

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 1 of 30

- 1- Dakota Tree Company Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Dollar General is appealed
- 4- Pappas is outstanding presiding officer
- 5- Dr. Holm's Column
- 6- Putney Putovers 4-H Meetings
- 6- Service Notice: Thelma Rossow
- 7- Friendly Fellows/Daisies 4-H
- 7- Groton Lions Club gives scholarships
- 7- Blood drive set for April 12
- 7- Handyman looking for work
- 7- Golden Living Center ad
- 7- City of Columbia Help Wanted
- 7- Geary Bridal Shower
- 8 - Today in Weather History
- 9- Local Weather Forecast
- 10- National Weather Map
- 10- Local Weather
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12 - News from the Associated Press

## Thursday, March 31

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

**School Lunch:** BBQ, French fries, romaine lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice, chow mein noodles, broccoli, bread sticks, sour cream apple pie square

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

## Friday, April 1

FFA Little I in Brookings

Student Congress at Brookings

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Chicken nuggets, smile potato, broccoli and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Cody Hanson, Jake McKiver, Melanie Rossow

## Saturday, April 2

State DI Competition in Mitchell

**Birthdays:** Doug Doeden, Vera Musil, Randy Jaeschke

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

## Sunday, April 3

**Birthdays:** Adlyn Larsen, Haley Unzen, Marc Johnson, Randy Jaeschke, Sue Stanley

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Worship with Communion

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

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

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE  
COMPANY**

## The site of the proposed Dollar General Store



### P&Z turns down special exception, decision appealed to city council

The proposed Dollar General store on the east side of Main Street, south of US 12, has been creating a stir in the Groton community. The area in question was zoned R3 in 2001 from highway commercial. A commercial use in an R3 is an allowable special exception. The Planning and Zoning Commission tabled its decision on February 22 with the hearing continuing Monday night. This venue was at the Groton Community Center with about 40 people in attendance.

Tyler Oliver, the developer, was also on hand, but his comments were limited to drainage. Doug Sombke spoke for nearly 20 minutes and about 12 minutes into his talk, several residents got up and walked out of the meeting.

Oliver said that he has been working with Clark Engineering to develop a plan so the site can self contain its own water.

City Zoning Administrator Anita Lowary said that the city has a 15 inch storm sewer pipe in the area which is good for a five inch rain in 24 hours - which is a 100 year event. Sombke said that for a commercial area, the storm sewer needs to be 32 inches.

Sombke talked about several issues referring to the Dollar General store. He asked why someone from Dollar General was not present at the meeting, or why no one from Dollar General has talked to the neighbors about the store. "Dollar General stores are not friendly neighbors," he said.

Sombke asked the commissioners how many of them have been to a Dollar General Store, of which only one commissioner had been to a store. "You're not doing your research by not visiting another Dollar General store," he said. Sombke also projected that the values of the neighboring property will change substantially, referring to the property being devalued. He said there is room on the west side of town, 300'x300' areas, and no one has approached them about having a store there. "There's room by the curve by the golf course and no one has approached them," he said. "All of which have DOT approved approaches." He said that there will be traffic congestion for any type of truck coming onto Main Street for a driveway that is only 30 feet from the highway.

Sombke said that he visited the store in Webster over the weekend. "I'm just telling you that the clientele - I'm not being judgemental, but just saying that I didn't see anyone of the likes like you in the store."

Will there be a Dollar General store in Groton? Sombke said, "I have from a very, very reliable source, whether you approve it or not, that there will be a Dollar General store in Groton. If that is the case, why do we have to be so animate about it being in that location?"

Sombke address the electrical line going through the lot. The parking lot would be built over it and that should cause concern for those living north of US 12. (If something were to happen to that line, power would be fed to the Olson Development area from the west as there is a loop feed for the area.)

Sombke said if the store were to go there, they should build a white, 8ft. Fence on the west, south and east side of the property. He questioned about the lights. He said in the Webster store, there are huge halogen lights. And if the store were to expand in the future, where would it expand too? he asked. Spending wise, Sombke said, "All it's going to do is shift the spending. We're not going to see an increase in spending."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 3 of 30

In concluding, Sombke said, "Please get the Dollar General to share what they are going to do for this great community of Groton, South Dakota."

Eddy Opp said that he was in favor of the store. "I've talked to many people and there was not one person who was against it or against having it at that location." He talked about the elevators and the motor noise and truck traffic. "It's a business in Groton and we need the farmers like the farmers need us. If we want our town to grow, we better take businesses that want to come to town."

Scott Hanlon said, "This is not about the individual. This is about our community. I believe this Dollar General store will be good for the community. I have talked to a lot of people. If we let this go and it don't wind up in another spot, we will regret it."

Marcy Blackmun said she gets why Groton needs the business, but there were other concerns as well. "We have had businesses in town that are now in Aberdeen because we didn't support them." She also talked about the safety of the children in the area with the increased traffic coming off the highway. She also talked about the lighting as well as they live next to the nursing home that has bright halogen lights that shine in their windows, and there was nothing they could do about it. "Everything has to be lit up," she said.

Steve Smith, who lives across the street from the proposed store, said that having the store open 16 hours a day for 364 days a year does not fit into a residential area. He also questioned of what their homes will be valued at after the store is built and Planning and Zoning Commission President Les Hinds said that he talked with the assessor and that the assessed valuation will not go down, but said he was not in the situation to say if they will increase.

Carol Smith said that she stopped at a Dollar General store in Vermillion and the entire north side was full of pallets with recycled material. "It looked absolutely junky," she said. "How do you control that?"

Les Hinds said he talked with an engineer who is very familiar with SD DOT Codes. According to the DOT Design Manual Chapter 17, there is a chapter that refers to Access Management. It states that a minimum upstream corn clearance at 30 mph should be 200 feet. Commissioner Jeff Steen said the proposed driveway is 25-30 feet south of the stop sign. Oliver said the driveway will be designed according to the South Dakota DOT. "We have done 25 stores in South Dakota and we have a pretty good feel of their specifications. This will have to be presented to the DOT and we will have to gain their approval. This is the best side for Dollar General."

The commission voted 3-2 to deny the special exception. Those voting in favor were Gordon Nelson, who made the motion and said, "For the progress of the town, I move to grant the special exception." Tyke Nyberg seconded the motion and he also voted for it. Those voting no were Chris Kahli, Jeff Steen and Les Hinds.

Oliver will now be appealing the decision to the city council. They will take up the matter at the April 4th meeting.

Also, the Independent has learned that Tyke Nyberg has submitted his resignation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the council will be acting on that request as well at the April 4th meeting.

**The video of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting about the Dollar General store is posted on-line. Go to [www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com) and click on the link on the right side of the page. To date, the video has been watched 273 times. That is above the 250 times it was watched on the Livestream.**

**The April 4th City Council Meeting will be Livestreamed at [gdilive.com](http://gdilive.com)**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 4 of 30

## Dollar General Survey

The Groton Daily Independent launched a Dollar General Survey this week and we have already received 270 results. Here is what they are up to this point.

Those voting who live in the city limits: 62 percent, rural Groton 16 percent, within 25 miles of Groton 17 percent and those further than 25 miles from Groton 6 percent.

How often would you shop at the Dollar General Store in Groton? 4 percent said more than 3 times a week, 41 percent 1-3 times per week, 20 percent 2-3 times a month, 16 percent once a month and 19 percent would never shop at the store.

Those in favor of having it at Main St. and US 12 were 66 percent, those opposed to that location were 21 percent and others who said in some other location was 18 percent.

The bottom line - should Groton have a Dollar General Store? 80 percent said yes and 20 percent said no.

If you would like to vote on the survey, go to [www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com), and click on Dollar General Survey on the right hand side.



**Keri Pappas, a junior at GHS, earned the Outstanding Presiding Officer award for Experienced House 2 at the March 29, 2016 Milbank Congressional Debate Contest. Also competing in congressional debate at this contest was senior Katie Miller. Groton will compete at two more congressional debates-- April 1, 2016 at Brookings and April 8, 2016 at Pierre.**



**By Richard P. Holm M.D.**

## Coming home

Raised in the small prairie town of DeSmet, South Dakota, it seemed natural, and affordable, to attend undergraduate and medical school in this state. Back then, as a SD med student, we all had to leave for our second two years of medical school someplace else and I chose to go to Atlanta, Georgia, mostly to see what it was like far away and in a big city. I stayed there eight years, the last three

teaching, and came back with my Floridian life-partner in 1981. (That was a leap of love on her part.)

It's been 35 years practicing primary care internal medicine here; soon my job will change to a part-time educator-researcher; and so, in the last month I've been referring my patients to other care providers. The exercise has been melancholy, filled with good-byes and lots of fond, glad, and sad memories.

This has highlighted in my mind the need for primary care providers in rural SD, and everywhere really. We simply don't have enough Family Physicians and Internists in our country, and as Baby Boomers are approaching old age and frailty, it's only going to get worse. In a recent report from the Center for Health System Change, they note, "Rural areas have 53 primary care doctors and 54 specialists for every 100,000 people who live there." Experts say that's the right balance of equal parts primary care to specialist, but the problem is in the total numbers." In contrast, urban areas have 78 primary care physicians and 134 specialists." Better numbers but overloaded toward specialists.

What can be done to resolve this predicament? The rural-dilemma answer seems not in salary. Maggie Maher, a financial journalist said, "It is not... about how much doctors make; it's about where they make it." Rural SD may not be where the spouse, male or female, can get a job, or wants to live. Maher explains more significant is the indication that many physicians are drawn to city/urban life for it's anonymity and privacy. Patients know you professionally but not personally.

Just the opposite makes more sense to me. Medical practice in a rural area is better than urban because of the connectedness; it's about the relationships that develop within a smaller community. We see our patients not only at the office, but at the grocery store, football games, movies, and church. And it makes physicians more accountable, which is to everyone's advantage. Med students need to realize this.

I've been blessed, and am thankful for a professional life jam-packed with wonderful and personal connections. I wouldn't have it any other way.

To hear more from Dr. Holm, visit his website, [www.PrairieDoc.org](http://www.PrairieDoc.org). On Call with the Prairie Doc is produced by the Healing Words Foundation in association with the South Dakota State University journalism department and airs Thursdays on South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television at 7 p.m. CT, 6 p.m. MT, and streams live at [www.PrairieDoc.org](http://www.PrairieDoc.org).

## Putney Putovers 4-H Secretary's Report (March 7th, 2016)

The Putney Putovers 4-H club met March 7th, 2016 at the Groton Community Center. The meeting was called to order by President Carly Wheeting. The flag pledges were led by: US: Braden Althoff State: Cole Simon 4-H: Carly Wheeting. Roll call was completed with the topic "Favorite Sports Team". The Secretary's Report was read by Hailey Monson; it was approved by Alexis Hanten and seconded by Dylan Krueger. Treasure's Report was read by Lucas Simon; it was approved by Jillian Hughes and seconded by Hannah Monson. There were no bills. Community service was reported by Alexis Hanten and Hailey Monson, who gave out valentines at the Golden Living Center. Carly Wheeting worked at the concession stands, Jillian Hughes helped clean up at DI, and the following served at church: Lucas Simon, Dylan Krueger, Aspen Johnson, Ashley Johnson, Caleb Hanten, Hailey Monson and Hannah Monson.

There was no old business. In new business, several items from the 4-H Newshound were discussed. Members are encouraged to update emails with the Brown County 4-H Office. There will be a 4-H Foundation Phonathon coming up April 3rd and 4th, and members are encouraged to volunteer. Those interested in dog projects will have some opportunities coming up in both Warner and Redfield. Important dates coming up include: Special Foods Contest-June 23rd, Fashion Review-July 14th, 4-H Public Presentation-March 28th and July 12th, Market Beef papers are due March 31st and other livestock forms are due May 31st. 4-Hers with livestock are encouraged to check the Newshound for many important dates coming up. Fruit is to be delivered March 15th; parent volunteers will assist with organizing boxes with sellers. Judging opportunities are coming up including the local FFA/4-H Judging Contest on March 19th in Groton, as well as the Little International exposition, which will be held on April 1st and 2nd at SDSU in Brookings.

The next meeting will be April 4th at the Simon's house at 6:00 P.M. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Lucas Simon and seconded by Ashley Johnson. There were no talks or demonstrations at this meeting. The meeting was adjourned by President Carly Wheeting, and snacks were provided by Ashley and Aspen Johnson.

---Hailey Monson, Secretary

## Putney Putovers 4-H Secretary's Report (February 20th, 2016)

The Putney Putovers 4-H club met February 20th, 2016 at the Odd Ice Arena for their winter ice skating party. Thirteen members were present for the party. The most recent Newshound was handed out and reviewed, which included a review of the important dates coming up. The next 4-H meeting is planned for March 7th at the Groton Community Center. Hostesses will be Ashley and Aspen Johnson.

---Hailey Monson, Secretary

## Service Notice: Thelma Rossow

Services for Thelma Rossow, 97, of Henderson, Nevada and formerly of Groton will be 11 a.m., Monday, April 4, 2016 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. The Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services on Monday.

Thelma died Monday, March 28, 2016 at her home in Henderson.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 7 of 30

## Friendly Fellows/ Daisies 4-H

The Friendly Fellows/ Daisies 4-H club met on March 6th, 2016 at the Claremont Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Trey Wright. The American pledge was led by Tucker Miller and the 4-H pledge was led by Nicole Marzahn. 18 members answered roll call which was "name a brand of clothing". There were no communications. The Treasurer and Secretaries Reports were approved as given. Old Business was the Ski trip to Andes Tower Hills was recapped and the Fundraisers success was discussed. Leader Mike Frey discussed numerous activities in the Newshound and 4-H Curriculum Books were talked about. The meeting was adjourned by Braden Boe and 2nd by Landon Marzahn. Andrew Marzahn gave a illustrated talk on Archery and Logan Warrington gave a illustrated talk on First Aid Kits. Lunch was served by Hannah, Mallory and Tucker Miller

Submitted by  
Colin Frey  
Club Reporter

## Groton Lions Club gives out \$4,500 in scholarships

Lee Schinkel, chairman of the Groton Lions Club scholarship committee, announced that the committee has selected nine high school seniors to each receive a \$500 college scholarship, from the Groton Lions Club. Winners to be announced later.

## Blood Drive set for April 12

Blood drive April 12th from 11:30am to 6pm at the Groton Legion. Call for an appointment Carol Osterman at 397-8498 or June Ackman at 397-8369

**City of Columbia has opening for city finance officer and city maintenance worker. Call at 396-2655 apply before April 4th application deadline.**

**Come and go bridal shower for Sarah Geary, bride-to-be of Sam Thorson, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and at Target.**

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605/397-2365**

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## Today in Weather History

March 31, 1967: Heavy snow of 6 to 15 inches combined with 30 to 50 mph winds, caused blizzard conditions across most of northeast South Dakota. Many roads became snow packed and impossible to travel on. This left many people stranded, especially along Interstate-29 and Highway 12. In Hamlin County, a man was injured when his snowmobile struck a snowplow in Bryant in the early evening. Also, in the early afternoon, 4 miles west of Lake Norden on Highway 28, a car crossed the lane and hit a semi. The car was destroyed with thousands of dollars of damage to the semi. The driver of the car was injured. Many schools were let out early on the 31st and were canceled for April 1st. Many activities and sports events were either postponed or canceled. In addition, many businesses were closed. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Doland, Conde, and Castlewood, 7 inches at Turton and Clear Lake, 8 inches at Clark and Britton, 9 inches at Bryant and Webster, 10 inches near Peever, and 11 inches at Summit. Snowfall amounts of a foot or more included, 12 inches at Watertown and Big Stone City, 13 inches at Victor, the Waubay NWR, and Sisseton, 14 inches at Wilmot, and 15 inches at Milbank.

March 31, 2014: A strong surface low pressure area moving across the region brought mixed precipitation to all of the area including rain, freezing rain, sleet, snow along with some thunder. As the precipitation changed to over to all snow, northwest winds increased substantially to 30 to 40 mph with gusts to 50 to 60 mph causing widespread blizzard conditions. Much of the area received a coating of ice with trace amounts up to a tenth of an inch with several locations receiving up to 2 inches of sleet. Snowfall amounts from 2 to as much as 10 inches occurred with this storm. The precipitation changed over to snow in the morning out west and into the late afternoon hours across the east. The light snow did not end in the eastern portion of South Dakota until the early morning hours of April 1st. Many schools, government offices, and businesses were closed or cancelled early. Travel was not advised across much of region with Interstate-29 being closed for a time from Brookings to the North Dakota border.

1942: 107 inches of rain fell during the month at Puu Kukui at Maui, Hawaii to set the U.S. record for rainfall in one month. The same place also holds the annual rainfall record for the United States with 578 inches in 1950.








1962: A tornado struck the town of Milton, Florida killing 17 persons and injuring 100 others. It was the worst tornado disaster in Florida history.

1973: A devastating tornado took a nearly continuous 75 mile path through north central Georgia causing more than 104 million dollars damage.



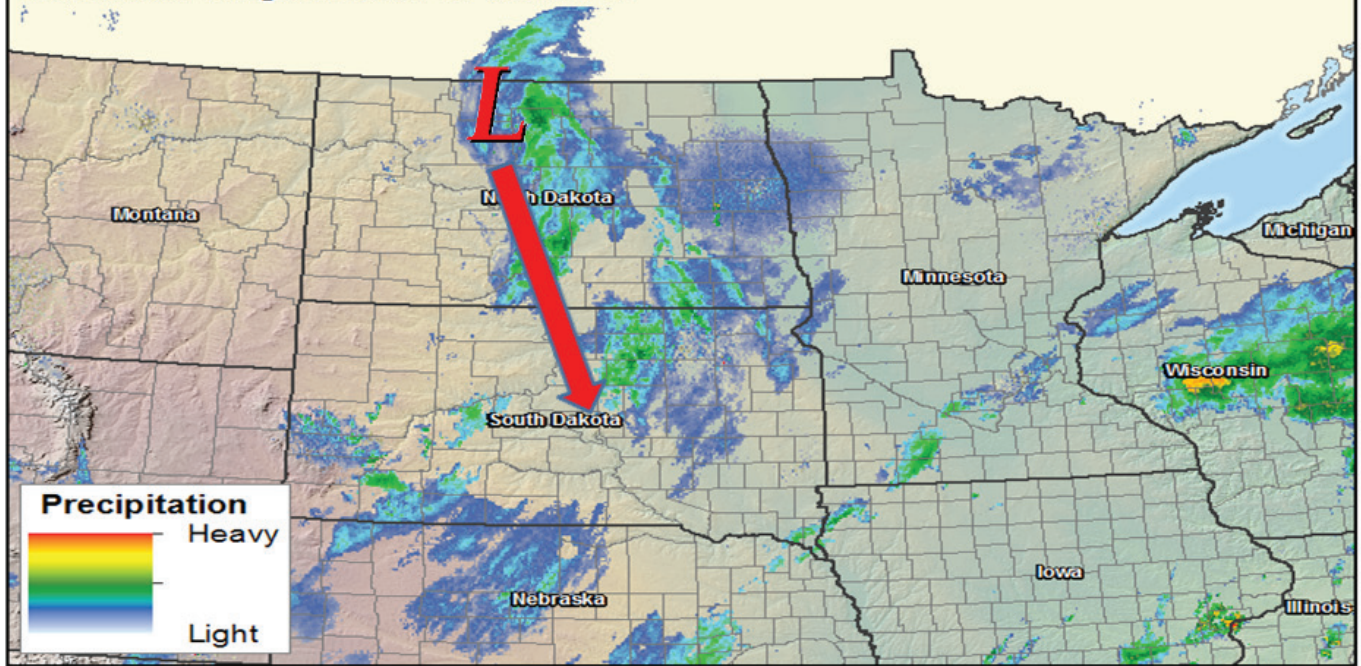
# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 9 of 30

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
 70%   60%	 30%   20%					
Rain/Snow Likely then Rain Likely and Breezy	Chance Rain/Snow and Blustery then Slight Chance Snow	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 46 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 44 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 65 °F

## Cooler Today With Areas of Rain

NWS Radar Image 6:16 AM ET 3/31/2016



Source: Iowa Environmental Mesonet

0 100 200 Miles

Created by the National Weather Service



National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Published on: 03/31/2016 at 5:46AM

Low pressure will move south across the Dakotas today, bringing areas of rain, cooler temperatures and windy conditions. The strongest winds will be felt over western and central South Dakota where gusts could top 45 mph. Early this morning, rain is being observed over central North Dakota southward into portions of South Dakota. This area of rain will move south-southeast through the day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 10 of 30

## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 52.7 at 5:22 PM

**Low:** 34.0 at 11:55 PM

**High Gust:** 23 at 12:31 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 86° in 1946

**Record Low:** 0 in 1899

**Average High:** 48°F

**Average Low:** 26°F

**Average Precip in March.:** 1.11

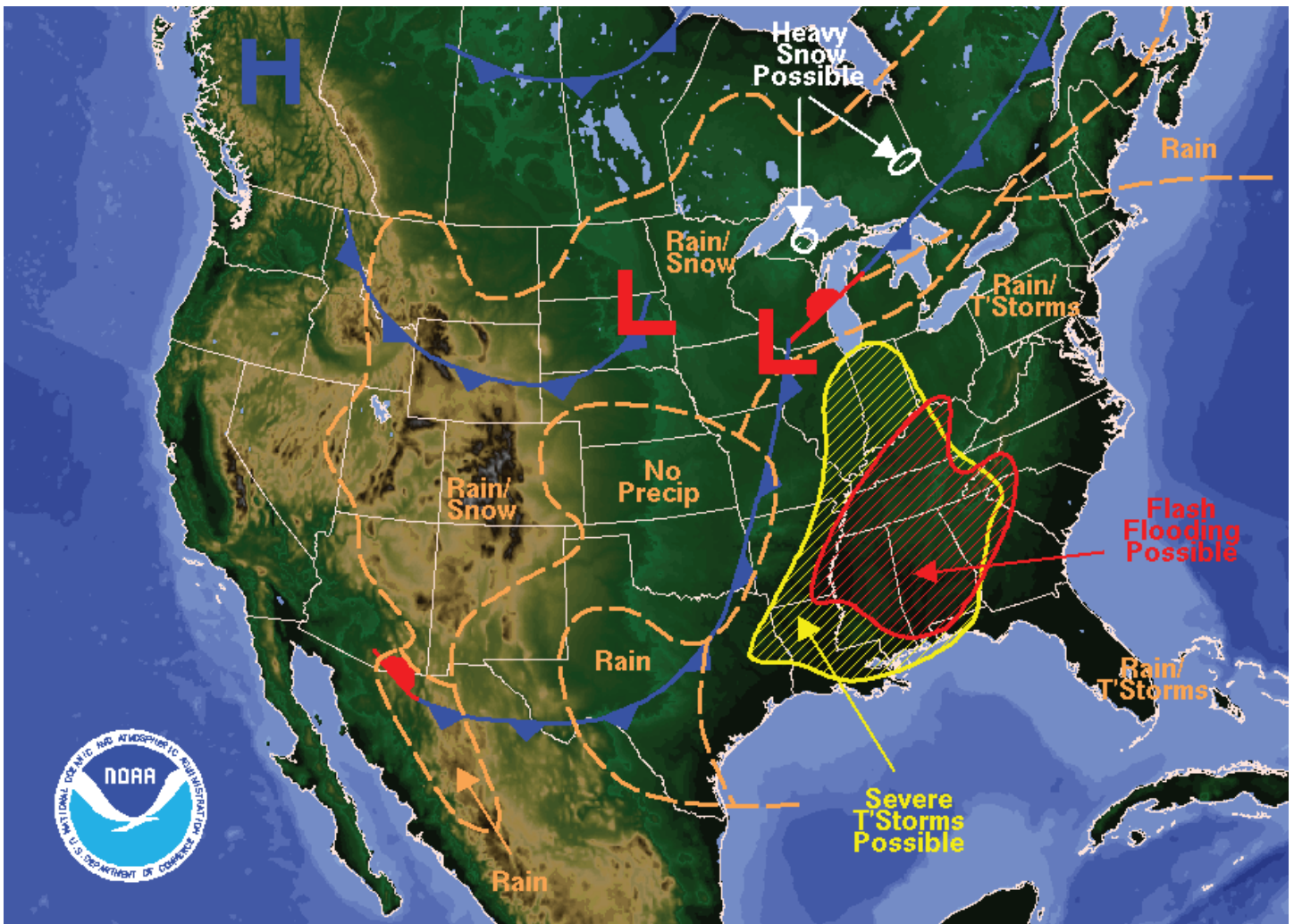
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.35

**Average Precip to date:** 2.13

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.95

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:01 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Mar 31, 2016, issued 4:36 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 11 of 30



## THE VALUE OF COMMERCIALS

R. T. Williams was surprised to realize that he was on an elevator with Lee Iacocca who was then the Chairman of Chrysler Corporation. In his excitement over the chance encounter he blurted out, "Mr. Iacocca, I really enjoy your commercials!"

"Sir," replied Iacocca, "I couldn't care less what you think of my commercials. What I want to know is what kind of car do you drive?"

Iacocca was very aware of the fact that the commercials had no value unless people purchased and drove Chrysler cars. In like manner we need to ask ourselves a similar question. What value are the things we do for our Lord if they do not bring people to Christ as Savior and Lord?

Recall the story of Jesus calling Peter and Andrew. John tells us that they knew about Jesus since He had talked with them previously. When Jesus called them, they knew what kind of a man He was and were willing to give up everything that they had to follow Him.

Here's a question we must answer: Would the people who know us be willing to accept Christ as their Savior because of the difference He has made in our lives? Do they believe our faith matters?

**Prayer:** Lord, we are living examples of what it means to be Your followers. May our lives be so attractive that they will draw others to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Matthew 4:18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

### **Lead business fire blamed on problem with coal burner**

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — A problem with a coal burner is being blamed for a business fire in Lead that shut down a highway between that city and Deadwood for two hours.

Lead City Administrator and volunteer firefighter Mike Stahl tells the Rapid City Journal that flames jumped from the coal burner into a nearby coal bin at the former Sinclair gas station on Wednesday.

The flames ignited wooden shelves and paper products and filled the building with smoke. The amount of damage was not immediately determined.

The business offers auto repairs but no gasoline. Owner Patrick Cassidy tells KOTA-TV that he plans to fix the building damage and reopen.

No injuries were reported.

### **South Dakota women's basketball team makes finals of WNIT**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota women's basketball team has made the finals of the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

The Coyotes beat Oregon 88-54 on Wednesday night in a semifinal matchup at the DakotaDome in Vermillion to advance to the championship game.

USD will play either Michigan or Florida Gulf Coast at the DakotaDome on Saturday afternoon for the title.

The Coyotes have won 21 of their last 22 games.

### **T. Denny Sanford being honored with Horatio Alger Award**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Retired banking executive and philanthropist T. Denny Sanford is being honored in Washington, D.C., for encouraging youth to pursue their dreams through higher education.

The Horatio Alger Award is bestowed upon those who have succeeded despite facing adversity and are committed to philanthropy and higher education. The three-day 69th Horatio Alger Award Induction Ceremonies honoring Sanford and a dozen others begin Thursday at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sanford made his money in the banking business and owns First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard. He has given away more than \$1.4 billion of his fortune to groups across the country, including Dakotas-based Sanford Health.

Byron Trott is president and chief executive of the Horatio Alger Association. Trott says Sanford is a role model who demonstrates the power of philanthropy, self-belief and ambition.

### **Snow expected in northern Black Hills through Thursday**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The northern Black Hills including the cities of Lead and Deadwood remains under a winter storm watch through Thursday as a fast-moving system prepares to move through the region.

The National Weather Service says snow accumulations of 3 to 6 inches are expected, with the heaviest snow beginning late Wednesday night into early Thursday morning.

Forecasters say breezy northwest winds could bring brief periods of blowing snow into the area, reducing visibility and making travel hazardous.

High winds of 35 to 45 mph are expected in Rapid City, Wall and Sturgis, with gusts reaching up to 60 mph.

### **House GOP leader opts not to run again after term limitation**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — House Republican leader Brian Gosch says he will not challenge GOP Sen. Alan Solano in a primary for his Senate seat after being blocked by term limits from running for re-election to the House.

Gosch said Wednesday that his family played the main role in his decision, but also says he would prefer not to run a primary challenge.

Gosch has served as House speaker and majority leader. He's limited from running for another seat in the chamber after serving four consecutive terms. Gosch says he didn't submit nominating petitions for a legislative seat.

The Rapid City Republican says he may run in the future.

Solano, who faces a different opponent, says a "primary is a primary" and lawmakers have to run on who they are and what they've done.

## **39-year-old man killed in one-vehicle crash near Murdo**

MURDO, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 39-year-old man has been killed in a one-vehicle crash nine miles south of Murdo.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the man was driving an SUV south on U.S. Highway 83 about 7 a.m. Wednesday when he lost control of the vehicle and entered the ditch. The SUV rolled, and the man was ejected from the vehicle and died.

The patrol hasn't released the man's name pending notification of relatives. The crash remains under investigation.

## **Appeals court upholds decision on Mickelson Trail rights**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a federal court decision confirming the right of South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department to possess and manage all of the Mickelson Trail.

A district judge about a year ago dismissed a lawsuit from landowners who wanted to declare that parts of the Mickelson Trail in Fall River County are privately owned.

The 109-mile trail in the Black Hills is on a former railroad line and stretches between Deadwood and Edgemont.

Local landowners filed a lawsuit two years ago arguing some parts of the trail had passed into private ownership.

## **State receives \$300K grant for mental health task force**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A grant of about \$300,000 will bolster the work of a task force proposed by the state Supreme Court's chief justice to study issues surrounding mentally ill people entering the criminal justice system.

Officials on Wednesday announced the grant from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to the state Department of Health.

The state is providing more than \$100,000 through in-kind contributions to support the work.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the group is set to analyze why and how individuals with mental illness become involved with the justice system.

Chief Justice David Gilbertson says the criminal justice system often isn't the most appropriate and cost-effective response.

Daugaard says South Dakota has a history of developing solutions to complex issues in the state's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

## **Police identify woman found dead in Sioux Falls apartment**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have identified a woman found dead in an apartment near downtown Sioux Falls.

The body of 50-year-old Nancy Flack was found Tuesday morning. Police said her death was suspicious.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says authorities are still investigating and waiting for the coroner's report. Clemens said earlier that authorities also are investigating a drug component of the case. No arrests have been made.

## UN court acquits Serb ultranationalist Seselj of all counts

**MIKE CORDER, Associated Press**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — In a sweeping defeat for U.N. prosecutors, the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal acquitted Serbian ultranationalist Vojislav Seselj on Thursday of all nine counts alleging that he was responsible for or incited atrocities by Serbian paramilitaries in the 1990s Balkan wars. The ruling sparked joy in Serbia and outrage in Bosnia and Croatia.

Prosecutors had charged Seselj, 61, with crimes including persecution, murder and torture and had demanded a 28-year sentence. But in a majority decision, the three-judge panel said there was insufficient evidence linking the politician himself to the crimes.

"Following this verdict, Vojislav Seselj is now a free man," Presiding Judge Jean-Claude Antonetti said at a hearing in The Hague, which Seselj did not attend.

At a Belgrade news conference shortly after his acquittal, Seselj, who defended himself throughout his trial and did not call a single defense witness, said the decision was "the only possible one from the legal aspect."

"After so many proceedings in which innocent Serbs were given draconian punishments, this time two honest judges showed they valued honor more than political pressure," he said.

The court's chief prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, questioned a number of key findings by two of the three trial judges. He almost certainly will appeal, but said Thursday he first has to study the 100-page ruling and its dissenting opinions.

In a majority ruling, the three-judge panel ruled that Serbian plans to carve out a "Greater Serbia" by uniting lands they considered Serb territory in Croatia and Bosnia was a "political goal" and not a criminal plan, as prosecutors alleged. The plan often was accompanied by military campaigns that drove out thousands of non-Serb civilians and left thousands of others dead.

Antonetti, the judge, distanced Seselj from the crimes of the paramilitaries he helped to establish, saying that although Seselj, "may have had a certain amount of moral authority over his party's volunteers, they were not his subordinates" when they went into combat.

Brammertz, the prosecutor, pointed to the ruling's controversial findings, including that there was not a widespread attack by Serb forces on civilians in Bosnia and Croatia, and that operations to bus non-Serbs out of areas claimed by Serbs as part of a "Greater Serbia" amounted to a humanitarian mission rather than the forcible removal of the population.

"The reading of the conflict by the trial chamber is very, very different to what we are used to," he told reporters at the court, adding that the marathon case was beset by allegations of interference with witnesses and evidence.

The acquittal stunned many Bosnians.

"An absolutely shocking decision," said lawyer and publicist Senad Pecanin. "This is the lowest point of The Hague tribunal."

Ismar Jamakovic, 23, a student of political science from Sarajevo, said judges ruled that "advocating the creation of Greater Serbia was a political and not a criminal act. Does this mean I can now advocate the creation of an Islamic State without facing any consequences? You've got to be kidding me."

The ruling also triggered outrage in Croatia, with media headlines declaring "Shame on The Hague, the notorious warmonger is free" by the Jutarnji List newspaper.

Russian state television covered the Seselj verdict extensively, spinning it as a triumph of justice.

Dmitry Rogozin, a Russian nationalist politician turned deputy prime minister, welcomed Seselj's acquittal. Rogozin met Seselj during his trip to Belgrade in January. He said at the time that was a private visit and that he had known Seselj since the 1990s.

"I congratulate my friend on his victory!" Rogozin said on Twitter. "But who is going to restore his health that was battered by the time in prison and public humiliation?"

Seselj's return to Belgrade in late 2014, when the tribunal released him on humanitarian grounds due to his ill health, only boosted his popularity among the ultranationalists.

With a surge in pro-Russian and right-wing sentiments ahead of Serbia's April 24 general election, Seselj's Serbian Radical Party has a good chance to return to parliament after missing out after the last vote two years ago.

Seselj has campaigned on the platform that Serbia must never enter the 28-nation European Union or NATO and should forge closer ties with Moscow. He has burned EU flags during pre-election rallies, and said he would join a coalition government with the incumbent populists, his former allies, only if they give up their goal of EU accession.

The acquittal has given Seselj an additional boost ahead of the vote. He also said he filed a lawsuit in 2012 against the U.N. court demanding 12 million euros in compensation and could now add 2 million euros more to his demand.

He said he expects to win 20-25 percent of the vote for his far-right radicals.

"The most important is that we get more than the progressives," he said, referring to the ruling Serbian Progressive Party, his former allies-turned-foes.

Natasa Kandic, a human rights activist in Serbia, said the acquittal would likely be overturned on appeal. "Some of the explanations are contrary to sane logic," she said.

## Israel demolishes home of Palestinian who killed Israeli

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military says it has demolished the home of a Palestinian man who fatally stabbed an Israeli civilian in the West Bank city of Hebron late last year.

The Palestinian, Ehab Maswada, stabbed the Israeli, Gennady Kaufman, outside a site holy to Jews and Muslims. Maswada was then shot and killed by officers at the scene.

Israel says home demolitions are an effective tool to deter attacks, but critics say the tactic amounts to collective punishment. Israel completed the demolition early Thursday.

The last six months have seen a wave of Palestinian attacks that have killed 28 Israelis and two Americans. During that time, at least 188 Palestinians have died by Israeli fire. Israel says most were attackers, and the rest died in clashes with security forces.

## Flock of sheep escape, wander along suburban Atlanta road

BROOKHAVEN, Ga. (AP) — Police in suburban Atlanta found themselves counting sheep after a flock escaped an enclosure and blocked a road.

Brookhaven police said in a news release that about 20 grazing sheep and their security dogs were spotted along a road early Wednesday.

Police say they were able to contact the herder, who used a sheepdog to corral them back into their nearby enclosure.

Investigators say they're not planning to file charges for blocking the roadway or impeding traffic.

## 14 killed, many trapped in overpass collapse in India

**MANIK BANERJEE, Associated Press**

KOLKATA, India (AP) — Rescuers in Kolkata dug through large chunks of debris from an overpass that collapsed while under construction Thursday, killing at least 14 people and injuring scores of others, officials said.

A section of the overpass in the busy Bara Bazaar residential and shopping area in central Kolkata fell on vehicles and people moving underneath, trapping scores in their cars, trucks and motorized rickshaws.

"We heard a loud rumble and then saw a lot of dust in the sky," a witness told the NDTV channel.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 16 of 30

Army troops and personnel from the National Disaster Response Force joined efforts to extract people from vehicles that lay under massive concrete blocks and metal debris. Huge cranes and other rescue equipment reached the site and began clearing the rubble. Workers also used gas cutters to pry open the slabs.

More than 70 injured were admitted to two hospitals in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state, hospital officials said. At least 14 were dead, they said.

"The area was very, very crowded. Motorized rickshaws, taxis ... there was a lot of traffic," one witness told the New Delhi Television news channel, or NDTV.

Television images showed the bloody legs of some of the trapped people jutting out of the collapsed girders and concrete slabs.

Mamta Banerjee, the top elected leader in the state, visited the collapse site and said a private builder had missed several deadlines for completing the overpass.

The contract for the overpass was signed in 2008 and it was expected to be completed in two years. She accused the previous communist government in West Bengal of not adhering to building regulations.

Building collapses are common in India, where builders use poor enforcement of regulations and use substandard materials.

## 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. WHO'S UNDER FIRE ON ABORTION

Donald Trump is fighting to convince a skeptical Republican Party he can improve his standing among women, even as he takes back an explosive comment about abortion and attacks the credibility of a female reporter.

#### 2. WHERE US DOLLARS MIGHT SOON START FLOWING

Officials say the U.S. may soon tell foreign governments and banks they can start using dollars in some instances to facilitate business with Iran — a change that could prove significant for Tehran's sanctions-battered economy.

#### 3. AP UNVEILS HOW KENYAN RUNNERS' DOPING WENT UNDETECTED AT SMALLER US RACES

An AP Exclusive on a probe by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and the IAAF into Kenya's offshore running industry is zeroing in on a Russian agent with a string of doping positives and associations in her Kentucky camp.

#### 4. WHY ASIAN DIPLOMACY IS ON THE SIDELINES OF A NUCLEAR SUMMIT

As Asian leaders converge on Washington, tensions in North Korea and the South China Sea are running high, and side meetings on those hot-button issues could attract more attention than the summit itself.

#### 5. SYRIANS RUSH TO RESCUE HISTORY

Syrians have risked their lives in a successful effort to save antiquities threatened by Islamic State militants.

#### 6. INDIA'S SMOG LEAVES A GOLDEN TEMPLE LOSING ITS LUSTER

The chronic air pollution blanketing much of northern India is now threatening the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, making the once-gleaming walls of the Golden Temple dingy and dull.

#### 7. A LONG WAIT FOR ANSWERS IN MINNESOTA ENDS WITH MORE QUESTIONS

Activists from the black community in Minneapolis express frustration and distrust after a prosecutor clears two white police officers in the fatal shooting of a black man during a confrontation.

#### 8. WHAT'S AN ICE WALL AND HOW WILL IT WORK

The destroyed Fukushima nuclear plant's operator activated a costly last resort to try to stem the underground flow of radioactive water from the plant. Use of one so huge is untested.

#### 9. MURDER-FOR-HIRE PLOT SEEN ON TV HEADS TO TRIAL

In the attempted murder-for-hire case against Dalia Dippolito, her defense says police overreached for "Cops" TV, which aired a special edition about the allegedly murderous newlywed.



## 10. HOW THE FINAL FOUR GOT THERE

March Madness lived up to its billing, filled with upsets, crazy finishes and memorable performances. Now that the calendar has turned to April, it's time for the main event: North Carolina, Oklahoma, Villanova and Syracuse in the Final Four.

## In Minneapolis, distrust flares after officers cleared

**STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press**

**KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Activists from Minneapolis' black community spent four months demanding the release of videos and other evidence after a black man was fatally shot in a confrontation with two white police officers. When it finally was made public and a prosecutor announced the officers wouldn't be charged, they were enraged.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman on Wednesday cleared the officers, saying forensic evidence backed their account that 24-year-old Jamar Clark was not handcuffed and was struggling for an officer's gun when he was shot. Clark ignored warnings to take his hand off Officer Mark Ringgenberg's gun, leading Officer Mark Schwarze to shoot Clark as the officers feared for their lives, Freeman said.

"Ringgenberg communicated to Schwarze that Clark had his firearm and that Schwarze should shoot Clark. Schwarze did. His actions were reasonable given both his observations and Ringgenberg's plea," the prosecutor said.

But Freeman's detailed version of the events early on Nov. 15, and his release of the investigative documents, drew derision even at the news conference from activists who accused him of favoring police over the accounts of bystanders who said Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. Several of the critics were among those who maintained a protest encampment outside a police station for 18 days and led marches and largely peaceful protests across the Twin Cities area after the shooting.

"If we cannot find justice here, we will find it in the streets," Mica Grimm, an organizer with Black Lives Matter Minneapolis, told reporters after Freeman's announcement.

Nekima Levy-Pounds, president of the Minneapolis NAACP, vowed to keep pressure on police.

"We're going to take to the streets. And we're going to fight until we get what we came for," Levy-Pounds said.

Protesters gathered Wednesday evening at the site where Clark was shot in north Minneapolis while others met at a park on the southern edge of downtown. The two groups met at the Hennepin County Government Center, where Freeman made his announcement earlier in the day, and the mixed-race crowd swelled into the hundreds. Several speakers addressed the group, which chanted and carried signs that said "Justice for Jamar" and "Black Lives Matter." The crowd remained peaceful and its numbers dwindled as the night went on.

The question of whether Clark was handcuffed by the officers, who were responding to a report that he had assaulted his girlfriend and was interfering with paramedics, was central in the case.

Freeman said 20 civilian witnesses gave different versions of whether Clark was handcuffed. Two said he wasn't, six weren't sure and 12 said he was, but they disagreed on whether both his hands were cuffed and whether his hands were in front of him or behind his back. Freeman said none of the 10 paramedics and police witnesses who saw Clark right after the shooting saw him in handcuffs.

With conflicting accounts, Freeman said he relied on forensic evidence, including physical examinations that found no injuries or markings on Clark's wrists that would have been consistent with handcuffs.

In an interview later with KSTP-TV, Freeman said activists who criticized his decision were speaking out of frustration. He again cited what he called "hardcore forensic evidence," noting Clark's DNA was found on the butt of Ringgenberg's gun and all over his utility belt, supporting their account of a struggle.

The release of videos investigators had gathered was a key demand of the protesters last fall. However, only videos taken from the back of the ambulance showed much of the incident. Clark can be seen standing outside the ambulance. In the key segment, Ringgenberg can be seen in the top left corner taking Clark down to the ground. The shooting itself happened just off camera, but the officer can be seen getting up

afterward and straightening his belt.

"That was murder," Levy-Pounds exclaimed as she watched the video for the first time.

Mayor Betsy Hodges, Police Chief Janee Harteau, and Lt. Bob Kroll, head of the police officers' union, all praised the thoroughness and transparency of the investigation. Freeman made the charging decision himself after initially planning to rely on a nonpublic grand jury process, and he posted more than 1,000 pages of investigative materials, videos and other evidence on his website.

"We now expect all members of the public to peacefully accept the process and outcome that exonerated officers Mark Ringgenberg and Dustin Schwarze," Kroll said. "... I would ask the residents of Minneapolis to pause and reflect how we can move forward in a peaceful manner."

A federal investigation is still pending into whether police violated Clark's civil rights through excessive force. The Justice Department is also reviewing how the city responded to protests after Clark's death.

## **ID network doing docu-series based on Ohio case**

**DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Conscious of the success of long-form crime mysteries like "Serial" on NPR and HBO's "The Jinx," the Investigation Discovery network says it will air its first-ever serialized drama later this spring.

The six-part docu-series, "The Vanishing Women," will focus on six women who have gone missing or have been found dead in Chillicothe, Ohio, over the past few years. It will debut June 6, ID announced Thursday.

ID's focus on crime and mystery stories made the network a nearly instant success upon its launch in 2008, particularly among older women. Lately the HBO and NPR projects, as well as Netflix's "Making a Murderer," have attracted followers to the genre with innovative storytelling techniques.

"All of this has shone a klieg light on the world of mystery and suspense and true stories and crime," said Henry Schleiff, network president. "There's never been a better time to be a leader of this business."

ID shows are traditionally closed-ended — the mysteries are solved at the end — so "The Vanishing Women" will be something new.

"We don't know where the story ends," he said.

The six women died or went missing in the city of about 22,000 people an hour south of Columbus, where heroin use has been a problem. Some residents have worried about a serial killer, although police suggest the women's troubled histories played a role in their fates.

The two missing women — Charlotte Trego and Wanda Lemons — haven't been seen by loved ones since 2014. Schleiff said he hoped the attention created by the series helps to solve their cases. ID has teamed with the families and law enforcement to bring the individual stories to life.

In a similar vein, Schleiff said ID's series about missing persons, "Disappeared," will be back for a new season on April 11. The series has been on hiatus for two years.

## **Suu Kyi's party proposes law to make her 'president's boss'**

**ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press**

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — The party of Aung San Suu Kyi submitted a proposal to parliament on Thursday to create a new position for her as "state adviser," which would allow her to have a powerful hand in running Myanmar.

One lawmaker from her National League for Democracy party described the position as "the president's boss," indicating that Suu Kyi's party is helping her to achieve a pledge she has repeatedly made to be above the president, who is her confidant.

The move marked the first legislative act of Myanmar's new government, which took office a day earlier to become the first democratically elected government after more than 50 years of military control.

Suu Kyi, the Nobel laureate who had endured decades of house arrest and harassment by military rulers then led her party to a landslide win in November elections, could not become president because of

a junta-era constitution crafted to keep her out of the post. But she had repeatedly said she will run the country from behind the scenes.

Some critics had questioned the legality of Suu Kyi circumventing the constitution to exercise control. But the new draft law would give her legal authority to hold a powerful role in decision making, said Khin Maung Myint, an NLD lawmaker in the upper house.

"President Htin Kyaw has the right to propose the law to appoint a 'state adviser,' which is someone who can control the president and all the Cabinet members," he said, referring to the job as "the president's boss."

Suu Kyi's party controls both houses, and the draft law was expected to pass, he said.

Suu Kyi, 70, has also taken on four Cabinet posts, as Myanmar's new minister of foreign affairs, education, energy and the president's office.

## India's once-gleaming Golden Temple dulled by air pollution

**KATY DAIGLE, Associated Press**

**UMAR MERAJ, Associated Press**

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — The chronic air pollution blanketing much of northern India is now threatening the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion, making the once-gleaming walls of the Golden Temple dingy and dull.

There is little to be done short of replacing the 430-year-old temple's gold-plated walls — an expensive project already undertaken more than a century ago and then again in 1999.

To cut down on pollution, environmentalists and religious leaders have launched a campaign that includes persuading farmers to stop burning spent crops to clear their fields, removing industry from the area and cutting back on traffic. A community kitchen called a "langar" that serves up to 100,000 people free meals every day at the temple is also switching from burning wood to cooking with gas.

But so far the campaign hasn't had much impact, with change happening slowly and still no pollution monitoring equipment installed.

"As far as pollution goes, we are paying attention," said Jaswant Singh, environmental engineer at the State Pollution Control Board, a government regulatory authority. "We are in the process of procuring equipment so that we can check the pollution area, pollution from every source on a day-to-day basis."

Officials have also banned burning trash or cooking with certain fuels in restaurants and communities nearby, but enforcement so far remains weak. The city also wants to build an electricity station to stop people from using diesel-fueled generators, but Singh could not say when that might happen.

"The pollution degrading the Golden Temple is growing," said environmental activist Gunbir Singh, who heads a group called Eco Amritsar. "We need to do a hell of a lot of work to protect the holy city status of this city."

It's unclear how much replacing the gold plating would cost, but it would surely be high.

"This is gold. The cost would be huge, but still would not be a problem," Gunbir Singh said, suggesting Sikh devotees would rally behind the cause if needed. "Most of the activity that goes on there is based on donations — people will take off their bangles and rings and leave them if work needs to be done."

Thousands of Sikh devotees and tourists every day visit Amritsar, the main city in Punjab state, to see the 17th century shrine, surrounded by a moat known as the "pool of nectar," or "Sarovar," and housing the Sikh holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib. Most of the world's 27 million Sikhs, whose monotheistic religion originated in Punjab in the 15th century, live in India.

The country suffers some of the world's worst air pollution, thanks to a heavy reliance on burning coal for electricity, diesel in cars and power generators, and kerosene and cow dung for cooking and lighting homes. Heavy construction amid a decade-long economic boom has also kicked up huge clouds of dust, and farmers still regularly clear their fields with fire, sending even more black carbon into the air.

The capital of New Delhi was named by the WHO as the world's most polluted city, while Amritsar — about 390 kilometers (240 km) to the north — was ranked India's ninth most polluted.

The Golden Temple is not the only major monument to be affected by pollution. The white marbled Taj

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 20 of 30

Mahal has also become dirty from pollution from the nearby city of Agra, and every few years, workers from the Archaeological Survey of India place mud packs on its walls to keep them from turning yellow and brown.

But many across the country remain unaware of the risks in breathing unhealthy air, even as scientists warn it is sickening countless Indians every year. About 1.4 million Indians were killed by illnesses related to air pollution in 2013, according to a recent study by researchers at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver.

That tally will only rise unless pollution levels are drastically curbed, experts have said. Instead, the pollution is getting worse, according to NASA satellite images revealing particulate matter in the air. An analysis last month by the environmental group Greenpeace showed the overall concentration of PM2.5 — the tiny lung-clogging particulate matter suspended in the air — increasing 13 percent from 2010 to 2015.

With pollution fast damaging the Golden Temple, some in the Sikh heartland said they were reminded of their religious duty to protect nature.

"Our holy book teaches us that the air is the teacher, the water is the father and the earth is the mother. So we have to be mindful of all the elements of nature as true Sikhs," the environmentalist Gunbir Singh said.

Authorities plan to ban vehicles from the area immediately surrounding the shrine. "Even the devotees will have to come on foot," said Harcharan Singh, who heads the Shrimoni Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee, which oversees the six major Sikh temples across India.

But efforts have been slow, and officials admit so far incomplete.

Sikh preacher Baba Sewa Singh said he and his devotees have tried to help mitigate the pollution threat by planting more than 100,000 trees in the region.

"If anyone asks about the saplings," he said, "we plant them for free in their villages."

## South Korea upholds tough anti-prostitution laws

**KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's constitutional court on Thursday upheld laws that toughened punishment on prostitutes, pimps and their clients.

The 2004 legislation drove thousands of sex workers in traditional red-light zones out of business in South Korea, but prostitution has still thrived in the shadows. Sex workers have occasionally held rallies calling for the laws' abolishment.

The Constitutional Court decided to uphold a provision that makes it a criminal offense to voluntarily sell or buy sex, punishable by up to a year in prison or a fine of 3 million won (\$2,600).

The ruling was made in response to a complaint by a female sex worker, who argued people have the right to choose their occupation.

A court statement said that the government could deny such individual rights to prevent exploitation and protect moral values.

South Korea has always banned prostitution, but the laws were rarely enforced and red-light districts were largely tolerated before 2004.

The court said that decriminalizing prostitution would inspire an explosive growth in sex trade, threaten the stability of South Korea's society and economy and inspire disorderly sexual behavior.

Critics of the anti-prostitution laws say they limit women's freedom over their bodies. They also say that tougher punishment has made sex work more dangerous for women by creating a thriving underground industry in which they sell sex at bars, apartment rooms and through social media and dating apps, which often leaves them more vulnerable to abusive customers and pimps.

Supporters of the laws say decriminalizing prostitution would benefit exploiters more than sex workers. They argue prostitution is inherently violent and exploitative for women, especially in a country like South Korea, where women suffer from one of the harshest inequalities among developed nations and are often economically pressured into prostitution.

Male prostitution and homosexuality largely remain taboo subjects in conservative South Korea and are rarely discussed in public.

## Officials: US mulls new rules on dollars to help Iran

**BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press**

**MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration may soon tell foreign governments and banks they can start using the dollar in some instances to facilitate business with Iran, officials told The Associated Press, describing an arcane tweak to U.S. financial rules that could prove significant for Tehran's sanctions-battered economy.

While no decision is final, U.S. officials familiar with internal discussions said the Treasury Department is considering issuing a general license that would permit offshore financial institutions to access dollars for foreign currency trades in support of legitimate business with Iran, a practice that is currently illegal.

Several restrictions would apply, but such a license would reverse a ban that has been in place for several years and one the administration had vowed to maintain while defending last year's nuclear deal to skeptical U.S. lawmakers and the public.

The United States and other world powers reached agreement with Iran last summer to give the Islamic Republic billions of dollars in sanctions relief in exchange for its promise to curtail programs that would allow it to develop nuclear weapons.

Because of its status as the world's dominant currency, the dollar often is used in money conversions. For example: If the Iranians want to sell oil to India and be paid in euros instead of rupees, so they could more easily purchase European goods, the process commonly starts with the rupees being converted into dollars.

American sanctions block Iran from exchanging the money on its own. And Asian and European banks have steered clear of such transactions, fearful of U.S. regulators who have levied billions of dollars in fines in recent years and threatened transgressors with a cutoff from the far more lucrative American market. Using dollars to make even a rupees-to-euros conversion, following that example, would still involve the money entering the U.S. financial system, if only momentarily.

Dropping the prohibition would go a long way to meet Iran's complaints that the West hasn't sufficiently rewarded it for taking thousands of uranium-spinning centrifuges offline, exporting its stockpile of the bomb-making material and disabling a facility that would have been able to produce weapons-grade plutonium. But it surely would prompt intense opposition from critics of last July's nuclear accord.

If approved, the new guidance would allow dollars to be used in currency exchanges as long as no Iranian banks are involved, according to the officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity. No Iranian rials can enter into the transaction, and the payment wouldn't be able to start or end with American dollars. The ban would still apply if the final payment is intended for an Iranian individual or business on a U.S. sanctions blacklist.

The administration has hinted the U.S. could introduce new sanctions concessions, but has confirmed nothing.

In a speech Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew lauded Iran for accepting the nuclear deal to achieve its goal of ending Western sanctions. "Since Iran has kept its end of the deal, it is our responsibility to uphold ours, in both letter and spirit," he told the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Lew warned that "sanctions overreach" risked driving business away from the United States, hurting the U.S. and global economy and empowering economic rivals.

"Our central role must not be taken for granted," he said. "If foreign jurisdictions and companies feel that we will deploy sanctions without sufficient justification or for inappropriate reasons — secondary sanctions, in particular — we should not be surprised if they look for ways to avoid doing business in the United States or in U.S. dollars."

Members of Congress are crying foul. The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act instructs the president to "block and prohibit" all Iranian assets if they "come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person."

In a letter to Lew on Wednesday, Republican Sens. Marco Rubio and Mark Kirk said any Iranian access

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 22 of 30

to dollars "would benefit Iran's financiers of international terrorism, human rights abuses and ballistic missile threats." They cited testimony last year by Treasury Department's sanctions chief, Adam Szubin, who told lawmakers Iran wouldn't be allowed "even to execute a dollarized transaction where a split second's worth of business is done in a New York clearing bank."

U.S. officials said the change wouldn't break that pledge because Iran still wouldn't have access to the American financial system. If an Indian bank exchanges the money with a Hong Kong clearinghouse and the money is eventually converted to non-U.S. currency, no Iranian institution ends up touching any dollars. And no Iranian rials would be entering the United States.

Both concerns are rooted in the Obama administration's designation of Iran in 2011 as a jurisdiction of "primary money laundering concern." Critics of Obama's outreach to Iran say softening the rules would provide Iran a foothold toward re-entering the global financial system, helping it raise more cash for U.N.-banned ballistic missile development or support of U.S.-designated terrorist groups.

Mark Dubowitz, an Iran sanctions expert at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies and critic of the nuclear deal, said the administration's currency argument was "a bait and switch which ignores a long-standing administration commitment not to greenlight Iran's access to the greenback."

"This is above and beyond what is required by the nuclear deal," he argued.

## Obama, Asian leaders to huddle on North Korea nuclear threat

**JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Working to display a united front, the United States and key Asian countries will seek Thursday to put more pressure on North Korea as world leaders open a nuclear security summit in Washington.

President Barack Obama, the summit's host, will also seek to smooth over tensions with China over cybersecurity and maritime disputes as he and President Xi Jinping meet on the sidelines. The summit also offers Obama his last major chance to focus global attention on disparate nuclear security threats before his term ends early next year.

Though nuclear terrorism and the Islamic State group top this year's agenda, concerns about North Korea's nuclear weapons program are also commanding focus as the two-day summit gets under way. Those long-simmering concerns have escalated of late following the North's recent nuclear test and rocket launch.

Obama planned to have a joint meeting Thursday morning with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye, two U.S. treaty allies deeply concerned about North Korea. It's a reprise of a similar meeting the three countries held in 2014 during the last nuclear security summit in The Hague.

China's influence over the North will be front and center later in the day when Obama sits down with Xi. The White House said that meeting was also an opportunity for Obama to press U.S. concerns about human rights and China's assertive territorial claims in waters far off its coast.

Though frictions with China remain high, the U.S. was encouraged by China's role in passing stringent new U.N. sanctions on North Korea, its traditional ally. Now the U.S. is pressing Beijing to implement those sanctions dutifully.

"The international community must remain united in the face of North Korea's continued provocations, including its recent nuclear test and missile launches," Obama wrote in an op-ed appearing Thursday in The Washington Post. He added that the recent U.N. sanctions "show that violations have consequences."

The U.S. and South Korea have been discussing whether to deploy a U.S. missile defense system called THAAD, or the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, in South Korea to counter the threat from the North. China has resisted that step out of concern it would also give the U.S. radar coverage over Chinese territory, and Russia opposes it as well.

Antony Blinken, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, said this week that China must engage with the U.S. directly on North Korea if it wants to avoid the U.S. and its partners taking steps "that it won't like."

In North Korea, meanwhile, the government has been churning out regular propaganda pieces condemning the U.S. and South Korea, while warning it could launch a pre-emptive strike against South Korea or

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 23 of 30

even the U.S. mainland at any time.

For years, pressing security crises in the Middle East have overshadowed Obama's goal of expanding U.S. influence and engagement in Asia, with the North Korean threat another unwanted distraction. Though the U.S. and China have struck sweeping agreements on climate change, they've remained at odds on many economic issues. Obama has also been unable to get Congress to ratify the Asia-Pacific free trade deal his administration painstakingly negotiated.

Obama also planned to meet Thursday with French President Francois Hollande, amid steep concerns about terrorism in Europe following Islamic State-linked attacks in Paris and Brussels. The summit continues on Friday with a special session focused on preventing IS and other extremists from obtaining nuclear materials and attacking urban areas.

Some of the 2,000 metric tons of highly enriched uranium and separated plutonium being used in civilian or military programs worldwide could be turned into a nuclear bomb if stolen or diverted, the White House warned. Fewer than half of the countries participating in the summit have even agreed to secure sources of radiological material that could be used for a dirty bomb, though more countries are expected to announce commitments during the summit to tighten controls.

## Under fire on abortion, Trump fights to court women

**STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press**

**SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Donald Trump is fighting to convince a skeptical Republican Party he can improve his standing among women, even as he takes back an explosive comment about abortion and attacks the credibility of a female reporter police say was illegally grabbed by the GOP front-runner's campaign manager.

It took Trump's campaign just hours to backtrack on Wednesday after he said that should abortion become illegal, women who undergo the procedure should face "some sort of punishment." The plan sparked an immediate backlash from both sides of the debate, prompting Trump to release two statements clarifying his position. His second statement said only those who perform abortions would be "held legally responsible, not the woman."

"The woman is a victim in this case as is the life in her womb," Trump said.

The flap comes as Trump works to hold off a challenge from chief rival Ted Cruz in Wisconsin's high-stakes primary on Tuesday. With a win, Trump's grasp on his party's presidential nomination could be unbreakable. A loss would give concerned Republican officials across the nation a realistic hope of wresting the nomination away from the New York businessman at the GOP's national convention in July.

Frustrated Republicans are privately grappling with fears about Trump's impact on their party's appeal among women and young people, yet few dared criticize the GOP front-runner directly when pressed this week. Their silence underscored the deep uncertainty plaguing the party — particularly its most prominent women — who have few options in dealing with the brash billionaire.

"A nominee who cannot speak to women cannot win," said New Hampshire party chairwoman Jennifer Horn, though declining to rebuke Trump by name.

Earlier in the week, police in Jupiter, Florida, charged Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski with misdemeanor battery after examining surveillance video of an incident in which a reporter said she was grabbed and shoved. The police report said the woman's arm revealed "bruising from what appeared to be several finger marks indicating a grabbing-type injury."

"I don't know who created those bruises," Trump said in what was a sustained effort on Wednesday to defend his adviser and discredit the reporter.

Trump suggested his campaign manager was simply trying to protect him from Michelle Fields, a 28-year-old reporter then working for Breitbart News, who was trying to ask him a question after a March 8 campaign appearance.

"She's got a pen in her arm which she's not supposed to have and it shows that she's a very aggressive

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 24 of 30

person who's grabbing at me and touching me," Trump said. "Maybe I should file charges against her." As Trump assailed Fields from a television studio, Cruz surrounded himself with women as he courted Wisconsin voters. The Texas senator leads the state by 9 points among likely voters, according to a Marquette University Law School poll released Wednesday. He campaigned in Madison with his wife, mother, two daughters and even the family's nanny in what he called a "celebration of women."

"Women are not a special interest," Cruz said. "Women are a majority of the United State of America. And every issue is a women's issue."

Cruz, an aggressive abortion opponent, later seized on Trump's comments on the delicate social issue. "Of course we shouldn't be talking about punishing women," he said. "We should affirm their dignity and the incredible gift they have to bring life into the world."

Women made up 53 percent of the electorate in 2012. That year, they favored President Barack Obama by 11 points over GOP nominee Mitt Romney, a divide highlighted in the Republican National Committee's post-election study. "Our inability to win their votes is losing us elections," the report's authors wrote.

Yet Trump is poised to fare worse among women than Romney in a general election, according to recent polls that put his negative ratings near or even surpassing 70 percent among women. In Wisconsin, the Marquette poll released on Wednesday found that 76 percent of female Wisconsin registered voters have an unfavorable view of Trump, compared with 55 percent for Cruz.

Few Republican women were willing to address Trump's impact on the party publicly, however.

Several female Republican officeholders declined to respond to AP requests for comment, including South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Reps. Kristi Noem of North Dakota and Mia Love of Utah.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, in a tough re-election fight, issued this statement through spokeswoman Liz Johnson: "As a longtime prosecutor, Kelly believes Mr. Trump should leave this case to the criminal justice system, instead of wrongly trying it in the media."

The Trump campaign was in discussion with the Republican National Committee about arranging a meeting with Chairman Reince Priebus on Thursday, but GOP strategists acknowledged party leaders have few options for persuading Trump to moderate his rhetoric.

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, addressed Trump's abortion comments on Twitter: "We can't let someone with this much contempt for women's rights anywhere near the White House," she wrote.

## With jihadis at the door, Syrians rush to rescue history

**MAEVA BAMBUCK, Associated Press**

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — With Islamic State group militants on the doorstep of his hometown in eastern Syria, Yarob al-Abdullah had little time. He had already rushed his wife and four daughters to safety. Now he had to save the thousands of ancient artifacts he loved.

In a week of furious work in summer heat, tired and dehydrated from the Ramadan fast, the head of antiquities in Deir el-Zour province and his staff packed up most of the contents of the museum in the provincial capital. Then al-Abdullah flew with 12 boxes of relics to Damascus.

The pieces included masterpieces: A nearly 5,000-year-old statuette of a smiling worshipper. A colorful mural fragment from a 2nd-century temple for the god Bel. Thousands of fragile clay tablets inscribed with cuneiform writing, including administrative records, letters and business deals that provide a glimpse at life nearly 4,000 years ago in the Semitic kingdom of Mari.

The move, carried out in 2014, was part of a mission by antiquities officials across Syria to evacuate everything that could be saved from Islamic State extremists and looters. The extent of the operation has been little known until now, but its participants described to The Associated Press a massive effort — at least 29 of Syria's 34 museums largely emptied out and more than 300,000 artifacts brought to the capital.

The pieces are now hidden in secret locations known only to the few specialists who handled them, said Maamoun Abdulkarim, who as head of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums in Damascus



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 25 of 30

oversaw the operation. "Other than that, no one knows where these antiquities are — not a politician, not any other Syrian."

There's much that couldn't be saved. The damage is most symbolized by Palmyra, the jewel of Syrian archaeology, a marvelously preserved Roman-era city. IS militants captured it last year and proceeded to blow up at least two of its most stunning temples. Over the weekend, Syrian government forces recaptured Palmyra from the militants and discovered they had trashed the city museum, smashing statues and looting relics — though fortunately about 400 pieces had been hidden away by antiquities officials before the IS takeover.

Across the country, the destruction has been tragic. Wherever they overran territory in Syria and Iraq, Islamic State jihadis relentlessly blew up, bulldozed or otherwise tore down monuments they consider pagan affronts. They and other traffickers have taken advantage of the chaos from the 5-year-old civil war to loot sites and sell off artifacts. Even in the museums that were evacuated, some items were too large to move — giant statues or ancient gates and murals — and fell into IS hands, their fate unknown.

But the 2,500 archaeologists, specialists, curators and engineers with Syria's antiquities department, including some who defected to join the opposition, have often risked death to protect what they can.

One 25-year-old woman led a military convoy carrying antiquities out of the northern city of Aleppo, a major battleground between rebels and government forces. Out of fear for her safety, she requested anonymity.

Guards at archaeological digs and other sites in areas now under IS control secretly keep tabs on the ruins and feed Abdulkarim photo updates on WhatsApp. Several of them have been killed. Khaled al-Asaad, Palmyra's retired antiquities chief, was beheaded by the extremists in August after spiriting away artifacts from the city's museum.

Ziad al-Nouiji, who took over from al-Abdullah as head of antiquities in Deir el-Zour, brought a second load of relics to Damascus last June. But otherwise he has remained in the government-held part of Deir el-Zour city.

He knows the danger: IS militants besieging the area are hunting for him, posting his name on their Facebook pages as a wanted man. He relocated his family abroad but is staying put. "This is my duty, my country's right. If we all left the country and our duties, who would be left?" he asked.

In the rebel-held northwestern city of Maarat al-Numan, archaeologists affiliated with the opposition protected the city's museum, which houses Byzantine mosaics. There the danger was from government airstrikes, so they erected a sandbag barrier with financial and logistical support from former antiquities directorate chief Amr al-Azm, who sided with the opposition. Last June, just after the sandbagging was complete, a government barrel bomb damaged mosaics in the outside courtyard, he said.

"The heroes here are the Syrian men and women on both sides who ... are willing to risk their lives for their heritage," al-Azm said by telephone from Shawnee State University in Ohio, where he teaches. "That's what gives me hope for the future of Syria."

The antiquities authorities didn't take any chances, even clearing museums in government-controlled areas. At the National Museum in Damascus, the halls and galleries have been empty since the artifacts were hidden away in 2013 for fear rebel shelling could hit the building. In the pottery room, dust rings mark where the pieces once stood and only the labels remain.

In 2014, with EU funding, the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO began training Syrian staff in storing artifacts and helped establish a nationwide system to document their inventory. In Damascus last month, a team of archaeologists and archivists was still processing the collection brought from the Daraa Museum in southern Syria.

"With a good team, a charismatic leader and our support they managed an extraordinary feat," said Cristina Menegazzi, head of UNESCO's Syrian heritage emergency safeguard project.

A vital crossroads throughout history, Syria holds a legacy from multiple civilizations that traded, invaded and built cities across its territory — the Akkadians, Babylonians and Assyrians of ancient Mesopotamia, various Semitic kingdoms, the Romans and Byzantines, and then centuries of Islamic dynasties. The country is dotted with "tells," hills that conceal millennia-old towns and cities, some of which have been partially

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 26 of 30

excavated and many more that are still waiting to be discovered.

Deir el-Zour, a region along the Euphrates River, is rich with such sites.

Among them is Mari, the capital of a kingdom dating back to the early 3rd millennium B.C that grew on trade between Mesopotamia and the Levant for more than 1,000 years until it was crushed by the Babylonians. Its trove of thousands of tablets in the Akkadian language has given archaeologists a rich picture of the era. Upriver is Dura Europos, a city that grew under Roman rule in the early centuries A.D. — and its ruins revealed evidence of perhaps the earliest use of chemical warfare, when Parthian invaders apparently used sulfuric smoke to smother Roman defenders during a siege.

In this rich environment, al-Abdullah and his peers grew up amid a heritage that inspired them to display such bravery.

The 48-year-old al-Abdullah said he developed a passion for archaeology as a child watching American and French excavators work in the ruins of Terqa, an ancient city buried under his hometown of al-Asharah. He later led 10 archaeological expeditions along the Euphrates.

In the summer of 2014, IS militants declared their “caliphate” stretching across parts of Syria and Iraq. They swarmed over 90 percent of Deir el-Zour province and — shortly after al-Abdullah’s emergency museum evacuation mission — took part of Deir el-Zour city.

Al-Abdullah, now the head of the Damascus museum, says it was as natural to save his hometown’s heritage as it was to save his daughters.

“People who worked in digging know what it is like to look for a certain piece and then to find it,” he says. “We consider this piece as one of our own children. As we fear for our children and family, we fear for those antiquities.”

## A guide to the Final Four in Houston

**JOHN MARSHALL, AP Basketball Writer**

March Madness lived up to its billing with all those upsets, crazy finishes and memorable performances.

Now that the calendar is turning to April, it’s time for the main event: North Carolina, Oklahoma, Villanova and Syracuse in the Final Four.

Houston, here they come — and it figures to be quite a show.

To get you ready, we’ve got a rundown of the matchups, the top teams and players before the games start on Saturday:

### THE MATCHUPS

Oklahoma vs. Villanova. These teams met earlier in the season and the Sooners turned it into a laughter behind a barrage of 3-pointers, making 14 behind the arc in the 78-55 win. Expect this one to be much closer and more entertaining.

Syracuse vs. North Carolina. Round 3 for the ACC rivals. The Tar Heels won both regular-season meetings by wrecking Orange’s zone with their strong post play. Fail to figure out how to stop North Carolina inside and the Tar Heels could sweep into the title game.

### THE STARS

Buddy Hield, Oklahoma. Don’t know who Buddy Buckets is, you haven’t been following college hoops — or sports, for that matter.

Brice Johnson, North Carolina. All-American is a matchup nightmare on offense and has become a shot-blocking menace late in the season.

Josh Hart, Villanova. On a team with no true stars, Hart stands out because of how hard he plays — on every play.

Michael Gbinije, Syracuse. Need a basket, rebound, assist or steal? He’s the man for the Orange.

### THE OTHERS

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 27 of 30

Marcus Paige, North Carolina. His senior season hasn't lived up to his standards, but Paige is peaking at just the right time. Has made a big shot or two in his career.

Kris Jenkins, Villanova. Wildcats' second-leading scorer can fill it up from long range.

Isaiah Cousins, Oklahoma. The perfect backcourt complement to Hield, he can shoot and is the Sooners' best perimeter defender.

Malachai Richardson, Syracuse. Scored 21 second-half points against one of the nation's best defenses (Virginia's). That's pretty good.

## THE COACHES

Roy Williams, North Carolina. Hall of Famer vying for his third national title.

Jim Boeheim, Syracuse. Was suspended the season's first nine games season for NCAA violations. May have done the best coaching job of his Hall of Fame career after he came back.

Lon Kruger, Oklahoma. Only coach to take five schools to the NCAA Tournament eyeing his first title.

Jay Wright, Villanova. Proved the critics wrong by getting the Wildcats to the final dance after all those early exits as high seeds.

## NUMBERS

8\_Final Four appearances by Roy Williams, with Kansas and North Carolina.

10\_Syracuse's seed in the NCAA Tournament, making the Orange the first No. 10 and fourth double-digits seed to reach the Final Four.

13\_Losses by Syracuse this season, most by a Final Four team since Wisconsin and North Carolina in 2000.

16\_North Carolina's average margin of victory in four NCAA Tournament games.

19\_Times the Tar Heels have reached the Final Four. This is North Carolina's first since 2009.

22\_Years since Lon Kruger last coached in the Final Four, with Florida.

29.3\_Hield's scoring average in the NCAA Tournament.

2,835\_Combined victories by the four Final Four coaches.

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

North Carolina: Actors Andy Griffith, Louise Fletcher and Jack Palance; comedian Lewis Black; composer Richard Adler; basketball player Michael Jordan; soccer player Mia Hamm; runner Jim Beatty; NFL player Dre Bly; two-term West Virginia governor Gaston Caperton; Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delaney.

Syracuse: Marmaduke creator Brad Anderson; NFL player Jim Brown; TV personality Dick Clark; sports announcers Bob Costas and Mike Tirico; actors Jerry Stiller and Taye Diggs; fashion designer Betsey Johnson; TV anchor Ted Koppel; playwright/screenwriter Aaron Sorkin.

Villanova: actors Maria Bello and Victor Buono; musicians Jim Croce and Toby Keith; astronaut Andrew M. Allen; Secret Service director Joseph Clancy; second lady Jill Biden; NFL player Howie Long; New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte; former Pennsylvania Governor and chair of Democratic National Convention Ed Rendell; former Connecticut governor John G. Rowland; basketball player Paul Arizin.

Oklahoma: Actors James Garner, Ed Harris and Olivia Munn; former House majority leader Dick Armey; New Mexico Governor Susan Martinez; astronauts James Alan Abrahamson and Shannon Lucid; Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen; football players Adrian Peterson and Troy Aikman.

## 7 hurt, damage reported after tornado touchdowns in Oklahoma

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — At least seven people were injured and authorities were evaluating damage that included a destroyed home after severe storms spawned multiple tornado touchdowns in northeastern Oklahoma on Wednesday night, authorities said.

National Weather Service meteorologist Amy Jankowski said a tornado touched down and lifted up numerous times as it swept through the northern Tulsa and Owasso areas.

About one square mile of a mostly residential area sustained "heavy damage," Tulsa Fire Department spokesman Stan May said. One home was destroyed and other residences and businesses sustained roof

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 28 of 30

and structural damage, he said.

Police and fire officials were going door to door in the area to make sure everyone was accounted for. There were no immediate reports of anyone missing, May said.

"We want to check each house," he said. "We've got some elderly people in the area. We want to make sure people have the medicines they need."

Emergency Medical Services Authority, an ambulance service provider, transported seven patients, spokeswoman Kelli Bruer said. Bruer said one was in critical condition and several were in serious condition.

EMSA earlier said it had transported nine people.

May said a few others suffered minor injuries but declined treatment.

Public Service Company of Oklahoma reported nearly 5,000 customers without power in the area.

A wastewater treatment plant was without power, but no sewer services were affected, Tulsa public information officer Michelle Allen said.

The city streets and water departments were assisting with road barricades and debris removal, she said.

Nearly 9 million people in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas were in an enhanced area of risk Wednesday, putting them in the bull's-eye for some of the strongest storms, the national Storm Prediction Center said earlier Wednesday. The area of highest risk included the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

In Louisiana, the National Weather Service issued a flash-flood watch for northern parts of the state until 7 p.m. Thursday. Forecasters say multiple rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms will produce 2 to 4 inches of rain, and perhaps 6 inches in some parts of the state.

"Heavy rain from waves of storms could renew flooding over north Louisiana," said Cynthia Palmer, a forecaster at the weather service's office in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The ground remains saturated in that part of the state, which saw record flooding earlier this month, Palmer said.

"We will see the heaviest rain in the Monroe area of northeast Louisiana starting late this afternoon and evening and another wave on Thursday," Palmer said Wednesday morning. "This is the area that could see up to 6 inches."

In northern Mississippi, forecasters said thunderstorms would bring rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches. A flash-flood watch was in effect through Thursday evening.

As the system moves east, strong storms were expected to develop early Thursday over Alabama, where forecasters say the main threats will be tornadoes, winds of up to 70 mph, quarter-sized hail and heavy rains.

In Georgia, forecasters said more than 4 inches of rain could fall in western parts of the state.

The possibility of additional tornadoes remained from the storms that hit Oklahoma, Jankowski said. She said that while the system wasn't as strong as when it passed through the Tulsa area, it still has the structure to produce tornadoes.

## Asian stocks rise for 2nd day after Wall Street gains

**JOE McDONALD, AP Markets Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks rose Thursday for a second day after Wall Street gained on expectations U.S. interest rates will stay low.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.3 percent to 3,010.46 and Sydney's S&P ASX 200 advanced 1.3 percent to 5,076.30. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained just under 0.1 percent to 16,886.35 and benchmarks in New Zealand, Taiwan and Indonesia also rose. Hong Kong's Hang Seng held steady at 20,797.22.

US INTEREST RATES: Stock markets were encouraged by U.S. Federal Reserve chairwoman Janet Yellen's comments affirming plans to move slowly in raising rates. Analysts noted Yellen repeated previous statements they said still allow for rate hikes. "Global markets will probably still have to contend with more

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 29 of 30

Fed tightening this year," said Julian Jessop of Capital Economics in a report. But traders were reassured following suggestions by other Fed officials that the central bank should consider possible earlier rate hikes.

ANALYST'S QUOTE: "How long is this rebound going to last? No one can really give an answer at the moment; but one thing for sure is that Yellen's re-affirmed dovish stance gave the market sufficient comfort and room to breathe," said Margaret Yang Yan of CMC Markets in a report. "The chance of an April rate hike has diminished, and whether or not a June hike will materialize has now become more questionable."

WALL STREET: Stocks rose Wednesday as technology companies traded higher and consumer companies gained steam. The financial sector recovered some of its losses. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 83.55 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,716.66. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 8.94 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,063.95. The Nasdaq composite index added 22.67 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,869.29.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 32 cents to \$38.00 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 4 cents on Wednesday to close at \$38.32. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 17 cents to \$39.88 in London. It advanced 20 cents on Wednesday to \$40.05.

CURRENCY: The dollar was unchanged at 112.35 yen. The euro edged up to \$1.1322 from the previous day's \$1.1335.

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 31, the 91st day of 2016. There are 275 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 31, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned the country by announcing during a televised address that he would not seek re-election.

On this date:

In 1889, French engineer Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion.

In 1923, the first U.S. dance marathon, held in New York City, ended with Alma Cummings, who had danced with six consecutive male partners, setting a world record of 27 hours on her feet.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1943, "Oklahoma!" the first musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened on Broadway.

In 1949, Newfoundland (now called Newfoundland and Labrador) entered confederation as Canada's 10th province.

In 1953, Stanley Kubrick's first feature, a war drama titled "Fear and Desire," premiered in New York.

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, a young woman in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who remained unconscious, died in 1985.)

In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.

In 1991, the Warsaw Pact was formally dissolved.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had become lodged inside a prop gun.

In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

In 2005, Terri Schiavo, 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute.

Ten years ago: Auto parts supplier Delphi Corp. unveiled a broad restructuring plan that would cut 8,500 salaried jobs and shut or sell a third of its plants worldwide. Seventy deaths were reported after three

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, March 31, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 245 ♦ 30 of 30

strong earthquakes struck western Iran. A Brazilian airliner crashed, killing all 19 people on board.

Five years ago: Moammar Gadhafi struck a defiant stance after two high-profile defections from his regime, saying the Western leaders who had decimated his military with airstrikes should resign immediately — not him. (Gadhafi's message was in the form of a scroll across the bottom of state TV as he remained out of sight.) Baseball fan Bryan Stow, a paramedic from Santa Cruz, California, suffered traumatic injuries and brain damage as he was brutally beaten following the Dodgers' home opener against the Giants in Los Angeles. (Two men, Louie Sanchez and Marvin Norwood, pleaded guilty in the attack; Sanchez was sentenced to eight years in prison, while Norwood received a four-year sentence.)

One year ago: Lawyers for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) rested their case in his federal death penalty trial, a day after they began presenting testimony designed to show his late older brother, Tamerlan, was the mastermind of the 2013 terror attack. Muhammadu Buhari (moo-HAH'-mah-doo boo-HAH'-ree), a former general who once rose to power in a military coup, won Nigeria's presidential election, defeating President Goodluck Jonathan.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 89. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 88. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 82. Actress Shirley Jones is 82. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 82. Musician Herb Alpert is 81. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 76. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is 76. Actor Christopher Walken is 73. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 72. Former Vice President Al Gore is 68. Author David Eisenhower is 68. Actress Rhea Perlman is 68. Actor Ed Marinaro is 66. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 61. Actor Marc McClure is 59. Actor William McNamara is 51. Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett (AY'-veht) Brothers) is 45. Actor Ewan (YOO'-en) McGregor is 45. Actress Judi Shekoni (TV: "Heroes Reborn") is 38. Rapper Tony Yayo is 38. Actress Kate Micucci is 36. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 33. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 32. Actress Jessica Szohr is 31.

Thought for Today: "An optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?" — Rene Descartes, French philosopher (born this date in 1596, died 1650).