

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 1 of 31

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 1- DQ Help Wanted
- 2- Gruber Bridal Shower
- 2- Cutting Edge Lawn Care Ad
- 3- SDHSAA Calendar Recommendations
- 5- GHS Class of 2016
- 5- Avera St. Luke's Auxiliary Scholarships
- 6- Groton City May 2 Meeting Minutes
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 8- Golding Living Center ad
- 9- Local Weather Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Climate
- 10- National Weather map
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- AP News

## Dairy Queen Help Wanted

HELP WANTED: Part-time, flexible hours. Apply at Dairy Queen in Groton.

**Closed:** 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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### Friday, May 13

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

**School Lunch:** Cook's Choice.

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

**Birthdays:** Doris Strom • Nicole Koehler

11:00am: NEC Track at Clark

2:00 p.m.: D.A.R.E. Graduation

### Saturday, May 14

**Birthdays:** • Linda Johnson • Pam Rix • Sheila Johnson • Kevin Radke • Madisyn Waage • Alesha Peterson • Ryan Schelle

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

### Sunday, May 15

**Birthdays:** • Beth Hendrickson • Pearl Dean • Brandee Sundstrom • Casey Dennert • Marcy Blackmun

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion

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

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

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

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

2:00pm: GHS Graduation

3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center (Emmanuel men serve)

### Monday, May 16

**School Breakfast:** Cook's Choice

**School Lunch:** Cook's Choice.

**Senior Menu:** Chicken alfredo, lemon buttered broccoli, fruit dessert, French bread.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

**Sperry Stump Removal** Tyler: 605/216-8431  
**Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!**  
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

## JOIN US FOR A COME AND GO



## BRIDAL SHOWER

IN HONOR OF

*McKinsey Gruber*

BRIDE-TO-BE OF SAM SMITH

### WHEN

SATURDAY | MAY 14 | 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.

### WHERE

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA  
Sam and McKinsey are registered at  
Bed, Bath and Beyond and Amazon

**Now Doing Core Aeration**

**Mowing ~ Trimming**

**Edging ~ Fertilizing**

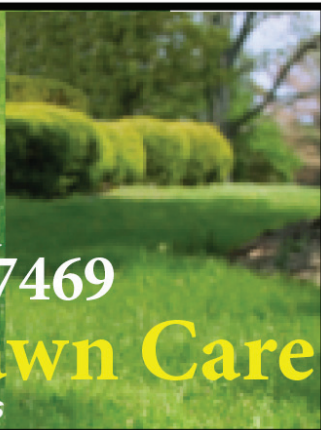
**Spring/Fall Cleanups**

Travis Kurth, Licensed and Insured

Free Estimates ~ 605/397-7469

## Cutting Edge Lawn Care

Quality Lawn Care At Affordable Prices



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 3 of 31

## SDHSAA Final Report – Calendar Recommendations

Greetings: We respectfully submit this final recommendation to the SDHSAA Board of Directors.

We believe that each recommendation has merit for your passage.

We believe that these recommendations meet the objectives of addressing the best possible solutions to a very complex challenge – scheduling the events of the SDHSAA sponsored activities.

We respectfully notify you that the work of the committee has concluded, regardless of the resulting decisions by the Board of Directors.

- **Fall Girl's Tennis**

- Practice start will remain Monday of WEEK 6.
- State meet will remain WEEK 14.

- **Fall Boy's Golf**

- Practice start will remain Monday of WEEK 6.
- State meet will remain WEEK 14.

- **Cheer and Dance**

- Move start of season to Monday of WEEK 6.
- Move state meet to Friday/Saturday of WEEK 17.
- FB quarter-finals not allowed on the DAY of their class's competition at State Cheer & Dance.

- **All State Choir and Orchestra**

- Move to WEEK 18.
- No FB/VB practices allowed Friday or Saturday of WEEK 18.
- Regardless of whether team members participating in ASCO.
- FB semi-finals on Thursday of WEEK 18.
- No VB games on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday of WEEK 18.
- No VB games on Monday of WEEK 19

- **Football – (All Classes)**

- The committee recommends all classes qualify 8 teams for playoffs.
- Practice start will remain Thursday of WEEK 6.
- First allowable game Friday of WEEK 8.
- Final regular season game by Saturday of WEEK 16.
- Quarter-Final Playoff games assigned to Friday or Saturday of WEEK 17.
- Classification will play games on opposite day of their division of State Cheer & Dance.
- All games in a classification will be played on the same day regardless of participation in

C&D.

- Semi-final games for all classes on Thursday of WEEK 18
- All-State Chorus and Orchestra weekend.
- No practices allowed Friday or Saturday of WEEK 18
- Regardless of whether team members participating in ASCO.
- State Championship games remain in WEEK 19.
- **9B, 9A, 9AA, 11B – (If allowed to continue to qualify 16 teams):**
- Practice start will move to Monday of WEEK 6.
- First allowable game will move to Friday of WEEK 7.
- Final regular season game by Saturday of WEEK 15.
- Round of 16 playoff games Friday of WEEK 16.
- Quarter-Final Playoff games assigned to Friday or Saturday of WEEK 17.
- Classification will play games on opposite day of their division of State Cheer & Dance.
- All games in a classification will be played on the same day regardless of participation in

C&D.

- Semi-final games for all classes on Thursday of WEEK 18
- All-State Chorus and Orchestra weekend.

# Groton Daily Independent

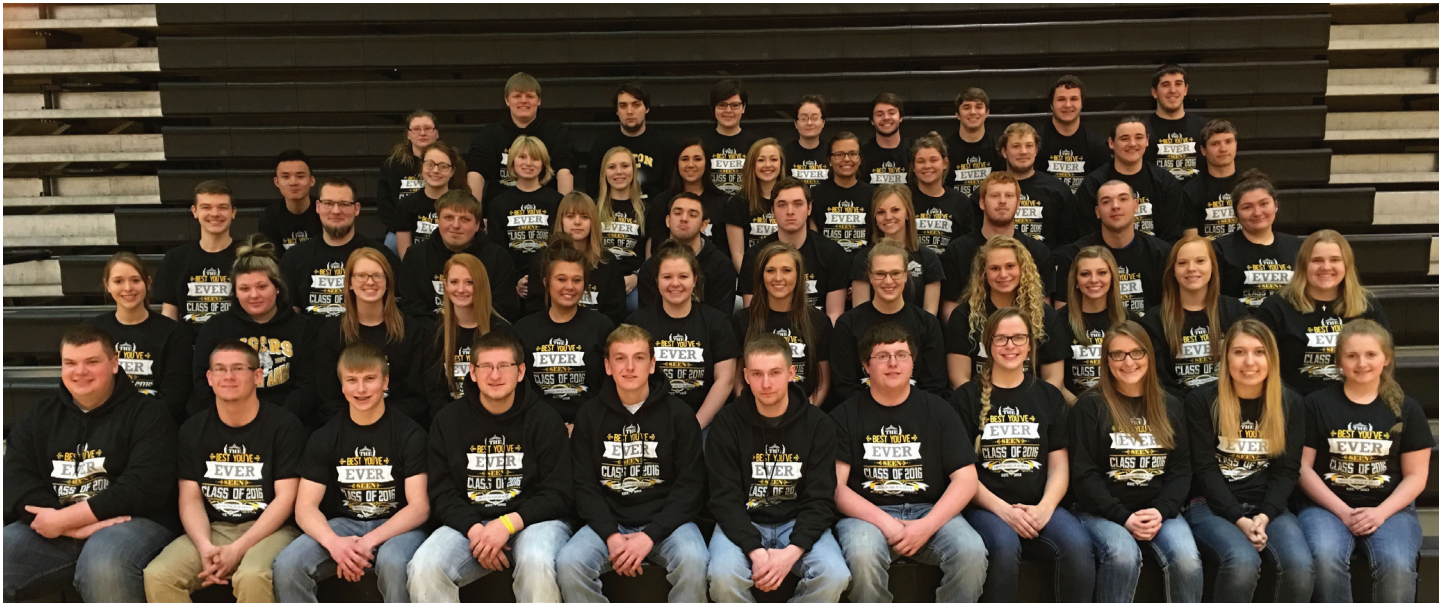
Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 4 of 31

- No practices allowed Friday or Saturday of WEEK 18
- Regardless of whether team members participating in ASCO.
- Championship games remain in WEEK 19.
- **Volleyball**
- Practice start remains Thursday of WEEK 6.
- First allowable game remains Tuesday of WEEK 8.
- Final regular season games dates set by Executive Staff.
- No practices allowed Friday or Saturday of WEEK 18
- Regardless of whether team members participating in ASCO.
- No games on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday of WEEK 18 – (All State Chorus and Orchestra)
- No games on Monday of WEEK 19 – (All State Chorus & Orchestra)
- State tournament remains in WEEK 20.
- **Boy's and Girl's basketball**
- Move start of season for all classes and genders to WEEK 22.
- Move first allowable game for all classes and genders to Friday of WEEK 23.
- Game/Practice Winter Moratorium
- 5 day game & practice lock-out must be consecutive and include Dec 24 and 25.
- Universal state-wide dates – Scheduled by SDHSAA 2 years in advance.
- Chairman's note: We strongly urge the implementation of this five-day moratorium. We believe there is significant administrative support in the vast majority of schools to focus on returning family time to player's and coach's families.
- **Show Choir**
- Remain in WEEK 40
- **State Journalism Convention**
- Remain in WEEK 40
- **All State Jazz Band**
- Move to WEEK 43
- **Spring Boy's Tennis**
- Practice start will remain Monday of WEEK 37.
- State meet will remain WEEK 46.
- **Spring Golf**
- Recommends studying the WEEK 49 after two-year cycle.
- Board of Directors urged to analyze advantages to WEEK 47 vs WEEK 49.
- **Implementation**
- Calendar changes in 2017-18 school year.
- Winter moratorium in 2018-19 school year.
- Timeline
- June 9 – Accept at "First reading"
- August 25 – Pass at "Second reading"



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 5 of 31



## GHS Class of 2016

Top Row (L to R): Toby Weber, Garrett Stene, Matthew Richards, Tia Thompson, Sarah Stange, Isaiah Cutler, Adam Herman, Carter Jondahl, Hunter Lerew

Row 4 (L to R): Joy Htoo, Emily Raap, Kiernan McCranie, Marlee Jones, Jasmine Schaller, Kari Hanson, Jaden Oliver, Angela Locke, Brady Graf, Aaron Severson, Landon Johnson

Row 3 (L to R): Jeric Hanson, Christopher Zarycki, Stevie Fey, Alexia Musch, Jack McKiver, Keegan Schelle, Hailey Hanson, Alex Worlie, John Jensen, Kelsey Iverson

Row 2 (L to R): Allison Weber, Zara Maag, Josie Doeden, Aubray Harry, Kaili Aberle, Megan Unzen, Taryn Rossow, Hannah Webb, Carly Wheeting, Maggie Simon, Jamie Krueger, Lily Cutler

Front Row (L to R): Brody Sombke, Dustin Fish, James Thompson, Brady Keith, Lane Weig, Kyle Miller, Hayden Anderson, Mikaela Blumhardt, Kaitlyn Ringgenberg, Jayleen Lier, Katie Miller

## Avera St. Luke's Auxiliary Awards Scholarships

Avera St. Luke's Auxiliary, Aberdeen is proud to announce six scholarships were awarded recently to local high school seniors interested in pursuing a health-related career. The scholarships, which are awarded annually, provide students with a \$500.00 scholarship applied toward fall tuition at the student's local college, university or school of choice.

Winners of this year's scholarships include: Brianna Kusler, Aberdeen Central High School - daughter of Jay and Connie Kusler; Marlee Jones, Groton Area High School - daughter of Jim and Mendy Jones; Margaret Thares, Ipswich High School - daughter of Dave and Lynn Thares; Allie Sauer, Mobridge-Pollock High School - daughter of Don and Noreen Sauer; Madison Styles, Northwestern High School - daughter of Chris and Erica Styles and Courtney Quam, Wolsey-Wessington High School - daughter of Gail and Lonnie Quam.

Each year a student is selected from Mobridge High School in honor of the gift Avera St. Luke's Auxiliary received from the Lillian Opheim estate.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 6 of 31

## Groton City May 2 Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2016

The Groton City Council met on the above date at City Hall at 7:00pm for their regular first monthly meeting with the following members present: Flihs, Peterson, Opp, Blackmun, Glover, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. McGannon was absent. Also present were Attorney Johnson and Finance Officer Lowary.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Glover and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

The financial report was approved as read on a motion by Flihs and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

The following bills were allowed for payment on a motion by Flihs and seconded by Peterson. All members present voted aye.

Executive Payroll 7,149.64 salaries; Administrative Payroll 6,052.10 salaries; Public Safety Payroll 11,464.12 salaries; Public Works Payroll 17,647.06 salaries; City of Groton 405.82 emp sav, def ref, post, trans util; Cons Fed Cr Union 1,150.00 emp savings; First State Bank 8,332.64 ss & wh; Tim & Faye Berndt 50.00 Heartland appl rebate; Lena Cox 221.35 deposit refund; Les Dohman 200.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Fred & Melanie Johnson 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Alan & Sharon Zoellner 100.00 Heartland HWH rebate; Morgan Holler 127.89 deposit refund; Duane Rude Estate 36.33 deposit refund; Paul Kosel 366.75 Heartland appl rebate, med flex, mileage, meals ; Anita Lowary 38.31 mileage, candy; US Post Office 201.45 postage; Associated Supply Co 8,834.73 chemicals; Beadle's Inc 2,320.00 trees; Buhls 31.70 rug rent; Chase Visa 1,684.21 tables, motel, seatcover, post, data, meet; Crawford Trucks & Equip 896.49 repair; Dakota Electronics 75.40 repair; Dakota Supply Group 58.59 fan motor; Darrels 136.30 filter, repairs, battery; DSS Apparel 91.00 DARE tshirts; Ecolab 98.96 rodent control; Farmers Union Coop 507.22 dsl,gas; Fastenal 5.06 bolts; Groton Daily Independent 52.40 publishing; Heartland Waste 6,157.20 garbage hauling; J & M Aircraft Supply 50.46 windsock; James Valley Tele 555.78 phones, int; Drew Johnson 1,650.00 legal services; Liquid Engineering 2,890.00 tower inspection; NW Energy 11.22 nat gas; Old Bank Floral 30.00 mem plant; RACO Stained Glass 12.50 pool brick; Runnings 75.53 hand pump, oil; S & S Lumber 163.50 supplies; SD Dept of Health 326.00 testing; SD Retirement 7,611.92 retirement; Dan Sunne 150.00 med flex; T & R Electric 20,102.00 transformers; Verizon Wireless 41.61 comm; WEB Water 10,749.19 water

Moved by Glover and seconded by Peterson to adjourn the 128th City Council sine die. All members present voted aye.

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Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

The 129th City Council convened immediately following the 128th Council's adjournment with the following members present: Flihs, Peterson, Opp, Blackmun, Glover and Mayor Hanlon presiding. McGannon was absent. Also present were Attorney Johnson and Finance Officer Lowary. All members renewed their oath of office.

Mayor Hanlon appointed Anita Lowary as Finance Officer and Drew Johnson as City Attorney. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to approve these appointments. All members present voted aye.

An election of officers for the 129th Council was held. Blackmun nominated and Peterson seconded the nomination for McGannon as President. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Glover that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for McGannon for President. All members present voted aye. Opp nominated and Glover seconded the nomination for Blackmun as Vice President. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp that nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Blackmun for Vice President. All members present voted aye.

Mayor Hanlon made the following advisory committee appointments:

NECOG Representative: Jay Peterson; Planning & Zoning Representative: David Blackmun

Committees: 1. Chairman 2.Co-Chairman

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 7 of 31

Electric, Transit, Insect & Weed Control, Airport: 1. McGannon 2. Blackmun  
Water, Swimming Pool, Skating, Economic Development: 1. Glover 2. Peterson  
Streets, Baseball, Storm Drainage, Other Recreation (Tennis, Basketball, Golf): 1. Blackmun 2. McGannon  
Wastewater, Cemetery, Civil Defense, Community Center: 1. Fliehs 2. Opp  
Finance Office, Legal, Library, Insurance, Gen Adm, Elections, Code Enforcement: 1. Peterson 2. Fliehs  
Solid Waste, Rubble Site, Parks, Forestry, Liquor: 1. Opp 2. Glover  
Police: 1. Mayor 2. Blackmun

Moved by Opp and seconded by Fliehs to approve bills at each regular meeting of each month and authorize the Finance Officer to pay payroll and all regular monthly bills in a timely manner to avoid penalties and take advantage of discounts. All members present voted aye.

Dollar Generals request for abandonment of water & sewer easements in vacated 12th Ave between Main St and 3rd St was tabled until June to keep any appeals from changing the request.

Second reading of Ordinance 704, Feral Cat Regulations, was given on a motion by Opp and seconded by Fliehs. All members present voted aye.

A budget training workshop will be held in Aberdeen on July 13. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to authorize April Abeln, David Blackmun, and Scott Hanlon to attend this workshop. All members present voted aye.

Mayor Hanlon appointed Justin Olson to fill the remainder of the 5 year term of Sherwin Nyberg. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to approve this nomination. All members present voted aye.

Public Works Supt Terry Herron, Wastewater Supt Dwight Zerr and Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt enter the meeting and presented department reports. Discussion included planting trees, asphalt street repairs, chip and seal projects, gravel for Aspen Avenue, water tower inspection results, baseball backstops rebuilt, airport grass seeding, rubble site dozing, sewer pump replacement, manholes to replace, televising 2 blocks of sewer main, transformer replacement, LED street lights, and training opportunities. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to authorize Shawn Lambertz to attend the May 23 management school in Aberdeen. All members present voted aye.

Mayor Hanlon received the 15th consecutive annual DENR Clean Drinking water award for Groton City and he presented awards from DENR to Terry Herron and Dwight Zerr for operating an excellent system.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Opp into adjourn into executive session to discuss legal matters at 8:06pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:32pm.

Meeting adjourned.

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Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 8 of 31

## Today in Weather History

May 13, 2005: Runoff from heavy rain resulted in minor flooding along the White River from south of Belvidere to Oacoma, affecting mainly agricultural land along the river. The river rose over its banks and flooded U.S. Highway 83 south of Murdo for a short time. No property damage was reported.

1930 - A man was killed when caught in an open field during a hailstorm northwest of Lubbock TX. It was the first, and perhaps the only, authentic death by hail in U.S. weather records. (David Ludlum)

1980: An F3 tornado ripped directly through the center of Kalamazoo, Michigan, killing five people, injuring 79, leaving 1,200 homeless and causing \$50 million in damage. The tornado passed directly over the American Bank, where a barograph reported a pressure drop of 0.59 inches.

1981 - A tornado 450 yards in width destroyed ninety percent of Emberson TX. People did not see a tornado, but rather a wall of debris. Homes were leveled, a man in a bathtub was hurled a quarter of a mile, and a 1500 pound recreational vehicle was hurled 500 yards. Miraculously no deaths occurred in the tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought an end to the early season warm spell in the north central U.S., but not before the temperature at Sioux City IA soared to a record warm 95 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds ahead of the cold front gusted to 52 mph at Marais MI. Evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail at Rockford MN, and wind gusts to 75 mph at Belmond IA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong winds along a cold front ushering cold air into the northwestern U.S. gusted to 69 mph at Myton UT. Temperatures warmed into the 80s ahead of the cold front, as far north as Montana. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region during the afternoon and night. A thunderstorm at Killeen TX produced wind gusts to 95 mph damaging 200 helicopters at Fort Hood causing nearly 500 million dollars damage. Another thunderstorm produced softball size hail at Hodges TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from eastern Wyoming to northern Kansas, including seven in western Nebraska. Thunderstorms forming ahead of a cold front in the eastern U.S. spawned five tornadoes from northeastern North Carolina to southern Pennsylvania. Thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana deluged the New Orleans area with four to eight inches of rain between 7 AM and Noon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995: This outbreak produced tornadoes extending from the Mississippi River near Burlington, Iowa, to the west of Bloomington, Illinois. Two violent tornadoes, each ranked at F4 intensity, were reported. The first tornado traveled 60 miles from near Fort Madison, Iowa, to the southeast of Galesburg, Illinois producing over \$10 million dollars damage. The town of Raritan, Illinois was hit the hardest. The second violent tornado traveled 7 miles across Fulton County from Ipava to Lewistown, Illinois producing \$6 million dollars damage. Another strong tornado took a 25-mile path across parts of Fulton, Mason, and Tazewell Counties. The storms also produced softball-size hail south and northwest of Macomb in Illinois. Five men were injured in Lawrence County, Indiana when lightning struck one of them and traveled to the other four. There were 184 reports of severe weather, including over three dozen tornadoes.

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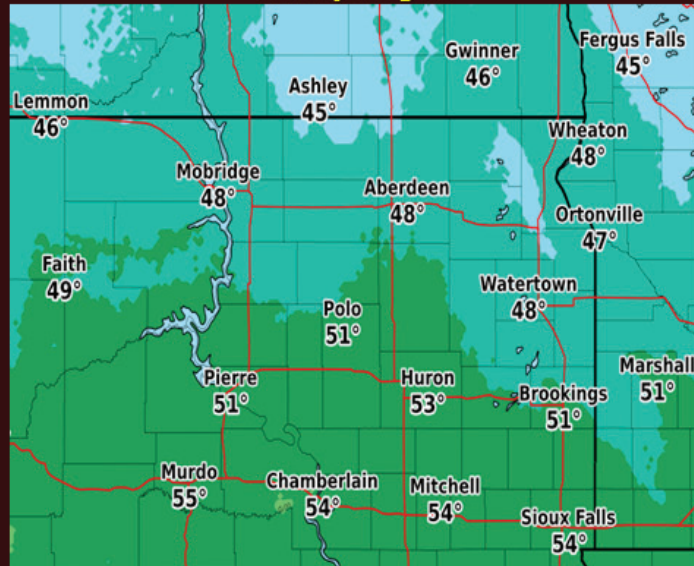
# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 9 of 31

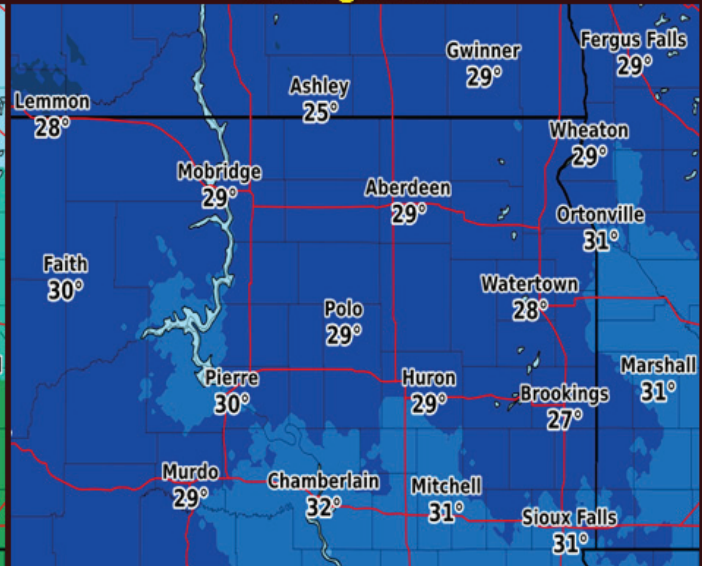
Today	Tonight	Freeze Warning Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Rain/Snow Likely then Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Frost	Frost then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Patchy Frost	Areas Frost then Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Showers
High: 48 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 64 °F

## Rain (Mixed With Snow) This Morning Sub Freezing Temps Tonight

### Today's Highs



### Overnight Lows



National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Published on: 05/13/2016 at 4:50AM

A weak system is bringing light rain to much of the area this morning, with a little light snow mixed in at times. This just shows how cool the air is that is moving into the region - and with high pressure settling over the western Dakotas overnight - readings will tumble in into the upper 20s and low 30s.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 10 of 31

## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 59.6 at 5:22 PM

**Low:** 39.4 at 3:03 AM

**High Gust:** 27 at 9:20 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 97° in 1932

**Record Low:** 24 in 1899

**Average High:** 68°F

**Average Low:** 43°F

**Average Precip in May:** 1.33

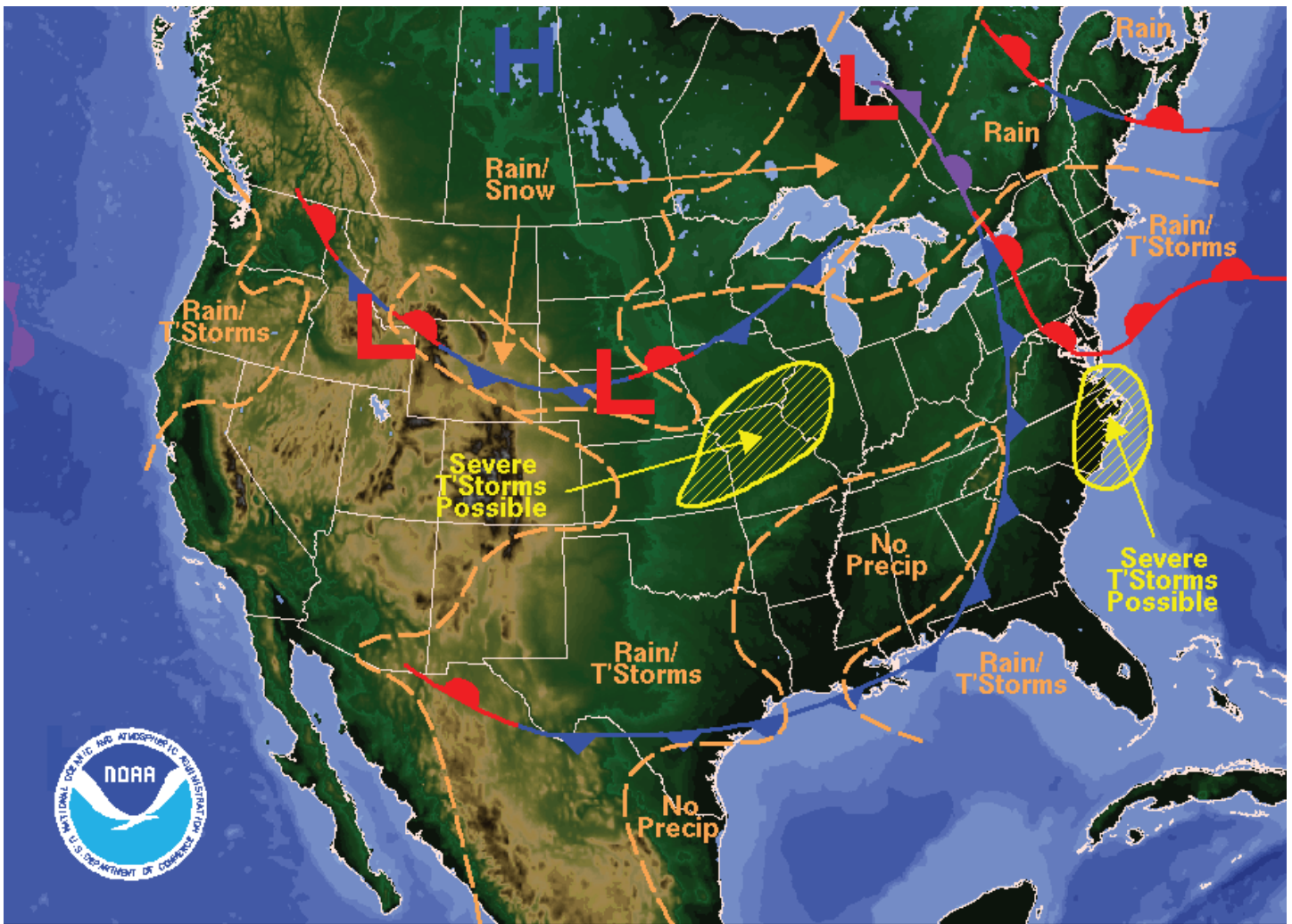
**Precip to date in May:** 0.11

**Average Precip to date:** 5.36

**Precip Year to Date:** 3.50

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:55 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:03 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, May 13, 2016, issued 4:25 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY

The elevator stopped and the doors began to open. A large group of reporters were waiting for a celebrity to step out. When the lone occupant stepped through the doors, there was a burst of lights flashing from the cameras of the photographers. They began pushing and shoving, each trying to get to the front of the crowd to get the best photo.

Then one of them said, "Forget it. She's not Elizabeth Taylor. She's a nobody."

But everybody is somebody with God. The world recognizes people for what they have done. God recognizes us for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ.

When we are born again, we move from a life that is sin-centered to a life that is God-centered. We move from a life that is self-led to a life that is Holy Spirit led. As Christians we gain eternal life and are citizens of the Kingdom of God with all of its benefits. We have the promises of God as a source of strength and encouragement. We have the hope of eternal life and the promise of being with our Lord forever. And we have the peace of God to sustain us in the storms of life and days of distress.

In Christ we are somebody very important to God.

Prayer: How grateful we are, Heavenly Father, to know that we are Your children and have as our inheritance all that Your Word offers. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,



## News from the Associated Press

### **Oops: Bernie Sanders refers to Sioux Falls by wrong name**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders began his campaign rally in the South Dakota city of Sioux Falls with a geography blunder.

The Democratic senator from Vermont referred to Sioux Falls as Sioux City, which is in Iowa.

That prompted groans and boos from the crowd. Sanders quickly realized his mistake and corrected himself.

President Barack Obama made the same mistake when he campaigned in Sioux Falls in 2008.

Sanders is competing with Hillary Clinton for the Democratic endorsement. Whoever gets it likely will run against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump. Sanders held campaign rallies in Pine Ridge, Rapid City and Sioux Falls on Thursday.

### **\$1,000 reward offered in shooting of Rosebud tribal officer**

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The FBI is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the capture of a man who authorities say shot and wounded a Rosebud Sioux Tribe police officer.

Linn Crossdog III is still at large and is believed to be armed and dangerous. He has a criminal history of assault with a deadly weapon and drug offenses.

Authorities say Crossdog shot the officer early Tuesday, then fled on foot. He has ties to the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations and also to Rapid City.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the officer is in stable condition. He hasn't been identified.

Authorities say Crossdog has a tattoo of a star on his forehead, and a tattoo of the letter "A" on his neck.

### **Bernie Sanders completes trio of South Dakota campaign stops**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders spoke out against what he called a corrupt campaign finance system and a rigged economy Thursday evening, wrapping up a three-stop campaign swing through South Dakota.

The Democratic senator from Vermont riled up the crowd of about 4,300 supporters in Sioux Falls, vowing to overturn Citizens United, pass a \$15 minimum wage and create jobs by rebuilding the nation's crumbling infrastructure. He also said that companies hiding profits overseas should be forced to pay their fair share.

Earlier, the Democratic senator from Vermont spoke to 800 people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and a crowd of more than 3,000 in Rapid City.

Sanders is competing with Hillary Clinton for the Democratic endorsement. Whoever gets it likely will run against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

### **US education secretary visits Pine Ridge Reservation**

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Education Secretary John King on Thursday listened to Native American students, teachers and elders share the challenges youth face on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and heard stories of how Lakota language educational programs can offer those children hope.

King visited Red Cloud Indian School and Wolf Creek Elementary School and took part in the opening ceremonies for a gathering of educators and federal officials to discuss improving academic and life prospects for youth.

King said substance abuse and a lack of economic opportunity can contribute to a sense of hopelessness, but programs on the reservation are helping to combat that feeling.

"Infusing Lakota language and culture in the educational program can help to give kids a sense of identity and a sense of hope about their community," King told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe last year declared a state of emergency because of a series of youth suicides



and attempted suicides.

King said Education Department grant programs such as the Native Youth Community Project could assist with the Lakota language infusion effort, and he urged communities to apply for the grants.

Elders are also concerned about dropout rates and the need to attracting and retain strong teachers.

King said he was inspired to hear students talk about their desire to attend college to they can return to the reservation and improve conditions for future generations.

At Wolf Creek, one the biggest issues is space.

"They have 700 students there in a space built for 300, so that's a challenge," he said.

## **South Dakota board OKs \$650K to fund waste tire collections**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Water and natural resources officials in South Dakota have approved grant assistance totaling \$650,000 to fund waste tire collections and other solid waste cleanups.

The state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved the funding.

The money will be used for waste tire collections at the state's regional landfills as part of the state's strategy against the Zika virus. Part of the funding will also be used to help school districts clean up and dispose of chemicals stored in school labs.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says that even though Zika mosquito vectors have not been found in South Dakota, "it's prudent to take steps now to help prevent the spread of this virus in our state by removing tires as prime breeding grounds for mosquitoes."

## **Regents approve Master of Engineering degree for 2 schools**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved a new master of engineering degree for its two engineering schools.

The degree was approved for South Dakota State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Officials say the program focuses on coursework over research. It's meant for engineers who work in or want to be in technical management roles in industry and business.

Once the program is fully implemented, School of Mines expects about 40 students will graduate each year. SDSU anticipates 21 graduates annually.

The schools intend to fund the new master of engineering program using existing resources and graduate tuition.

## **SD park visitor injured after getting too close to buffalo**

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. (AP) — Custer State Park officials say a visitor was hospitalized Thursday after suffering injuries while getting too close to a buffalo.

Officials say the visitor was injured along Wildlife Loop Road and was flown to a Rapid City hospital.

Park Superintendent Matt Snyder says buffalo are wild animals, and visitors are urged to keep a safe distance.

Officials didn't release the person's name or the extent of the injuries. Park rangers are continuing to look into the incident.

## **Push to start pipeline construction meets firm opposition**

**DAVID PITT, Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Opponents of a proposed oil pipeline slated to run through four Midwestern states pressed Iowa regulators Thursday to keep a Texas-based petroleum company from starting construction before all federal permits are approved.

Dakota Access planned on beginning construction by now on the 1,150-mile pipeline that's designed to carry a half-million barrels of oil a day from the Bakken oil fields in northwest North Dakota to a tank storage facility in south-central Illinois. The company told the Iowa Utilities Board in a filing last week it must begin

laying pipe by Tuesday to finish before winter and avoid disturbing farmland for a second growing season.

It also has notified regulators in North Dakota that construction would start Sunday and on Monday in South Dakota, and a company spokeswoman confirmed Thursday that construction is set to begin next week in Illinois.

But the Iowa board's approval in March required Dakota Access to obtain all other permits before beginning construction in the state. And the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for ensuring there's no adverse impact on wildlife and natural resources, hasn't issued any permits and also has been delayed by complaints it hasn't been thorough in its review.

Dakota Access filed a request last week with the Iowa Utilities Board to begin construction on land for which it has landowner approval and for which no federal permits are required. The board has set a Monday deadline for other parties to comment on the request, but hasn't set a date to decide about whether it will allow construction to begin soon.

Environmental group the Sierra Club said in a filing Thursday that the Iowa Utilities Board should stick with its decision to withhold construction approval until all permits are approved because input from other federal agencies may affect the route. And Ed Fallon, director of Bold Iowa, another organization that opposes the pipeline, told The Associated Press that Dakota Access has been very aggressive with landowners and is now "bullying" the Iowa board to give in.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was notified by the federal Interior Department earlier this month that its responsibilities under the federal Endangered Species Act have not been met and further study is required into the project's impact on the endangered Dakota skipper butterfly — an assessment that could take as long as 90 days. The corps also has been threatened with a lawsuit by the North Dakota-based Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, which says the agency must closely assess the impact on the tribe's drinking water and historic sites on its ancestral lands.

"These fundamental concerns have never been rectified," attorneys for the tribe wrote in an April 26 letter. "While corps staff came out to visit the site, these actions took place only after fundamental decisions had been made about the pipeline's routing without consulting the tribe."

A Corps spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a message Thursday.

Dakota Access argues that Iowa has lagged significantly behind other states in its regulatory approval and "each additional day after May 17 pushes additional parcels into a significant risk of being incomplete when weather limits Dakota Access' ability to engage in final restoration work." It said it has negotiated easement agreements with all of the affected landowners in North Dakota and South Dakota, 98 percent in Illinois and 87 percent in Iowa.

## Search effort underway in Pine Ridge after 3 men go missing

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — A search effort is underway on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation after three men went missing Saturday.

Oglala Sioux Tribe President John Yellow Bird Steele has declared a state of emergency following the disappearances of 24-year-old Juan Allen Lamont, 21-year-old Tevin Tyon and 23-year-old Tyrell Tre Wilson.

The tribe's legislative liaison, Donna Salomon, says the Pine Ridge men were last seen at 2 p.m. Saturday in a silver 2006 Buick Lacrosse with license plate F2893.

Salomon says search groups have been canvassing the reservation since Monday. She says they have looked for the men throughout the communities of Pine Ridge and Oglala and are now expanding the search toward the eastern part of the reservation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Oglala Sioux Tribal Police Department at 605-867-5141.

## **Milbank business fire cause undetermined, not suspicious**

MILBANK, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Fire Marshal's Office says it cannot determine the source of a fire that destroyed Titan Machinery in the northeastern South Dakota town of Milbank, but the cause does not appear suspicious.

Officials say the May 4 blaze involved multiple explosions inside the building and ash from the fire traveled as far as a mile. No injuries were reported.

South Dakota Department of Public Safety spokesman Tony Mangan tells KFGO-AM (<http://bit.ly/1TBIIITK>) that the Fire Marshal's Office completed its investigation but investigators cannot determine the source of the fire. Mangan says the cause does not appear suspicious.

West Fargo, North Dakota-based Titan Machinery is a dealer of agricultural and construction equipment.

## **Sioux tribes push to protect sacred Black Hills site Pe' Sla**

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Rosebud Sioux member Russell Eagle Bear remembers feeling relief as night was falling at a sacred site in the Black Hills of South Dakota called Pe' Sla. People had gathered to pray on a cold, windy evening in December 2012 just after a group of tribes completed the purchase of the roughly 3-square-miles of land.

"We paid a high price for it because we wanted to protect our burial sites, our cultural sites, our ceremonial sites," Eagle Bear, historic preservation officer for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said Wednesday.

But nearly 140 years after Congress seized the Black Hills from the Sioux for gold mining, the tribes are facing opposition in South Dakota to preserving the small sliver of their former lands.

The state in April appealed a federal decision to take the land purchased by the tribes into trust. The opposition in part stems from jurisdictional concerns over the rolling grassland hills near the center of the Black Hills National Forest. The state contends that tribes can already use Pe' Sla as a sacred site, while it remains subject to state law.

Some Rosebud Sioux were dismayed when South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said last month that he believes the money to buy and maintain Pe' Sla should be spent on the reservation, which is among the poorest places in the United States.

"You have many tribal members who have needs here on the reservation, and if grandma needs housing, or if grandma needs food, or if grandma needs transportation, grandma doesn't need you to spend tribal resources on a parkland setting 200 miles away for religious use or for buffalo agricultural use," Daugaard said at a Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council meeting.

To some Native Americans, it showed a lack of understanding.

"It definitely is not a white guy's place to dictate to the tribe anything after the history of what has happened between the state of South Dakota and the tribes from the taking of the Black Hills till now," said O.J. Semans, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Health Board.

Pe' Sla holds cultural and spiritual significance beyond monetary measure, similar to sites across the world held dear by other religions, Rosebud Sioux tribal member Wizipan Little Elk said.

The change would guarantee that Pe' Sla stays in the hands of Native American people and would exempt it from taxes, said Kurt BlueDog, an attorney representing the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota and the Crow Creek, Rosebud and Standing Rock Sioux tribes of the Dakotas.

In 2012, the tribes raised \$9 million to buy roughly 2,000 acres from private landowners. They later acquired additional acreage and reintroduced buffalo to the site, with about 20 there now.

Most Americans know the Black Hills for the popular tourist destination of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, where the faces of four ex-presidents are carved in towering granite.

But before the presidents, the mountain range sprouting from the Great Plains in western South Dakota was the territory of Native Americans including the Sioux.

In an 1868 treaty, the U.S. government agreed that a huge area west of the Missouri River would be set aside for use by the Sioux. After gold was discovered in the Black Hills, miners and other fortune-seekers

flocked to western South Dakota. That led to military battles that culminated in George Custer's defeat by the Sioux in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.

When the Sioux refused to ratify a new treaty giving up the Black Hills, Congress passed a law in 1877 seizing the land anyway. More than a decade later, the Rosebud Indian Reservation was created — roughly 200 miles away from Pe' Sla — through the division of the Great Sioux Reservation.

"We may not be attacked by U.S. Cavalry anymore, but now people are using the law to attack us," Little Elk said of the state's attempts to block the trust.

There are many translations for Pe' Sla, including "the bald area" and "the center of our world" because of its central location in the Black Hills, which are significant in creation stories that vary among tribes and family groups, said Duane Hollow Horn Bear, an instructor at Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud reservation. There is beauty in the diversity of the legends and language, but they share a common reverence, he said.

A ceremony held at Pe' Sla helps teach people how to deal with grief, he said.

South Dakota has fought against converting the land in part because of concerns over jurisdiction, which would be exacerbated by the distance of Pe' Sla from existing reservations, according to a 2015 letter from the state attorney general's office to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Daugaard, a Republican, said at the tribal council meeting last month that he opposes an "island of tribal trust jurisdiction" on land away from the reservation.

He also conceded then that it's not his decision how tribal resources are spent. A spokeswoman said Daugaard's statement against the Pe' Sla plan is "his personal opinion," separate from the state's opposition.

"We are a poor tribe. All the tribes, we struggle every day. Yet we had to go out and seek monies to purchase this land," Eagle Bear said. "It should have been given back to us."

## US Army to pay for repatriation of Indian children's remains

**REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army has promised to pay for moving and re-burying the remains of at least 10 Native American children who died more than a century ago at a government-run boarding school in Pennsylvania whose mission was to strip the students from their traditions and replace them with European culture.

At a meeting with tribal leaders this week on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, representatives from the Army agreed to work with the Rosebud Sioux and other tribes to exhume the bodies of children who died and were buried at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. The tribes will have to follow the official process for disinterment from a military cemetery, and the Army will address each case individually as tribes may not be able to meet all of the requirements because of the years that have elapsed since the children died.

"We are really thankful that they are willing to work with us and that we are going to move forward," said Russell Eagle Bear, the historic preservation officer for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. His office has used several documents to determine that 10 of the children buried at the site of the former school, which is now part of the U.S. Army War College, are members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

The boarding school, founded by an Army officer, operated between 1879 and 1918. More than 10,000 Native American children were required upon arrival to have their braids cut off and dress in military-style uniforms in an effort to stamp out their heritage. Students were punished for speaking their native language and had to go by a European name.

The students lived under harsh conditions and were susceptible to various types of diseases, such as tuberculosis, which led to their early death. Nineteen of the nearly 200 students who died and were buried at the school have been identified as members of Sioux communities.

The requirements to exhume a body from a military cemetery include the need for a full statement of reasons for the proposed disinterment, as well as notarized affidavits by all close relatives of the deceased stating that they have no objections. Army cemetery rules define close relatives as spouse, parents, adult



brothers and sisters and adult children of the decedent — a requirement impossible to meet in the cases of the children who were buried at the school. But, Army spokesman Dave Foster said, the military will work with the tribes on each case “understanding that there will be certain challenges.”

“It is the desire of the Army that the disinterments take place,” Foster said Thursday. He added that the Army will attend a conference in June in Washington state and another one in October in North Carolina to ensure that other tribes are aware of the effort and requirements, and that no remains will be exhumed before then.

Representatives from the Northern Arapaho and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes were among those that participated in the government-to-government consultation Tuesday in South Dakota.

Eagle Bear said his office has tracked down descendants of the 10 Rosebud Sioux children and has given the Army copies of all documents the tribe has to support the request to repatriate the remains. He added that when the process begins, he will take a medicine man with him to have a spiritual ceremony to help identify the remains, and DNA testing will be a backup.

## Attorney general explains referred law regarding elections

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley has released an explanation for a law referred to voters that would revise state election practices.

Jackley says the measure won't become law unless approved by a majority vote in the 2016 election.

He says it would change election-related submission deadlines and alter signature-gathering requirements for some offices, among other revisions.

Opponents say the election law changes would make it harder for candidates to run. They argue the changes would be especially difficult for smaller parties.

The law passed in 2015. Backers argue it would ensure political parties are treated equally and that it's important citizens have enough time to challenge nominating petitions.

Since opponents got enough support to put the measure on the ballot, it didn't go into effect as intended on July 1, 2015.

## Oil, gas industry challenges efforts to protect Western bird

**MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press**

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The oil and gas industry on Thursday challenged in federal court drilling restrictions imposed by the Obama administration to protect a struggling bird that ranges across 11 Western states.

The Western Energy Alliance and North Dakota Petroleum Council said they would ask a U.S. District judge in North Dakota to block sweeping land use plans for the region adopted in September by the Interior Department.

The groups said local and state efforts to prop up populations of greater sage grouse have been effective. Sweeping changes to U.S. Interior Department policies were not needed to ensure the chicken-sized bird's long-term survival, they said.

It marks the oil industry's first attempt to undo federal policies that already have drawn opposition from both ends of the debate over the bird. The challenged plans cover about 165 million acres of land in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota and Utah.

Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said in response that the new land use plans strike a balance between conservation and economic development. Their adoption was considered key to keeping sage grouse off the endangered species list and avoiding even more severe restrictions on development.

Kershaw declined to directly comment on Thursday's lawsuit, the latest in a string of lawsuits over grouse.

Some wildlife advocates have said in an Idaho lawsuit that there are too many loopholes in new rules on oil and gas drilling, grazing and other activities blamed for the bird's long-term decline. Mining companies, ranchers and officials in Utah, Idaho and Nevada have argued the rules impede economic development.

Western Energy Alliance Vice President Kathleen Sgamma said the group has not yet been able to quan-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 18 of 31

tify what harm is being done to oil and gas companies.

Instead, Thursday's lawsuit targets the process by which the government adopted the new rules. Sgamma said officials did not allow for enough public comment before putting them into place.

"That's where they're legally vulnerable," she said. "The oil and gas restrictions in the plans are based on science that overstates the threat" to sage grouse.

The Interior Department's land-use plans for Wyoming were excluded from Thursday's lawsuit. Sgamma said that was because the federal government's plan largely conformed with the state's own plan.

The grouse population once was estimated at 16 million birds across North America. It's lost roughly half its habitat to development, livestock grazing and an invasive grass that encourages wildfires in the Great Basin of Nevada and adjoining states. There are now an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 greater sage grouse.

## South Dakota leads in production of bison and sunflowers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota leads the nation in the production of bison and sunflowers.

The Agriculture Department says the state topped those commodity classes in 2015 and was second in honey and oats.

South Dakota ranked third in the production of flaxseed, alfalfa hay, all hay and proso millet, and fourth in navy beans and spring wheat.

The state was fourth in beef cows, sixth in corn, seventh in soybeans and ninth in winter wheat.

## Help requested for search of 3 missing Pine Ridge men

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The Oglala Sioux Tribe has declared a state of emergency as authorities search for three men missing since Saturday.

Twenty-four-year-old Juan Lamont, 21-year-old Tevin Tyon and 23-year-old Tyrell Wilson were last seen in Pine Ridge Saturday afternoon in a silver 2006 Buick Lacrosse with license plate F2893.

Tribal President John Yellow Bird Steele has called for additional resources from other tribes and government agencies. The Argus Leader reports search efforts have been delayed by muddy roads on the reservation, and the proclamation requests planes and helicopters to help in the search.

Lamont's mother told the Rapid City Journal that the men told a friend they were going for a ride in the country. Police Chief Eugenio White Hawk speculates they might have crashed or gotten stuck in the mud somewhere.

## Sioux tribes push to protect sacred Black Hills site Pe' Sla

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of tribes pushing to place a site sacred to the Great Sioux Nation into a federal trust has come up against the state of South Dakota.

Kurt BlueDog, an attorney representing the tribes, says the move would guarantee that the place called Pe' Sla stays in the hands of Native American people for cultural and religious use.

The state is appealing a federal decision to take the land into trust, in part because of jurisdictional concerns.

To some Rosebud Sioux Tribe members, the state's opposition represents another affront from the government.

An 1868 treaty had set aside the Black Hills and other land for the Sioux, but Congress passed a law nine years later seizing the land after the discovery of gold in western South Dakota.

## Olympic gold medalists from Russia deny doping claims

**JAMES ELLINGWORTH, AP Sports Writer**

MOSCOW (AP) — Two Olympic gold medalists from Russia denied doping Friday, a day after they were named in a newspaper report detailing state-sponsored cheating at the 2014 Sochi Games.

Bobsled champion Alexander Zubkov and cross-country skier Alexander Legkov were among the athletes accused in a New York Times article of doping by the former head of the Russian national drug-testing laboratory.

"What's written now in this article is baseless libel," Zubkov told Russian state TV, adding that he regularly gave doping samples in his career.

"I'm a person who has worked for many years in sport, competed at the Olympics, and I know how much responsibility each athlete bears when they compete at such a high level."

The article also brought a strong response from the Kremlin. Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman denounced the allegations as "a turncoat's libel."

Grigory Rodchenkov, the former head of the Russian lab now living in Los Angeles, told the Times that he was given a spreadsheet of doping athletes by the Sports Ministry ahead of the games. It allegedly bore the names of 15 athletes who later won medals, including Zubkov and Legkov.

The spreadsheet was not published and The Associated Press could not verify it.

Rodchenkov said he then switched out tainted urine samples for clean ones at the doping lab used for the games in Sochi, with help from people he believed to be officers of the Russian security services.

Legkov defended his "honest medals" and said Rodchenkov, who resigned as lab director last year following separate allegations that he covered up doping in track and field, was not a credible source.

"I don't understand why a person like this should be believed, trusted or anything else," Legkov said in televised comments.

Zubkov and Legkov are two of Russia's most prominent winter sports athletes.

Zubkov carried the Russian flag at the opening ceremony for the Sochi Olympics and won gold in the two-man and four-man bobsled events at the age of 39, becoming one of the oldest pilots to win an Olympic event.

Legkov won gold in the men's 50-kilometer cross-country mass start on the last day of the games and was given his gold medal at the closing ceremony.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Kremlin rejects the accusations that the Russian government oversaw a state-sponsored doping program and subsequent cover-up.

"It just seems like, you know, some kind of a turncoat's libel," Peskov said, without mentioning Rodchenkov by name. "I wouldn't put trust in such unfounded claims."

The government continues to back Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, Peskov added.

The World Anti-Doping Agency is set to investigate Rodchenkov's allegations, and Rodchenkov himself has volunteered to identify which samples he tampered with.

The International Olympic Committee on Thursday said that the "allegations are very detailed and very worrying and we ask the World Anti-Doping Agency to investigate immediately."

The IOC said, based on the result of the WADA inquiry, that it "will not hesitate to act with its usual policy of zero tolerance for doping and defending the clean athletes."

## China, US generals to work out mechanism for South China Sea

**CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — Seeking to calm escalating tensions in the South China Sea, top generals from China and the U.S. spoke by phone and said they were ready to work out an effective mechanism to prevent confrontation and maintain stability in the region.

Chinese Chief of the General Staff Fang Fenghui told Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford in a video conference Thursday that China values freedom of navigation "more than any other country in the world," according to a statement posted on the Defense Ministry's website.

While denying that Beijing was responsible for current tensions, Fang said China wanted to expand communication and cooperation with the U.S. to prevent the issue impacting on the overall relationship.

"The common ground and prospects for cooperation between China and the U.S. far exceed our disagreements and contradictions," Fang was quoted as saying. China wants to take the big picture of China-U.S. relations as the basis for approaching the South China Sea issue, Fang said.

The conversation followed a sharp verbal exchange following a U.S. destroyer's sail-by past China's largest man-made island in a move to exercise freedom of navigation.

China said it deployed two navy fighter jets, one early warning aircraft and three ships to track and warn off the USS William P. Lawrence during as it sailed Wednesday within 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers) of Fiery Cross Reef, the limit of what international law regards as an island's territorial sea.

The reef — which used to be submerged at high tide for all but two rocks — is now an artificial island with a long airstrip, harbor and burgeoning above-ground infrastructure. It dwarfs all other features in the disputed area, was recently visited by China's military No. 2 and became prominent in the Chinese media when a famous singer of patriotic anthems entertained troops there.

China said such "provocative actions" justified it in boosting "all categories of military capacity building" on its island strongholds in the South China Sea.

In Washington, State Department Spokesman Josh Earnest said on Thursday that such "innocent passage" cruises were routine missions intended merely to reinforce the Navy's determination to "fly, operate, and sail anywhere that international law allows."

"And we certainly do not want to see the tensions increase, because of the risk that that could pose to the extensive commerce that's conducted in that region of the world," Earnest said.

China has sought to bolster its claim to almost the entire South China Sea by constructing new islands such as Fiery Cross Reef atop coral outcroppings, adding to them airstrips, harbors and military infrastructure. The U.S. refuses to recognize the new features as enjoying the legal rights of naturally occurring islands, and while it takes no formal position on sovereignty claims, insists that all nations enjoy the right to freely sail and fly through the strategically vital area.

## **US gives directive to schools on transgender bathroom access**

**ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public schools must permit transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity, according to an Obama administration directive issued amid a court fight between the federal government and North Carolina.

The guidance from leaders at the departments of Education and Justice says public schools are obligated to treat transgender students in a way that matches their gender identity, even if their education records or identity documents indicate a different sex.

"There is no room in our schools for discrimination of any kind, including discrimination against transgender students on the basis of their sex," Attorney General Loretta Lynch said in a statement accompanying the directive, which is being sent to school districts Friday.

In issuing the guidance, the Obama administration is wading anew into a socially divisive debate it has bluntly cast in terms of civil rights. The Justice Department on Monday sued North Carolina over a bathroom access law that it said violates the rights of transgender people, a measure that Lynch likened to policies of racial segregation and efforts to deny gay couples the right to marry.

The guidance does not impose any new legal requirements. But officials say it's meant to clarify expectations of school districts that receive funding from the federal government. Educators have been seeking guidance on how to comply with Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and activities that receive federal funding, Education Secretary John B. King said in a statement.

"We must ensure that our young people know that whoever they are or wherever they come from, they have the opportunity to get a great education in an environment free from discrimination, harassment and violence," King said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 21 of 31

Under the guidance, schools are told that they must treat transgender students according to their chosen gender identity as soon as a parent or guardian notifies the district that that identity “differs from previous representations or records.” There is no obligation for a student to present a specific medical diagnosis or identification documents that reflect his or her gender identity, and equal access must be given to transgender students even in instances when it makes others uncomfortable, according to the directive.

“As is consistently recognized in civil rights cases, the desire to accommodate others’ discomfort cannot justify a policy that singles out and disadvantages a particular class of students,” the guidance says.

The administration is also releasing a separate 25-page document of questions and answers about best practices, including ways schools can make transgender students comfortable in the classroom and protect the privacy rights of all students in restrooms or locker rooms.

The move was cheered by Human Rights Campaign, a gay, lesbian and transgender civil rights organization, which called the guidelines “groundbreaking.”

“This is a truly significant moment not only for transgender young people but for all young people, sending a message that every student deserves to be treated fairly and supported by their teachers and schools,” HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement.

The guidance comes days after the Justice Department and North Carolina filed dueling lawsuits over a new state law that says transgender people must use public bathrooms, showers and changing rooms that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate. The administration has said the law violates the Civil Rights Act.

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory has argued that the state law is a “commonsense privacy policy” and that the Justice Department’s position is “baseless and blatant overreach.” His administration sued the federal government hours before the state itself was sued.

## 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. U.S. GIVES DIRECTIVE TO SCHOOLS ON TRANSGENDER BATHROOM ACCESS

The guidance doesn’t impose new legal requirements, but federal officials say it is intended to clarify school districts’ obligations to provide nondiscriminatory environments.

#### 2. WHY SOME DEMOCRATS UP PRESSURE ON SANDERS TO EXIT

Democratic Party leaders raise alarms that his continued presence in the race is undermining efforts to beat presumptive GOP nominee Donald Trump.

#### 3. WHERE PRESIDENT VOWS TO FIGHT HER OUSTER

Brazil’s Dilma Rousseff plans to use “all legal means” to oppose her impeachment, while the new acting head of state calls for unity, underscoring the nation’s political polarization.

#### 4. TOP LEBANESE HEZBOLLAH COMMANDER KILLED IN SYRIA

Mustafa Badreddine’s killing deals a major blow to the Shiite group which has played a significant role in the conflict.

#### 5. WHO IS CLOSELY TIED TO ALIBABA

The head of a global anti-counterfeiting coalition in Washington DC owns stock in the Chinese e-commerce giant, which has battled to fight its reputation as the world’s largest marketplace for fakes, an AP investigation finds.

#### 6. LONG RECOVERY FOR THE VICTIMS OF IRAQ BOMBINGS

Those wounded in the country’s constant stream of bombings face a dilapidated health care system that is often unable to treat long-term injuries.

#### 7. ARREST OF TENNESSEE CHILDREN EXPOSES FLAWED JUVENILE JUSTICE

A public examination of how police handled elementary school students suspected of wrongdoing triggers a local effort to improve existing practices.

#### 8. BIDDING FOR GUN THAT KILLED TRAYVON MARTIN SURPASSES \$25 MILLION

It is unclear if they are serious bids, with the leading bidder using the screen name "Racist McShootface."

## 9. BEES BUZZING ON ROOFTOPS AT 7 SAN FRANCISCO HOTELS

"This is not about making money, it's really about raising awareness about sustainability," says Melissa Farrar, spokeswoman at the Fairmont.

## 10. RUSSIA SAYS DOPING CLAIMS ARE "TURNCOAT'S LIBEL"

Vladimir Putin's spokesman attacks the credibility of a former Russian official, who told the New York Times that he switched tainted urine samples for clean ones during the Olympics.

## House, Senate hope to craft quick anti-drug abuse compromise

**ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is ready to start crafting compromise legislation addressing the nation's opioid abuse crisis, which should be an easier lift than other issues facing lawmakers. The reason: Both parties have an election-year incentive to show they're tackling a problem that's killing people in America's biggest cities and smallest towns.

The House approved three bills Thursday setting up federal grants and taking other steps to battle the drug epidemic, the last of 18 measures on the issue the chamber overwhelmingly passed this week. Members of both parties hailed the measures, though Democrats complained that none provided any money for the programs and anti-drug advocates called the bills a needed but modest first step.

"It's a very important start, but we need dollars, we need statutory changes and we need sustained focus and attention," said Robert Morrison, executive director of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

With the Senate approving its own version in March, lawmakers now hope to send President Barack Obama a compromise bill before Congress begins a long summer recess in July. This week's House votes contrasted with the partisan disputes that have hindered congressional efforts to address the Zika virus, Puerto Rican debt and the lead-poisoned water of Flint, Michigan.

Government figures show the growing toll from misuse of opioids — addictive pain-killing narcotics and heroin — which in 2014 killed nearly 29,000 people, triple the death rate of 2000. More than 2 million people were abusing prescription opioid painkillers and nearly 500,000 more were addicted to heroin in 2012.

Some states where the problem is worst are also home to competitive congressional races. Among the bills' sponsors are some lawmakers facing tough re-election campaigns, including GOP Reps. Frank Guinta of New Hampshire and Bob Dold of Illinois and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, a chief sponsor of the Senate legislation.

"This problem is a problem for America. This problem has exploded," Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., said during the week's debate.

Obama has proposed an additional \$1.1 billion to address the problem. The largest House bill, approved Thursday by 413-5, establishes grants worth \$103 million annually over the next five years but provides none of the actual funds, leaving that for future spending legislation in which all federal programs will compete for funds.

The White House wrote in a statement to lawmakers that without money, the House bills "would do little to help the thousands of Americans struggling with addiction."

The measures would create grants for programs bolstering law enforcement, monitoring prescriptions and training first responders to use anti-overdose drugs like naloxone. It would be easier for some health care providers to administer overdose reversal drugs, anti-drug programs helping pregnant women and new mothers would be renewed, and curbs would be eased against partially filling some prescriptions — a way of reducing unused opioids available to drug abusers.

Marvin Ventrell, executive director of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers, said the resources the legislation would potentially provide were inadequate but a step in the right direction.

Ventrell said the bills were "major in terms of message" because they were the first indications in years that Congress was moving toward addressing the issue.

To the dismay of leading House Republicans, this week's work on the bills was overshadowed by the GOP presidential campaign and the buildup to Thursday's meeting between presumptive nominee Donald Trump and the party's top elected official, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Underscoring Republican efforts to draw attention to the legislation, Ryan spokeswoman AshLee Strong issued a statement to journalists on Tuesday saying, "While politics may have your attention right now, we hope you'll have time to review and write on this important and thoughtful action the House is about to take to tackle the disturbing opioid epidemic."

## Fearing Trump, some Democrats up pressure on Sanders to exit

**LISA LERER, Associated Press**

**KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pressure is mounting on Bernie Sanders to end his campaign for president, with Democratic Party leaders raising alarms that his continued presence in the race is undermining efforts to beat presumptive GOP nominee Donald Trump this fall.

The new concerns come after Sanders' recent wins over front-runner Hillary Clinton in Indiana and West Virginia. While those victories have provided his supporters a fresh sense of momentum heading into next week's primaries in Kentucky and Oregon, they did almost nothing to help Sanders cut into Clinton's nearly insurmountable lead in the delegates who will decide their party's nomination.

"I don't think they think of the downside of this," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., a Clinton supporter who hosted the 2008 meeting that brokered post-primary peace between Clinton and then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

"It's actually harmful because she can't make that general-election pivot the way she should," Feinstein said. "Trump has made that pivot."

Clinton, her aides and supporters have largely resisted calling on Sanders to drop out, noting that she fought her 2008 primary bid against Obama well into June. But now that Trump has locked up the Republican nomination, they fear the billionaire businessman is capitalizing on Sanders' decision to remain in the race by echoing his attacks and trying to appeal to the same independent, economically frustrated voters that back the Vermont senator.

"I would just hope that he would understand that we need to begin consolidating our vote sooner rather than later," said New York Rep. Steve Israel, a Clinton backer and former chief of efforts to elect Democrats to the House. "Democrats cannot wait too long."

Though Clinton has for the past few weeks largely focused her rhetoric on Trump, campaign aides say the two-front effort hampers their ability to target both Sanders supporters and Republican-leaning independents that may be open to her candidacy. It also means she's spending time in primary states, rather than battlegrounds that will decide the general election.

This weekend, for example, Clinton will campaign in Kentucky ahead of the state's Tuesday primary. She's also dispatched several high-level advocates to the state, including Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell and Reps. James Clyburn of South Carolina, G.K. Butterfield of North Carolina, Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas and Hakeem Jeffries and Joe Crowley of New York.

While they can talk up Clinton, Sanders' determination to contest every state remaining has kept Obama and Vice President Joe Biden largely on the sidelines, benching two of her most powerful advocates.

"It all sort of slows the takeoff of her general-election campaign," said Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, a member of the party's liberal wing from a perennial battleground.

Sanders is having none of it, frequently telling the thousands of supporters who attend his rallies that he still has a narrow path to the nomination.

"Please do not moan to me about Hillary Clinton's problems," Sanders said in a recent interview with MSNBC. "It is a steep hill to climb, but we're going to fight for every last vote."

Yet there is no question his campaign is on its last legs. His fundraising dropped by about 40 percent last month and he's laid off hundreds of staffers. Biden said this week he "feels confident" that Clinton

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 24 of 31

will be the nominee. Even Obama is pointing out the realities of the delegate math, which puts Clinton on track to capture the nomination early next month.

By every measure, Clinton is handily winning the Democratic contest. She has won 23 states to Sanders' 19, capturing 3 million more votes than her rival along the way. She has 94 percent of the delegates needed to win the nomination, which means she could lose all the states left to vote by a landslide and still emerge as the nominee — so long as all her supporters among the party insiders known as super-delegates continue to back her.

White House officials believe Obama has the ability to coax some die-hard Sanders' fans into the Clinton camp, particularly young people and liberals. But if he moves before Clinton officially captures the nomination, he risks angering those voters and undermining that effort.

Clinton faces a similar calculus. While her international expertise could attract foreign policy-focused Republicans and suburban women, highlighting her record on those issues now might encourage Sanders to resurrect attacks on her vote in favor of the Iraq war.

"When his rhetoric takes a sharper tone against her, the hairs on the back of my neck stand up," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. "I know that can be used as ammunition."

Clinton supporter Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, pointed to the results in West Virginia, where 4 in 10 voters said in exit polls that they considered themselves independents or Republicans. That's a sign the late state primaries — particularly the open contests — were doing little to help Clinton.

"There's a lot of cross-over voters that are more about hurting a nominee as opposed to helping a potential nominee," she said.

Clinton backers say there's plenty for Sanders to do in his old job — and a lot of good reasons for him to join forces. If Democrats regain the majority in the Senate, he'd likely become chairman of the powerful Senate Budget Committee.

"We are looking forward to welcoming him back to the Senate," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich.

## Head of anti-fakes group closely tied to Alibaba, owns stock

**ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press**

**DESMOND BUTLER, Associated Press**

SHANGHAI (AP) — When an influential anti-counterfeiting group allowed Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba to join its ranks in April, the group said it was a collaborative move that would help stem the sale of fake goods for top companies such as Apple, Nike and Procter & Gamble.

Instead, the decision has sparked an angry revolt among some members of the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition, who consider Alibaba the world's largest marketplace for fakes. The ensuing drama has led to outraged letters, anonymous memos, and high-profile defections.

Now, an investigation by The Associated Press has found that the IACC's president owns Alibaba stock, has close ties to a key Alibaba vice president and uses family members to run his coalition.

"It's crossed the line ethically," said Deborah Greaves, a partner at Brutzkus Gubner law firm who served on the coalition's board from 2011 to 2013. She said she didn't know that IACC chief Robert Barchiesi had stock in Alibaba until informed by the AP, calling it "really problematic."

"Everything the IACC does that makes Alibaba look better potentially drives up the price of the stock," said Greaves, whose firm is still a member of the group. "As a board member, I would never have bought stock in Alibaba."

The storm has bared the deep loathing some harbor for a company heralded as one of communist China's greatest capitalist success stories.

At issue is the independence of a small but influential coalition that lobbies U.S. officials and testifies before Congress. Alibaba's membership could help shape the global fight against counterfeits, which damage companies' bottom lines, result in harmful products consumers purchase unknowingly, and feed a vast underground money-laundering industry that supports criminal syndicates.

Since Alibaba joined, Gucci America, Michael Kors and Tiffany have quit the Washington D.C.-based



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 25 of 31

coalition, which has more than 250 members.

The AP found several ties between the group's president and Alibaba:

-The president of the coalition, Barchiesi, has owned Alibaba stock since its 2014 listing in New York. The IACC said in a statement that the holdings represent "a small percentage of his investment portfolio."

-Matthew Bassiur, who took over as vice president of global intellectual property enforcement at Alibaba in January, hired Barchiesi's son, Robert Barchiesi II, to work at Apple back in 2011. Alibaba said that hire was made on merit. Apple declined to comment.

-Bassiur is a founding board member of the ICE Foundation, which has been run by Barchiesi's other son, James Barchiesi, since 2013. That same year, the ICE Foundation board voted to award a contract for "fiscal and operational management" to a private company also run by James Barchiesi. The ICE Foundation, which supports U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees, has received grants of \$10,000 from the anti-counterfeiting coalition every year since 2012, tax filings show.

Some members have welcomed Alibaba. "I thought that was a good step forward," said Brad Buckles, an anti-piracy executive at the Recording Industry Association of America. "Bring them in so that you can complain to them. At the end of the day, if none of it works, you can kick them out."

Jennifer Kuperman, head of international corporate affairs at Alibaba, said Bassiur's expertise would help the company "further instill trust in our marketplaces."

"We are highly confident in his abilities and proud to have him at Alibaba in this critical global role," she said.

Critics, however, fear Alibaba will use IACC membership to gain legitimacy while papering over fundamental flaws in the way it does business. Gucci and other brands owned by France's Kering Group allege in U.S. court filings that Alibaba knowingly profits from the sale of fakes. Alibaba has dismissed the case as "wasteful litigation."

Brands "are concerned that Alibaba will tout its membership as part of a propaganda campaign to falsely persuade regulators, prosecutors, consumers and investors that it is fighting counterfeiting when in fact it is perhaps the world's largest counterfeiting bazaar," said Geoffrey Potter, lead anti-counterfeiting lawyer at New York's Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler.

Michael Kors' general counsel has called Alibaba "our most dangerous and damaging adversary." For some, the admission of Alibaba, coupled with the personal ties that link it to the coalition, threaten the common sense of purpose that once bound the group.

"Many brands are concerned that Alibaba's IACC membership and the personal ties between the parties will affect the IACC's ability to provide objective criticism of Alibaba in a public setting," said Kristina Montanaro Schrader, an anti-counterfeiting lawyer at Adams and Reese in Nashville and former coalition employee.

The coalition's tax filings show that, in addition to the ties to Alibaba, Barchiesi runs his organization like a family business. The coalition paid companies founded and run by one of Barchiesi's sons nearly \$150,000 from 2012 to 2014 for rental costs, accounting, IT support and advertising. It employs the son's wife, Kathryn Barchiesi, as a program manager. And though the coalition attests that its financial statements were reviewed by an independent accountant, tax filings show the accounting firm was owned by Barchiesi's son.

In a statement, the coalition said the family connections had been disclosed and the contracts were fairly valued. "The board of directors of the IACC believes that Mr. Barchiesi's performance as President has been exemplary, and he has the board's full confidence and support," the statement said.

Chuck McLean, a senior research fellow at GuideStar, an information service specializing in nonprofits, said such related-party transactions "are just not best practices."

"This is a very common occurrence where individuals start to think of organizations as if they own them," he said.

Anonymous emails have been flying, including a screed sent to board members Wednesday that detailed a list of concerns about governance and threatened a mass walkout unless Alibaba is pushed out. The writer claimed to represent a group of concerned members, but that could not be verified.

"What you have allowed this organization to become is utterly disgusting and changes must be made immediately," the email says.

The gathering storm threatens to turn the IACC's spring conference in Orlando next week, where Alibaba founder Jack Ma is scheduled to speak, into a showdown.

"Start popping the popcorn," one coalition member wrote in a private email.

## **Endangered Sumatran rhino gives birth in Indonesia**

**STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A Sumatran rhinoceros has given birth at an Indonesian sanctuary in a success for efforts to save the critically endangered species.

The International Rhino Foundation said the female calf was born on Thursday, weighs about 45 pounds (20 kilograms) and looks healthy and active.

"We haven't stopped smiling since the moment we were sure she was alive and healthy," said IRF's executive director Susie Ellis in a statement. "While one birth does not save the species, it's one more Sumatran rhino on Earth."

Only an estimated 100 Sumatran rhinos remain, mostly on the island of Sumatra, and several are in captivity. They are threatened by destruction of tropical forest habitat and poachers who kill the animals for their horns, which are prized for making ornaments and for use in traditional medicine in China and other parts of Asia.

The species was rediscovered in the Indonesian part of Borneo through trails and footprints in 2013.

But one member of the small population on Borneo died in April after a wound from a poacher's trap became infected.

The calf is the second to its mother Ratu, who gave birth to a male named Andatu in 2012, which was the first rhino birth in captivity in Indonesia in 124 years. The father, Andalas, was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2001.

IRF established the rhino sanctuary in the Way Kambas National Park on Sumatra in 1997. It praised the sanctuary's staff as "top-notch experts" and said the second birth shows that the expertise exists in Indonesia to increase the rhino population.

The foundation said Ratu was given a hormone supplement daily during her pregnancy to help ensure it went to full-term.

## **Brazil's suspended leader vows fight as fill-in urges unity**

**JENNY BARCHFIELD, Associated Press**

**MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press**

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — The new acting president is calling for unity in Brazil, while the leader just suspended by the Senate is vowing to fight what she calls a coup, underscoring the deep political polarization in Latin America's most populous nation.

The disparate visions came just hours apart in the same narrow hall in the presidential palace after the Senate voted 55-22 Thursday to impeach President Dilma Rousseff, putting her vice president, Michel Temer, in charge.

Rousseff, whose popularity has plummeted amid the worst recession since the 1930s, is accused of using accounting tricks to hide large deficits in the federal budget. Opponents argue that damaged the country, but Brazil's first female president called it a baseless case cooked up so elites who loathe her leftist Workers' Party could snatch back power.

Temer moved quickly to announce a new Cabinet and said his government's first priority is to get Brazil's stalled economy going again. He also promised to support the widening investigation into corruption at the state oil company that has already ensnared leading politicians from a variety of parties and even implicated Temer himself.

Emerging a few hours after the Senate vote, Temer said it was a sober moment and made a bid for

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 27 of 31

peace with Rousseff, offering his "institutional respect" for her and recognizing the impeachment campaign has caused deep divisions.

"This is not a moment for celebrations, but one of profound reflection," he said during a swearing-in ceremony for his 22 Cabinet members. "It's urgent to pacify the nation and unify the country. It's urgent for us to form a government of national salvation to pull this country out of the serious crisis in which we find ourselves."

Temer said Brazil must get its economy back on track and deal with the government budget deficit.

"Our biggest challenge is to staunch the process of freefall of our economy," he said. "First of all, we need to balance our public spending. The sooner we are able to balance our books, the sooner we'll be able to restart growth."

Rousseff warned that Temer plans to dismantle government social programs put in by her party that benefit around one-fourth of the Brazilian population, but he insisted the programs would be maintained and "perfected" under his leadership.

The economy has been predicted to contract nearly 4 percent this year after an equally dismal 2015, and inflation and unemployment are hovering around 10 percent, underscoring a sharp decline after the South American giant enjoyed stellar growth for more than a decade.

Although the specific impeachment charges against Rousseff are limited, the effort to remove her became as much a referendum on her leadership amid the economy's slump and the revelation of a mammoth bribery scheme involving the state-run Petrobras oil company.

Rousseff was immediately suspended for 180 days pending a trial in the Senate. If two-thirds of the 81 senators vote to find her guilty, Temer will serve out the remainder of her term, which ends in December 2018.

A defiant Rousseff said the action was a coup cooked up by power-hungry opponents. She has said the "chief conspirator" was Temer, the longtime leader of the centrist Democratic Movement Party that is known less for a specific ideological stance than for its skill at backroom deal making.

In what many Brazilians think could prove to be her last speech as president, Rousseff said she wouldn't give up.

"I am the victim of a great injustice," said the former Marxist guerrilla who rose to power in 2010 on the coattails of her wildly popular predecessor and mentor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"I fought my whole life and I'm going to keep fighting," she said, signaling that she and her supporters may intend to make good on a promised campaign of protests and strikes that could complicate Temer's government.

The scandal at Petrobras revealed deep-seated corruption that cuts across the political spectrum in Brazil and has entangled top officials from the Workers' Party and the opposition alike as well as top businessmen.

Temer has been implicated by witnesses in the scandal, but he has not been charged. The impeachment drive's main motor, former House Speaker Eduardo Cunha, has been charged in the scandal and was suspended last week as speaker over allegations of corruption and interfering with justice.

Several of Temer's Cabinet appointees have also been hit with corruption charges and other allegations.

The acting president pledged that the investigation will continue unfettered. "It deserves to be followed closely and protection against any interference that could weaken it," he said.

Temer's new Cabinet raised eyebrows because all its members are middle-age or elderly white men — a particularly sore point in this majority non-white country. Six women, including one black, were included in the 39 members of Rousseff's Cabinet when she began her second term last year.

## National project to harness microbes for health, environment

**LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — We share our bodies and our surroundings with teeming communities of microbes that are crucial to the health of people and the planet, and now the Obama administration is beginning a major project to better understand those invisible ecosystems — even control them.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 28 of 31

The National Microbiome Initiative being announced by White House science officials Friday aims to bring together scientists who study the microbes that live in the human gut and in the oceans, in farm soil and in hospitals — to speed discoveries that could bring big payoffs.

Consider: Taking antibiotics alters the diversity of your gut bacteria, which eventually settle into a new normal. The 2010 oil spill altered microbes in the Gulf of Mexico, which likewise settled into a new normal, said Dr. Jo Handelsman, associate director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Despite the parallels, “we have no idea if that’s a healthier norm or a less healthy norm than before, and no idea how to fix it,” said Handelsman, who led development of the initiative.

Leading researchers have long urged a national collaboration as the best way to learn how microbes interact with each other and their environments.

“I’m excited. It’s a long time coming and much-needed endeavor,” said Dr. Jack Gilbert, a microbiologist at the Argonne National Laboratory and University of Chicago who pushed for the project. “We need to understand the microbial engine of the earth.”

The U.S. government spends about \$300 million a year on microbiome research, until now mostly an effort to catalog different communities of bacteria, viruses and other microbes, Handelsman said. The National Microbiome Initiative will add \$121 million this year and next for ecosystem-crossing federal research. And in partnership with the government, dozens of universities, foundations and other organizations are announcing more than \$400 million in additional microbiome research investments, she said.

It’s a hot field. One project focusing on people revealed that trillions of microbes live on our skin, in our noses, in our intestinal tracts, and that many of them play critical roles in keeping us healthy. Scientists now are studying how differences in gut bacteria play roles in a range of health outcomes, from asthma to obesity. It’s captured the public’s imagination, with people joining citizen-science efforts to learn what bugs they harbor.

But the planet harbors large numbers of microbiomes that get less attention despite performing vital jobs. Microbes in the ocean suck carbon out of the air to moderate global warming, for example. Understanding which soil bacteria help different plants grow could let scientists boost food production or repair eroded cropland. Since much of the world’s population spends more time indoors than out, learning how we transfer microbes at home, at work, in hospital rooms could lead to healthier built environments.

“This is a microbial planet,” said Dr. Lita Proctor, who oversees microbiome research at the National Institutes of Health. “Everything that’s driving all the ecosystems, including human beings, is driven by microbial processes, yet we’ve been fairly ignorant of their activities.”

The ultimate goal is to control and alter microbes to improve either human or environmental health. One of the few successful attempts so far is a fecal transplant, used to cure patients with a life-threatening intestinal infection by replacing their own damaged gut bacteria with a donor’s healthy bugs. Better, Handelsman said, would be to learn exactly which species of bacteria are the ones needed and offer precise therapy.

## Security worker dies at Australian Embassy in Baghdad

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian security contractor working at the Australian Embassy in Baghdad has died, officials said Friday.

The 34-year-old worker died at the embassy, but Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop declined to provide any details on the cause, saying the circumstances were under investigation.

“Because of the need to keep engaged with his family and because there is a very thorough investigation under way into his death, I won’t go into details,” Bishop told reporters. “But I can confirm that his death is not related to the broader security environment in Baghdad.”

Bishop said a high level of security at the embassy was being maintained.

The man had been working for security company Unity Resources Group. The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



## Asian stocks slip as investors assess earnings, await data

**KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Most Asian stock markets headed lower on Friday as investors evaluated the latest set of corporate earnings and awaited a slew of U.S. and Chinese economic data.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 255 index lost nearly 1.1 percent to 16,466.64 and South Korea's Kospi shed 0.5 percent to 1,967.99. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1 percent to 19,728.13 while the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China dipped 0.1 percent to 2,838.48. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 retreated 0.5 percent to 5,332.40. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also lost ground.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK: Investors hope the latest batch of data from the world's two biggest economies will give them an idea where the global economy is headed and whether central bankers will need to raise or lower interest rates. Monthly U.S. figures for retail sales, business inventories and producer prices are due out later Friday, followed Saturday by Chinese fixed asset investment, industrial production and foreign direct investment. Investors are also wading through a wave of earnings reports, with Honda due to post quarterly figures Friday.

QUOTE: "Expect short-term share market volatility to remain high," said Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy at AMP Capital in Sydney, said in a report. "Global growth remains fragile and uncertainty lingers around the Fed and China."

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks cycled up and down during the day before ending near where they started. The Dow Jones industrial average rose less than 0.1 percent to 17,720.50 and the Standard & Poor's 500 index dipped less than 0.1 percent to 2,064.11. The Nasdaq composite index fell 0.5 percent to 4,737.33.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell after hitting its highest price since early November. Oil futures slid 60 cents or 1.3 percent to \$46.10 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 47 cents, or 1 percent, to \$46.70 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, lost 44 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$47.64 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 108.75 yen from 108.99 in Thursday's trading. The euro slipped to \$1.1372 from \$1.1379.

## Trump, Ryan, pledge to work together, see end to rift in GOP

**ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Straining to mend their party after months of chaos, Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan declared themselves "totally committed" to working together after a fence-mending personal meeting on Thursday. Ryan praised Trump as "very warm and genuine," and suggested that after initial hesitance he may well end up endorsing the GOP candidate for president.

"We will have policy disputes. There is no two ways about that. The question is, can we unify on the common core principles that make our party?" Ryan said. "And I'm very encouraged that the answer to that question is yes."

Trump, who used the day to launch a robust charm offensive with members of Congress, broadcast his own enthusiasm, on Twitter and on TV. "I really think we had a great meeting today, and I think we agree on a lot of things and it'll be a little process but it'll come along. I'm pretty sure," he said in an interview recorded for Fox News Channel's "Hannity."

The surprisingly fervent show of unity capped a remarkable week that began with Ryan, the GOP's top elected office-holder and its 2012 vice presidential nominee, turning his back on his party's presumptive presidential nominee just days after Trump had effectively clinched the nomination.

Ryan said at the time he was not yet ready to back Trump, who had succeeded in insulting women, Latinos, disabled people and many conservatives in the course of a brutal primary season. He also has alarmed the Republican establishment with proposals including deporting millions of immigrants and barring Muslims from the country.

Yet in the days since, many GOP lawmakers — and voters themselves — have made peace with the reality

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 30 of 31

that Trump is their candidate and therefore their only hope of defeating likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. Although some in the GOP fear Trump could spell election disaster and cost Republicans control of the Senate and seats in the House, recent polls have shown a closer race, helping their comfort level.

Ryan himself insisted from the beginning that his only goal was real party unity. His allies in the House have predicted he will get behind Trump in the end, and on Thursday Ryan sounded like he was well on his way.

"We talked about what it takes to unify, where our differences were and how we can bridge these gaps going forward," Ryan said, praising Trump's "unparalleled" accomplishment in getting more votes already than any Republican presidential candidate in history — 10.9 million even before California and New Jersey vote in June.

The two discussed "core principles" including limited government, the Constitution, separation of powers and pro-life philosophy, Ryan said.

Asked whether he would be endorsing Trump a week after his refusal to do so shocked the GOP, Ryan said: "Yeah, I think this is going in a positive direction. And I think this was a first, very encouraging meeting."

The two also issued a joint statement in which they pledged to work together to beat Clinton.

Trump, 69, and Ryan, 46, would make one of the oddest of political odd couples, one a brash and unpredictable billionaire with a malleable political philosophy and tendency to insult all comers, the other a wonky if telegenic Midwestern conservative dedicated to paring back entitlements and with a big-tent view of the GOP. Like many political partnerships this one would be driven by necessity and a common foe, Clinton, whose candidacy is proving a powerful incentive to Republicans of all kinds to bury their differences.

Trump also met with other House GOP leaders, as well as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his top deputies, and senators were later full of praise and offers of help.

Sen. John Cornyn said he invited Trump to come to Texas and offered to help him with Latino voters.

"I was fortunate enough to win the Hispanic vote in 2014. I said I'd be glad to share with you my experience and observations because that's an important part of the voters in 2016," Cornyn said.

"I've always been impressed but I was really impressed today," said Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, adding they discussed the Supreme Court, an important issue for conservatives who've questioned whether they can trust Trump to appoint judges who would ratify their philosophy.

Even Sen. Lindsey Graham, who has called Trump a "nut job" and a "loser as a person," softened his stance after speaking with the candidate by telephone Wednesday.

Graham, R-S.C., described the billionaire as funny and cordial and said he asked insightful questions about national security.

"He's from New York. He obviously can take a punch," said Graham, who waged his own unsuccessful bid for his party's nomination. He said he still won't endorse Trump but his barrage of "insults will stop."

Trump, in a black SUV, slipped from one GOP power center to another on his fence-mending mission made necessary by his outsider status in a city that embodies insiders.

About a dozen protesters who oppose Trump's immigration positions demonstrated at the front of the Republican National Committee building where the men met. They chanted "Down, down with deportation. Up, up with liberation."

The scene was similar outside Senate Republican campaign offices where Trump gathered later with McConnell and others. "The GOP is dead to our community," said Deyanira Aldana, 21, a protester who is the child of Hispanic immigrants. "And Donald Trump is the final nail in that coffin."

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 13, the 134th day of 2016. There are 232 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 13, 1916, one of Yiddish literature's most famous authors, Sholem Aleichem, died in New York at age 57.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 287 ♦ 31 of 31

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1846, the United States declared that a state of war already existed with Mexico.

In 1918, the first U.S. airmail stamps, featuring a picture of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, were issued to the public. (On a few of the stamps, the biplane was inadvertently printed upside-down, making them collector's items.)

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence was critically injured in a motorcycle accident in Dorset, England; he died six days later.

In 1940, in his first speech as British prime minister, Winston Churchill told Parliament, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Act. The musical play "The Pajama Game" opened on Broadway.

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, were spat upon and their limousine battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1968, a one-day general strike took place in France in support of student protesters.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh).

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house; 11 people died in the resulting fire that destroyed 61 homes.

In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court, in 44 Liquormart v. Rhode Island, unanimously struck down Rhode Island's ban on ads that listed or referred to liquor prices, saying the law violated free-speech rights.

Ten years ago: Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton helped Tulane University in New Orleans celebrate its "miracle" commencement, nine months after Hurricane Katrina put two-thirds of the campus under water and scattered students to more than 600 schools nationwide.

Five years ago: Two suicide bombers attacked paramilitary police recruits heading home after months of training in northwest Pakistan, killing 87 people in what the Pakistan Taliban called revenge for the U.S. slaying of Osama bin Laden. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi taunted NATO in an audio broadcast, saying he was alive despite a series of airstrikes and "in a place where you can't get to and kill me." Sen. George Mitchell announced his resignation as the Obama administration's special envoy to the Mideast.

One year ago: The House voted 338-88 to end the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' phone records and replace it with a system to search the data held by telephone companies on a case-by-case basis. (The measure was passed by the Senate, and signed into law by President Barack Obama.) Prosecutors and defense attorneys made their final appeals to the jury that would decide the fate of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) as jurors began deliberating whether the Boston Marathon bomber should get life in prison or the death penalty. (The jury voted unanimously for death.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buck Taylor is 78. Actor Harvey Keitel is 77. Author Charles Baxter is 69. Actress Zoe Wanamaker is 68. Actor Franklyn Ajaye is 67. Singer Stevie Wonder is 66. Actress Leslie Winston is 60. Producer-writer Alan Ball is 59. Basketball Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman is 55. "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert (kohl-BEHR') is 52. Rock musician John Richardson (The Gin Blossoms) is 52. Actor Tom Verica is 52. Country singer Lari White is 51. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 50. Actress Susan Floyd is 48. Contemporary Christian musician Andy Williams (Casting Crowns) is 44. Actress Samantha Morton is 39. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 37. Actor Iwan Rheon is 31. Actress-writer-director Lena Dunham is 30. Actor Robert Pattinson is 30. Actress Candice Accola King is 29. Actor Hunter Parrish is 29. Folk-rock musician Wylie Gelber (Dawes) is 28. Actress Debby Ryan is 23.

Thought for Today: "To want to be the cleverest of all is the biggest folly." — Sholem Aleichem (1859-1916).