

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 1 of 39

- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Flags at half mast on Wednesday
- 2- Master Gardener staffed in Aberdeen
- 3- Spring into safe digging month
- 4- School Board Agenda
- 4- Golden Living Center ad
- 4- Geary Bridal Shower
- 4- Blood Drive set for April 12
- 4- Handyman looking for work
- 5- Obit: Franklin Denholm
- 7 - Today in Weather History
- 8- Local Weather Forecast
- 9- National Weather Map
- 9- Local Weather
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11 - News from the Associated Press

## Friday, April 8

State Student Congress in Pierre

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

**School Lunch:** Pizza, green peas, romaine lettuce, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Amanda Wheeler, Julia Grenz, Lori Gelhaus, Mitch Hanson, Tammy Erickson

9:00am: Robotics competition at Council Bluffs, IA

4:00pm: Track at Oakes

## Saturday, April 9

Show Choir at O'Gorman High School

**Birthdays:** Becca Monson, Carla Smith, Dale Grenz, Debora Tietz, Lance Larsen, Melissa Conolly, Roxie Merkel, Sydney Rossow

8:00am: ACT Testing at Groton Area

9:00am: Robotics competition at Council Bluffs, IA

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

## Sunday, April 10

State FFA Convention in Brookings

**Birthdays:** Amber Farmen, Martha Miller, Pauline Luce, Cody Herron, Matthew Hinds

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

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

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship and Holy Baptism

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

**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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## **FORMER CONGRESSMAN DENHOLM PASSES AWAY; GOV. DAUGAARD REQUESTS FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF**

PIERRE, S.D. - Frank Denholm, a former member of the United States House of Representatives from South Dakota, died earlier today in Brookings. Denholm, 93, represented South Dakota's first congressional district in the U.S. House from 1971 to 1975.

"I was sorry to learn of the death of Congressman Frank Denholm," said Gov. Daugaard. "Although it has been many years since Frank left office, many South Dakotans still fondly remember him and his hard work on behalf of our state. Linda and I send our condolences to the Denholm family."

Denholm was born November 29, 1923 in Day County, South Dakota. Denholm served a term as sheriff of Day County, and as an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before graduating from South Dakota State University in 1956 and from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1962. He practiced law in Brookings before being elected to Congress in 1970 and 1972, and returned to his law practice after his congressional service.

Gov. Daugaard requests that all flags in South Dakota fly at half-staff on Wednesday, April 13, the day of Rep. Denholm's funeral.

## **Three SD Regional Centers Staffed with Master Gardeners**

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Throughout the 2016 growing season, gardeners across South Dakota can reach out to SDSU Extension Master Gardeners with their gardening questions by making a simple phone call to one of three SDSU Extension Regional Centers.

"Master Gardeners are familiar with your growing conditions, expertly trained and are passionately engaged in helping their neighbors grow thriving gardens," said David Graper, SDSU Extension Master Gardener Coordinator.

Graper encourages South Dakotans to call in with questions or bring plant samples or photos in to the SDSU Extension Regional Center for a Master Gardener to review. He reminds folks to always call ahead to make sure a Master Gardener is available as Master Gardeners volunteer, and the Master Seasonal Horticulture Assistants is a seasonal, part-time position.

"Various Master Gardeners may be volunteering in each of the offices at different times but the primary, part-time Master Seasonal Horticulture Assistants workers are the same as last year," Graper said.

**Rapid City:** Mary Hercher will be working in the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Rapid City Regional Center, (711 North Creek Drive); 605-394-1722.

**Aberdeen:** Cindy Schnabel will be working in the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Aberdeen (13 Second Ave. SE.); 605-626-2870.

**Sioux Falls:** Karin Wolter will be working in the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Sioux Falls (2001 E. Eighth St.); 605-782-3290.

## Spring into Safe Digging Month

PIERRE, S.D. - In South Dakota, spring is the season to welcome warmer weather and longer days. For many, it's also the time to begin projects to spruce up outdoor spaces. With spring in full swing, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and the South Dakota One Call Board remind residents to contact South Dakota 811 a few days before beginning any digging project and request that underground utilities be marked.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has emphasized the importance of this step to South Dakotans by proclaiming April to be Safe Digging month. South Dakota law requires excavators and homeowners to contact South Dakota 811 at least two working days before beginning a digging project. Whether you're building a house, putting up a fence or preparing a new garden, notifying South Dakota 811 is an important step to ensure your safety.

"With any outdoor construction project, contacting 811 is a simple and essential first step," said PUC Chairman Chris Nelson. "A simple phone call can help prevent injuries, property damage and interruptions to the utility services that we all depend on."

Uneven surfaces, erosion and previous digging projects can all cause the depths of utility lines to vary and change over time, enhancing the risk of hitting an underground utility. For this reason, every digging project warrants a call to 811. The only exceptions are gardening up to 12 inches deep and field tillage up to 18 inches deep. Striking even a single line can result in injury and utility outages, as well as some expenses in the form of repair costs and fines.

The South Dakota 811 center received a total of 142,100 requests to locate utility lines in 2015. As a result, 808,693 locate tickets were dispatched to utility companies across the state. With an increase of more than 8,100 requests from 2014, more South Dakotans are utilizing the South Dakota 811 program than ever before.

"Our main goal is to ensure the safety of South Dakota residents. Following the South Dakota 811 process is a very simple and effective way to reach that goal," said South Dakota One Call Board President Dan Kaiser, CenturyLink senior manager from Sioux Falls. "Call before you dig, be mindful of the marks and dig with care."

South Dakota 811 is a free service. Homeowners and excavators with upcoming, outdoor construction projects must contact the South Dakota 811 center 48 hours before digging, excluding weekends and holidays. The center will then quickly notify all affected utility companies of your upcoming excavation plans and utility companies will dispatch crews to mark the underground lines at the respective dig site. Excavators should carefully plan their digging projects to ensure adequate time for notification to South Dakota 811 as part of their schedule.

In previous years, South Dakota 811 was available through the phone or web. To make the process as simple as possible, there are now more notification options. The South Dakota 811 mobile app allows you to quickly and conveniently complete the 811 form wherever you are. The South Dakota Homeowner Portal, accessible from [www.SD811.com](http://www.SD811.com), enables online locate requests.

To learn more about 811 and safe digging practices and to download the free South Dakota 811 mobile app, visit [www.SD811.com](http://www.SD811.com).

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 4 of 39

## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 School Board Meeting April 11, 2016 – 7:30 PM GHS Conference Room

### AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of March 14, 2016 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of minutes of March 29, 2016 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
3. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.
4. Approval of March District bills for payment.

#### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Buildings Report from Fosters, Jacobs, and Johnson, Inc.
3. Approval of March 2016 School Transportation Report and School Lunch Report.
4. Approval of March Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
5. School Board Committee Reports:
  - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Marty Weismantel, Merle Harder
  - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
  - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
6. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and Accept/Reject Bids for lawn mower tractor [Bid opening at 2:00 PM].
  2. Review 2015-16 school calendar and make amendment for two missed days.
  3. Approve ASBSD Protective Trust Agreement for Health Insurance for FY2017.
  4. Authorize Eide Bailly to conduct FY16 School District Audit.
  5. Approve signed 2016-2017 Teaching Contract from Mrs. Honerman.
  6. Approve hiring Alexandra Schuring as Junior High Volleyball Coach for 2016-2017 school year at 5% of base salary.
  7. Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel and SDCL 1-25-2(4) negotiations.
- ADJOURN

**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.**

## Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

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## The Life of Franklin Denholm

Franklin Edvard Denholm, 92, of Brookings, SD, fell asleep on April 7, 2016 at The Neighborhoods at Brookview, Brookings, SD. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00am Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Brookings, SD. Visitation will be from 4:00pm to 6:30pm with a 6:30pm Liturgical Wake Service Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at Rude's Funeral Home, Brookings, SD. Rude's Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Franklin Edvard Denholm, a.k.a. Frank E. Denholm, was born on November 29, 1923, the fifth child of nine children to John J. and Laura Anna (Mathias) Denholm on the homestead of his father in Scotland Township in western Day County, South Dakota.

Frank grew up on the family farm and like his brothers and sisters traveled by horse or walked five miles to and from a country school. After receiving his education he farmed extensively, owned and operated an Interstate truck transport business and became well known as an auctioneer. He was united in marriage to Mildred T. Niehaus on June 12, 1950, in Webster, SD. She was his alter-ego, ever at his side in the journey of life. Later in that same year he



was elected Day County Sheriff. He graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science plus academic credit hours sufficient for majors in economics, history, and speech (forensics). He won first place in Men's Oratory in SD Intercollegiate Forensics and in Men's Original Oratory in National Competition at Redlands University in California while a student at SDSU. He was president of Blue Key National Honors Society (SDSU Chapter), named in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Government, Personalities in the West and in the Mid-West, and in Men of Achievement.

He then pursued a Master's degree at the University of Minnesota which was interrupted by his appointment as a Special Agent of the FBI by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., and there he accepted an appointment as an FBI Agent.

In constant travel status he worked criminal and national security matters from Alcatraz to Washington, D.C. including crimes on the high seas. After reluctantly resigning as an FBI Agent he returned to the University of South Dakota to finish his law degree.

He returned to South Dakota where he earned and received an LLB degree converted to a Jurist Doctorate degree of law.

After his admittance to the practice of law by the SD Supreme Court in 1962, he opened offices at Brookings and Volga, SD.

He was also admitted and authorized to practice law in Federal District Court (Southern Division); U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, St. Louis, MO;; the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C.; the Supreme Court of the United States of America; U.S. Military Courts; Tax Courts of the United States and a member of the International Legal Fraternity of PHI KAPPA DELTA. Frank accomplished a successful practice for more than 52 years, interrupted only by being twice elected to the U.S. Congress in 1970 and re-elected in 1972.

Frank was a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Parish, the American Bar Assoc., the American Trial Lawyers Assoc.; the South Dakota Bar Assoc.; South Dakota Trial Lawyers Assoc.; South Dakota Peace Officers Assoc.; Isaac Walton League; Kiwanis member and past president; Trustee of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (BPOE); 4-H Club as leader and participant; active in Boy Scouts of America and past district chairman of Boy Scouts of America; member, director and past president of the Brookings Country Club.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 6 of 39

He was awarded many certificates including a Certificate of Appreciation by the leadership in the U.S. Congress for outstanding service in the 91st Session of the United States Congress.

Frank authored published orations and was a member of the International Speakers Platform. He received a Certificate of Award by American Jurisprudence for Excellence in the drafting of Wills by the Joint Publishers of Associated Reports of Bancroft - Whitney (Law Book Publishers).

He was also rewarded for his efforts and time in assisting leadership when the leadership supported the enactment of existing Public Law sponsored and co-sponsored by Frank including The Rural Telephone Act of 1971;

The Rural Development Act of 1972; the re-instatement of the Rural Electrification Act in 1973 identified as the "Denholm Bill" after President Nixon terminated the REA of the 1930's by an Executive Order; an Amendment to the U.S Constitution granting 18 year old citizens the right to vote; and the Rural Water Act of 1974, all landmark national legislation (now public law) and operative in the public interest for rural American farms and homes, cabins, resort and recreation areas and made available to all communities of a population of 50,000 people, or less, across America.

When the Capitol Building was bombed he was appointed to a Special Committee to Secure the Capitol Building of the USA.

Frank is survived by two sisters, Marietta Morehouse of Austin, TX, Annetta Smith of Arlington, TX; sisters-in-law, Myrna Denholm of Denver, CO, Frances Denholm of Minneapolis, MN, and more than 120 nieces and nephews of the extended family plus relatives in Australia, and in Denholm, Scotland, and a multitude of friends in the FBI and the U.S. Congress from sea to sea.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Mildred (died on August 14, 2014), one infant sister, Agnes, one sister, Jean Golden, brothers, J. Millard, J. Leonard, Robert L., and Burdette E.

Brookings was Frank's home for more than 60 years. He liked the SDSU motto, "You can go anywhere from here". He did - - the equivalent of three times around the world and returned to live, design and develop with Mildie (as fondly called by Frank) the Americana Addition to the City of Brookings, where they built their home at 1500 Franklin Avenue, overlooking the golf course of Brookings and less than ten minutes from the campus of his alma mater.

Frank often laughed at himself - - "Came as a dumb, young farm kid to SDSU and returned to become, not the biggest or brightest, but likely the oldest farmer in town pending the full development of the Americana Addition."

He also said, "Faith, family, friends and a loving wife were the bed rock to progress day by day. In the stillness of time, he left love, honor and respect to his "Lil" Mildie, now in her heavenly home, and to family and friends far and near, in the FBI and the U.S. Congress from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and all that helped him in the trials of an earthly presents in Beautiful America he left endless gratitude. Now in his humble way may he be heard by the Judge of Judges to say, "Forgive me if I have hurt or offended another along the way, Dear Lord, I pray."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 7 of 39

## Today in Weather History

April 8, 1995: Ten inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a five-day period, beginning April 8th. Many roads became impassable. Several businesses, government offices, and schools closed on the 11th. Twenty-four inches fell at Ree Heights and Gettysburg, 20.0 inches at Faulkton, 18.0 inches at Kennebec, 16.0 inches at Pierre, and 10.0 inches at Doland.

1919 - A tornado swarm in northern Texas resulted in the deaths of 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1926 - The lightning-set oil depot fire near San Luis Obispo CA boiled over and engulfed 900 acres. Many tornado vortices resulted from the intense heat of the fire. One such tornado traveled 1000 yards, picked up a house and carried it 150 feet, killing the two occupants inside. (The Weather Channel)

1938: Snow began to fall over central Oklahoma during the previous evening and continued to this day. In Oklahoma City, several snowfall records for the month soon fell to the storm, including the record for most total snowfall during the month of April. The Oklahoma City snowfall totals of 0.8 inches on the 7th and 3.3 inches on the 8th remain daily records. In fact, the 3.3 inches of snow on the 8th is the most ever to fall on any single April day. The 4.1 inch total for the month continues as the greatest April monthly snowfall total.

1973: The state of Iowa and southwest Wisconsin saw severe blizzard conditions from April 8 through the 10th. Sustained wind of 40 to 50 mph, with gusts to 65 mph was reported with falling snow. Highways were closed, travel was suspended, and properties were damaged. Livestock and turkey losses approximated 20 million dollars. Record snowfall was reported in several localities. Belle Plaine had 20.3 inches; Dubuque had 19.2 inches, and Grundy Center saw 19 inches. Snow drifted as high as 16 feet. In southwest Wisconsin, this storm was quoted as being the "worst since 1921."

1987 - A cold front crossing the Northern Plateau and the Northern Rocky Mountain Region produced high winds in northeastern Wyoming. Winds gusting to 69 mph at Sheridan WY downed power lines and caused some property damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northerly winds ushered cold air into the north central U.S. The strong winds, gusting to 60 mph at Rapid City SD and Williston ND, reduced visibilities in blowing dust over the Dakotas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989: Two-dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. Phoenix AZ equaled their record for April of 104 degrees established just the previous day.

1998: A major F5 tornado struck western Jefferson County in Alabama leveling the communities of Oak Grove, Rock Creek, Edgewater, McDonald's Chapel, Sylvan Springs and Pratt City. The tornado lifted just two miles from downtown Birmingham. The twister had a track of 20 miles with the damage path averaging between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile in width. 34 people were killed, 221 injured and 1,000 homes destroyed.

1990 - Twenty-two cities reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the eastern U.S. Freezing temperatures severely damaged peach and apple orchards in West Virginia, where prolonged mild weather since January had caused an early blooming of spring vegetation. State and Federal agencies estimated a 50 percent loss in production for peaches and "Delicious Red Apples". (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

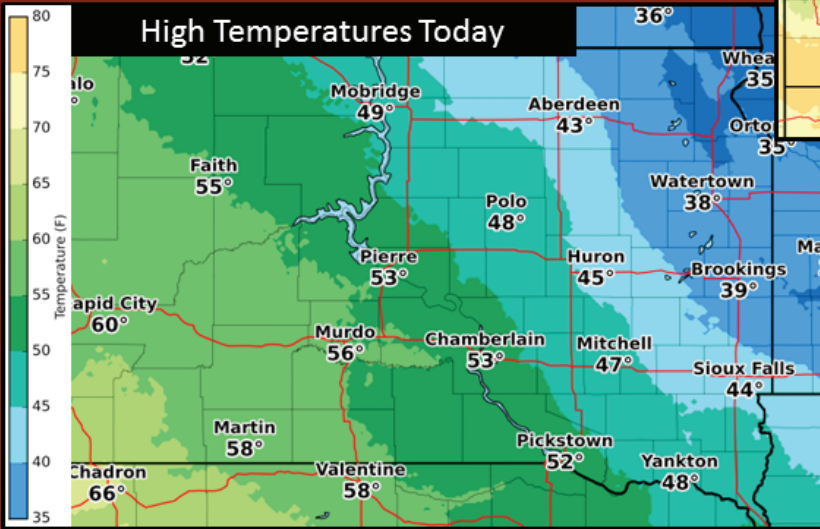
Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 8 of 39

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Blustery then Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 42 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 57 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 45 °F

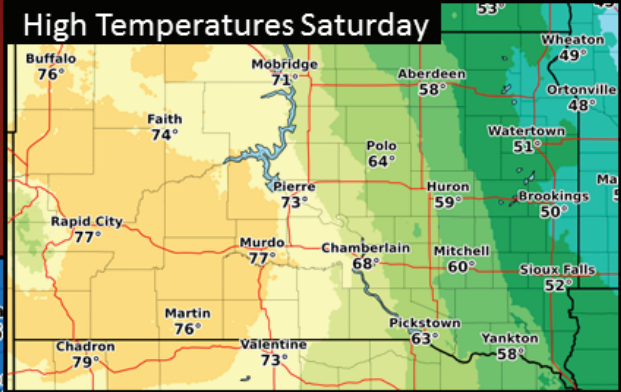
## Cool today


## Warmer and Windy Saturday


### High Temperatures Today



### High Temperatures Saturday




- Continued Dry  **FIRE DANGER**
- South Winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts of 35 to near 40 mph Saturday afternoon




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

Issued: April 8, 2016  
4:45 am



@NWSAberdeen



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 04/08/2016 at 4:53AM

Dry conditions will persist across the region as cool Canadian high pressure slowly sinks across the Eastern Dakotas and Minnesota through tonight. Look for breezy conditions to develop Saturday as the high pressure system exits to our east. Southerly winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts of 35 to near 40 mph will be possible Saturday afternoon. On these warm southerly winds, temperatures will increase 10 to 15 degrees from the cool afternoon temperatures of today. Highs in the 50s to 70s will be common Saturday, with the warmest readings west of the Missouri River Valley.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 9 of 39

## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 45.3 at 3:21 PM

**Low:** 28.4 at 1:45 AM

**High Gust:** 46 at 8:48 AM

Precip: 0.01

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 86° in 1988

**Record Low:** 4 in 1936

**Average High:** 52°F

**Average Low:** 28°F

**Average Precip in April.:** 0.32

**Precip to date in April.:** 0.08

**Average Precip to date:** 2.50

**Precip Year to Date:** 1.03

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:10 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:59 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Apr 08, 2016, issued 3:23 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

Two men were well known in their area of Oregon for their wood-chopping skills. The local residents always wondered which one of them was stronger and more capable of chopping through the most amount of wood in a given day. Finally, George went to Alan and challenged him to a contest.

The crowds gathered from far and wide and preparations were made for the contest. During the contest George, the challenger, worked hard, stopping only to eat lunch or occasionally drink water. Alan, however, not only stopped for lunch but took regular breaks. At the end of the day, Alan won the contest.

"I don't get it, Alan," said George. "You took more breaks and stopped more frequently than I did, and yet you chopped more wood."

"Each time I stopped," said Alan, "I was sharpening my axe."

No matter what we do in life we need a good, workable strategy. Too often people work hard but not smart. Smart people plan what they are going to do and then work their plan.

Solomon wisely advised, "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty." This simple bit of advice will take us a long way if we want to become successful.

Success begins with a deep desire to do whatever God wants us to do. But desire is not enough. More than simply desiring success, we must work with all of our strength, our heart and our soul. We must first discover what God wants us to do, then, empower ourselves with preparation, look to God for His plan and guidance and commit ourselves to His leadership.

**Prayer:** Father, we know that You have a perfect plan for our lives. May we discover it with Your guidance, do it in Your strength and bring honor to Your name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Cold Fire containment at 85 percent; Highway 87 reopened**

PRINGLE, S.D. (AP) — Crews are mopping up a wildfire that's been burning all week in the Black Hills National Forest area of western South Dakota.

The Great Plains Fire Information office says the Cold Fire that was first reported Saturday afternoon east of Pringle is now 85 percent contained.

State Highway 87 has been reopened. However, the fire area itself is still closed to the public, including hunters.

About 50 personnel remain on scene, down from the high of about 200.

No structure damage or injuries have been reported, and no evacuations have been ordered. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

### **Former US Rep. Frank Denholm dies at age 92**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Frank Denholm, a longtime attorney who represented South Dakota as a U.S. Representative in the 1970s, has died at the age of 92.

Rude's Funeral Home in Brookings says Denholm died Thursday.

Denholm grew up in Scotland Township in western Day County. He graduated from South Dakota State University and served as a sheriff and an FBI agent before earning a law degree from the University of South Dakota and entering private practice.

The Democrat served four years in the U.S. House starting in 1971, but he lost his bid for a third term when he was defeated by political newcomer Larry Pressler in 1974. Pressler says Denholm was a great South Dakotan.

Visitation is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon in Brookings with a burial mass on Wednesday morning.

### **South Dakota animal rabies cases grow to 29 in 2015**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Health says the number of animal rabies cases in the state was up in 2015.

The agency said Thursday that keeping pets up to date on their vaccinations is the best way to protect against rabies.

State epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says rabies is a cyclical disease with cases periodically rising and falling.

There were 29 animal rabies cases in 2015, which is up from 21 in 2014. Rabies was detected in 2015 in nine domestic animals and 20 wild animals.

The domestic animals included six cattle, two cats and one dog. State public health veterinarian Russ Daly says skunks are the main reservoir of rabies in South Dakota.

Daly says rabies vaccinations can protect a person and can save the life of a pet.

### **Year's first bison calf born at Custer State Park**

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Calving season has kicked off at Custer State Park in western South Dakota.

The first bison calf of the year was born Monday.

The state's Game, Fish and Parks Department says most bison calves are born between late April and early May. The calves weigh 40 to 50 pounds at birth and are a rust-orange color before gradually turning dark brown.

The department is reminding park visitors to not "move, 'rescue' or otherwise interfere with the calves." The agency says bison cows are fiercely protective of their young and should be treated with caution.

The park, which encompasses 71,000 acres, maintains a herd of about 1,300 bison.

## Lesterville woman claims \$223,000 Dakota Cash jackpot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Lottery says a Lesterville woman has claimed a Dakota Cash jackpot of more than \$233,000.

Kathy King bought her winning ticket at the Hy-Vee grocery store in Yankton where she works.

King says that when she sells someone a lottery ticket, she really wants for them to win and she's happy when they do. Now her customers at the store on North Broadway can return the congratulations.

The store will receive a \$5,000 bonus for the sale.

## State Supreme Court overturns kidnapping conviction

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Supreme Court has reversed the kidnapping conviction of a man who drunkenly pulled a Sioux Falls woman down the block.

The high court in an opinion released Thursday remanded the case.

In 2014, Jeremiah Liaw removed Sioux Falls resident Angela Calin from her property and pulled her about a block before trying to push her into traffic. He had a blood-alcohol content of 0.38, about five times the legal driving limit.

Liaw appealed his 2015 conviction for second-degree kidnapping. The court agreed with Liaw's contention that prosecutors were required to prove he intended to injure or terrorize Calin.

Liaw's lawyer had argued in part that he was too intoxicated to have that purpose in mind. Attorney Beau Blouin says the reversal was warranted.

## Sioux City tickets continue despite limit on driver details

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Iowa border city hasn't been deterred from issuing tickets to South Dakota drivers caught on speed cameras despite being blocked from accessing some driver information in a South Dakota database, Sioux City's legal department said Thursday.

In what has become something of an inter-state chess match over access to driver information, Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration in January shut off the Sioux City Police Department's access to South Dakota residents' addresses in a database city police had been using.

But the move doesn't seem to have discouraged ticketing from photo enforcement cameras. About 280 tickets were issued to vehicles registered in South Dakota in January and February 2016, compared to 267 during roughly the same period in 2015, according to the latest information provided by the city attorney's office.

Daugaard's office wants people to follow the speed limit, and the move was meant to bar Sioux City from accessing details in the state's system, said Matt Konenkamp, a policy adviser to the governor.

"The goal is to get South Dakota out of the process," he said. "We don't like the process that they've created, we don't think it's constitutionally sound, and we don't want to be a partner in it by readily sharing our data with them."

Sioux City police have continued to issue citations without slowing down, Assistant City Attorney Justin Vondrak said. Police have other ways of researching driver information with "just a little bit of work," he said, adding that he likely can't reveal those methods.

"The intent of the governor of South Dakota was to prevent us obviously from issuing any citations for individuals who break laws within the city limits," Vondrak told The Associated Press. "The city has taken steps to make sure that it is able to enforce the traffic laws within its jurisdiction by anyone who violates those laws. South Dakota drivers are not exempt from obeying the city's traffic laws."

South Dakota law is supposed to prevent other states or local governments from accessing residents' driver information for the purposes of issuing such tickets. But Sioux City police last year said they were still able to get the necessary details from South Dakota, which doesn't have red light or speed cameras.

South Dakota previously blocked Arizona-based Redflex Traffic Systems, which Sioux City contracts with for the cameras, from accessing information on the state's residents. But Sioux City police Chief Douglas

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 13 of 39

Young said in August that his department was still able to get the information because it is a law enforcement agency.

Though the Daugaard administration limited the information Sioux City police could access in January, the department could still access a driver's name and information about their vehicle in the South Dakota system, Konenkamp said at the time.

If an officer in Sioux City — the redaction only targeted that department — is involved in a criminal stop, they could reach out to South Dakota's dispatch center to get more information on a driver, Konenkamp said then.

Vondrak said the move is creating longer stops for South Dakota residents who are pulled over because officers have to call in every license plate. It may also create a safety issue in the future, he said.

"That's why we've given them 24-hour, 7-day access to our dispatch center, and I would encourage them to use that in any situation," Konenkamp said.

## **TransCanada: 16,800 gallons of oil leaked in South Dakota**

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — TransCanada estimates that about 16,800 gallons of oil leaked into a field in South Dakota as part of a spill that has shut the Keystone pipeline down while officials investigate.

The company says it reported the 400-barrel estimate Thursday to the National Response Centre and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration. It says the estimate is based on the excavation of soil to expose more than 100 feet of pipe and takes into account factors including oil observed in the soil and the potential area affected.

TransCanada hasn't yet said what caused the leak, which was reported Saturday. The company has told customers the pipeline will remain closed until early next week.

About 100 workers are at the site, which is approximately 4 miles from the Freeman pump station in Hutchinson County, said TransCanada spokesman Mark Cooper. He said specialists at the site affirm that the leak is being controlled and there is no significant environmental impact and no threat to public safety.

The pipeline runs from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois and Cushing, Oklahoma, passing through the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. The Keystone pipeline can handle 550,000 barrels, or about 23 million gallons, daily. It's part of a pipeline system that also would have included the Keystone XL pipeline had President Barack Obama not rejected that project last November.

Analysts say the shutdown will have a short-term impact in which less-heavy Canadian crude will be getting to the market, but the system is already oversupplied so consumers are unlikely to see an impact at the pump.

## **Watchdog agency questions grant costs from Eagle Butte group**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal watchdog is questioning nearly \$175,000 in grant costs from federal awards to an Eagle Butte nonprofit working to end domestic violence and sexual assault against Native American women.

A report from the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General released Thursday said the agency audited two grants totaling \$1.95 million to the Native Women's Society of the Great Plains.

The office found nearly \$40,000 in unallowable costs. It also identified more than \$130,000 in unsupported spending for travel, supplies and equipment, among other areas.

The grants were awarded by the DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women in 2008 and 2014.

Nonprofit Executive Director Carmen O'Leary says the group made some mistakes. She says the organization has put new policies in place and will work with the department.

## **Ticket sold in Yankton wins \$223,707 Dakota Cash jackpot.**

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A ticket sold in Yankton has won the \$223,707 Dakota Cash jackpot.

State lottery officials say the ticket matched all five numbers in Wednesday's drawing to win the big prize, against odds of 1 in about 325,000.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 14 of 39

The winning numbers are 4, 9, 17, 26 and 31.  
The ticket holder has about six months to claim the money.  
Dakota Cash is played only in South Dakota. The jackpot starts again at \$20,000 for the next drawing, on Saturday.

## Warriors become 2nd NBA team to win 70, beat Spurs 112-101

**JOSH DUBOW, AP Sports Writer**

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors reached a milestone that only Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls have achieved in the history of the NBA.

All that's left for Golden State to do now is win three more games and become the winningest team of them all.

Curry scored 27 points and the Warriors became the second team to win 70 games in a season by beating the San Antonio Spurs 112-101 on Thursday night, wrapping up home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

"Two teams in the history of this game have reached where we are right now," Curry said. "It's a proud moment and something that should be recognized."

The Warriors (70-9) bounced back from their second loss in three home games two nights earlier against Minnesota and joined the 1995-96 Bulls as the only teams in the 70-win club. Golden State can pass the Bulls by sweeping the final three games, including a rematch in San Antonio on Sunday.

Coach Steve Kerr, who played on the record-setting Bulls team, acknowledges being uneasy about chasing the record instead of giving the team a break, but the Warriors' young stars are gung-ho to get it.

"Most of the guys in the locker room are saying, 'We're right here, we've put all this effort into it, let's go for it,'" forward Draymond Green said.

Harrison Barnes scored 21 points and Green added 18 to help the Warriors avoid losing back-to-back games for the first time this season. Golden State has outscored the opposition by 14.6 points per game following its nine losses and has finally achieved its main goal in the regular season of earning the top seed in the playoffs.

"It took 70 wins to wrap up the one seed, which tells you all you need to know about that team in the other locker room," Kerr said.

Kawhi Leonard scored 23 points for the Spurs, who will enter the playoffs next weekend as the second seed in the West.

San Antonio has been outscored by 41 points in two losses at Golden State this season and will have to open on the road if these teams meet again in the conference finals.

"You can't make mistakes against these guys," coach Gregg Popovich said. "Best team on the planet. If you lose your concentration defensively or you shoot ill-advised shots or don't move the ball and give it back to them quickly, you're in big trouble."

After a relatively quiet first half, Curry took the game over in the third quarter and sent the Warriors to their second easy win at home against the Spurs this season. Curry had 15 points and four assists in the quarter as he was able to drive to the basket with ease for either his own shot or to set up a teammate.

The Warriors shot 80 percent in the third alone and took an 87-69 lead into the fourth — easily passing the 79 points they scored the entire game in last month's loss at San Antonio.

This was a highly anticipated showdown between the league's top two teams, with the 134 combined wins the most ever in a regular-season matchup. Both took the game seriously, with Popovich opting to play his stars instead of resting them. Popovich even called a timeout less than a minute into the game after a defensive breakdown led to an open 3-pointer for Klay Thompson.

Not to be outdone, Kerr got angry after a turnover led to an open 3-pointer for Danny Green late in the first half and slammed his white board so hard during the timeout that his marker flew into the air.

That 3 by Green helped the Spurs cut a 15-point deficit down to six in the final minute of the half. But Barnes answered with a pair of 3-pointers to give the Warriors a 52-40 lead at the break.

## TIP-INS

Spurs: Key reserve Boris Diaw (sore right abductor) was the only Spurs player to miss the game.

Warriors: Green committed two fouls in the first 3:53 and then got called for a technical for arguing the second call before going to the bench early. ... Barnes has scored in double figures in a career-high nine straight games.

## INJURY SCARE

Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge left the game late in the first quarter with a dislocated right pinky finger. Trainers taped it to his ring finger and he returned in the second quarter.

"It freaked me out," he said. "I had never had it happen to me before. I looked down and it was going the other direction. It definitely caught me off guard. They popped it in, I went back in real quick, and as soon as I touched the ball it went right back out. It didn't feel right the whole night."

## UP NEXT

Spurs: Visit Denver on Friday.

Warriors: Visit Memphis on Saturday.

## Kerry meets Iraqi leaders in Baghdad, discusses IS fight

**BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made an unannounced stop in Baghdad on Friday to meet Iraq's prime minister and other top officials at a time of increased military momentum against the Islamic State but deep political uncertainty in the unstable country.

"This is obviously a very critical time here in Iraq," Kerry said. His discussions with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi as well as Iraq's foreign minister, top Sunni official and a Kurdish regional leader were designed as a show of support for the Iraqi government as it tackles ongoing security, economic and political challenges.

A day earlier in Bahrain, Kerry said Iraq's government must "unify and rebuild its country and reclaim territory that was occupied by Daesh," using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State. He said Iraq's neighbors also "need to support the Abadi government in its efforts to stabilize and eventually rebuild the country," stressing the importance of bringing order to Sunni-majority areas as they become liberated from IS control.

Kerry's trip coincides with military advances. Iraqi forces say they entered the strategically important IS-held town of Hit on Thursday, while the Pentagon is considering establishing more small military outposts to provide artillery support and other aid to Iraqi forces readying an assault on Mosul, IS' stronghold in the country. Last month, the U.S. opened the first such base since returning to Iraq in 2014.

But al-Abadi faces challenges of his own, still trying to establish a new Cabinet amid pressure from supporters of a hard-line Shiite cleric who last month staged rallies and a sit-in next to the government headquarters to demand reforms. A prolonged standstill could severely hamper al-Abadi's ability to effectively lead a country that has often broken down along sectarian divisions since the U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein some 13 years ago.

Corruption is at the heart of the internal debates.

Last August, al-Abadi proposed a sweeping reform package to combat corruption, cut government spending and merge ministries, but his efforts have been stymied by sectarian tensions and struggles to contain the Islamic State. Its forces swept across much of northern and western Iraq in the summer of 2014. While Iraqi authorities have waged a full-scale war, aided by U.S. airstrikes, the Kurdish peshmerga forces, Shiite militias and pro-government Sunni fighters, the extremist group still holds significant territory.

Kerry arrived Friday after attending a meeting with Persian Gulf allies in the Bahraini capital of Manama, where the fight against IS figured prominently among American concerns. But the Sunni monarchies of the region are facing their own distractions, with nascent peace efforts to end civil wars in Syria and Yemen, and shared fears about Shiite Iran's interference in their affairs.

The U.S. is trying to speed up the path to victory. Although the Islamic State has lost some 40 percent of its territory in Iraq and maybe a fifth of lands it once controlled in Syria, it continues to prove a magnet for foreign fighters, some of whom may now be returning to Europe and elsewhere with plans to kill civilians. And experts say IS' staying power may be inspiring others, who've never been in contact with the group, to wage violence in its name. Recent attacks in Brussels, Paris and California underscore Western fears.

## Fishing amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea

The Associated Press

CATO, Philippines (AP) — As Asian countries jostle for territory in the South China Sea, one Filipino fisherman is taking a stand.

He has faced down Chinese coast guard rifles, and even engaged in a stone-throwing duel with the Chinese last month that shattered two windows on his outrigger.

"They'll say, 'Out, out of Scarborough,'" Renato Etac says, referring to Scarborough Shoal, a rocky outcropping claimed by both the Philippines and China. He yells back, "Where is the document that shows Scarborough is Chinese property?"

At one level, the territorial disputes in the South China Sea are a battle of wills between American and Chinese battleships and planes. At another level, they are cat-and-mouse chases between the coast guards of several countries and foreign fishermen, and among the fishing boats themselves.

Indonesia seized a Chinese fishing boat last month and arrested eight fishermen, only to have a Chinese coast guard vessel ram the fishing boat as it was being towed, allowing it to escape.

Vietnam's coast guard chased away more than 100 Chinese boats over a two-week period, its state media reported this week, and made a rare seizure of a Chinese ship carrying 100,000 liters (26,400 gallons) of diesel oil, reportedly for sale to fishing boats in the area.

The South China Sea, a hodgepodge of overlapping territorial claims in the Pacific, is both strategically important and a vital shipping route for international trade. It may also contain valuable oil and natural gas reserves.

As tensions ratchet up, though, it is perhaps those who make a living at sea who feel it the most. Here are some stories from fishermen around the region:

### PHILIPPINES: THE GUARDIAN OF SCARBOROUGH SHOAL

Renato Etac has had dozens of encounters with Chinese ships.

More than once, a small team of Chinese coast guardsmen on a rubber boat approached his boat and pointed their rifles at him, but he says he knew they would not fire and risk starting a war.

At other times, the Chinese will surge as if to hit his boat, but the 37-year-old fisherman uses his keen knowledge of Scarborough Shoal — where he has fished for Spanish mackerel, trevally and grouper since he was a teenager — to outmaneuver them.

Etac says he just wants to defend his livelihood in waters that used to be open to all. China took control of Scarborough Shoal in 2012 after a two-month standoff with Philippine government ships. It sits about 230 kilometers (145 miles) west of the Philippines, and 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the Chinese coast.

"It's like quarreling, like playing games," he says. "Yelling, dirty finger, everything's there. Sometimes I use expletives in different dialects and I get to laugh when I see them, because they don't understand what I'm saying."

He enjoys what he calls the territorial "debates" in the high seas, though his earnings from a weeklong fishing expedition have dropped by more than half to 3,000 pesos (\$63), because of both the Chinese disruptions and competition.

"He's like the guardian of Scarborough, sir," said Gregg Etac, a relative and a fellow fisherman. "I used to sail with him, but now, I'm scared."

— Jim Gomez in Cato, Philippines.

### CHINA: COAST GUARD TO THE RESCUE

Chinese fishermen working out of the Hainan island port of Tanmen say they now enjoy much greater support from their country's beefed-up coast guard.

They have been forced to range further out to sea because of the heavy depletion of coastal fisheries, says Li Xianchuan, a 64-year-old crew member who has been fishing in and around Scarborough, the Spratly islands and the closer-in Paracels — claimed also by Vietnam — for 40 years.

"There are many more fish in the Nansha islands, particularly Huangyan island," he says, using the Chi-



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 17 of 39

nese terms for the contested Spratly group and Scarborough Shoal.

In previous years, Chinese government ships would issue radio warnings about the presence of Philippine patrol ships around Scarborough Shoal.

"It was very dangerous and scary," he says, as his 90-ton vessel takes on fresh water in preparation for a foray into the South China Sea. "We had to run around the reefs to get away from big (Philippine) boats. Thanks to the shallow water and submerged reefs, their big boats could not enter the reefs. We played hide-and-seek inside the reef until their boats gave up and left."

Conditions for Chinese fishermen have vastly improved with the addition of new and larger Chinese coast guard vessels and a more proactive approach, Li says. A call to the coast guard will bring help within two to three hours, he says.

Fishing in the South China Sea remains perilous, Li says. Fishermen must contend with rogue sailors from Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia who might try to rob them of their catches and fishing equipment. Li says he has been fired on once, and knows of several fishermen killed in encounters with Philippine boats.

— Zhang Weiqun in Tanmen, China

## TAIWAN: FEAR OF BANDITRY AT SEA

Heightened competition, and even banditry, is making it ever-harder to make a living, says Taiwanese fishing boat owner Hong Huai-jen.

"Now, they are not only fishing in the South China Sea, but have also broken into our territorial waters," Hong says, standing by his boat in the southern Taiwan port of Donggang, which looks out on the Taiwan Strait.

His boat was surrounded last November by a group of Vietnamese fishing boats in waters off Taiwan, presumably for the purpose of robbing him. He managed to give them the slip and called the Taiwanese coast guard for help. The Vietnamese boats had dispersed by the time help arrived.

"Taiwanese fishermen don't have any weapons," Hong says. "Once they board our boats, there's nothing we can do. We would be detained and we have to pay for our release."

He has been fishing for 14 years from his home port on Xiaoliuqiu, an island in the Taiwan Strait.

"There's a big difference compared with the business we had before," he says. "My father has worked as a fisherman for about 40 years. The fishery resources were rich, and there were fewer fishing boats before. But now, the resources are thin and there are lots of boats."

— Johnson Lai in Donggang, Taiwan

## INDONESIA: ANCESTRAL DISPUTES

Fish-rich waters around Indonesia's Natuna Islands have a long history of being contested, says Anton Leonard, a fisherman and exporter who is secretary-general of the Indonesian Fishermen's Association representing traditional fishermen.

"Fishermen that come from Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and China have told native fishermen that Natuna waters are their traditional fishing grounds since the time of their ancestors," says Leonard. "Local fishermen in Natuna could not resist their presence because some of them believe the claims, others because such vessels are much bigger, more advanced and sometimes also carrying weapons."

Native fisherman haven't been directly affected by South China Sea incidents that involve Chinese patrol boats, likely because they don't venture far out into Indonesia's exclusive economic zone, he says. But Indonesia's crackdown on foreign fishing vessels in its waters and a policy against "transshipment" of fish between boats at sea has affected the livelihood of traditional fisherman because they have fewer opportunities to sell their catch. At the same time, the government lacks a comprehensive strategy to empower the fishermen and improve their industry, Leonard says.

"We are not afraid to face foreign boats coming into our territory," Leonard said. "We're eager to help the government and waiting to be involved in the defense of the country, even if only to be able to inform the local authorities about their presence within our waters."

— Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia

## VIETNAM: FEARING CHINA

For five generations, Tran Lan's family has been fishing in the South China Sea. He was 17 when he started going out in a small boat with his father. The family did well enough to buy two wooden trawlers for \$90,000 each. His four sons, now aged 19 to 30, joined him.

The decades-old routine changed in the early 2000s when their boat was threatened and nearly rammed by Chinese maritime police four times near the Paracel Islands in South China Sea. They switched their fishing grounds to the less bountiful Tonkin Gulf, but still work in constant fear of being attacked by the Chinese.

"We have equipped GPS and navigation to identify Chinese boats so we can avoid them," Lan says. "The last thing I want is to get too close to Chinese boats. They have bigger boats and definitely would outrun us."

His boats were among about 1,000 anchored at Tho Quang terminal, the biggest in the central port city of Danang. He and others were busily readying their boats to go back to sea. Each expedition lasts up to 30 days, punctuated by two to three weeks in port to rest and repair boats and gear.

Vietnam, China and Taiwan all claim the Paracel Islands, which have been controlled by China since 1974. Vietnam has accused China of harassing and attacking its fishermen in what it says are traditional fishing grounds near the Paracels that they have been working for generations.

"I was fishing near the Paracel Islands for a long time, but the Chinese have sealed it off," Lan says, whose family earns about \$27,000 a year catching squid. "It was a good area for fishing."

— Hau Dinh in Danang, Vietnam

## Pope insists conscience, not rules, must lead faithful

**NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press**

**RACHEL ZOLL, Associated Press**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis insisted that individual conscience be the guiding principle for Catholics negotiating the complexities of sex, marriage and family life in a major document released Friday that rejects the emphasis on black and white rules for the faithful.

In the 256-page document "The Joy of Love," Francis makes no change in church doctrine and strongly upholds that marriage is a lifelong commitment.

But in selectively citing his predecessors and emphasizing his own teachings, Francis makes clear that he wants nothing short of a revolution in the way priests accompany Catholics, saying the church must no longer sit in judgment and "throw stones" against those who fail to live up to the Gospel's ideals of marriage and family life.

"I understand those who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no room for confusion," he wrote. "But I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness."

On thorny issues such as contraception, Francis stressed that a couple's individual conscience — not dogmatic rules imposed across the board — must guide their decisions and the church's pastoral practice.

"We have been called to form consciences, not replace them," he said.

He insisted the church's aim is to reintegrate and welcome all its members. He called for a new language to help Catholic families cope with today's problems. And he said pastors must take into account mitigating factors — fear, ignorance, habits and duress — in counseling Catholics who simply aren't perfect.

"It can no longer simply be said that all those in any irregular situations are living in a state of mortal sin and are deprived of sanctifying grace," he wrote. Even those in an "objective situation of sin" can be in a state of grace, and can even be more pleasing to God by trying to improve, he said.

The document's release marks the culmination of a divisive two-year consultation of ordinary Catholics and the church hierarchy that Francis initiated in hopes of understanding the problems facing Catholic families today and providing them with better pastoral care.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 19 of 39

The most divisive issue that arose during two meetings of bishops, or synods, was whether Francis would loosen the Vatican's strict position on whether Catholics who divorce and remarry can receive Communion. Church teaching holds that unless these Catholics receive an annulment, or a church decree that their first marriage was invalid, they are committing adultery and cannot receive Communion.

Conservatives had insisted that the rules were fixed and that there was no way around Christ's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage. Progressives had sought wiggle room to balance doctrine with mercy and look at each couple on a case-by-case basis, accompanying them on a path of reconciliation that could lead to them eventually receiving the sacraments.

Francis took a unilateral step last year in changing church law to make it easier to get an annulment. On Friday, he said the rigorous response proposed by the conservatives was inconsistent with Jesus' message of mercy.

"By thinking that everything is black and white, we sometimes close off the way of grace and of growth and discourage paths of sanctification which give glory to God," he said. "Let us remember that a small step in the midst of great human limitations can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order but moves through the day without confronting great difficulties."

Francis didn't explicitly endorse the "penitential path" of bringing such civilly remarried Catholics to Communion that was advocated by leading progressives such as Cardinal Walter Kasper. But he repeated what the synod had endorsed of the need for pastors to help individual Catholics over the course of spiritual direction to ascertain what God is asking of them.

And he went further by explicitly linking such discussions of conscience with access to the sacraments.

In footnotes, Francis cited his previous document "The Joy of the Gospel" in saying that the Eucharist "is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak."

The Rev. James Bretzke, a Boston College theologian, said the document will give cover to and empower those priests and bishops who want to apply a broader understanding of the confidential discussions between a priest and divorced and civilly remarried Catholics — a concept known as the "internal forum solution."

"He does not outlaw that, whereas John Paul II specifically outlawed (it)," he said.

But Mark Brumley, president of Ignatius Press, a major English-language publisher of the writings of retired Pope Benedict XVI, said Francis' emphasis on conscience "doesn't mean this is a free pass to do whatever you want."

He said the document tries to navigate the difficult path of upholding church teaching while allowing the civilly remarried to participate in the life of the church.

"It's a very tricky thing," Brumley said.

In many ways the document is significant for what it doesn't say.

While Francis frequently cited John Paul, whose papacy was characterized by a hardline insistence on doctrine and sexual morals, he did so selectively. Francis referenced certain parts of John Paul's 1981 "Familius Consortio," the guiding Vatican document on family life until Friday, but he omitted any reference to its most divisive paragraph 83, which explicitly forbids the sacraments for the divorced and civilly remarried.

In fact, Francis went further than mere omission and effectively rejected John Paul's call in that document for people in civil second marriages to live as brother and sister, abstaining from sex so they can still receive the sacraments. In a footnote, Francis said that many people offered such a solution by the church "point out that if certain expressions of intimacy are lacking it often happens that faithfulness is endangered and the good of children suffer."

Similarly, in discussing the need for "responsible parenthood" and regulating the number of children, Francis made no mention of the church's opposition to artificial contraception. He squarely rejected abortion as "horrendous" and he cited the 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae," which deals with the issue.

But Francis made no mention of the "unlawful birth control methods" rejected in "Humanae Vitae." Instead he focused on the need for couples in their conscience to make decisions about their family size.

Citing the Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes" Francis said: "Let them thoughtfully take into account both their own welfare and that of their children, those already born and those which the future may bring."

... The parents themselves and no one else should ultimately make this judgment in the sight of God.”

Francis made a single reference to church-sanctioned family planning method of abstaining from sex during a woman’s fertile time. He said only that such practices are to be “promoted” — not that other methods are forbidden — and he insisted on the need for children to receive sex education, albeit without focusing on “safe sex.”

Gays will likely be disappointed by the documents’ failure to offer anything significant beyond existing church teaching that gays are not to be discriminated against and are to be welcomed into the church with respect and dignity. It resoundingly rejects gay marriage and repeats the church’s position that same-sex unions can in no way be equivalent to marriage between man and wife.

But women will find much to appreciate in the document. Francis condemns at length the “verbal, physical and sexual violence” many women endure in marriages, rejects “sexual submission” and the “reprehensible” practice of genital mutilation. And he says the belief that feminism is to blame for the crisis in families today is completely invalid.

## **Sanders’ hit on Clinton not the first, or likely the last**

**CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press**

**KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Bernie Sanders’ claim that Hillary Clinton isn’t qualified to be president landed with a boom this week. The blow was far from the first — and won’t likely be the last — from the candidate who pledged to stay away from negative campaigning.

The Vermont senator kicked off his insurgent presidential bid last year with a pledge to focus on issues over character attacks and boasted often that he’s never run a negative ad. But for months Sanders has sharply criticized Clinton, slamming her for supporting the war in Iraq, for her record on trade and most aggressively for her lucrative paid speeches before Wall Street bankers.

While his tone has shifted as the race has grown more combative on both sides, Sanders’ campaign officials argue that he has kept his promise. They say he has focused his fire on policy and is simply fighting back against Clinton’s own attacks.

“Bernie Sanders decided yesterday that he wasn’t going to go into the New York primary and be run over by their campaign,” said Tad Devine, a senior adviser to Sanders’ campaign. “He responded in kind.”

The conflict between the two flared this week ahead of the crucial April 19 New York primary. On Wednesday, Clinton questioned Sanders’ truthfulness and policy know-how, though she avoided direct questions about whether he was qualified to be president.

Still, Sanders seized on the remarks at a rally that night, telling a crowd of thousands that Clinton has been saying that he’s “not qualified to be president.”

“I don’t believe that she is qualified if she is, through her super PAC, taking tens of millions of dollars in special-interest funds,” he said.

Clinton aides and supporters pushed back aggressively. A fundraising email sent out shortly after from Christina Reynolds, the Clinton campaign’s deputy communications director, said Sanders had “crossed a line,” calling it a “ridiculous and irresponsible attack.”

The increased scrapping comes as the surprisingly competitive Democratic race heads into the high-stakes final contests. Sanders has been on a winning streak, but still must take 68 percent of the remaining delegates and uncommitted superdelegates to win the Democratic nomination. That would require blow-out victories in the upcoming primaries.

Steve McMahon, a Democratic strategist who advised Howard Dean’s 2004 presidential campaign, said Sanders is unlikely to win the nomination unless he can win “big states by big margins” — beginning with New York, the state Clinton represented in the Senate.

“For Hillary Clinton, this is about bragging rights. For Bernie Sanders, this is about survival,” he said.

McMahon added that Sanders’ comments on Clinton’s qualifications was an “authentic reaction” to the situation, but “it was not accurate.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 21 of 39

"Trying to prosecute an argument that she's not qualified to be president is ridiculous and it's a losing argument," he said.

Clinton's campaign has grown increasingly frustrated with Sanders' attacks, particularly around campaign finance and Wall Street, which they say amount to character criticisms. They have amped up their own rhetoric in recent days, hitting him for being weak on gun control and trying to pit him against the families of children murdered in the Sandy Hook school shootings.

Sanders supporters argue that he has stuck to the issues.

"I think that Sen. Sanders has been very consistent not just throughout the campaign, but throughout the years in pointing out the utter destructiveness of the campaign finance system. I think that what he's done in the last few days is exactly in line with that," said Florida Rep. Alan Grayson, who has endorsed Sanders.

Sanders volunteer Brenda Brink, from Huxley, Iowa, said Sanders was doing what he needed to do.

"If you want to call it negative, I call it politics," said Brink, 58. "He's not going to lay down and let it pass and no one really wants him to. It's a fight."

Sanders has rejected some lines of attack against Clinton. During a Democratic debate in October, Sanders diffused the issue of Clinton's private email server during her time as secretary of state, saying "the American people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails!"

So far, he has not featured her or referenced her name in advertisements, though some have alluded to her, such as an ad in Illinois that sought to tie Clinton to embattled Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

"He's going to talk about differences he has with her on issues. We have not made personal attacks part of this," Devine said. "There are important issue differences."

With over a week to go before the New York primary, the tension is only expected to get worse.

New York Assemblyman Luis Sepúlveda, whose district is located in the Bronx, is supporting Sanders. He said he thinks Sanders is responding in kind to Clinton's rhetoric, but he wished the entire race would tone down.

"I don't think this type of campaigning from either side is helpful to the process," Sepúlveda said.

Sanders softened his line of argument in an interview Thursday evening on "CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley."

"What I said was in response to what she has been saying. Washington Post headline, quote 'Clinton Questions Whether Sanders is Qualified to be President.' I thought it was appropriate to respond."

"Do you believe Secretary Clinton is unqualified to be president," he was asked.

"Well, does Secretary Clinton believe that I am unqualified to be president," Sanders responded.

He did say that Clinton "has years of experience. She is extremely intelligent."

Sanders said that If Clinton is the party's nominee, "I will certainly support her."

He also seemed to give her wiggle room on the issue of Iraq.

"Of course she doesn't bear responsibility" for Iraq war victims," Sanders said. "She voted for the war in Iraq. That was a very bad vote in my view. Do I hold her accountable? No."

Sanders wife Jane, appearing Thursday on MSNBC, said of her husband: "Bernie has moved on."

## 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. WHY SO FEW AMERICANS HAVE BEEN NAMED IN "PANAMA PAPERS"

Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm at the center of the massive leak scandal prefers Europeans and Latin Americans over U.S. clients. OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS-INVESTIGATION

#### 2. FISHERMEN CAUGHT UP IN BATTLE OVER SOUTH CHINA SEA

As Asian countries jostle for territory in the disputed South China Sea, fishermen tell AP about how they contend with bandits and coast guards from around the region. SOUTH CHINA SEA-FISHERMEN'S VOICES

#### 3. SANDERS GOES NEGATIVE

Bernie Sanders' claim that Hillary Clinton isn't qualified to be president is unlikely be the last blow struck

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 22 of 39

by a candidate who pledged to stay away from negative campaigning. DEM 2016-SANDERS

#### 4. JOHN KERRY IS ON HIS WAY TO HIROSHIMA

The secretary of state's visit to the Japanese city obliterated by the U.S. in World War II is grabbing the spotlight ahead of the G-7 meeting. JAPAN-G7-HIROSHIMA

#### 5. A TOWN'S LAST DOCTOR HAS BEEN KILLED

The last doctor left in the besieged Syrian community of Zabadani is killed by a sniper. SYRIA LAST DOCTOR

#### 6. WHERE A CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE HAS VOWED TO FIGHT IN COURT

Hartford's Roman Catholic archdiocese is taking its dispute with an insurance company to trial, seeking reimbursement for payments made to settle sexual misconduct cases involving priests and minors. PRIEST ABUSE-SETTLEMENTS

#### 7. WHAT'S TAKING A BITE OF THIS YEAR'S APPLE CROP

Apple farmers in the Eastern U.S. worry a late-season Arctic blast could eat into their budding crops. FOOD AND FARM-APPLES-COLD SNAP

#### 8. WHO WON THE FINAL AMERICAN IDOL

American Idol' crowned its 15th and final winner as the influential TV show comes to an end. The champion is 24-year-old Trent Harmon, with 22-year-old La'Porsha Renae the runner-up. Both are from Mississippi. TV-AMERICAN IDOL-FINALE

#### 9. WHICH NBA TEAM JUST MADE HISTORY

Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors become just the second team ever to win 70 games in a season. SPURS-WARRIORS

#### 10. GOLFERS PURSUE THE LEADER OF THE PACK

Several lesser-known players chase Jordan Spieth at the Masters, and some other big names are lurking not too far behind at Augusta National. GOLF-MASTERS

## British royal couple to be eagerly watched during India trip

**MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press**

NEW DELHI (AP) — When the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrive in India on Sunday, on what's being called their most ambitious tour to date, they'll encounter much of the starry-eyed giddiness they're used to along with a hint of nostalgia harkening back to a 1992 visit by the late Princess Diana.

Prince William's mother created a media firestorm during that visit when she posed alone for a photograph in front of the Taj Mahal, the ivory-white marble mausoleum known as a monument to love because it was built by a Mughal emperor to entomb his beloved wife.

Newspaper headlines crowded suggestions about Diana delivering a hidden message about the end of her marriage to Prince Charles. And the photo, as well as her close relationship with Mother Teresa, helped make Diana hugely popular in the country.

But India, despite its fractious past as a part of the former British Empire, has always loved reading about the British royals, especially the Duke and Duchess and their young children. They will not be taking their children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

"There will be a lot of interest and a lot of coverage, but it's mostly going to be about pretty people and pretty pictures," media analyst and columnist Santosh Desai said of the upcoming visit, which begins Sunday in Mumbai and includes stops in the capital of New Delhi, a wildlife reserve in the eastern state of Assam, the Taj Mahal in Agra and even the neighboring country of Bhutan.

"I'd be very surprised if there was anything more substantive or even interesting about this," Desai said.

Already, local news reports are speculating about what the Duchess of Cambridge, formerly known as Kate Middleton, will wear during the visit. Will she patronize a local designer as she has on other foreign visits? Will she wear an Indian outfit to better cope with the sizzling April heat?

"Photos, photos and more photos. It'll be silly to think that there will be any deeper significance to the visit," said Shailaja Bajpai, media critic with the Indian Express newspaper.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar and Bollywood actors — modern India's version of royalty — including

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 23 of 39

Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan are among the VIPs invited to a grand ball with the royal couple in Mumbai on Sunday night.

The royal couple is also expected to visit Mumbai's iconic seaside Taj Palace hotel, which was one of targets of armed gunmen who killed 166 people in the city in 2008. They will lay a memorial wreath and meet staff members who helped protect guests during the attack.

They are also scheduled to watch a cricket match in the city, and to meet with children from a local slum and members of several children's charities.

The couple's schedule has them set to travel next to New Delhi, where they are expected to pay their respects to freedom fighter Mohandas K. Gandhi, who led a peaceful campaign for independence from Britain and was assassinated in 1948. They will also visit the India Gate war memorial in the heart of the crowded capital, and have lunch with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a nod to William's conservation efforts, the couple will next travel to Kaziranga National Park in the eastern state of Assam. The park is home to two-thirds of the world's population of Indian one-horned rhinos as well as endangered swamp deer.

From Assam the royal couple will head to the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan at the invitation of its own royal couple, King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema.

The duke and duchess, who routinely showcase their athletic skills, will also hike several hours to visit a 1692 monastery called Paro Taktsang, or Tiger's Nest.

The couple plans to wind up the tour with a closely-watched tour of the Taj Mahal, in the north Indian city of Agra.

"He feels incredibly lucky to visit a place where his mother's memory is kept alive by so many who travel there," the Cambridges' communications secretary Jason Knauf told reporters ahead of the trip. It is unclear if the couple will pose for photos at the same bench in front of the medieval monument where his mother was photographed smiling shyly for the camera.

Indian journalists were already preparing for the media frenzy. "What did Diana wear, what Kate wears, there'll be that sort of thing," The Indian Express' Bajpai said. "Unless they make a mistake of some sort, that's really all anyone will discuss."

## Street drug flakka ravaged South Florida, then disappeared

**TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A year after it ravaged South Florida, flakka — the synthetic street drug known for causing psychotic outbursts — is virtually gone. The deaths. The hallucinating users. The arrests. All of it.

Broward County became infamous as the epicenter for the amphetamine, making national headlines in April 2015 after slowly building on the scene for several months. Users tore off clothes as their body temperatures spiked to 105 degrees. Some hallucinated that they were gods or that they were being chased. One man impaled himself on a police department fence he tried to scale to escape his imaginary pursuers.

Over 16 months, 63 flakka users died in Fort Lauderdale and its suburbs — overdoses, accidents, suicides and homicides, according to law enforcement officials.

Then, about three months ago, it stopped.

"I have never seen a drug gain popularity so rapidly and be eliminated so quickly," Broward Sheriff Scott Israel said.

Several factors combined to kill the flakka market: a Chinese government crackdown on manufacturers, a public awareness campaign, a law enforcement dragnet on dealers and street talk about the nasty side effects.

Broward County reports no flakka-related deaths this year. Emergency room visits over the drug, which hit 20 per day a year ago, are rare. Arrests, too, are now rare, Israel said.

Statewide and nationally, flakka usage never matched Broward. But officials in other Florida jurisdictions and beyond — from Palm Beach to Houston, Texas — say they, too, are seeing declines.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 24 of 39

When flakka first appeared, Broward drug officials didn't even know how to spell it, said Jim Hall, an epidemiologist at Broward's Nova Southeastern University who tracks illegal narcotics usage. Is it "flaca," Spanish for "skinny?" No, they learned, it's "flakka" with two k's — a derivative of the Spanish word for a thin, pretty woman.

Hall said flakka was cheap — \$3 to \$5 a dose — and ubiquitous. Drug importers bought it online from Chinese laboratories for \$1,500, which was enough to make 10,000 doses. Because South Florida drug importers already had experience selling other synthetic drugs such as molly, they had a ready sales force that flooded the streets, Hall said. Importers could turn a 2,000 percent profit, he said.

Flakka gives a quick high, but even the slightest overdose drives users over the edge, particularly those who've used crack cocaine.

"Abusers felt like their blood was on fire and would rip off clothes," Hall said. "They became extremely paranoid. Some would think they were being chased by imaginary wild animals and run into the streets."

It sometimes took four or five police officers to subdue them. Those who didn't get immediate medical treatment often died. Those who lived frequently suffered extreme kidney damage from their elevated temperatures.

In March 2015, Broward officials formed a flakka action team of law enforcement, drug counselors, educators and community leaders. Neighborhood meetings were held nightly, warning residents about the drug's dangers. Street addicts heard from other addicts that flakka would melt your brain. Local law enforcement went after importers and street dealers and coordinated with federal officials.

"We had to see what we could do with the pushers of that poison," Sheriff Israel said.

Hall said he thinks headlines about the drug put pressure on China's leaders, who banned the exportation of flakka and other synthetic street drugs Oct. 1.

"The Chinese government did not want to get a reputation of being a narco nation," Hall said. The Chinese Embassy's press office did not respond to email requests from The Associated Press for comment.

Within weeks of the ban, Broward law enforcement reported that flakka was all but gone from the streets, Hall said.

But Hall said the blueprint for flakka's rapid disappearance wouldn't work for drugs such as heroin or cocaine. The distribution networks are more established and the production sites more dispersed in countries less authoritarian than China.

"They have been around much longer and have a much wider user base," he said.

## **AP-GfK Poll: Americans overwhelmingly view Trump negatively**

**JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

**EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Americans of nearly every race, gender, political persuasion and location, disdain for Donald Trump runs deep, saddling the Republican front-runner with unprecedented unpopularity as he tries to overcome recent campaign setbacks.

Seven in 10 people, including close to half of Republican voters, have an unfavorable view of Trump, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. It's an opinion shared by majorities of men and women; young and old; conservatives, moderates and liberals; and whites, Hispanics and blacks — a devastatingly broad indictment of the billionaire businessman.

Even in the South, a region where Trump has won GOP primaries decisively, close to 70 percent view him unfavorably. And among whites without a college education, one of Trump's most loyal voting blocs, 55 percent have a negative opinion.

Trump still leads the Republican field in delegates and has built a loyal following with a steady share of the Republican primary electorate. But the breadth of his unpopularity raises significant questions about how he could stitch together enough support in the general election to win the White House.

It also underscores the trouble he may still face in the Republican race, which appears headed to a contested convention where party insiders would have their say about who will represent the GOP in the fall campaign.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 25 of 39

"He's at risk of having the nomination denied to him because grass-roots party activists fear he's so widely disliked that he can't possibly win," said Ari Fleischer, a former adviser to President George W. Bush.

Beyond their generally negative perception of Trump, large majorities also said they would not describe him as civil, compassionate or likable. On nearly all of these measures, Trump fared worse than his remaining Democratic or Republican rivals.

Not that voters have all that much love for those rivals. But their negative perceptions don't match the depth of the distaste for Trump. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who is seeking to catch Trump in the Republican delegate count, is viewed unfavorably by 59 percent, while 55 percent have negative views of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.

Another problem for Trump is that his public perception seems to be getting worse. The number of Americans who view him unfavorably has risen more than 10 percentage points since mid-February, a two-month stretch that has included some of his biggest primary victories but also an array of stumbles that suggested difficulties with his campaign organization and a lack of policy depth.

A survey conducted by Gallup in January found Trump's unfavorable rating, then at 60 percent in their polling, was already at a record high level for any major party nominee in their organization's polling since the 1990's.

Candi Edie, a registered Republican from Arroyo Grande, California, is among those whose views on Trump have grown more negative.

"At first, I thought he was great. He was bringing out a lot of issues that weren't ever said, they were taboo," Edie said. Now the 64-year-old feels Trump's early comments masked the fact that he's "such a bigot."

"I don't know if he's lost it or what," she said. "He's not acting presidential." Trump's unpopularity could provide an opening for Cruz, though he is loathed by many of his Senate colleagues and other party leaders. After a big win Tuesday in Wisconsin, Cruz is angling to overtake Trump at the July GOP convention.

Clinton's campaign believes Trump's sky-high unfavorable ratings could offset some questions voters have about her own character, and perhaps even give her a chance to peel off some Republicans who can't stomach a vote for the real estate mogul.

Andrew Graves, a "hard core" Republican from Bothell, Washington, said he might have to side with Clinton if Trump becomes the nominee, even though she's out of step with his views on gun rights, his top election issue.

"I'd be willing to take that as opposed to doing so much harm to the country's reputation," said Graves, 29.

More than 60 percent of all registered voters and 31 percent of Republicans said they definitely would not vote for Trump in the general election.

One group that is still with him includes those who describe themselves as both Republicans and supporters of the tea party movement. Sixty-eight percent of them have a favorable view.

Pennsylvania Republican Robert Paradis plans to vote for Trump in his state's primary this month. The 76-year-old said that while Trump's uneven temperament makes him cringe "all the time," he's hopeful the front-runner's bluntness can shake up Washington.

"He's not a politician; he says it the way he feels it," Paradis said.

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The AP-GfK Poll of 1,076 adults was conducted online March 31-April 4, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using telephone or mail survey methods and later interviewed online. People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't otherwise have access to the Internet were provided access at no cost to them.

## San Francisco police fatally shoot man carrying knife

PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco Police officers shot and killed a homeless man carrying a knife, the third fatal shooting of a minority suspect without a gun over the last two years.

The shooting Thursday morning in the city's Mission District neighborhood comes amid the department's attempt to reform its "use-of-force" policies and repair an image battered by two separate incidents of officers exchanging racist and homophobic text messages.

San Francisco Police Chief Greg Suhr says two officers shot the unidentified Latino man after he refused demands to drop a knife and after the suspect was shot four times with nonlethal beanbags.

The incident was the second fatal shooting of a knife-wielding suspect since December. The previous shooting of knife-wielding black man along with the fatal shooting of a Latino man carrying a stun gun in March 2014 and the recent texting scandals has led to several protests, calls for the chief's firing and wrongful death lawsuits.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently agreed to requests from Suhr and Mayor Ed Lee to review the department's procedures and policies. Suhr has called in outside law enforcement experts to help the department develop less lethal responses to suspects not carrying guns.

The latest incident began Thursday morning when city homeless outreach officials checking on residents living in tents called police to report a man carrying a knife, Suhr said. Suhr didn't identify the man, who officers reported charging at them before firing.

Seven bullets casings were found and the kitchen knife recovered, Suhr said. The blade was 10 inches to 12 inches long, and witnesses described it as a chef's knife, he said.

Two witnesses say a language barrier may have contributed to the shooting. John Visor and Stephanie Grant said they lived in a tent in the same encampment as the suspect and say he spoke only Spanish and that the officers barked their commands to drop the knife in English.

Visor, 33, and Grant, 31, say the man was confused and walking in a circle when the officers hit him with the beanbags and then opened fire with guns. They say the man had stuffed the knife into his waistband before he was shot.

"Everybody carries something for protection here," Visor said. "He didn't have the knife in his hand when he was shot."

Visor and Grant knew the man only as Jose. They said Jose liked to collect bottles and cans for recycling and enjoyed kicking a soccer ball, sometimes late into the night and to the occasional annoyance of pedestrians.

"He never hurt anybody," Visor said. "He just liked to pick up cans."

The mayor said in a statement that "we are all striving to make sure officer involved shootings are rare and only occur as a last resort." Lee said he has requested an independent investigation from the Office of Citizen complaints in addition to the customary investigations by the Police Department and district attorney.

The last previous fatal shooting that involved San Francisco police occurred on Dec. 2, when five officers fatally shot Mario Woods 20 times, including six times in the back, in an incident caught on video.

Woods' family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit.

On Wednesday, the city's police commission agreed to reconsider its ban on arming San Francisco police officers with stun guns because of the Woods incident and the 2014 police shooting death of Alex Nieto, a college student carrying a stun gun that officers mistook for a handgun. Nieto carried a stun gun for his job as a security guard.

A federal grand jury earlier this year ruled the officers acted appropriately and refused to award Nieto's family any damages after a trial in San Francisco.

San Francisco is one of only two of the nation's largest cities in the country that do not equip officers with stun guns.

## Cruz builds support among GOP Jews as Trump skips event

JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Ted Cruz will have hundreds of influential Republican donors and Jewish leaders all to himself this weekend in Las Vegas as he addresses the Republican Jewish Coalition.

Cruz's rivals for the GOP presidential nomination, Donald Trump and John Kasich, declined invitations to attend — a puzzling move in particular for Trump as he tries to project himself as a party unifier who deserves the Republican nomination even if he falls short of winning enough delegates in the primaries to clinch it outright.

Trump as of late Thursday did not have any public events scheduled through the weekend.

It's a "missed opportunity" for Trump to build on a well-received recent speech before the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said Abbie Friedman, an RJC board member who introduced Trump when he spoke to the Republican group in December. "With Cruz coming in, he'll have the entire platform to himself to win support from an incredibly powerful and important group."

The RJC is funded by the top political donor of 2012, Sheldon Adelson, and meets at the billionaire's Venetian casino resort on the Strip.

Trump declined an invitation to attend a private dinner at Adelson's home Thursday night with the Republican Jewish Coalition's board, according to people with direct knowledge of the invitation who weren't authorized to share the details about the event. Trump decided not to attend the dinner even before he canceled a West Coast trip that he'd planned for Thursday and Friday.

Trump's spokeswoman and his campaign manager did not respond to requests for comment on Thursday.

The Republican front-runner does not appear to be sending surrogates to Las Vegas, either, as onetime presidential candidate Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker did last year.

"That, to me, is a real revelation into the weakness of his campaign," said Ari Fleischer, another RJC board member who has said he would back any GOP nominee in the general election. "There should be someone here on the ground. That's what good campaigns do."

In addition to speaking Saturday to more than 500 attendees, Cruz has a separate, smaller event planned with RJC members. His chief Jewish liaison, Nick Muzin, will be there throughout the conference. And pro-Cruz outside groups that can take unlimited contributions are setting up shop in the Venetian this weekend, ready to land donations.

"There's a lot of interest in hearing from Ted Cruz in light of his win in Wisconsin and the impact that has on re-shaping the race," said Republican Jewish Coalition executive director Matt Brooks. "It's all coming together at a crucial juncture."

Brooks said some of his organization's members no longer see Trump as the overwhelming front-runner and predict a contested convention this summer.

Among the recent converts to Cruz are Fred and Jay Zeidman of Houston. Both signed on last week as fundraisers for the Texas senator, following their work for Jeb Bush, who ended his campaign in February.

Fred Zeidman, an RJC board member, said he doesn't agree with Cruz's position about deporting the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the country illegally. "But with the safety and security of Israel being our priority, no one in this whole campaign is more outspoken on this issue than Ted Cruz," he said. "And we'd be remiss if we didn't show him our support."

Jay Zeidman said the Trump campaign's decision to skip RJC ignores the group's influence among Republican Jewish voters. "At this point in the campaign, you want to be making as many friends as possible, I would think," he said.

The group's gatherings have become can't-miss for GOP candidates in recent years. Part of the reason: Adelson, a key member, was the top political spender in the last presidential race, pouring \$90 million of family money into that campaign.

Yet the gambling mogul hasn't been willing to place a bet in this year's unpredictable Republican presidential contest, sending mixed signals about his candidate preference. His newly acquired Las Vegas

newspaper backed Marco Rubio, who has since dropped out, his wife has been a Cruz fan, and he himself recently said of a Trump nomination, "Why not?"

In November, Adelson wrote a pair of \$2,700 checks to Cruz and Bush — a steep drop-off from the previous race.

Aside from the Thursday dinner at his house, Adelson wasn't expected to be at any of the RJC conference events. Likewise, he did not attend the RJC's December presidential forum in Washington. All the GOP candidates at the time, including Trump, spoke there.

## Sniper kills last doctor in besieged Syrian town

**PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — Mohammed Khouas was walking from the field hospital heading for his son's house nearby to rest between operations. He would never make it: a sniper's bullet to the head felled the 70-year-old in the street. With that, the Syrian town of Zabadani — under heavy siege by government forces and allied Hezbollah militia — lost its last doctor.

His killing last month drew attention to the continuing severity of Syria's blockades, despite international efforts to defuse them as part of ongoing peace negotiations in Geneva.

Dozens of people have died in the past year from starvation or illness related to malnutrition in besieged areas across Syria. Nearly half a million Syrians are trapped in sieges, according to the United Nations, and humanitarian aid convoys have only been able to reach 30 percent of them this year. Most are besieged by government forces and another 200,000 by the Islamic State group, the Secretary General's office told the U.N. Security Council on March 23.

"The daily misery in these areas shames us all," Stephen O'Brien, the U.N.'s Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, told the Security Council.

Conditions in Zabadani — once a popular mountain resort — are a microcosm of the cruel reality that has beset Syrians across the country.

Dr. Khouas was known to Zabadani residents as a generous and skillful surgeon who would recite poetry at the town's cultural center before he was sucked into the country's spiraling civil war.

"He had a knack for verse," said Amer Burhan, the administrator of the town's field hospital. "He loved Zabadani. He would sing about it."

After security forces launched a brutal crackdown against anti-government protests in 2011 in the prelude to the country's bloodstained conflict, Dr. Khouas began quietly treating wounded demonstrators in his clinic in the nearby town of Baqin. Security forces were tracking down medical personnel who treated demonstrators, and he could not afford to attract the attention of government informers.

In 2012, the Free Syrian Army, which is aligned with the protesters, expelled government forces from Zabadani.

When the last surgeon left the town in 2015, Dr. Khouas moved there to staff the operating room. One employee of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), which supports medical facilities in the country, said rebels forced Dr. Khouas to fill the vacancy. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing repercussions.

It was there that Dr. Khouas became trapped in one of the harshest sieges of the war, after Lebanon's Hezbollah militia alongside government forces waged a pitiless campaign to dislodge rebel militias from the town. The Hezbollah campaign sent almost all of the town's civilians fleeing to neighboring Madaya, which also fell under siege to government and Hezbollah forces last year. Engineers mined the areas around the two towns, and snipers took up positions to prevent anyone from entering or leaving.

For a while, Dr. Khouas worked with Dr. Amal Awad Tatari, who did not have surgical training. But in January, she agreed to leave as part of a deal brokered by the U.N. between government and opposition forces to release injured people from four besieged towns across Syria.

She didn't want to go, but she had sustained an injury a year earlier and the suffocating siege became too much for her to bear.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 29 of 39

"It really exhausted us and my health deteriorated. I have a wound to my head, shrapnel in my hand and a slipped disk. It reached a point where I couldn't walk," she said from Turkey, where she is receiving treatment.

Tatari said the conditions inside the hospital were dire.

"We would have to ration the sterilization kits," she said. "You can't believe how difficult it was."

Dr. Khus remained collected and professional, but the siege was taking its toll.

"You could sense he was living in another world, sometimes. We would be in the hospital for example, and there is shelling, but there are no injuries, and he's sitting writing poetry," Tatari said.

"We want to rebuild you, a paradise / O', my heart, Zabadani," he wrote in one poem shared by the SAMS with The Associated Press.

Dr. Khus continued to treat the gunshot and shelling wounds that regularly afflicted the 500 or so remaining residents on his own. SAMS was debating whether to cut support to the hospital, because most of those remaining in Zabadani were fighters.

Then, on March 25, Dr. Khus was shot by a sniper on his way back from work.

"We received a phone call that there was a martyr and we went and found Dr. Khus on the road," said the hospital administrator, Burhan. "He was shot in the head — it was aimed to kill."

The bullet came from the direction of the siege, said Burhan. "We are 95 percent sure he was killed by a government or Hezbollah sniper," he said.

Tatari said two others in Zabadani were killed by snipers that day. She said there was no way Dr. Khus could have been confused for a militant. He never carried a weapon, she said, and he was always dressed as a civilian. "You could tell, too, that he was advanced in age. It was clear from a distance," she said.

It took rescue workers three hours to remove his body from the street as snipers forced them to take cover.

A few days later, another man was shot in Zabadani. Ibrahim Ahmad Deeb was a close friend of the hospital administrator, Burhan. "He suffered a pretty serious wound, and as we do not have doctors, we didn't know how to treat him," Burhan said. "We watched him pass away."

## Kerry's visit to Hiroshima grabbing spotlight at G-7 meeting

**MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — Next week, Secretary of State John Kerry will become the highest-ranking American government official to visit Hiroshima, where 140,000 Japanese died from the first of two atomic bombs dropped by his country in the closing days of World War II more than 70 years ago.

Kerry and the other Group of Seven foreign ministers are scheduled to visit the Hiroshima Peace Park on Monday and lay flowers to honor the dead. At least in Japan, the event will likely overshadow the rest of the foreign ministers' annual two-day meeting, where terrorism, maritime security and nuclear non-proliferation will be discussed.

Japan hopes the meeting in this city will revive momentum for efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, a cause that has flagged in recent years. Weapons stockpiles have been slow to decline, and Japan's own accumulation of plutonium for use in power generation has caused security concerns.

Expectations are now running high among Japanese for President Barack Obama, a Nobel peace laureate who has proposed a nuclear-free world, to follow suit during the G-7 leaders' summit in May, to be held in the coastal city of Shima in central Japan.

"Of course it would be best if Obama-san comes," said Sunao Tsuboi, a 90-year-old A-bomb survivor and head of the Hiroshima branch of a large survivors' organization. "I hope he overcomes contentions surrounding the atomic bombings."

For many years, senior U.S. government officials avoided going to Hiroshima because of political sensitivities. Many Americans believe the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 were justified and hastened the end of the war.

Japanese atomic bomb survivors' groups, meanwhile, have campaigned for decades to bring top officials from the U.S. and other nuclear weapon states to see Hiroshima's scars as part of a grassroots movement

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 30 of 39

to abolish nuclear weapons. They are not seeking an apology.

No serving U.S. president has visited the site. It took 65 years for a U.S. ambassador to attend Hiroshima's annual memorial service, and six more years to win Kerry's visit.

Long and delicate negotiations were needed to arrange the group visit for the six foreign ministers to the peace park and nearby museum, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said, because of differences of opinion on atomic weapons among G-7 members, which include Germany, Italy, Britain, Canada, France, the U.S. and Japan. France and Britain, along with the U.S., have nuclear weapons.

"At long last, we have obtained an agreement from each member country," said Kishida, a Hiroshima native.

Kishida hopes to win agreement to issue a "Hiroshima declaration" in addition to the ministers' final communique that will draw renewed attention to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Japanese officials say that the international community's resolve to stop the spread of nuclear weapons has weakened amid U.S.-Russia contention over Ukraine, North Korea's nuclear program and distraction by the Middle East conflict.

Hiroshima today is a bustling city of about 1.2 million, home to carmaker Mazda and the popular Carp baseball team. But the skeletal remains of a domed building that has become a symbol of the bombing, and peace, still stand near the epicenter.

Just having the G-7 ministers in town is "a golden opportunity to show the reality of the atomic bombing," Mayor Kazumi Matsui said.

Tsuboi, the A-bomb survivor, has been invited to a Monday luncheon with the ministers but hasn't been told whether he will get to meet them. Tsuboi says he will be content just to see Kerry and his counterparts bow and observe a moment of silence because he thinks that would send a powerful message.

"That's good enough. The gesture would make everyone feel good," he said. "It would be a message of peace and friendship, which everyone can agree."

Tsuboi, who survived the bombing despite severe injuries that left him unconscious for weeks, says he has long since lost a desire to seek an apology from the U.S. Instead, he wants to devote his life to seeking a world without war, nuclear weapons or killing. While fighting cancer, anemia and heart problems, Tsuboi travels around the globe to share his narratives for the cause.

"I only care about a world where human beings can live together in peace," he said.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said in Washington this week that Kerry's visit to the Hiroshima memorial isn't expected to trigger opposition because it's "to honor the memory of all those who died during the World War II" and to underscore Obama's vision of a nuclear-free world.

"As much as we acknowledge the past, we look to the future," Toner told reporters.

For Japan, the emphasis on non-proliferation helps to soften its global image as it steps up its military posture and causes concern with its plutonium stockpiles, says Koichi Nakano, an international politics professor at Sophia University in Tokyo.

The White House declined to comment on whether Obama planned to visit Hiroshima during the May summit.

"It is a touchy, sensitive subject, and many Americans don't want to really revisit that past," said Jeff Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University Japan, about Kerry's — and possibly Obama's — visit. "But I think it's high time that they did so."

## From Ronnie to a fan: more than 100 Reagan letters for sale

**JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Long before he was president of the United States or even governor of California, Ronald Reagan had an army of star-struck movie fans who wrote him letters — and who to their surprise often got a personal reply.

For one writer in particular the replies added up to well more than 100 as Zelda Multz evolved from teenage president of the Ronald Reagan International Fan Club to a lifelong literary friend of the man

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 31 of 39

who, 40 years after she first wrote to him, became the nation's 40th president.

His letters to her range from brief thank-yous for birthday cards Multz sent him to expressions of frustration at being relegated to roles in movies he knew weren't very good to expressions of heartbreak at the dissolution of his first marriage and to anguish over the failing health of his elderly mother.

"I wish she didn't need to suffer so much all the time, but you don't hear her complain, always smiling and saying, 'I'm fine.' That's my Mom Nelle," Reagan says in one handwritten letter.

As the years pass, the letters come to include the future president's thoughts on politics, his concern for the health of Multz's own elderly mother and his joking responses about his mortality, noting in one missive that he prefers to think of his 81st birthday as the 42nd anniversary of his 39th.

They are variously signed "Ron," "Ronnie" and "Dutch," the latter a nickname reserved for close friends.

"This shows a completely different side of his life, it shows Ronald Reagan the man," says Profiles in History President Joe Maddalena, whose Calabasas-based auction house is putting the collection on the block April 18. "It's his personal views on life, relationships, families and, think about it, there are even fan-club cards signed by the guy. It's kind of surreal."

The collection also includes more than 350 photos, among them candid shots of Reagan performing such mundane chores as working in his yard.

It is being sold intact by a historical documents collector who declines to be identified, Maddalena said. He said the collector acquired it a few years ago from Multz, who still lives in New York, where she became a Reagan fan when she saw him playing undercover G-man Brass Bancroft in the 1940 spy thriller "Murder By Air."

"I just thought he was cute," Multz, 89, said with a laugh as she spoke recently by phone. "It was just one of those little girlie things."

So she wrote him a letter, not really expecting a reply.

Four years later she was in charge of Reagan's international fan club and the two would maintain a steady correspondence for decades. Multz and another longtime pen pal, Lorraine Wagner, would also meet Reagan several times, in California, New York and even in his hometown of Dixon, Ill., where he and his mother invited them to join him in a parade in his honor.

Wagner's own collection of letters is at the Reagan Ranch Center in Santa Barbara, donated by a buyer who acquired them through a previous Profiles in History auction.

Maddalena says Multz's archive is the only other known such collection and has never been displayed publicly. A couple of the letters were referenced in Kiron K. Skinner's 2004 book, "Reagan: A Life in Letters."

The pair's correspondence slowed during Reagan's White House years, and letters during that time appear robo-signed.

But it picked up again after Reagan left the White House in 1989 and continued until he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1996.

"I got a beautiful letter from him before it really set in," said Multz, who still vividly recalls its last sentence: "And Zelda is a name I'll always remember."

## US cites Chinese Internet filters as trade barrier

BEIJING (AP) — The American government has cited Chinese Internet controls as a trade barrier in a report that comes as Beijing tries to block its public from seeing news about the finances of Chinese leaders' families.

The U.S. Trade Representative says Chinese filters, which block access to websites including the Google search engine and social media such as Twitter, are a "significant burden" on businesses.

It gives no indication Washington plans to take action but highlights complaints Beijing's controls hamper access to its populous Internet market and disrupt operations for foreign companies.

This week, Chinese censors have tried to block Internet users from seeing news reports about documents from a law firm in Panama that say relatives of political figures including President Xi Jinping own offshore companies.

## State police shoot, wound man armed with shotgun at Wal-Mart

SHREWSBURY, Pa. (AP) — A trooper shot and wounded a man armed with a shotgun at a busy Pennsylvania Wal-Mart after the man robbed the pharmacy for prescription drugs, state police said.

State police received a call Thursday night from the Wal-Mart in Shrewsbury, saying the store about 40 miles south of the state capitol of Harrisburg had been robbed.

A trooper who was in the area responded and spotted the suspect as he was leaving the store.

Authorities said the trooper told the man to drop the shotgun. That's when the man raised his weapon.

"The trooper was able to simultaneously push the shotgun barrel away while firing one round. The subject also fired a round as well," Trooper Rob Hicks said.

The trooper's bullet struck the man in the chest.

One witness, Roni Zentz, told the York Daily Record that she was sitting near the pharmacy when she saw a man yelling at pharmacy employees and cradling what appeared to be a shotgun in a black garbage bag.

She said she told someone to call security, and then heard two gunshots.

"I ran through the garden section," Zentz told the newspaper.

She said the man was shot near the doorway.

State police said he was taken to hospital. His condition wasn't immediately available.

There were no other injuries reported.

"It's a very scary situation for everybody involved," said Hicks. "I mean our trooper, the people who were in there shopping, the employees. A very nerve-racking situation. Thank God nobody else was hurt."

The trooper is on administrative leave pending the results of an investigation into the shooting.

## Man accused of torture killing escapes psychiatric hospital

**MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press**

SEATTLE (AP) — A man accused of torturing a woman to death but found too mentally ill for trial was on the loose Thursday after crawling out a window in a locked, lower-security unit of a Washington state psychiatric hospital already facing federal scrutiny over safety problems.

Anthony Garver, 28, escaped Wednesday night with Mark Alexander Adams, 58, a patient who had been accused of domestic assault in 2014 and was captured Thursday morning, officials said. Authorities believe Garver bought a bus ticket from Seattle across the state to Spokane.

Spokane Sheriff's Capt. Dave Ellis told the Spokesman-Review Garver was spotted in the city's East Valley and authorities were searching Thursday evening with police dogs, a SWAT team and helicopters.

Deputy U.S. marshals told KHQ-TV that Garver showed up at his parents' home in the area and that Garver's mother called 911.

Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich described the search as "a pretty intense situation."

Western State Hospital says the men were discovered missing 45 minutes after they were last seen, but police said it took an hour and a half. There was no immediate way to reconcile the different timelines.

Garver was charged in 2013 with tying a 20-year-old woman to her bed with electrical cords, stabbing her 24 times in the chest and slashing her throat, Snohomish County Assistant Prosecutor Craig Matheson said.

Garver, who also has a history of running from authorities, was moved to a lower-security unit of the state's largest psychiatric hospital after a judge said treatment to prepare him to face criminal charges was not working.

The escape is the latest in a litany of problems at the 800-bed hospital south of Tacoma, where violent assaults on both staff and patients have occurred.

U.S. regulators have repeatedly cited the facility over safety concerns and threatened to cut millions in federal funding. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently extended the hospital's deadline for fixing the problems from April 1 to May 3.

A federal judge also has said the hospital has failed to provide timely competency services to mentally



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 33 of 39

ill people charged with crimes.

A bus driver picked up a man he believed was Garver on Wednesday evening, said police, who urged anyone who spots him to stay away and contact authorities. Garver has been convicted of multiple charges and twice fled from authorities by stealing a car or leading a high-speed chase.

Garver's lawyer, Jon Scott, said he hopes Garver "is found quickly and safely."

Adams also got on a bus and asked the driver how to get to the airport. Someone recognized Adams, and officers picked him up without incident in a town just south of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Lakewood police Lt. Chris Lawler said.

The men were last seen at 6 p.m. Wednesday during dinner and found missing 45 minutes later during a routine patient check, said Carla Reyes, assistant director of the Department of Social and Health Services' Behavioral Health Administration, which oversees mental health services in the state.

Police said the absence was discovered at 7:30 p.m. and officers were alerted just after 7:45 p.m.

Patients in the hospital's lower-security unit are checked every hour, Reyes said. Garver and Adams were not placed in the high-security unit because a judge granted a state request to hold them as a danger to themselves or others after treatment failed to restore their ability to understand the criminal charges against them.

Officials are conducting a safety review of the hospital and will bring in outside experts to help, Reyes said.

"We can never have too many fresh eyes reviewing a situation as serious as this," Reyes said in a statement.

Nursing supervisor Paul Vilja said he was amazed to hear the men who escaped were assigned to a unit with hourly checks, because some of the more-dangerous patients are in units with checks every 15 minutes.

Vilja and other hospital workers objected when the hospital first required the 15-minute checks two years ago because they said staffing levels were not adequate to handle the extra duties. Workers were required to fill out forms for each check but often fell behind, so not all of them were done, Vilja said.

The state has tried to fix some of the problems by increasing funding to hire more workers. But the hospital has struggled with recruiting and retaining staffers.

The state has a history of underfunding its mental health programs, including its facilities, said Lauren Simonds, executive director for the National Alliance on Mental Illness Washington.

Despite increased federal scrutiny, assaults have persisted at the hospital, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

A patient with a history of violent behavior choked and punched a mental health technician on March 26, according to an internal report. Another report on March 23 said a male patient slipped out of his monitors and was found in a bathroom with another male patient, who said he was sexually assaulted.

Injured employees missed 41,301 days of work between 2010 and 2014, and on-the-job injuries forced staff to move to other jobs, like desk work, for 7,760 days during that period, according to state Occupational Safety and Health Administration records.

Workers' compensation insurance paid \$6 million in wage and medical costs for claims to injured hospital workers between January 2013 and September 2015, according to records acquired by the AP.

## 4 Fed leaders face questions about their powerful jobs

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Janet Yellen was put on the spot about whether she made a mistake in raising interest rates in December. Ben Bernanke was quizzed about what it felt like to be called a traitor by the governor of Texas.

Alan Greenspan was asked if he purposely sought to confuse Congress with his answers. And Paul Volcker was queried about being hung in effigy after he pushed interest rates to levels not seen since the Civil War.

The event was an unprecedented gathering of leaders of the Federal Reserve — past and present — to discuss what it feels like to hold what is considered the world's most powerful economic policy-making job.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 34 of 39

The four Fed leaders appeared Thursday evening at an event to launch a speaker's program honoring Volcker at the International House in New York, a residential dormitory for foreign students. Greenspan appeared by video link from Washington.

Together, the tenures of the four participants cover more than one-third of the Fed's 102-year history. Their leadership included the double-digit inflation of the 1970s, the global banking and financial market crises of the 1980s and 1990s and, beginning nearly a decade ago, the worst financial crisis and recession since the Great Depression.

Fareed Zakaria of CNN, who moderated the discussion, asked how the four felt in a job with "so much concentrated power" that opened them up to criticism when the economy was not doing well.

Greenspan, who was often accused of trying to dodge tough questions at congressional hearings with big words and incredibly long sentences, did not deny employing that tactic. But he said, "The real problem is that monetary policy is largely economic forecasting and our ability to forecast is limited. ... How do you convey what you know without going into the area of forecasting beyond our knowledge?"

Bernanke said he didn't like it in 2011 when he was called a traitor by Rick Perry, who was then governor of Texas and a Republican presidential candidate. But he said he realized that criticism came with the job, especially in times when the Fed was trying to pull the country out of the worst recession since the 1930s.

"We had tremendous responsibilities to address these terrible risks," Bernanke said. "I didn't take the job for adulation."

Volcker's policy of high interest rates contributed to pushing the country into two recessions in the early 1980s. But he said even with unhappy farmers and home builders attacking the central bank's policies, the Fed could not have done what it did without broad support from the public for the central bank's attempts to deal with a prolonged bout stagflation, a toxic combination of high inflation and weak economic growth.

"People were unhappy with malaise and inflation going up," Volcker said. "They felt we were doing something."

Yellen, who succeeded Bernanke in February 2014, was quizzed about whether she felt the Fed's rate hike in December, a quarter-point move, had been a mistake. In January, the global economy slowed and financial markets went into a tailspin triggered by rising oil prices and increased weakness in China.

"I certainly don't regard it as a mistake," Yellen said. She said despite the global weakness, the U.S. economy remains on a solid course. She also disputed the suggestion that the Fed's low rates could be fueling a bubble economy.

"This is an economy on a solid course, not a bubble economy," she said, during the hour-long program.

Yellen said that in December the Fed indicated that the pace of future rate hikes would be gradual and she said that remained the Fed's expectation. The central bank's quarter-point move in December was the first rate hike after seven years in which the benchmark rate was kept at a record low near zero. Many private economists believe the next hike will not occur until June.

"We think that a gradual pace of rate increases will be appropriate," Yellen said. "The prospects for continued growth and progress in the labor market look good."

All the Fed leaders stressed that they had not acted alone but with the support of a large group of policymakers and a talented Fed staff, but Volcker said that didn't mean there were not times that they worried about their decisions.

"I did worry. I worried all the time," Volcker said.

He said he sometimes paced so much in his office that he worried about wearing a hole in the rug.

## Why few Americans in Panama Papers? Lawyer doesn't want them

**JUAN ZAMORANO, Associated Press**

**JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press**

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Rich and influential people around the globe have found themselves under siege since a major data leak revealed their ties to secretive financial accounts and shell companies in low-tax havens used to hide wealth.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 35 of 39

The uproar has brought down the prime minister of Iceland and raised questions about the presidents of Argentina and Ukraine, senior Chinese politicians, and the circle of friends of Russian President Vladimir Putin. On Thursday, British Prime Minister David Cameron became the latest politician ensnared when he acknowledged having profited from his father's investments in an offshore tax haven before being elected.

Yet few American names have cropped up in the "Panama Papers," a trove of 11.5 million confidential records detailing such accounts. That's because the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm at the center of the scandal doesn't like taking on American clients, one of its founders says.

Ramon Fonseca, who started the firm with Jurgen Mossack, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that their law firm has only a handful of American clients, most of them members of Panama's burgeoning expat retirement community. It's not out of any anti-Americanism or fear of the Internal Revenue Service.

"My partner is German, and I lived in Europe, and our focus has always been the European and Latin American market," Fonseca said at his law office.

"He loves the U.S. a lot, and I do, too. My kids were educated there," Fonseca added. But "as a policy we prefer not to have American clients."

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, the German newspaper that first obtained the documents, said the records include copies of the passports of 200 Americans and about 3,500 shareholders in offshore companies have listed addresses in the U.S. That's a tiny fraction of the more than 250,000 companies Mossack Fonseca has set up for clients in four decades of business.

One reason for the dearth of American clients may be because such companies can be easily created in U.S. states such as Wyoming, Delaware and Nevada, attracting less attention than they might in Panama, a country with a reputation for shady financial deals and money laundering.

Europe is also home to countries that provide banking secrecy that could provide haven from taxes, such as Luxembourg, Switzerland and Andorra.

Many Panamanians point to those activities in wealthy countries and say they are angry over what they consider a double standard behind criticism of Panama.

On Thursday, a European Union official threatened sanctions on Panama and other nations if they don't cooperate fully to fight money laundering and tax evasion.

"People are fed up with these outrages," said Pierre Moscovici, who heads financial affairs for the 28-nation EU. "The amounts of money, the jurisdictions and the names associated with this affair are frankly shocking."

Panama is listed by the EU as a country that is not cooperative on tax issues, and Moscovici urged the country to "rethink its position in this regard."

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela has said his government will cooperate more and announced plans for an international committee of experts to recommend ways to boost transparency. But he also vows to defend his country against what he says are media attacks that unfairly stigmatize Panama.

In Britain, the prime minister could become the next European politician to find himself under attack. After four days fending off headlines about his family's finances, he acknowledged Thursday that he and his wife, Samantha, sold shares worth 31,500 pounds (currently \$44,300) in an offshore fund named Blairmore Holdings in January 2010 — five months before Cameron became prime minister. They had paid 12,497 pounds for the shares in 1997.

Cameron's father, Ian Cameron, an affluent stockbroker who died in 2010, was a client of Mossack Fonseca. There's no indication the offshore fund was set up to avoid taxes but the revelation reinforced the prime minister's image as a scion of wealth and undermined calls to boost transparency at a time many British overseas territories act as tax havens.

Also on Thursday, an Argentine prosecutor asked a judge to authorize an investigation into President Mauricio Macri's role in two offshore companies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, denied having any links to offshore accounts and described the document leaks as part of a U.S.-led plot to weaken Russia even though his name doesn't appear in

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 36 of 39

any of the leaked records.

"They are trying to destabilize us from within in order to make us more compliant," he said Thursday at a forum in St. Petersburg.

The Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which helped coordinate reporting on the leak, said the documents indicate Russian cellist Sergei Roldugin acted as a front man for a network of Putin loyalists and, perhaps, the president himself.

Fonseca said his firm creates about 20,000 shell companies annually but also rejects about 70 to 80 clients every year due to conflicts that arise during due diligence.

"We're not perfect and some surely escape by," he said. "But so far the only crime that has been proven is the hack."

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 8, the 99th day of 2016. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

On this date:

In 1820, the Venus de Milo statue was discovered by a farmer on the Greek island of Milos.

In 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in Jan. 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in Dec. 1865.)

In 1904, Longacre Square in Manhattan was renamed Times Square after The New York Times.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of United States senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified. President Woodrow Wilson became the first chief executive since John Adams to address Congress in person as he asked lawmakers to enact tariff reform.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act, which provided money for programs such as the Works Progress Administration.

In 1946, the League of Nations assembled in Geneva for its final session.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1961, a suspected bomb exploded aboard the passenger liner MV Dara in the Persian Gulf, causing it to sink; 238 of the 819 people aboard were killed.

In 1973, artist Pablo Picasso died in Mougins (MOO'-zhun), France, at age 91.

In 1981, General of the Army Omar N. Bradley died in New York at age 88.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance had gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18. The cult TV series "Twin Peaks" premiered on ABC.

In 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

Ten years ago: The Rolling Stones made their debut in mainland China with a censored — but still raucous — concert in Shanghai. Harley-Davidson Inc. opened its first dealership in China. Eight members of the Toronto chapter of the Bandidos biker gang were found dead in a remote wooded area of a farmer's property in Shedden, Ontario, Canada; six Bandidos from Winnipeg were convicted in 2009 of murdering them.

Five years ago: Congressional and White House negotiators struck a last-minute budget deal ahead of a midnight deadline, averting an embarrassing federal shutdown and cutting billions in spending.

One year ago: Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) was convicted by a federal jury on all

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 37 of 39

30 charges against him in the Boston Marathon bombing and found him responsible for the deaths of the three people killed in the 2013 attack and the killing of an MIT police officer three days later. (He was sentenced to death the following month.)

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shecky Greene is 90. Actor-turned-diplomat John Gavin is 85. Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 79. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is 78. Basketball Hall-of-Famer John Havlicek is 76. "Mouseketeer" Darlene Gillespie is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer J.J. Jackson is 75. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 75. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 74. Actor Hywel Bennett is 72. Actor Stuart Pankin is 70. Rock musician Steve Howe is 69. Former House Republican Leader Tom DeLay is 69. Movie director John Madden is 67. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 65. Actor John Schneider is 56. "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch is 55. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 54. Singer Julian Lennon is 53. Actor Dean Norris is 53. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 53. Rapper Biz Markie is 52. Actress Robin Wright is 50. Actress Patricia Arquette is 48. Rock singer Craig Honeycutt (Everything) is 46. Rock musician Darren Jessee is 45. Actress Emma Caulfield is 43. Actress Katee Sackhoff is 36. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 35. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 32. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 32. Actress Kirsten Storms is 32. Rock musician Jamie Sierota (Echosmith) is 23. Actress Sadie Calvano is 19.

Thought for Today: "The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants." — Gen. Omar N. Bradley (1893-1981).

## Jordan Spieth picks up where he left off at Augusta National

**DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer**

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Jordan Spieth is off to another great start in the Masters because of the way he finished.

His two biggest rivals were left behind because they couldn't.

Spieth capped off the only bogey-free round in the wicked wind at Augusta National by making a 15-foot par putt on the 16th hole and hitting an 8-iron into 6 feet for birdie on the final hole for a 6-under 66 and a two-shot lead, the first step in his bid to win another green jacket.

Jason Day couldn't keep pace. On the verge of tying for the lead late in the round Thursday, Day dropped five shots in three holes and had to settle for a 72. Rory McIlroy pulled to within two shots of the lead until he made two bogeys over the last three holes.

When a day of big wind, big numbers and far too many putts for Ernie Els was finally over, it felt as though nothing had changed from last year.

Spieth is the man to beat at the Masters.

He was atop the leaderboard for the fifth straight round, and he has had at least a share of the lead in six of the last seven rounds at the Masters. One more and he matches the longest streak since Arnold Palmer in 1960 and the opening two rounds of 1961.

And just like last year, now it's time for the rest of the field to try to catch him.

"We're through one round," Spieth said. "There's going to be a lot of different changes. There are going to be a lot of different birdies, bogeys and everything in between. We know how to win this golf tournament, and we believe in our process. And if the putts are dropping, then hopefully it goes our way."

He had a two-shot lead over Danny Lee and Shane Lowry. Three shots behind was a group that included Sergio Garcia, Justin Rose and Paul Casey.

Still in the mix were Day and McIlroy, though both gave up a lot of ground in a short amount of time.

Day's troubles began when he three-putted for bogey on the par-5 15th, pulled his tee shot into the water on the par-3 16th for a triple bogey and then sailed the green on the 17th and dropped another shot. When he finished, he was six behind the defending champion.

"I've just got to slowly try to inch my way back into this tournament if I can, and be patient with myself, and hopefully I'm there by Sunday," Day said. "But it's a major championship. Things happen. And unfortunately, it happened at the wrong time today."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 38 of 39

Right when Day was falling apart, McIlroy holed an 18-foot eagle putt on the 13th and looked to be on his way in his bid to win a green jacket and complete the career Grand Slam. He was within two shots of the lead until he three-putted the 16th for bogey and missed the 18th green to the right, was plugged in a bunker and dropped another shot for a 70.

"If somebody had given me a 70 on the first day, I would have taken it," McIlroy said. "I'm a little disappointed in the way I finished."

It could have been worse.

Bubba Watson, a two-time champion, had a 41 on the back nine and shot 75. He wasn't even low Watson — 66-year-old Tom Watson, in his last Masters, shot 74. Adam Scott, coming off two victories in Florida last month, opened with a 76.

Rickie Fowler had his worst score ever at Augusta National by posting an 80, with 44 of those shots coming on the back nine.

Spieth simply picked up where he left off a year ago.

Never mind that he discovered a hairline crack in his driver during Wednesday practice and had to find a backup for the opening round. Or that he was hearing questions about what was wrong with his game from not having seriously contended in the last two months.

Spieth was at Augusta National, a course that feels like home for the 22-year-old Texan.

"I would have signed for 2 under today and not even played the rough, knowing the conditions that were coming up," Spieth said. "Just scored extremely well, which is something I've been struggling with this season. If I can kind of straighten out things with the iron play, hopefully we'll be in business. But yeah, I'm extremely pleased with that round today. I felt like we stole a few."

For all the birdies — none longer than 12 feet — the pars make Spieth look so tough to beat.

He settled himself early with a beautiful pitch across the first green to 2 feet. He pumped his fist with a tough pitch over the bunker and to the upper tier on No. 4. He gambled with a 4-iron through a tiny gap in the trees on the 11th and made it pay off with another par. On 16, he kept his card clean by ramming in a 15-foot par putt.

By the end of the day, no one could do better.

Nine players couldn't break 80, a group that included Els, who took six putts from 2 feet on the opening hole for a 9. He played the rest of the day at 1 over.

"It wouldn't matter if I putted with a stick," Els said. "When snakes are going off in your brain, it's difficult."

## Asian stocks slip on Wall Street loss, yen's strength

**KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stocks declined Friday as losses on Wall Street and the yen's strength weighed on investor sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index shed 0.6 percent to 15,6661.63 while South Korea's Kospi lost 0.8 percent to 1,959.48. Hong Kong's Hang Seng retreated 0.9 percent to 20,092.67 and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China fell 1.1 percent to 2,974.17. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slid 0.6 percent to 5009.90. Taiwan's benchmark rose but those in Southeast Asian markets fell.

RISING YEN: The dollar rebounded slightly against Japan's currency but the yen was hovering near its highest level in almost a year and a half. The dollar rose to 108.65 yen after sinking as low as 107.70 in the previous day's trading, which was the weakest since October 2014. As global markets fluctuate, investors are shifting from riskier assets toward safer bets, including the yen, which has been traditionally seen as a haven. However, the yen's strength threatens to undermine Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plan to revive Asia's second biggest economy through monetary easing and fiscal stimulus. Analysts are starting to think the government may have to intervene if the yen falls further.

THE QUOTE: "With investors coming to terms that Japan's policies have little on offer to counter yen appreciation, we cannot rule out a move to 105 in the near term," said Stephen Innes, senior forex trader at OANDA. "However, with Prime Minister Abe set to announce an economic stimulus package in May, we

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 08, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 253 ♦ 39 of 39

can also not rule out new cash injections through 'helicopter drops.' As extreme as it may sound, it may be all that's left in Japan's fiscal policy arsenal."

**WALL STREET:** Major U.S. benchmarks had their biggest loss in a month and a half as banks and technology companies tumbled. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 1 percent to 17,541.96. The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 1.2 percent to 2,041.91. The Nasdaq composite index lost 1.5 percent, to 4,848.37.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude rose 65 cents to \$37.91 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 49 cents, or 1.3 percent, to settle at \$37.26 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 55 cents to \$39.98 a barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** In other foreign exchange trading, the euro declined to \$1.1366 from \$1.1376.