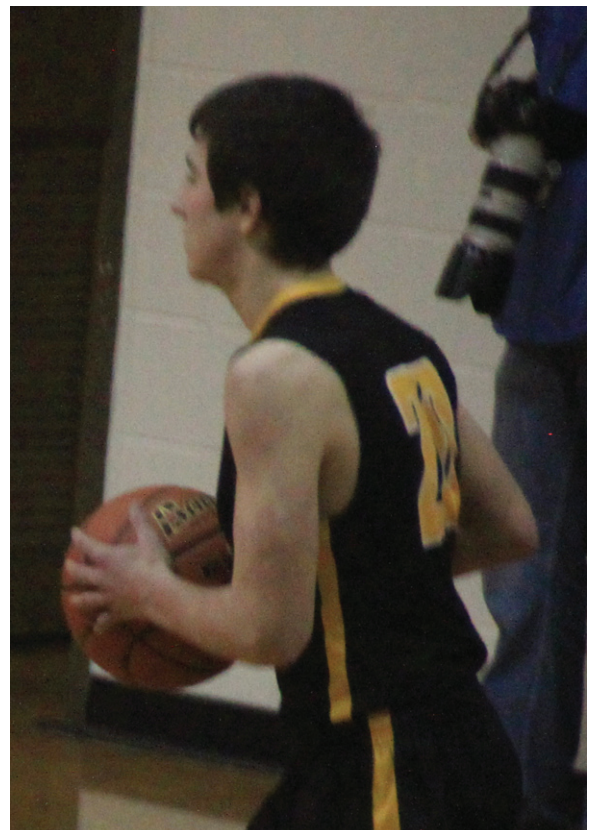
Bennett Shabazz
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Hunter Lerew
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Sean Schuring
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Brandon Keith
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 7 of 30

SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Brown County Courthouse in Aberdeen, SD on March 17, 2016 at 1:15 PM (CT) on the following tract:

16 125N 65W E2NE, E2SE

A list of tracts available for lease may also be obtained at the Brown County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands at (605) 773-4172. For more information contact Mike Cornelison, Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or phone (605)773-4172. Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.



Attention Groton Businesses!

Are you
...looking for low-interest financing?
...wanting to expand?
...planning to increase your labor force?

Heartland has programs available to help.
Contact us today!

CASEY CRABTREE
Heartland Director of Economic Development
(605) 256-6536 • ccrabtree@hcpd.com

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 8 of 30

Today in Weather History

February 16, 1969: Freezing drizzle and heavy fog formed a heavy glaze on utility lines resulting in many broken power and telephone lines across northern South Dakota.

1899 - Washington D.C. received 1.26 inches of rain in six hours atop a snow cover more than 30 inches deep making it the soggiest day of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1903: The temperature at Pokegama Dam, Minnesota plunged to 59 degrees below zero to establish a state record. This record was held until February 2, 1996 when the temperature at Tower fell to 60 degrees below zero.

1943 - Record cold prevailed in the northeastern U.S. The mercury plunged to 43 degrees below zero at Concord NH, and to -39 degrees at Portland ME. The morning low of -32 degrees at Falls Village CT established a state record, yet the afternoon high that day was 20 degrees above zero. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm produced snow and ice in the Ohio Valley and the Appalachian Region. Snow-fall totals in Virginia ranged up to 14 inches around Farmville, while Granville NC reported eight inches of sleet and ice. Freezing rain in eastern North Carolina caused extensive damage to power lines. Gales lashed the coast of Virginia and North Carolina. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Santa Ana winds in southern California gusted to 50 mph in the Rancho Cucamonga area. Quiet weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989: A surge of arctic air produced all-time record high barometric pressure readings of 31.08 inches at Duluth Minnesota, 30.97 inches at Chicago Illinois, and 30.94 inches at South Bend Indiana. Readings of 31.00 inches at Milwaukee Wisconsin, and 30.98 inches at Rockford, Illinois, tied their all-time records. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southeastern U.S. Highs of 81 degrees at Athens Georgia, 87 degrees at Charleston South Carolina, 85 degrees at Macon Georgia, and 86 degrees at Savannah Georgia were records for February.



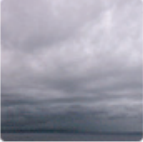






**Livestream
your
wedding!**

How cool would that be?!

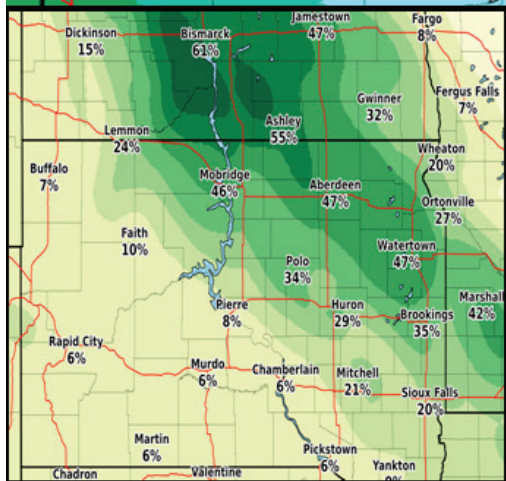
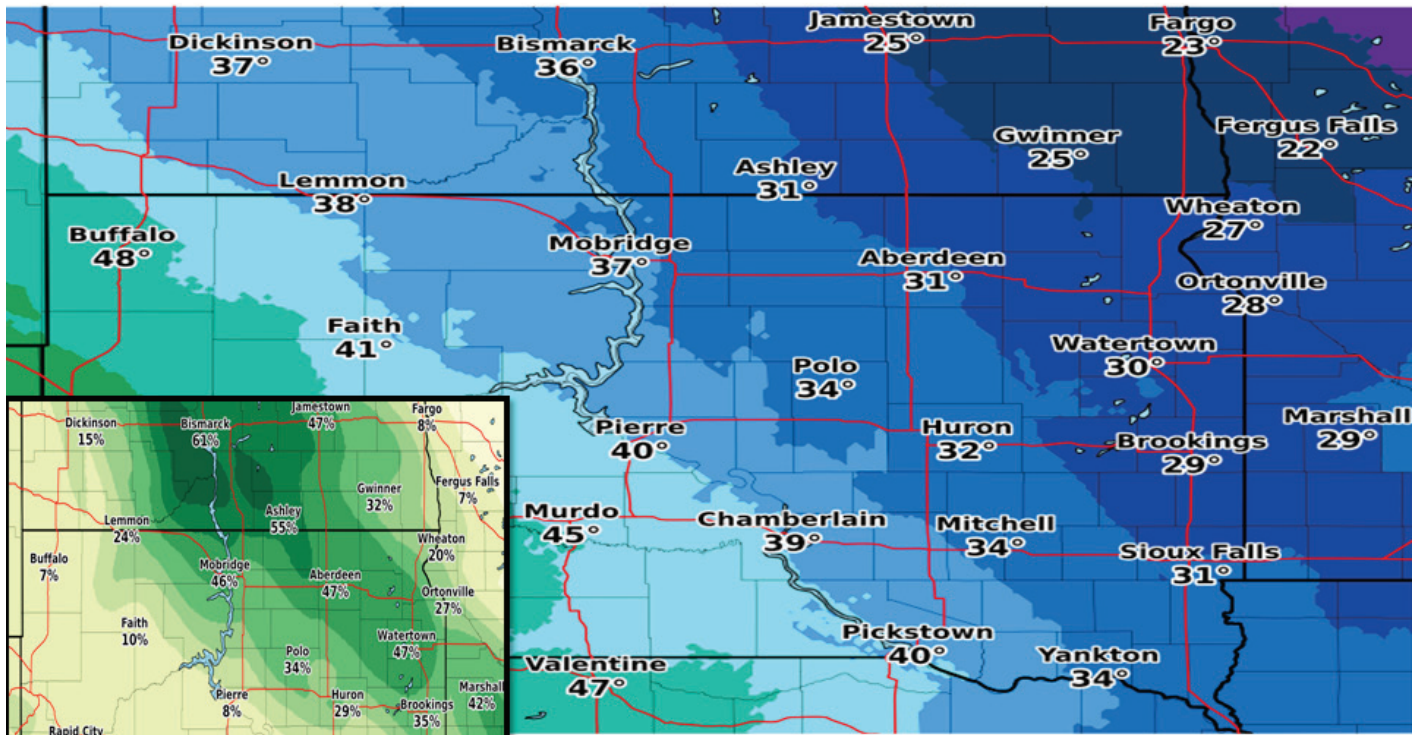
Call or text Paul at 605/397-7460.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 9 of 30

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Cloudy	40% 50% Chance Snow then Patchy Wintry Mix	20% Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Sunny	30% 30% Chance Rain then Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Sunny and Breezy
High: 32 °F ↓↓	Low: 16 °F	High: 29 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 47 °F

Afternoon Highs Valid: February 16, 2016



← **Chance of Snow Tonight**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 2/16/2016 5:33 AM Central

Published on: 02/16/2016 at 5:34AM

Another system will move across the region tonight with decent chances for light snow, and perhaps some freezing drizzle when the snow ends. Otherwise, for today expect near to above normal high temperatures across the region despite the snow cover. Even milder temperatures are expected later this week.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 10 of 30

Yesterday's Weather

High: 31.5 at 4:17 PM

Low: 16.8 at Midnight

High Gust: 13 at 1:10 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 1981

Record Low: -40 in 1936

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 8°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.27

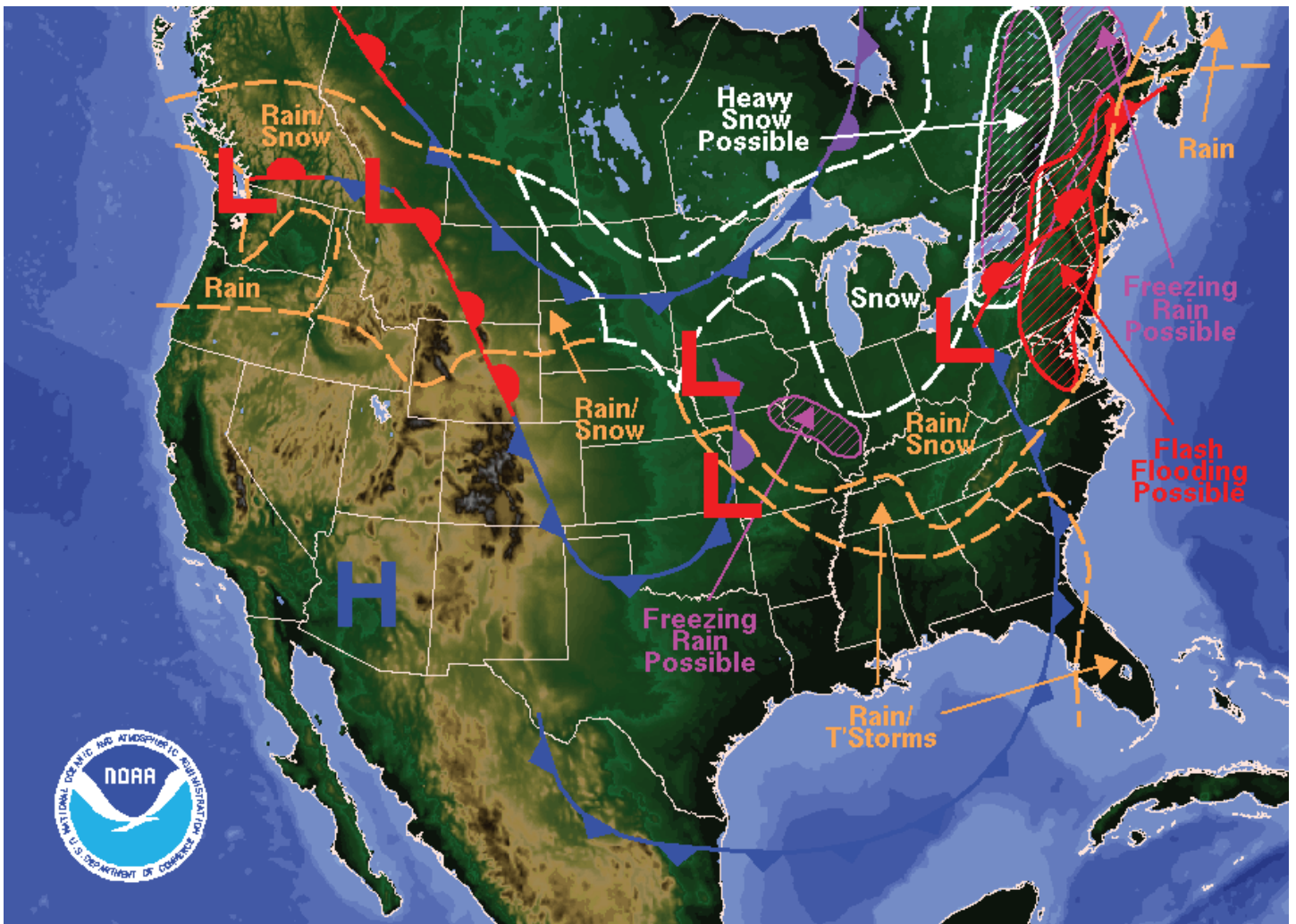
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.60

Average Precip to date: 0.74

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Feb 16, 2016, issued 3:30 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HIS BEST BREAK

From the time he was a small child, he dreamed of being a pitcher on a major league baseball team. After long years of developing his skills and becoming successful, he made it to the major league and was on the mound pitching his first game. Suddenly, after releasing a pitch he fractured his arm.

The surgeons examined his arm carefully and knew that his career was over. He was advised not to do any work that would strain his arm. He became disappointed and depressed during his lengthy period of recovery and had little hope for his future.

One day he decided to teach himself to draw. After several months of working on this new skill, he became a sports cartoonist for a local newspaper. His word-pictures and penciled drawings brought him much attention and eventually worldwide fame as "Mr. Believe It Or Not."

From being a cartoonist that drew sports figures, he went on to develop "Ripley's Believe It Or Not!" that was published in many newspapers and became a television program. Throughout the remaining years of his life he would often quote his favorite Bible verse, "We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him." God can turn every tragedy into a triumph to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for working in us and through us to bring honor and glory to Your Name. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 12 of 30

News from the Associated Press

Rep. Kristi Noem set to address lawmakers at state Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem is set to speak to lawmakers at the South Dakota state Capitol in Pierre.

Noem is scheduled to address the state House and Senate on Tuesday.

The Republican congresswoman is also set to present Jeanne Kelley with the Silver Congressional Award for her efforts combating youth suicides in South Dakota.

The presentation is scheduled to happen in the state Capitol rotunda.

The award is a public-private partnership established by Congress to recognize achievement, service and initiative in the country's young people.

Last legislative session, Noem addressed lawmakers about the most significant issues before federal legislators.

Noem is South Dakota's lone U.S. representative. She serves with U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds, fellow Republicans, in the state's congressional delegation.

South Dakota public housing authorities getting \$1.7 million

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Public housing authorities in South Dakota are getting \$1.7 million in federal funding to improve their properties.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development says the money is going to 26 housing authorities across the state, including in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Pennington County.

The money is through HUD's Capital Fund Program, which gives money each year to about 3,100 public housing authorities across the country.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 46, Groton Area 44
Bridgewater-Emery 78, Centerville 50
Dell Rapids 51, Canton 31
DeSmet 63, Deuel 53
Deubrook 75, Estelline 42
Elkton-Lake Benton 41, Arlington 40
Flandreau Indian 45, Viborg-Hurley 35
Gayville-Volin 62, Avon 39
Irene-Wakonda 85, Freeman 42
Kimball/White Lake 65, Wessington Springs 43
Madison 73, Lennox 42
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 73, Dell Rapids St. Mary 51
Philip 58, Newell 43
Red Cloud 89, Douglas 36
Scotland 51, Platte-Geddes 47
Timber Lake 60, Eureka/Bowdle 52, OT
Wolsey-Wessington 69, Hitchcock-Tulare 33

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Chester 56, Colman-Egan 52
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 79, Pine Ridge 63

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 13 of 30

Colome 52, Gregory 43
DeSmet 47, Deuel 23
Freeman 71, Scotland 24
Gayville-Volin 39, Avon 34
Harding County 54, Bison 38
Madison 50, Milbank Area 41
McCook Central/Montrose 48, Tri-Valley 28
McIntosh 41, Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 36
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 55, Hanson 44
Rosholt 56, Langford 39
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 57, James Valley Christian 34
Timber Lake 55, Eureka/Bowdle 29
Webster 59, Wilmot 29

Police investigate vandalism at USD fraternity house

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Vermillion police are investigating a report of vandalism at a fraternity house at the University of South Dakota.

The university says someone spray painted the words "We date rape" on the side of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house. Fraternity members saw the paint Sunday morning.

School and law enforcement authorities say it's unclear why the fraternity was vandalized.

Sgt. Isaac Voss tells KSFY-TV that Vermillion police have no information to suggest someone at the fraternity committed a sexual assault.

Director of fraternity and sorority life Laura Roof says there's "no reason" for the university to think it should investigate the fraternity.

Fraternity members have been since washed off most of the paint.

Rapid City police investigating suspicious death of woman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have identified a 20-year-old woman who was found dead on Sunday.

Authorities say the body of Mariah Highhawk of Rapid City was found underneath a utility trailer shortly before 3:30 p.m. Rapid City police say they consider the death suspicious.

The Rapid City Police Department says an autopsy Monday morning found Highhawk didn't exhibit any signs of trauma or significant injury.

Authorities are continuing to investigate.

West river veterinarians continuing to test for bovine trich

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Veterinarians across western South Dakota are continuing to test herds for a reproductive disease that causes cows to abort their young, though officials say no new cases have been reported over the past month.

The most recent cases of bovine trichomoniasis — or trich — were discovered in January in a pair of herds in Dewey County. Late last year, vets found trich in two Oglala Lakota county cattle herds and one herd operating in Corson and Ziebach counties, said Mendel Miller, South Dakota's assistant state veterinarian.

Miller said he doesn't expect an outbreak like one that hit western South Dakota in 2005, but the five occurrences are a jump from zero cases last year and just one the previous year.

The disease poses no risk for humans, as it affects only a cow's reproductive system, but its occurrence can quickly cut into a rancher's bottom line.

"We have lots of testing going on," Miller said. "Neighbor herds, contact herds are testing and looking

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 14 of 30

for it.”

Beth Carlson, North Dakota’s deputy state veterinarian, said no cases have been reported there, and the state hasn’t seen instances of the disease for several years.

Ranchers are often unaware of the problem until the disease is well established in the herd. Some signs that the disease may be present in a herd include a high number of open cows, cows showing signs of heat when they should be pregnant and the presence of many late-calving cows, according to the Animal Industry Board.

“Many producers pregnancy test their cows in the fall, so if they did have a number of cows that have aborted or were not pregnant, they probably already found out,” Miller said. “If they did not pregnancy test, then they would be finding out here pretty soon.”

South Dakota’s 2005 outbreak — in which vets confirmed 45 cases of the disease, all west of the Missouri River — prompted the Animal Industry Board to issue several testing rules to prevent its spread. Those rules greatly reduced the occurrence of the disease, officials say, but trich can occur in remote areas where the separation of bulls doesn’t always happen.

The Latest: Wall Street set to enjoy buoyant return

The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The latest on the turmoil in global financial markets (all times local):

12:25 a.m.

Whether this week’s more robust tone in global stock markets lasts could well hinge on the performance of Wall Street.

Following the three-day weekend, traders return to their desks Tuesday and the expectation is that U.S. stocks will track their counterparts around the world higher.

Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures are both pointing to a 1.4 percent advance at the opening bell. Wall Street’s expected recovery has helped shore up European markets, which had been edging lower. The Stoxx 600 is higher, but just — up 0.1 percent.

Few market participants are ready to say that the tumult of recent weeks is over.

Joshua Mahony, market analyst at London-based brokerage IG, says it’s likely to be only “a matter of time before we see the sellers dominate once more.”

10:30 a.m.

Reports that several oil ministers, including those from Russia and Saudi Arabia, have reached a conditional agreement to freeze production at January levels, haven’t been greeted with much enthusiasm in markets.

Having opened firmly, European stock markets are back in the red, with the Stoxx 600 index down 0.6 percent. The main New York benchmark rate drifted back below \$30 a barrel on the news, though it was still trading 1 percent higher on the day at \$29.75.

Mike van Dulken, Head of Research at Accendo Markets, says the reported deal doesn’t represent “quite the ‘cut’ that oil bulls had been hoping for.”

He also says the deal is contingent on other oil-producing nations agreeing to the freeze and that Iran “is unlikely to given it has only just returned to the market after sanctions were lifted.”

10:05 a.m.

Oil prices have bounced back further amid reports the Russian and Saudi oil ministers met in Doha, Qatar, and reached a conditional agreement to freeze production at January levels.

A barrel of benchmark New York crude is up 77 cents at \$30.21, while a barrel of Brent, the international standard, has increased 89 cents to \$34.28.

Kit Juckes, a global strategist at Societe Generale, isn’t confident about the sustainability of the latest rise as the oil market is “now hyper-sensitive to news in both directions on supply, inventories and oil-politics.”

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 15 of 30

9:05 a.m.

Another solid performance across Asian markets has helped European stocks post further gains, but few market participants are willing to say the recent turmoil has run its course.

The strengthening of the Chinese currency, a rebound in the price of oil and hopes for more central bank stimulus have offered stock markets relief this week.

Following broad-based increases in Asia earlier, European markets have opened in the black, with the Stoxx 600 index up 0.5 percent.

Much of the week's tone could well hinge on how U.S. markets perform when traders on Wall Street return to their desks later following the Presidents' Day holiday.

Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in London, is cautious that the better tone in markets this week marks a turning point. The factors that have driven the sharp declines in the last few weeks "haven't changed," he said.

Tornados in South, snow, sleet in East; record heat in West

MELISSA NELSON-GABRIEL, Associated Press

CENTURY, Fla. (AP) — A treacherous mix of falling snow, sleet and freezing rain turned Tuesday morning commutes to misery for many returning from a long holiday weekend in the Northeast, one day after suspected twisters tore through parts of the South.

In the West, California and Arizona braced for another day of record warm temperatures after basking in the high 80s and low 90s on Monday. Millions along the East Coast, meanwhile, were still shivering from the deep freeze brought on by the latest winter storm.

In Washington, the federal government was opening three hours late after freezing rain coated the nation's capital and surrounding areas in hazardous ice. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which sets leave policies for 300,000 federal workers, said government employees also had the option for unscheduled leave or telework.

Freezing rain fell throughout the Washington area overnight after the major storm system had already dropped several inches of snow Monday, leaving roads and sidewalks slick. Many school systems in the Mid-Atlantic region were opening late or were closed for the day.

A mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain made driving dicey in upstate New York, with winter storm warnings and other advisories posted. Separate tractor-trailer crashes within miles of one another shut down a major upstate New York artery, the Thruway, in both directions for a time early Tuesday just northwest of Albany. Authorities later reopened one lane each way.

The city of Buffalo public works department brought in extra crews to remove the snow that began falling overnight. The National Weather Service said snow accumulations could range from 2 to 4 inches in the Hudson Valley to as much as 18 inches in areas between Rochester and Buffalo.

On Monday, suspected tornados tied to the vast storm system turned several homes to rubble in the northwest corner of Florida's Panhandle and in Mississippi. Authorities say more than a dozen homes were destroyed in both states. There were no immediate reports of any deaths or serious injuries from those reported tornadoes though witnesses said one 94-year-old woman had to be pulled out of the Florida storm debris.

Officials in Florida and Mississippi were investigating reports of at least three possible tornadoes. One of the apparent twisters swept through Century, a rural town in the northwest Florida Panhandle, destroying or significantly damaging about 10 homes, Escambia County spokeswoman Joy Tsubooka said.

Donald Pugh was at home in Century when the funnel tore through his neighborhood of small wood-frame houses and mobile homes, downing trees and power lines. Pugh told The Associated Press that he and other neighbors used a chain saw to free a 94-year-old woman from the debris of her home.

"It took us quite a while," he said, adding she was trapped under a twisted metal door. The woman talked to the men as they worked to free her. "She was telling us where she was and that she was OK," Pugh added.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 16 of 30

She appeared to have minor injuries and was taken to a hospital as a precaution, authorities said. Escambia County Administrator Jack Brown said search crews also combed through the debris for hours afterward but there were no later reports of any others found in the rubble.

In Mississippi, windows were blown out of cars and two gymnasiums and a library were damaged Monday at a K-12 school in Wesson where children were in attendance when heavy thunderstorms and a possible tornado crossed at least 19 counties. There were no reports of any students injured, said Mississippi Department of Education spokeswoman Patrice Guilfoyle. Emergency management officials reported at least 15 buildings and homes damaged or destroyed.

Elsewhere, Virginia remained under a winter storm warning Tuesday morning with authorities warning people to stay off slick roads amid reports of at least three fatal crashes by Virginia State Police.

And many awaited warmer temperatures in the forecast in many areas.

In several Northeastern cities — including New York, Boston and Hartford, Connecticut — temperatures on Sunday had dipped below zero, falling to minus 40 on Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

In the West, Arizona and California were baking in the heat: It was 89 on Monday in downtown Los Angeles, breaking 1977's record of 88. The National Weather Service forecasted Phoenix would hit highs of 89 on Tuesday and 92 on Wednesday, above the previous records of 84 and 88 degrees, respectively.

In Phoenix, Arizona, the fire department went so far as to issue safety tips for hot weather — such as not leaving children or pets unattended in vehicles, staying hydrated, and scheduling outdoor activities during the cooler hours of the morning and evening.

South Korea's leader warns of North Korea collapse

HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president warned Tuesday that North Korea faces collapse if it doesn't abandon its nuclear bomb program, an unusually strong broadside that will likely infuriate Pyongyang.

President Park Geun-hye, in addressing Parliament to defend the closure of a jointly run factory park in North Korea, said South Korea will take unspecified "stronger and more effective" measures to make North Korea realize its nuclear ambitions will result only in accelerating its "regime collapse."

Park shut the factory park in response to the North's recent long-range rocket test, which Seoul and Washington see as a test of banned ballistic missile technology. The launch and the North's fourth nuclear test last month put the country further along its quest for a nuclear-armed missile that could reach the U.S. mainland.

Without elaborating, Park said the North has diverted much of the factory workers' pay to the Pyongyang leadership, which directs its nuclear and missile development. She also said the South has sent more than \$3 billion in government and civilian aid to the North since mid-1990s.

Much of the aid was made when South Korea was governed by liberal governments seeking rapprochement with North Korea from 1998 to 2003, according to her office. Park said South Korea must not provide few-strings-attached large-scale aid to North Korea "like in the past."

She called for support for her government amid a divide in South Korea about its tough response. "Aiming the point of a sword back at us and splitting us up are things that must not take place," she said.

South Korea's main liberal opposition party has criticized the government's decision to suspend operations at Kaesong, saying the measure will hurt only South Korean businessmen and deepen tensions with North Korea.

Following the rocket launch, Seoul announced that talks would begin with Washington on deploying a sophisticated U.S. missile defense system in South Korea and that the allies' military drills in the spring will be the biggest ever. The United States plans to send four F-22 stealth fighter jets to South Korea on Wednesday in a show of force against North Korea, according to Seoul media reports.

The deployment of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, is opposed by North Korea, China and Russia. Opponents say the system could help U.S. radar spot missiles in other countries.

After meeting with South Korean officials in Seoul, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui said he

relayed Beijing's opposition. "China showed its stance against (the deployment)," he said.

It is unusual for a top South Korean official to publicly touch on such a government collapse because of worries about how sensitive North Korea is to talk of its authoritarian government losing power. Pyongyang has long accused Washington and Seoul of agitating for its collapse.

Park's speech contained harsh language, describing North Korea as "merciless" and under an "extreme reign of terror" following recent purges of top officials that outside analysts say were aimed at bolstering leader Kim Jong Un's grip on power.

Park's comments are certain to anger North Korea as they were made as the country marks the birthday of late dictator Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un.

Seoul officials said North Korea was able to divert Kaesong payments because the workers were not paid directly. Instead, U.S. dollars were paid to the North Korean government, which siphoned off most of the money and paid only what it wanted to the employees in North Korean currency and store vouchers, according to a statement from Seoul's Unification Ministry on Sunday.

The ministry did not detail how it arrived at that conclusion. North Korea has previously dismissed such views.

After Seoul decided on closing the factory park, Pyongyang expelled all the South Koreans there, put its military in charge of the area, and cut off key communication hotlines between the Koreas.

UN: Stopping Zika may require genetically modified insects

JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

MARIA CHENG, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — It may be necessary to use controversial methods like genetically modified mosquitoes to wipe out the insects that are now spreading Zika across the Americas, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

The virus has been linked to a spike in babies born with abnormally small heads, or microcephaly, in Brazil and French Polynesia. WHO has declared Zika a global emergency even though there is no definitive proof it is causing the birth defects.

Next week, WHO chief Dr. Margaret Chan will travel to Brazil to discuss Zika and microcephaly with the country's health minister and other officials, spokeswoman Fadela Chaib said on Tuesday.

In a statement, WHO said its advisory group has recommended further field trials of genetically modified mosquitoes, following trials in the Cayman Islands to fight dengue, where sterile male mosquitoes were released to mate with wild females.

"Given the magnitude of the Zika crisis, WHO encourages affected countries...to boost the use of both old and new approaches to mosquito control as the most immediate line of defense," the agency said in a statement.

WHO said previous experiments in releasing sterile insects had been used by other U.N. agencies to control agricultural pests. The agency described the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that spread Zika — as well as other diseases including dengue and yellow fever — as an "aggressive" mosquito that uses "sneak attacks" to bite people, noting that the mosquito has shown "a remarkable ability to adapt."

Environmentalists have previously criticized the genetically modified approach, saying it's impossible to know the long-term effects of wiping out an entire insect population.

Some experts agreed it might be worth using genetically modified mosquitoes given the speed of Zika's spread but were unsure of the eventual consequences.

"The way this is done wouldn't leave lots of mutant mosquitoes in the countryside," said Jimmy Whitworth, an infectious diseases expert at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He said the Zika mosquitoes are an imported species that were accidentally brought to the Americas hundreds of years ago and was optimistic their eradication wouldn't damage the environment.

However, he said such a move would be unprecedented and it would be impossible to know what the impact might be before the insects are released.

"You would hope that the ecology would just return to how it was before this mosquito arrived," he said. "But there's no way of knowing that for sure."

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. SENATE REPUBLICANS SUPPORT MCCONNELL ON SUPREME COURT OPENING

Democrats looking to reclaim the Senate majority immediately accuse them of putting politics ahead of their constitutional responsibility.

2. RUSSIA DENIES ITS WARPLANES HIT SYRIA HOSPITAL

The Russian president's spokesman says that this is another case of those who make such accusations against Moscow being unable to back up their claims.

3. WHO SIGNALS TOUGH STANCE ON NORTH KOREA

By warning of Pyongyang's "regime collapse," and extraordinarily calling Kim Jong Un out by name, the South Korean president raises the stakes in a standoff that began with last month's nuclear test by its rival.

4. HOW OBAMA PLANS TO WRAP SUMMIT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS

The last day of the event will be dedicated to discussions on counterterrorism and China's territorial claims to disputed waters of the South China Sea.

5. POPE TURNS EYE TO MEXICO'S DRUG HEARTLAND

Francis' is headed to Morelia, the capital of Michoacan state, where he will meet with young people, whom he is holding up as the hope for a better future for the country.

6. UPSURGE IN PARALYSIS CONDITION ACCOMPANIES ZIKA

Guillain-Barre cases believed to be linked to the virus have killed three people in recent weeks in Colombia and another three in Venezuela.

7. WHY SOLITARY SHOULD BE RETHOUGHT

As everyone from Obama to state lawmakers is questioning the use of isolation in jails, The AP examines one woman's story that's a case study in this type of punishment and its consequences.

8. CRUZ MAKES HIS SUPREME COURT KNOWLEDGE A CAMP

It becomes the new focal point of his White House bid following the weekend death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

9. DANGER SIGNS FLASHING FOR GLOBAL ECONOMY

Eight years after a worldwide financial meltdown, investors are realizing that a return to pre-crisis normal remains far off.

10. GRAMMYS FEATURED NEARLY AS MANY TRIBUTES AS NEW MUSIC

The ceremony included performances honoring David Bowie, Glenn Frey, B.B. King, Maurice White of Earth and Wind & Fire. All died within the past year.

Russia denies its warplanes hit Syria hospital

BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

LYNN BERRY, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russia on Tuesday rebuffed claims that its warplanes struck a hospital in northern Syria in airstrikes the previous day that killed at least nine people as Syrian government forces and a predominantly Kurdish coalition are making against rival groups in the country's north.

In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the hospital report was another case in which those who make such accusations against Russia are unable to back up their claims. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights had said Russian warplanes targeted the hospital in Idlib province on Monday, destroying it and killing nine people. France said that such attacks "could constitute war crimes."

Peskov, in a conference call with journalists, referred the parties making the accusations to the "primary

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 19 of 30

source" and said they should rely on official announcements from the Syrian government.

"For us, in this situation, the primary source is the official announcement from the Syrian government," he said. When pressed, he told journalists that the Syrian government had made a string of announcement on who could have been behind the bombing. He also noted that Syria's ambassador to Russia said the hospital was destroyed by the Americans.

The airstrikes came just days after Russia and other world powers agreed to bring about a pause in fighting that would allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the revival of Syrian peace talks. The projected truce agreed on Friday in Munich was to begin in a week, but there has been no sign it would happen.

Meanwhile, Syrian government troops and a predominantly Kurdish coalition of fighters advanced and captured more areas in the north from rival groups on Tuesday, while pro-government forces routed extremists from a main power station in the area.

The north has been the focus of the most intense clashes in recent weeks in Syria.

Syria's state news agency SANA and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government forces took the villages of Ahras and Misqan in the northern province of Aleppo. Separately, members of the Syria Democratic Forces, a coalition of Arab and Kurdish groups, captured the major town of Tel Rifaat, one of the largest militant strongholds in Aleppo. After Tel Rifaat, SDF fighters also took the nearby village of Kfar Naseh, south of the town.

The SDF fighters are a separate entity in Syria's five-year civil war and have mostly battled the Islamic State group. Parts of the coalition oppose President Bashar Assad but have also fought against other rebels and the Western-backed opposition.

Intense clashes broke out Tuesday near the village of Kaljibrin as SDF fighters tried to reach it, according to the Observatory and Aleppo-based activist Bahaa al-Halaby. If SDF captures Kaljibrin, it would squeeze rebels in their stronghold of Mareh and the adjacent village of Sheikh Issa, which is also under attack by the IS.

Also Tuesday, government forces and allied gunmen captured a power station in eastern Aleppo from IS that the extremists had used as a jailhouse. The Observatory said the station and nearby villages were captured under the cover of aerial attacks by Syrian and Russian warplanes and helicopter gunships.

Meanwhile, in the city of Aleppo, insurgents repelled an attack by SDF fighters on the neighborhoods of Hullok and Bustan al-Basha, according to al-Halaby and the Aleppo Media Center.

"They were trying to besiege (rebel-held parts) of the city of Aleppo but were forced out," al-Halaby said via Skype.

In Damascus, the U.N. special envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, met on Tuesday with Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem. In a brief statement to reporters after the meeting, de Mistura said the talks focused on "the issue of humanitarian and hindered access to all besieged areas, not only by the government but also by the opposition and ISIL," another acronym that refers to the IS.

The UN envoy arrived in the Syrian capital Monday for discussions on aid deliveries and how to resume peace talks in Geneva.

Indirect peace talks between representatives of the Syrian government and the opposition collapsed earlier this month in Geneva after just two days, largely because of the government offensive in Aleppo.

France proposes Israeli-Palestinian peace conference

TIA GOLDENBERG, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — France has presented Israel and the Palestinians with a proposal for an international peace conference, the sides said Tuesday, but the plan received a cool response from Israel, casting doubt on the first push for peace in nearly two years.

France has for months been preparing to hold a conference that would bring together the two parties and their American, European and Arab partners in order to revive the peace process. While the Palestinians welcomed the proposal, the conference does not seem to be generating much enthusiasm from Israel or the international community, which is struggling to cope with far deadlier Middle East conflicts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 20 of 30

in Syria and Iraq.

Palestinian official Ahmad Majdalani said France presented general ideas but no specifics about its plan. Still, he said the Palestinians support the initiative. He said a support group is expected to emerge from the conference which would help guide the negotiations.

A French diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because the details of the proposal have not been publicized, said his country hopes to hold the conference this summer.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said France's ambassador to Israel met a ministry official Tuesday but declined to provide details or discuss whether Israel would participate.

In a statement, Nahshon reiterated Israel's support for "direct negotiations with the Palestinians," adding that Israel "opposes attempts to predetermine the outcome of negotiations."

Washington, which has traditionally acted as a peace broker in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has not taken a public position on the French plan and appears to be waiting to hear more details.

The last peace negotiations, mediated by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, collapsed in April 2014, and the period since has been fraught with conflict. A war between Gaza militants and Israel later that year killed more than 2,200 Palestinians and 73 Israelis, and there is no end in sight to the current round of deadly Israeli-Palestinian violence that erupted last fall.

Israel says the current violence is fueled by a Palestinian campaign of lies and incitement. The Palestinians say it springs from frustrations over nearly half a century of Israeli occupation and failed peace efforts.

France has warned that if its peace efforts fail, it will recognize a Palestinian state. Israel says that would provide an incentive for the Palestinians to refuse to compromise. It insists a Palestinian state can only come about through direct negotiations.

Russia, Saudis tentatively offer to freeze oil output levels

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Russia's energy ministry says it has agreed with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela to freeze oil production levels if other producers do the same.

The ministry quoted Energy Minister Alexander Novak announcing the decision Tuesday following an unexpected, closed-door meeting involving the four countries in the Qatari capital, Doha.

He says the countries are willing to freeze output levels at January levels "if other oil producers join the initiative."

Getting other producers to go along with that could be tricky. Prices have fallen sharply slump in prices since summer 2014, leaving producers scrambling to win market share from competitors.

World stocks rise again on stimulus hopes, yuan's gain

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — World stock markets were mostly higher Tuesday as a strengthening yuan and hopes for more central bank stimulus gave investors relief from the mauling that markets have suffered so far this year.

KEEPING SCORE: European stocks were higher in early trading. France's CAC 40 climbed 0.4 percent to 4,131.18 and Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.2 percent to 5,831.64. Germany's DAX dipped 0.3 percent to 9,181.45. U.S. benchmarks were poised to open sharply higher after a long weekend. Dow futures rallied 1.5 percent to 16,148.00 and broader S&P 500 futures jumped 1.5 percent to 1,886.40.

STIMULUS HOPES: Investor sentiment remained positive that central banks would continue to ease monetary policy thanks to comments from the head of the European Central Bank. With the ECB set to discuss policy measures on March 10, Mario Draghi told the European Parliament on Monday that the bank has a range of instruments it can deploy if it decides more stimulus is needed. Earlier, a disappointing report on Japanese economic growth also raised hopes for more policy easing.

RENMINBI RELIEF: China's strengthening currency also helped boost sentiment. The yuan hovered near its strongest level so far this year a day after the central bank guided the currency, also known as the renminbi, sharply higher. Previous weakness in the yuan triggered worries the Chinese economy was in worse shape than thought. Meanwhile, new yuan loans jumped 71 percent in January, the official Xinhua

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 21 of 30

news agency reported Tuesday, suggesting solid demand in the world's No. 2 economy.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Since the start of January everything went south and we really needed some positive news," said Jackson Wong, associate director at Huarong International Securities. "Factors that were affecting the markets negatively have turned positive now: the yen is weaker, the renminbi is stronger, global markets like the U.S. are stabilizing. All the negative catalysts from January are turning better."

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.2 percent to close at 16,054.43 after soaring 7.2 percent the day before, which was its biggest daily gain since September. South Korea's Kospi rose 1.4 percent to 1,888.30 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 1.1 percent to 19,122.08. The Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China surged 3.3 percent to 2,836.57 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up 1.4 percent to 4,910.00. Benchmarks in Taiwan and most of Southeast Asia also rose.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose \$1.28, or 4.4 percent, to \$30.72 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$3.23 to settle at \$29.44 a barrel on Friday. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, added \$1.38 to \$34.77 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar eased to 114.06 yen from 114.54 yen in Monday's trading. The euro edged up to \$1.1174 from \$1.1168.

Obama to wrap summit with Southeast Asian leaders

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — President Barack Obama and leaders of Southeast Asian nations are wrapping up a two-day summit conceived to show U.S. seriousness about staying engaged and keeping a high profile in a region where a rising China has rattled American allies.

Obama and the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will spend Tuesday discussing regional security issues. They include counterterrorism and China's bold territorial claims to disputed waters of the South China Sea, moves that have sounded international alarms and heightened tensions with some association members.

The U.S. maintains these disputes should be resolved peacefully according to international law, a stance Obama emphasized Monday in welcoming leaders of ASEAN's 10-nation bloc: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

"Here at this summit, we can advance our shared vision of a regional order where international rules and norms, including freedom of navigation, are upheld and where disputes are resolved through peaceful, legal means," Obama said, opening the first ASEAN-only summit held in the U.S.

Obama was closing the summit with a news conference before returning to Washington.

China says it has a historical right to virtually all of the South China Sea and has built seven artificial islands, including with airstrips, to assert its sovereignty. Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines also claim land features in these potentially resource-rich international shipping lanes.

Though not a claimant, the U.S. has spoken out against China's conduct and has angered Beijing by sailing Navy ships near some of the artificial islands in a show of support for its allies. The U.S. has argued for the maritime rights issue to be resolved peacefully and is looking for ASEAN to take a unified stance and call for the disputes to be resolved based on international law. But unity could be hard to come by; ASEAN has avoided criticizing China by name in joint statements issued at past summits.

The diverse group of countries includes governments aligned either with Washington or Beijing. Only four of its members are embroiled in disputes with China and Taiwan, leading to sometimes conflicting views on how to handle long-simmering rifts.

Summit statements in recent years have expressed concern over the escalating conflicts and called for freedom of navigation and overflight in the disputed territories, but they have rarely gone to specifics.

The Philippines brought its territorial conflicts with China to international arbitration in early 2013 after Beijing refused to withdraw its ships from a disputed shoal under a U.S.-brokered deal. China has refused

to participate, but an arbitration tribunal based in The Hague heard the case and is expected to rule this year.

Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser, said Monday that negotiations were continuing on a potential joint statement that would cover various topics and not focus primarily on the South China Sea.

Past U.S.-ASEAN statements have underscored a commitment to resolving disputes peacefully, freedom of commerce and navigation, and rule of law, she said.

The leaders were expected Tuesday to also discuss counterterrorism. Obama mentioned the recent deadly attack in Indonesia that authorities blamed on militants linked to the Islamic State group. He said the "scourge of terrorism" demands that they stay vigilant, share information and work together to protect their citizens.

Cracking down on Pyongyang is difficult. Here's why

TIM SULLIVAN, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Repeatedly over the past six weeks, since the morning North Korea surprised the world with its fourth nuclear test, the United States, South Korea, Japan and their allies have vowed to get tough on Pyongyang.

"Reckless and dangerous," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's actions. In Japan, the military was put on alert when Pyongyang vowed to follow the nuclear test with a rocket launch — which it did a month later. In Seoul, the government said it would ensure North Korea faces "strong and effective" U.N. sanctions.

But what have North Korea's critics actually done? Not very much so far, it turns out, and even less that has been strong and effective.

Cracking down on Pyongyang is much tougher than it sounds. Here's why.

SANCTIONS

Much of the talk about North Korean sanctions comes from Seoul and Washington, but it's Beijing that holds most of the cards.

Late last week, after the Jan. 6 nuclear test and the Feb. 7 rocket launch, Congress tightened a series of existing sanctions, seeking to deny North Korea money for its weapons programs. The U.S. president already has sweeping powers to impose sanctions on companies and banks that do illicit business with North Korea, which is prohibited by the United Nations from nuclear and ballistic missile tests. The new legislation, which requires President Barack Obama's signature, takes it up a notch by making it mandatory to blacklist entities engaged with Pyongyang in the nuclear and missile technology trade.

Sanctions on North Korea have been around for years — imposed both by individual countries and the U.N. — but Pyongyang's weapons programs have grown only more sophisticated. While additional sanctions will hurt, North Korea has long been economically insulated by its relationship with China, its northern neighbor and main trade partner, which fears that strict sanctions could undermine the Pyongyang government, unleashing chaos.

While North Korea's economic isolation and the international financial system make it tricky to identify sanction targets and prove violations, the new U.S. legislation could hit companies in China that deal with the North, including those that buy its main exports — coal and minerals.

Lately, even Beijing has appeared more willing to support economic punishment for Pyongyang. In part, that reflects Chinese nervousness about discussions between Washington and Seoul over the deployment in South Korea of a THAAD missile network, one of the world's most advanced missile defense systems.

On Monday, the Chinese government-run English-language China Daily called THAAD a serious regional security threat, and said that "a sanctions package that is sufficient for Pyongyang to reevaluate its nuclear program," would stop its deployment.

"For that to happen," it said, "the new U.N. resolution must truly bite."

DIPLOMACY

Is North Korea a nuclear state? That question has largely paralyzed major diplomatic efforts on the Korean Peninsula for years.

The main diplomatic forum to try to get Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear program, the so-called six-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 23 of 30

party talks, hasn't met since 2008. Washington insists that Pyongyang show it's willing to end its nuclear program for the talks to begin again. Pyongyang, meanwhile, insists it is now a full-fledged nuclear power and demands that the world — and especially Washington — treat it as such.

Washington did engage directly with the North in 2012, but a painstakingly negotiated food-for-nuclear-disarmament deal fell apart weeks later when the North staged a rocket launch that Washington says was a banned missile test. That hardened the positions of many North Korea specialists in Washington.

Some in the international community now believe that North Korea will never abandon its nuclear program, and say the only way to negotiate with the North is to accept it as a nuclear power and work on a freeze, and then gradual arms reductions.

But with Washington steadfastly refusing to accept North Korea as a nuclear state — and North Korea steadfastly insisting it is one — diplomacy remains frozen.

MILITARY RESPONSE

What about simply erasing North Korea's weapons programs, launching missiles to destroy its weapons facilities? That strategy worked for Israel, some argue, when it sent bombers to destroy Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981.

Since the 1950s, though, the South Korea and the United States have wrestled — both internally and sometimes with each other — over how to respond to North Korean aggressions, from the 1968 guerrilla attack on South Korea's presidential palace to the 2010 shelling of the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong.

Again and again, though, the decision has been made to avoid military action. The immense danger on the Korean Peninsula is that any military response from the South could quickly spiral into all-out war. And with nearly half of South Korea's 50 million people living in or around Seoul — just 50 kilometers (35 miles) from the border and within range of the North's artillery batteries — Pyongyang could inflict immense damage on its rival in just minutes.

The potential risks are simply too high.

Can South Korea and the United States "bear the risks of suffering casualties on our side too?" asked Lim Eul Chul, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Kyungnam University. "I don't think the U.S. and South Korean leaders can afford that."

KAESONG

Just days ago, Seoul ordered the closure of the jointly run Kaesong industrial park, a manufacturing complex just inside North Korea, later saying Pyongyang had funneled most of the money from the park into its weapons programs.

Shutting the park will be painful for Pyongyang, but it will not cripple it. North Korea is a deeply impoverished country, with little industry and, because of sanctions, little trade with any nation but China.

Kaesong, where more than 120 South Korean companies employed more than 54,000 North Koreans, was an easy source of income for the North. Instead of paying the workers directly, money went to the North Korean government — \$120 million last year alone — which then paid only a fraction of that to the workers, South Korea says.

North Korean exports to China, though, are estimated to be 20 times higher than what it earned from industrial park. So unless China goes along with significant new sanctions, North Korea will be able to absorb Kaesong's closure and keep its economy hobbling along.

Senate GOP to Obama: Don't bother nominating to Court

DONNA CASSATA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans united behind Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in insisting that President Barack Obama's successor fill the Supreme Court vacancy after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Democrats looking to reclaim the Senate majority immediately accused them of putting politics ahead of their constitutional responsibility.

Vulnerable GOP incumbents in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New Hampshire and Ohio — all states that Obama won twice — echoed McConnell's contention that the winner of the presidency in November's election should choose the next jurist. Democrats counter that Obama is president until Jan. 20, 2017,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 24 of 30

and has every constitutional right to nominate Scalia's replacement.

"I believe the best thing for the country is to trust the American people to weigh in on who should make a lifetime appointment that could reshape the Supreme Court for generations," said GOP Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio.

Said Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania: "President Obama insists that he will nominate someone for the court. He certainly has the authority to do so. But let's be clear — his nominee will be rejected by the Senate."

Sen. Ted Cruz, the Texan who has practiced before the high court and is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, has made filling Scalia's vacancy the centerpiece of his campaign.

Obama has said he will fulfill his constitutional duty and nominate a replacement in due time. His Democratic allies made it clear that denying the president that right would be an unprecedented step and argued it would enshrine the GOP as "the most nakedly partisan, obstructionist and irresponsible majority in history."

"By ignoring its constitutional mandate, the Senate would sabotage the highest court in the United States and aim a procedural missile at the foundation of our system of checks and balances," Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said in an op-ed in Tuesday's Washington Post.

Senate Republicans have the numbers in this consequential "advice and consent" fight.

Republicans outnumber Democrats 11-9 on the Judiciary Committee, which would hold confirmation hearings and vote on whether to send the nominee to the full Senate. The GOP holds the majority, 54-46, and Democrats face an almost insurmountable task in trying to get 14 Republicans to join them in breaking a certain filibuster.

Beyond math is the political calculus. Control of the Senate is at stake this election and Democrats looking to unseat Portman and Toomey — along with New Hampshire's Kelly Ayotte and Wisconsin's Ron Johnson — have seized on their call to wait until next year.

In a fundraising appeal, Ohio Democrat Ted Strickland said Portman "has a clear choice to make: He can look out for his party and D.C. special interests by holding back President Obama's nominee, or he can do his job for the people of Ohio."

In New Hampshire, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan criticized Ayotte and argued that Obama's constitutional right to nominate isn't suspended in his last year in office. In Pennsylvania, three Democrats looking to take on Toomey railed against the partisanship over senatorial responsibility.

Democrats are counting on the pressure on Republican senators to force McConnell to allow a nominee to move forward, though the majority leader has shown no signs of relenting since his statement within hours of Scalia's death on Saturday that the vacancy should not be filled until a new president is sworn in.

Various conservative groups which claimed victory when moderate Republican Speaker John Boehner of Ohio stepped down last year, and have questioned McConnell's fealty, made it clear the GOP must stand firm.

"Senator McConnell is right: Under no circumstance should the Republican Senate majority confirm a Supreme Court nominee as Americans are in the midst of picking the next president," said Michael Needham of Heritage Action. "Republican rhetoric condemning President Obama's willful disregard for the rule of law will ring hollow if they do confirm a nominee."

Republicans and Democrats have battled this year over Senate production — or lack of it — as possible action on trade and criminal justice reform look increasingly unlikely. Obama's allies made clear that if a nominee is ignored or delayed, they will accuse the GOP majority of obstruction, and use that argument in their bid to win back the Senate.

"Senate Republicans continue to think that governing is as simple as being against President Obama at every turn," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate. "It's not, and the American people deserve better leadership than they're getting with this Congress."

One of the most vulnerable Senate Republicans is Durbin's Illinois colleague, Sen. Mark Kirk, who argued that Washington should honor Scalia's life "before the inevitable debate erupts."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 25 of 30

Grammys featured nearly as many tributes as new music

DAVID BAUDER, AP Entertainment Writer

Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift and Alabama Shakes were the biggest winners at a Grammy Awards ceremony that, due to the recent deaths of some seminal stars, felt as much a tribute to music's past as its present.

Monday's ceremony included performances honoring David Bowie, Glenn Frey, B.B. King, Maurice White of Earth, Wind & Fire and Lemmy Kilmister of Motorhead, along with an extended clip of Natalie Cole. All died within the past year.

Lamar scored five Grammys for his breakthrough album "To Pimp a Butterfly," the night's biggest haul. But he was shut out of Grammy's Big Four. Swift won top album for "1989," Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars earned top record for "Uptown Funk," Ed Sheeran won song of the year for "Thinking Out Loud" and Meghan Trainor was named best new artist.

LAMAR'S BREAKOUT

Besides his five Grammys, Lamar had one of the night's most intense, riveting performances. A week after Beyonce's Super Bowl show saluted the black power movement, Lamar opened his "The Blacker the Berry" performance in chains, dressed in a prison uniform along with several dancers. A fire burned behind him as he rapped "Alright," and a backdrop included a map of Africa with the California city "Compton" written on it.

Actor Don Cheadle noted that Lamar's disc "daringly incorporated jazz, funk, soul and pure poetry into a hip-hop masterpiece." He earned a shoutout from President Barack Obama's White House twitter feed.

He won best rap album, rap performance, rap song, rap/sung performance and music video. But his disappearance from CBS' broadcast after the first hour is sure to renew debate over Grammy voters' attitudes toward rap.

"Each of the categories has its own flavor and its own experts who are in the academy who have a particular passion and knowledge about it," said Neil Portnow, recording academy president, adding that the largest number of academy members vote in the big categories.

TAYLOR'S TOUCHÉ

Swift's show-opening performance of "Out of the Woods" was marred by sound problems of the sort that later bedeviled Adele and Alice Cooper. Yet her album of the year win — the second of her career in that category — was a particularly timely triumph.

She addressed fellow women artists in her acceptance speech.

"There are going to be people along the way who try to undercut your success or take credit for your accomplishments or your fame," she said. She urged others not to be sidetracked by the naysayers and know that when they succeed, it will be the people who loved you who put you there.

The clear but unspoken reference was to Kanye West, who several years ago grabbed a microphone from Swift at the MTV Video Music Awards and last week released a song with a crude comment about her and suggestion that he made her famous.

Swift's "1989" also won best pop vocal album, and she won a video award for "Bad Blood."

TRIBUTE TIME

The tributes to the deceased stars took several forms. Stevie Wonder, wishing that Earth, Wind & Fire's White "rest in eternal bliss and peace," sang "That's The Way of the World" with the vocal group Pentatonix.

Surviving Eagles members, joined by Jackson Browne, played a stately version of "Take it Easy," with a giant Frey portrait backing them as the song came to a close.

Lady Gaga's Bowie tribute was a visual wonder, with one of this generation's most visually arresting artists honoring one whose biggest moments were decades ago. The visuals overwhelmed the music, though, and Gaga may have been better served not trying to pack too many hits in. A commercial immediately following the performance for a technology company involved in the production was a discordant note, too.

SHAKING IT

Alabama Shakes won three awards and plenty of respect. Lead singer Brittany Howard, during a performance of "Don't Wanna Fight," conveyed more power and emotion in just her voice than the noisy Hollywood Vampires supergroup of Alice Cooper, Johnny Depp and Joe Perry did with a mess of tattoos,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 26 of 30

flames, flashing lights and loud guitars. "Don't Wanna Fight" won Grammys for best rock song and rock performance.

"I never imagined," Howard said later backstage. "I know it sounds cliché, but it's true. Having to speak to that many people knowing all our friends and family were at home was surreal. It still seems surreal."

FUNK IT UP

"Uptown Funk" was the year's most ubiquitous song, and when it won record of the year, Ronson paid tribute to some funk forebears — including George Clinton, who smiled from the audience. Said Mars: "We wouldn't be up here if it wasn't for the people dancing to this song."

MOM & DAD

Ed Sheeran made moms and dads throughout the television audience melt by saluting his beaming parents after winning song of the year. Sheeran, who also won best pop vocal performance, noted that he had flown them over three times before after he was nominated but hadn't won. Grammy producers severely shortchanged his co-writer on "Thinking Out Loud," Amy Wadge, by cutting away before she could even speak.

Meghan Trainor, after winning best new artist, couldn't fight off the tears. Neither could her dad in the audience.

"My heart was exploding," she said later. "I was like, 'don't forget anyone and don't have snot running your face. Don't forget your parents.'"

SITTING IT OUT

Rihanna was due to perform near the top of the show, but didn't make it because he doctor ordered her to rest her voice for two days.

MULTIPLE TROPHIES

Other multiple Grammy winners on Monday included The Weeknd, Skrillex and Diplo, Chris Stapleton, Little Big Town and Jason Isbell.

After years in solitary, a woman struggles to carry on

JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Six weeks after her arrival at Rikers Island, an argument over who should clean a jailhouse shower sent Candie Hailey to solitary confinement — known as "the bing."

It was the first time, but it would not be the last.

A month later, records show, she cursed and spit at a guard and resisted when she was put in a hold. Ninety-five days in the bing. She later got 70 days for cursing at an officer, splashing the guard with toilet water and refusing to stop. Among other infractions: fighting (40 days), disrespect of staff (30 days) and blocking her cell window (15 days).

Of her first 29 months in jail, Hailey served about 27 alone in a 6-by-10-foot cell, with a bed, a toilet and a few books to pass the time. When she did go outside, it was just for one hour in 24. And she had yet to be tried for any crime, let alone convicted.

At least eight times in the course of her more than three-year incarceration, she would be taken to the hospital after suicide attempts in solitary that included trying to swallow hair remover product, pills and the chemicals inside an instant ice pack, banging her head on a wall and trying to electrocute herself by putting a phone cord in her cell's toilet.

Hailey could not abide solitary confinement. But that was the only place her jailers felt they could put her.

Candie Hailey's wretched stay at Rikers — detailed in official documents and hours of interviews — is a case study in solitary confinement and its consequences.

Many criminal justice experts say officials too often rely on solitary to punish inmates, disregarding the effect on troubled men and women like Hailey. Research has shown that solitary can be psychologically distressing, especially for prisoners who go into it with preexisting mental illnesses.

Even though long-term use of isolation is increasingly being challenged — in statehouses, the courts and even by President Barack Obama, who last month banned its use for juveniles as punishment for low-level

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 27 of 30

infractions in federal prisons — it's still the most common correctional tool nationwide used to keep order.

Hailey, who was diagnosed at Rikers with a borderline character disorder, mood disorder and anti-social personality disorder, quickly adopted a perverse survival strategy: Act out and you get out, if only temporarily for treatment.

"I would take the feces and I put it all over me," she recalls. "I said, 'If you're gonna treat me like a dog, I'm gonna act like one.'"

Hailey believed she was treated unfairly from the moment of her arrival at Rikers' 800-bed, all-women's Rose M. Singer Center — Rosie's, as it's called.

Her arrest on attempted murder charges following a 2012 fight with three other women was widely publicized, with at least one city tabloid seizing on the fact that one of the women's 4-month-old baby girl was left with a skull fracture and a deep cut above her eye. Guards and fellow inmates gave her a scurrious nickname: "baby killer."

When Hailey was examined after the eight suicide attempts, psychiatrists who saw her came to the same conclusion: She was manipulative, a malingerer, intentionally hurting herself to escape solitary. The cause of this behavior, they said, was her underlying personality disorder.

"I'm being treated as a criminal, but I am the victim," she told a mental health worker.

But Hailey wasn't a candidate for units for the most seriously mentally ill because she didn't have a diagnosis of severe depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. So, more often than not, after her suicide attempts she was placed on suicide watch and sent back to the bing. The only mental health care she received in solitary consisted of brief consultations at her cell's door.

"I can't endure this abuse evermore," she wrote in a handwritten suicide note to her father in the summer of 2014. "The truth will come to light, while death shall set me free."

Hailey's monthlong trial last May ended with a verdict of not guilty. Hailey was free to return to the Bronx.

Jail officials wouldn't discuss Hailey's case specifically. But city Corrections Department spokeswoman Eve Kessler said officials have reduced the number of inmates serving their time in solitary by about two-thirds in the past two years, noting that "everyone in our custody deserves to be treated safely and humanely."

In more than three years Hailey spent in jail, she spent 2 1/3 years in solitary. And in the nine months since she was freed, she has struggled to break free from the trauma of her confinement.

"Honestly I think I'd be better off in jail," the now-32-year-old Hailey said after yet another failed trip to court to regain custody of her two children. "It's like a nightmare, like everyone's out there trying to get me."

She had reunited with her younger sisters and father and promptly dissociated from them; struggled to regain her welfare benefits and strove to complete a still-unresolved divorce.

Housing has been a continuing struggle. She cycled out of two different city shelters, got locked out of a \$100-per-week room in the Bronx. By December, she had resorted to riding subway trains through the night. Twice since her release, she's tried to kill herself. And for months she stopped attending weekly counseling sessions

Just before the end of the year, Hailey gained placement in another apartment for people with mental health problems and agreed to return to counseling. But she was still fearful her cycle of problems would never end.

"I would say I've been through hell and back," she said. "My soul died but my body is alive."

Authorities say driver intentionally hit, killed jogger

WALNUT, Calif. (AP) — A driver has been arrested after authorities say he deliberately ran down and killed a jogger in a Los Angeles suburb.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says 36-year-old Haissan Massalkhy of West Covina was booked Monday on suspicion of murder.

He was jailed on \$1 million bail. It's unclear whether he has a lawyer.

Authorities say shortly before 6 a.m., Massalkhy's Toyota Camry struck 59-year-old Chi Shao of Walnut,

who was jogging in a Walnut bike lane.

Authorities say the jogger was carried several yards on the car's hood before it went off the road and smashed into a backyard brick wall.

Sheriff's Lt. David Buckner says it appears the driver intentionally struck the jogger although they didn't know each other.

There's no word on a motive.

Pope turns eye to Mexico's drug heartland in Michoacan stop

NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

PETER ORSI, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Pope Francis heads into the heart of Mexico's drug-trafficking country Tuesday for meetings with young people, whom he is holding up as the hope for a better future for a country wracked by the violence and gang warfare of the drug trade.

Francis' visit to Morelia, the capital of Michoacan state, a hotbed of narcotics production and smuggling, will also give him a chance to send a message about his vision for the future of the Mexican church.

Last year, Francis made a cardinal out of Morelia Archbishop Alberto Suarez Inda, one of several "peripheral" bishops elevated to the highest ranks of the church's governance.

Like the pope, Suarez Inda has called for Mexico's church leaders to put aside their comfortable lives and become pastors with the "smell of their sheep." It's a famous phrase of the pope's about the need for bishops to accompany their flock closely through life's ups and downs.

Since beginning his Mexico trip Friday night, Francis has repeatedly taken to task the Mexican church leadership, many of whom have been reluctant to criticize the wealthy and powerful elite to whom they have close ties.

On Saturday in Mexico City, he scolded what he called gossiping, career-minded and aloof clerics, and admonished them to stand by their flock and offer "prophetic courage" in facing down the drug trade. In an inscription in a seminary guestbook, he urged future priests to be pastors of God instead of "clerics of the state."

The pope's stop in Morelia signals that he fully backs Suarez Inda's pastoral program and holds him up as a model for other clerics to emulate.

In 2013, at what was perhaps the height of the violence in Michoacan, Suarez Inda led eight other bishops in signing an unusually outspoken letter accusing government authorities of "complicity, forced or willing," with criminal gangs. It urged priests to "do whatever is in your power" to help people in an atmosphere of kidnappings, killings and extortion and to "carry out concrete actions in favor of peace and reconciliation."

Suarez Inda clearly backs Francis' ideas about the role of clerics in contemporary Mexico, echoing the pope's admonition that "pastors should not be bureaucrats and we bishops should not have the mentality or attitude of princes."

The pope "shakes up the conscience of priests in order that we not be mediocre, installed priests who simply seek social promotion, but rather that we truly live our calling to serve the people with great generosity," Suarez Inda told the Mexican newspaper El Universal last month.

Suarez Inda was also part of a group of clergy from Michoacan and neighboring Guerrero state who prepared a report on Mexico's drug violence last year that he said left Francis "very shocked and impressed."

Francis may outline more of his vision for the church during a Mass celebrated with clerics, seminarians and nuns at a stadium.

But the day's highlight could come in his final event, a gathering of Mexican youth. Francis often speaks off the cuff when meeting with young people, and he will almost certainly touch on the drug problem.

Much of Michoacan is part of a region called Tierra Caliente, or the Hot Lands, known for both its blistering temperatures and brutal tactics by gangsters eager to control lucrative drug-production territory and smuggling routes.

By 2013, the pseudo-religious, evangelical-inspired Knights Templar cartel was widely kidnapping and extorting money and dominating the state's economic and political scene so much that local farmers took

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 29 of 30

up arms against them. But the uprising by the vigilante-style "self-defense" forces brought little peace to the state, with the groups fighting among themselves even as new criminal gangs sprang up or tried to muscle their way into Michoacan, a big source of methamphetamine production.

"I'm excited about the pope's visit, but the reality is that people are afraid. Right now there is a festive atmosphere and a lot of police, but in the day-to-day it's not that calm. Crime has risen," said Yulisa Duran, an 18-year-old nursing student sitting with her boyfriend in Morelia's main square.

"I lived in a tiny town that was very gentle, and then the (cartel) came in," Duran added.

On Monday, Francis denounced centuries-old exploitation and exclusion of Mexico's indigenous people in the southern state of Chiapas and said the world can learn from their traditions.

"Some have considered your values, culture and traditions to be inferior," he said. "Others, intoxicated by power, money and market trends, have stolen your lands or contaminated them."

He called for a collective "Forgive me."

In San Cristobal de las Casas, Francis celebrated a Mass that featured readings in native Mayan languages. He also made a point of praying before the tomb of Bishop Samuel Ruiz, who ministered to Mexico's poorest and supported the controversial practice of blending their indigenous culture into Catholic rituals.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2016. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Alabama.

On this date:

In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates during the First Barbary War.

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1937, Dr. Wallace H. Carothers, a research chemist for Du Pont who'd invented nylon, received a patent for the synthetic fiber.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1988, seven people were shot to death during an office rampage in Sunnyvale, California, by a man obsessed with a co-worker who was wounded in the attack. (The gunman, Richard Farley, is on death row.)

In 1996, 11 people were killed in a fiery collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland commuter train in Silver Spring, Maryland. Former California Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 90.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300-600R trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus six on the ground.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Army said goodbye to its last Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, handing over equipment from the MASH unit to doctors and nurses in Pakistan, the scene of an Oct. 2005 earthquake. President George W. Bush said he was satisfied with Vice President Dick Cheney's explanation about his

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 203 ♦ 30 of 30

shooting accident; Texas authorities said they had closed their investigation without filing any charges. Rene Preval was declared the winner of Haiti's presidential election. Russia's Evgeni Plushenko beat world champion Stephane Lambiel of Switzerland by 27.12 points to win the gold medal in men's figure skating at the Winter Games in Turin, Italy.

Five years ago: Bookstore chain Borders filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and said it would close nearly a third of its stores. (Borders closed all of its remaining stores in September 2011.) Huge crowds called for a political overhaul in Bahrain, and leaders appeared to shift tactics after attempts to crush the uprising stoked protesters' rage.

One year ago: Egyptian warplanes struck Islamic State targets in Libya, hours after the extremist group released a grisly video showing the beheading of Egyptian Coptic Christians it had held hostage for weeks. Singer-songwriter Lesley Gore, 68, died in New York. Lorena Rojas, 44, a popular Mexican soap opera and movie actress, died in Miami.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 71. Actor William Katt is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer James Ingram is 64. Actor LeVar Burton is 59. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 58. Actress Lisa Loring is 58. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 57. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 55. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 51. Actress Sarah Clarke is 45. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) is 44. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 43. Actor Mahershala Ali is 42. Singer Sam Salter is 41. Electronic dance music artist Bassnectar is 38. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 34. Actress Chloe Wepper is 30. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follis (FAHL'-eh-say) (Hot Chelle (SHEL) Rae) is 29. Rock musician Danielle Haim (HYM) is 27. Actress Elizabeth Olsen is 27. Actor Mike Weinberg is 23.

Thought for Today: "I am content to define history as the past events of which we have knowledge and refrain from worrying about those of which we have none — until, that is, some archaeologist digs them up." — Barbara W. Tuchman, American historian (1912-1989).