

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 1 of 41

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Groton Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Apts. for Rent
- 1- Bus Driver Wanted
- 2- Gov. Daugaard's Column
- 3- Groton City Council Agenda
- 3- Professional Management Services Days
- 4- Visit iGroton.org for state fair results
- 4- Erickson Bridal Shower
- 5- Editorial on "We count on the mail"
- 5- Golden Living Center Ad
- 5- Senator Thune's Column
- 6- Rep. Noem's Column
- 7- Watertown gets drenched
- 8- Economic data analysis summary for SD
- 9- Senator Rounds' Column
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Local Weather Forecast
- 12- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 12- Today's Weather Climate
- 12- National Weather map
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14 - AP News

Bus Driver Wanted

The Groton Area School District has openings for a part time (morning) bus route and for a full-time bus route driver. Assistance in obtaining the proper licensure is available. Please contact Transportation Supervisor, Loren Bahr, at 397-8117 for more details.

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Saturday, Aug. 13

Left Handers' Day

Anniv: Jonathan & Mandilyn Fliehs

Birthdays: Logan Nilsson • Sam Furman • Mike Weber • Ralph Merkel • Jennifer Neff • Dee Riley • Don Hepola

4:00pm: **Girls Soccer hosts Garretson**

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

Sunday, Aug. 14

National Creamsicle Day

V-J Day

Shoot Out at Olive Grove

Birthdays: Doug Bahr • Tammy Voss • Jean Peterson • Annette Helm

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

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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

9:00am: First Presbyterian Church Bible Study

10:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

Cancelled: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, Aug. 15

Relaxation Day

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli or carrots, garlic toast, orange sherbet.

Anniv: Craig & Jodi Sternhagen • Wayne & Marsha Wienk

Birthdays: Mary Fliehs • Margie Washnok • Becky Morris • Elizabeth Gustafson • Nichol

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	Grill & Chill Orange Julius
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 2 of 41



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Rail and the South Dakota Way Of Life

We never had a new car, when I was growing up, but we always spent what was necessary to maintain our car, and keep it in dependable running condition. New isn't necessarily better, but the old must be maintained, and sometimes improved, if we want to depend upon it. I've never forgotten the lessons I learned about the importance of maintenance.

I am sure many South Dakotans have similar stories they could tell about lessons learned from working the land or raising livestock. Even if you didn't grow up on a ranch or farm yourself, chances are you have parents, grandparents, cousins or friends who did. As a state with such a large ag industry, agriculture defines us. It has instilled in us values like persistence, honesty and courage.

It is thanks to our farmers and ranchers that the way of life which imparts these values endures. It is also, in part, thanks to rail.

Because we are a state with a small population, our farmers and ranchers produce much more than we can consume in South Dakota. The success of our agricultural operations depends upon our producers' ability to get their products to market. They need efficient, cost-effective options.

That's where rail comes in. South Dakota's producers rely a great deal on railroads to deliver their grain to out-of-state markets. One of the state's most relied upon railroads is the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern, which spans the state from Belle Fourche to Tracy, Minnesota. Since purchasing the line in 2014, Genessee & Wyoming has worked hard to improve rail service to customers along the line.

Through a public-private partnership with the state, RCP&E has just finished constructing two passing sidings: a 10,061-foot siding near Huron and a 7,450-foot siding near Aurora. These sidings allow trains to pass head-to-head, rather than each train waiting for another to arrive. The sidings have already increased the speed with which RCP&E can deliver South Dakota grain to market.

In 2017, RCP&E expects to begin construction of a new 7,000-foot siding near Philip, which will offer additional capacity to West River shippers. This is made possible in part by a TIGER grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Due to upgrades like these, and RCP&E's commitment to the future, companies that rely on this stretch of rail have had the confidence to locate facilities on the line, or upgrade existing facilities. For example, the GCC Dakota cement plant in Rapid City has undertaken a \$90 million expansion. As another example, Novita located its \$60 million animal protein plant on the line near Aurora.

In addition to these infrastructure investments, in July, the RCP&E secured an agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad to interchange rail traffic at Union Pacific's Mankato, Minnesota, property. This agreement means RCP&E shippers will now have access to three Class I railroads. This will increase competition for South Dakota grain, as our grain shippers now can ship goods across the vast majority of our national rail network.

We can all be proud of the progress made on one of our state's most important lines. Good rail service can make all the difference for our producers. Investments like these signal to farmers, ranchers and businesses that they can rely on this line well into the future. Like that old car when I was growing up, this old rail line, built a century ago, is being maintained, and now improved, because we depend upon it.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 3 of 41

GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

August 15, 2016 – 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Results of Legal Actions
- 4) Resolution to Lower Speed Limit on Main St between 11th Ave and Hwy 12
- 5) Building Permit Procedures
- 6) 7:30pm – Wine License Hearing – Olde Bank Floral N More
- 7) Introduction of 2017 Budget
- 8) Exe Session – Legal



Customer Appreciation and Check-R-Board Days

Aug. 22 through Aug. 25

Different happenings everyday

Monday is cookies and coffee

On Tuesday all attendees receive a Purina cap

Wednesday is bring your pet in for a treat

**Thursday is roast beef sandwiches, beans and drink
served from noon to 7 pm.**

**Be sure to wear your checker board clothing
to be eligible to win \$500.**

Visit iGrow.org for 2016 State Fair Results

BROOKINGS, S.D. - It's almost time for the South Dakota State Fair! Keep up with 4-H'ers from your county and across the state during the 2016 South Dakota State Fair at iGrow.org where results and photos will be posted daily.

This year more than 2900-plus 4-H members from across South Dakota are expect to enter more than 17,000-plus exhibits during the fair held Sept. 1-5, 2016 in Huron.

"State Fair is the week that showcases South Dakota 4-Hers talent, ambition and ability to follow a project through to completion," said Peter Nielson, SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program Director. "4-H truly has something for everyone. Youth have opportunities to test their knowledge or compete in educational project areas varying from animal exhibits and showmanship to display exhibits, robotics, speaking contests and judging. Couple this with the use of the new Nordby Exhibit Hall for 4-H, Youth and Community and it promises to be a great 2016 South Dakota State Fair!"

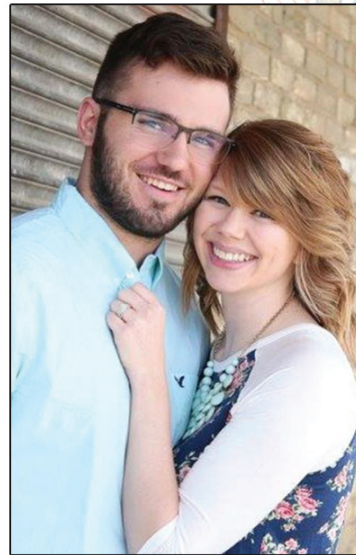
Please join us for an
Open House Bridal Shower for

Sydney Erickson

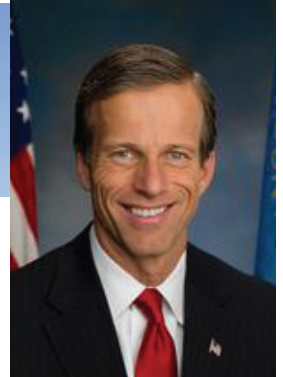
Bride-to-be of
Blake Wilkinson

Saturday, August 13
9:30-11:30am
United Methodist Church
Groton

The couple is registered at
Target and Herbergers.



John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Freight Rail: South Dakota Depends On It

It doesn't matter if you're the farmer in the field who harvests the crops, the manufacturer in the factory who makes the goods, or the consumer at home who relies on the food and energy that's produced, everyone in the United States benefits from efficient and reliable freight rail. It's especially important to South Dakota because the state's economy literally depends on it. And since three times as many rail carloads leave South Dakota compared to those that end up here, there's a heavy reliance on freight rail to get all of our South Dakota-made products to markets around the country and the world. More products in the hands of consumers means our farmers, ranchers, small business owners, and entrepreneurs have more opportunities to create jobs and grow their businesses.

In order to keep all of the trains running on time, we have to ensure that if and when there are disruptions in our nation's rail system, all is being done to respond in the most efficient, effective, and timely way possible. Doing so requires a trustworthy and dependable federal agency at the helm. The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has answered that call since 1996, but it hasn't been without its challenges. In order to get this federal agency where it needs to be, I introduced first-of-their-kind reforms that were adopted on a broad bipartisan basis by my colleagues in the House and Senate and were signed into law late last year.

To get a sense for how these reforms are being implemented, I recently brought the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the committee I've chaired for the last 19 months, directly to South Dakota. Not only was the committee's field hearing in Sioux Falls a good opportunity to track these ongoing reforms, but we were able to examine ways in which the new law could benefit South Dakota businesses too. And who better to hear from than the people who are directly impacted by the STB's decisions?

I was thankful that representatives from POET, the Missouri River Energy Services, the South Dakota Corn Growers, and CHS, Inc., spent part of their day sharing their stories with us. As a result, I'm convinced now more than ever the reforms we made to the STB are having a positive effect, but don't take my word for it. Dan Mack, the vice president of transportation and terminal operations at CHS, told the committee

that "The rail industry has changed a great deal over the past twenty years, and this law is helping to modernize the STB to better reflect this new reality."

The new law expedites rate review timelines and expands voluntary arbitration to better serve as an alternative to lawsuits, which will greatly improve the way rate cases are handled. It also increases proactive problem-solving and accountability by giving the STB the authority to launch investigations on its own. It makes the board's activities more transparent and accountable by requiring them to track and report on service issues, and it creates a more functional and more collaborative board by expanding it from three to five members. Taken as a whole, America's freight rail industry is in a much better position to deliver on the ever-expanding needs of the busy and hard-working people who call the USA home. ↑

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605/397-2365

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Thank a Farmer

On Capitol Hill where very few people were “farm kids” and even fewer actually pursued farming or ranching as a career, the personal impact of agriculture can get lost. But as I like to remind people, while not everyone farms, we all eat.

Earlier this month at the Sioux Empire Fair’s annual Ag Appreciation Lunch in Sioux Falls, I had the opportunity to say thanks by serving a meal to those who feed the world. Not only do these producers grow the food our families consume, they provide the backbone to South Dakota’s economy and a layer of security for our country, as we never want to become too reliant on foreign nations to feed us. It is for these reasons that I fight so hard to make sure agriculture policy provides a strong safety net for our food supply without imposing unnecessary costs and regulations on producers.

The last farm bill was the most reformed we’ve seen in my lifetime. Many of the programs now work more efficiently and with greater accountability to taxpayers, but we are always looking at ways to improve them. While we continue to monitor the legislation’s implementation, preliminary work has already begun for the next farm bill with formal hearings likely kicking off next year.

For my part, I’ve been working closely with Ag Committee Chairman Conaway to ensure he’s aware of how current programs are playing out in South Dakota. I’m also working with Ag Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson and Rep. Kevin Cramer on legislation we hope to have included in the next farm bill that would help alleviate the problematic wetland determinations backlog. Producers can’t make certain improvements to their land until they’ve been given the OK that changes won’t impact protected wetlands. We need to ensure we are protecting our land and habitat, but producers shouldn’t have to wait years for a decision. Our legislation makes a series of reforms – including requiring that producers get an answer within a few months of a request.

Overzealous regulators are also a challenge for producers. One of the most concerning regulations we’re fighting against today is the EPA’s controversial Waters of the U.S. rule. This could be one of the largest federal land grabs our generation has seen with penalties rising to more than \$30,000 per violation per day. We’re working through both the legislative and judicial system to reverse course and we’ve had some successes – especially after a Federal Appellate Court issued a temporary suspension.

Tax reform is another area that is incredibly important to our agriculture community. This Congress, I gained a position on the committee that major tax reform measures must go through. Moreover, I’m one of only 14 Members of Congress – and the only one with a deep background in agriculture – to serve on the committee’s specialized tax policy panel. That’s important because for the first time in a long time, there is real momentum behind this issue and we need to get it right.

Late last year, we made the Section 179 tax deduction permanent, giving farmers and other small businesses more certainty on investments into their operations. Now, we’re looking at broader efforts to help both small businesses and individuals. We’re fighting to make the tax code more simple, more fair, and better at promoting healthy economic growth. I’m truly humbled to give agriculture a voice at this table.

Whether we’re talking tax policy, regulatory issues, or the farm bill, I stand up every day in support of South Dakota farmers and ranchers. I’m proud to explain what the industry is – and isn’t – and to keep unnecessary regulations away from operations. Most of all, I’m grateful to represent a state whose economy is still rooted in agriculture.

Watertown gets drenched

An active pattern set up across South Dakota from August 9th-11th, in which round after round of severe storms and heavy rain developed and moved east. The last round in this series developed in a very moisture-laden environment across eastern South Dakota on Thursday evening, August 11th, and produced very heavy rainfall primarily across Clark, Codington, Hamlin, and Deuel counties. Flooding resulted, with Watertown, SD being among the hardest hit.

Too much rain fell far too fast for the soil to soak up Thursday evening. The urban setting across Watertown exacerbated the issue, as drainage systems backed up. A total of 3.90" of rain was recorded at the Watertown airport on August 11th, which broke the previous daily rainfall record of 1.66" in 1974. Amazingly, 3.29" of that total fell during a one hour period from 11 pm to midnight, and 1.29" of THAT amount fell within a 12 minute period from 11:10-11:22 pm. Additionally, 1.45" fell at the airport the previous night, August 10th, making soils more saturated and less able to handle this second and more intense round of rainfall. It's also worth noting that the Watertown airport is positioned on the far northeast side of town near Lake Kampeska. The heaviest of the rains fell further south as indicated on radar, and indeed upwards of 5" of rain was reported in several cases from Watertown proper.

At the airport, only 3 other calendar days observed 3.90" or more since records began in 1893 (4.32" on 8-20-2002, 4.35" on 6-15-1977, and 7.14" on 5-27-1931). Flooding quickly resulted in town, especially along highway 212 and near the Shopko, with many businesses and homes affected. One rescue was performed on Hwy 20 by the sheriff's department as multiple vehicles were stalled in the water. Reportedly, as of 1 pm CDT on Friday August 12th, the situation was improving as waters were receding across town. Areas outside of town were doing better with less impacts noted.



Courtesy of Angela Hillberg

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 8 of 41



Q2 BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY

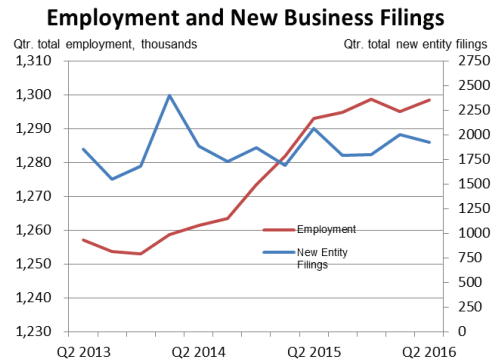
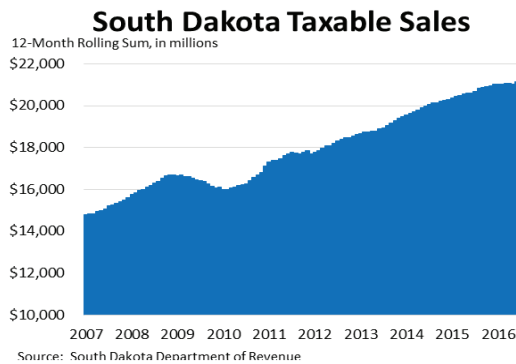
**SOUTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
SHANTEL KREBS**

In partnership with



Second Quarter 2016

Secretary's Minute: Our office is working to prepare the new online business entity filing system. We hope to have this web-based system up and running by the middle of October. Once implemented, businesses will be able to file their documents and receive their necessary paperwork immediately upon completion of the transaction. The search capabilities will also be more user-friendly. The Secretary of State's office is the first government agency that a business interacts with when forming.



Note: Red line displays actual seasonally adjusted employment numbers. Source: Seasonally adjusted South Dakota total nonfarm employees from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Labor Market Information Center, SD Department of Labor.

Second Quarter 2016 Economic Highlights

- SD continues to have the lowest unemployment rate in the U.S. at 2.5%.
- Average Weekly wage increased in Q2 by 10%.
- Total taxable sales sustained its slight growth in the Q2.
- Building Permits increased in Q2 by over 10%.
- Employment growth has continued in Q2.
- Continued jobless claims decreased by 47.8% in Q2.
- Most national economic indicators improved in Q2.

SOUTH DAKOTA	Current Period	3 Months Prior	Percent Change over Prior Period	Annual Percent Change	5 Year CAGR*
Wealth					
Personal Income (millions of dollars)	39,254	38,095	3.0%	3.2%	1.8%
Total Sales, 12 mo. trailing (millions of dollars)	67,703	67,692	0.02%	-1.2%	3.1%
Taxable Sales, 12 mo. trailing (millions of dollars)	21,148	21,057	0.4%	2.7%	3.6%
Business Outlays					
Average Weekly Wage per Employee	832	756	10.1%	5.2%	3.1%
Retail Gasoline Price (dollars per gallon)	2.38	2.07	15.0%	-15.3%	-7.6%
Economic Overview					
Employment	433,900	432,300	0.4%	1.3%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%	-21.9%	-12.2%
Initial Jobless Claims	220	166	32.5%	-2.7%	-6.7%
Continuing Jobless Claims	1,445	2,770	-47.8%	-0.1%	-11.5%
Building Permits, Number of Units, 12 mo. trailing	5,049	4,582	10.2%	14.4%	13.2%
Valuation (thousands of dollars), 12 mo. trailing	765,474	690,223	10.9%	15.6%	13.5%
FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index	264	262	0.8%	5.6%	3.9%
Total Business Bankruptcy Filings	4	10	-60.0%	-63.6%	-25.1%
Chapter 7	2	8	-75.0%	-50.0%	-30.1%
Chapter 11	-	-	-	-100.0%	0.0%
Chapter 13	-	2	-100.0%	-100.0%	-100.0%

Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Quarterly Personal Income (SA)(Q1'16); South Dakota Department of Revenue (NSA) (6/16); South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (SA) (Q4/16); US Energy Information Administration, Weekly Retail Gasoline and Diesel Prices, Midwest (6/27/16); Bureau of Labor Statistics, CES (SA) (5/16); US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (NSA) (6/25/16); Census Bureau, New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized (NSA) (5/16); FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index (SA) (Q1'16); Administrative Office of the US Courts (Q1'16). *Compound Annual Growth Rate.

For full report, please visit <https://sdsos.gov/general-information/publications/default.aspx>

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 9 of 41



Aviation Connects South Dakotans to the World

National Aviation Day is observed annually on August 19th to celebrate the history and promote the development of aviation. It coincides with the birthday of Orville Wright who, along with his brother Wilbur, pioneered powered flight more than 100 years ago. I took an early interest in aviation, receiving my pilot's license at the age of 17. Today, aviation allows us to travel more frequently and with relative ease to all corners of the world.

As a large, rural state with a sparse population, many of us rely on regional airline service for flight travel. In fact, 90 percent of South Dakota's commercial service comes from the regional airline industry. It is an essential service for our rural communities. Unfortunately, regional airline service in places like Huron, Watertown, Aberdeen and Pierre have struggled in recent years. Delays, canceled flights and fewer flight options have made it more difficult for residents to fly in and out of these communities.

Understanding how important regional airline service is to our state, I have been working to solve the problem of decreased air service to our smaller towns. One important issue is the pilot shortage currently affecting our regional airlines. In 2010, Congress passed new mandatory minimum flight hour requirements for airline pilots. The new regulation raised the number of flight hours required to serve as a copilot from 250 to 1500, a 600 percent increase. This increase has created a significant barrier to entry to the airline industry for aspiring pilots, and in turn has made it very hard for carriers like Great Lakes Airlines, a regional carrier serving South Dakota, to fill open pilot positions.

While increasing flight hour minimums was well-intended, these new laws were not aligned with the expert recommendations from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB). Now, six years later, thanks to critical research at places like South Dakota State University, we are in a position to offer a better and safer alternative based on empirical data. These entities have conducted peer-reviewed studies that consistently show the best pilots are the ones who receive the best training, not the ones with simply the most flight hours.

Earlier this year, I introduced an amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill to address these issues. My amendment seeks to increase the qualified pilot pool for regional airlines by creating new, state-of-the-art, FAA-certified safety courses that would count toward minimum pilot flight hour requirements. It also strengthens pilot training and airline safety by putting pilots through rigorous, simulator-based training programs, all while maintaining the high standards that Congress put in place for the Airline Pilot Transport Certificate. By simulating more real-world crisis scenarios and attending more industry specific training, I believe our pilots would be even better prepared to respond in the event of an emergency.

Today, air travel is the safest it has ever been and more people are flying than ever before. Our travel possibilities are endless, as long as we have pilots to fly us. I will continue working toward a solution that reconnects the broken pilot pipeline while continuing to maintain the highest standards of safety in aviation. And, I will continue working on behalf of those who live in smaller communities to keep our regional airports thriving.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 10 of 41

Today in Weather History

August 13, 1987: A succession of thunderstorms produced rainfall that was unprecedented in 116 years of precipitation records at Chicago, Illinois during an 18 hour period from the evening of the 13th to the early afternoon of the 14th. The resulting flash flood was the worst to ever strike the Chicago metropolitan area, causing 3 deaths and water damage that amounted to 221 million dollars. O'Hare International Airport received an event total of 9.35 inches of rain in 18 hours, shattering the previous 24 hour record of 6.24 inches. For a period of about 24 hours, the airport was only accessible from the air as all roads were blocked by high water, including the Kennedy Expressway.

1831: The Great Barbados hurricane was an intense Category 4 hurricane that left cataclysmic damage across the Caribbean and Louisiana in 1831. From August 11 through the 13, Bermudians were amazed to see the sun with a decidedly blue appearance, giving off an eerie blue light when it shone into rooms and other enclosed places. Ships at sea as far west as Cape Hatteras reported that "their white sails appeared a light blue colour." A month later it was learned that the astounding blue sunlight had coincided with a terrible hurricane that caused 1,477 people to lose their lives. It was assumed that the hurricane was intensive enough to cause unusual disturbance in the higher atmospheric strata, and refraction, diffraction or absorption of light rays, to cause the blue reflection. Because the sun appeared bluish-green, Nat Turner took this as the final signal, and began a slave rebellion a week later on August 21.

1919 - High winds and heavy rain struck the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. In New Jersey, winds gusted to 60 mph at Atlantic City, and nine inches of rain fell at Tuckerton. The wind and rain leveled crops and stripped trees of fruit causing several million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1980 - The afternoon high at New York City was just 89 degrees. But there were fifteen days of 90 degree heat during the month, their hottest August of record. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Hail larger than golf balls, driven by 70 mph winds, moved down crops, stripped trees, and broke windows, near Logan KS. Road graders cleared three foot drifts of hail on Kansas Highway 9 east of Logan. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms deluged the Central Gulf Coast States with torrential rains. Thunderstorms in Mississippi drenched Marion County with up to 15 inches of rain during the morning hours, with 12.2 inches reported at Columbia. Floodwaters swept cars away in the Lakeview subdivision of Columbia when the the Lakeview Dam broke. Flash flooding caused more than three million dollars damage in Marion County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Lansing MI reported a record 35 days of 90 degree weather for the year, Detroit MI reported a record 37 days of 90 degree heat for the year, and Williamsport PA reported a record 38 days of 90 degree weather for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing in a tropical airmass over the northeastern U.S. soaked Connecticut and Massachusetts with four to eight inches of rain over the weekend, between the 11th and 13th of the month. Hartford CT received 7.70 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

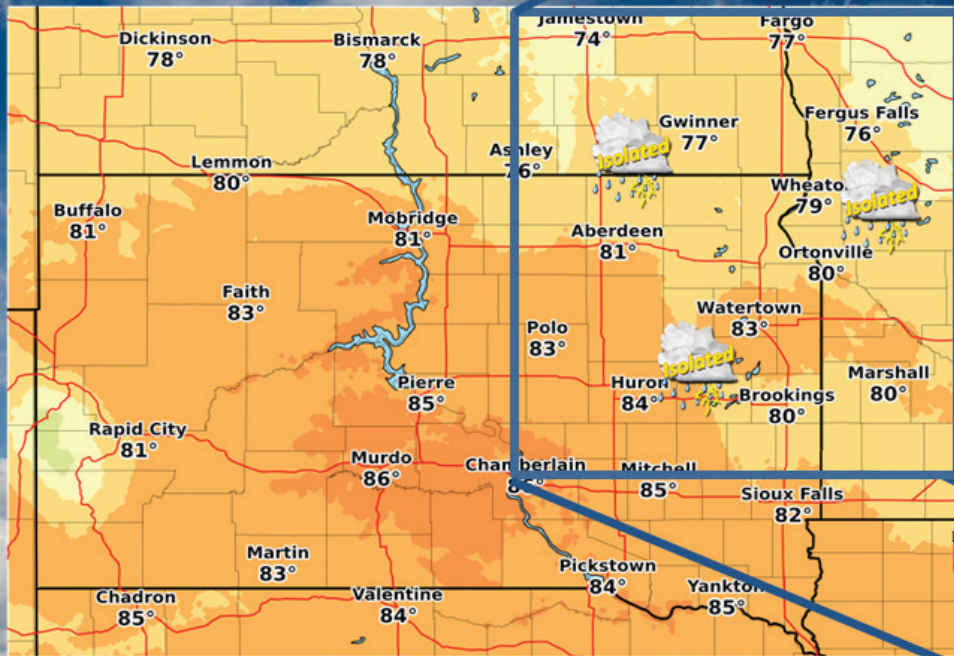
1991: Stockton, California received 0.05 inch of rainfall on this day. Since 1949, this is the only measured rainfall in Stockton on August 13th.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 11 of 41

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Sunny
High: 79 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 84 °F

Today's High Temperature Forecast



Afternoon T'Storms across northeast SD

No severe storms anticipated

Storms should end as sun sets



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 08/13/2016 at 5:48AM

Seasonal temperatures are expected across the region today. An isolated shower or thunderstorm may crop up across northeast SD or west central MN this afternoon, but they should come to an end quickly after the sun sets.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 12 of 41

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.7 F at 3:10 PM

Low Outside Temp: 65.8 F at 11:53 PM

High Gust: 16.0 Mph at 3:11 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 112° in 1965

Record Low: 35 in 1964

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.02

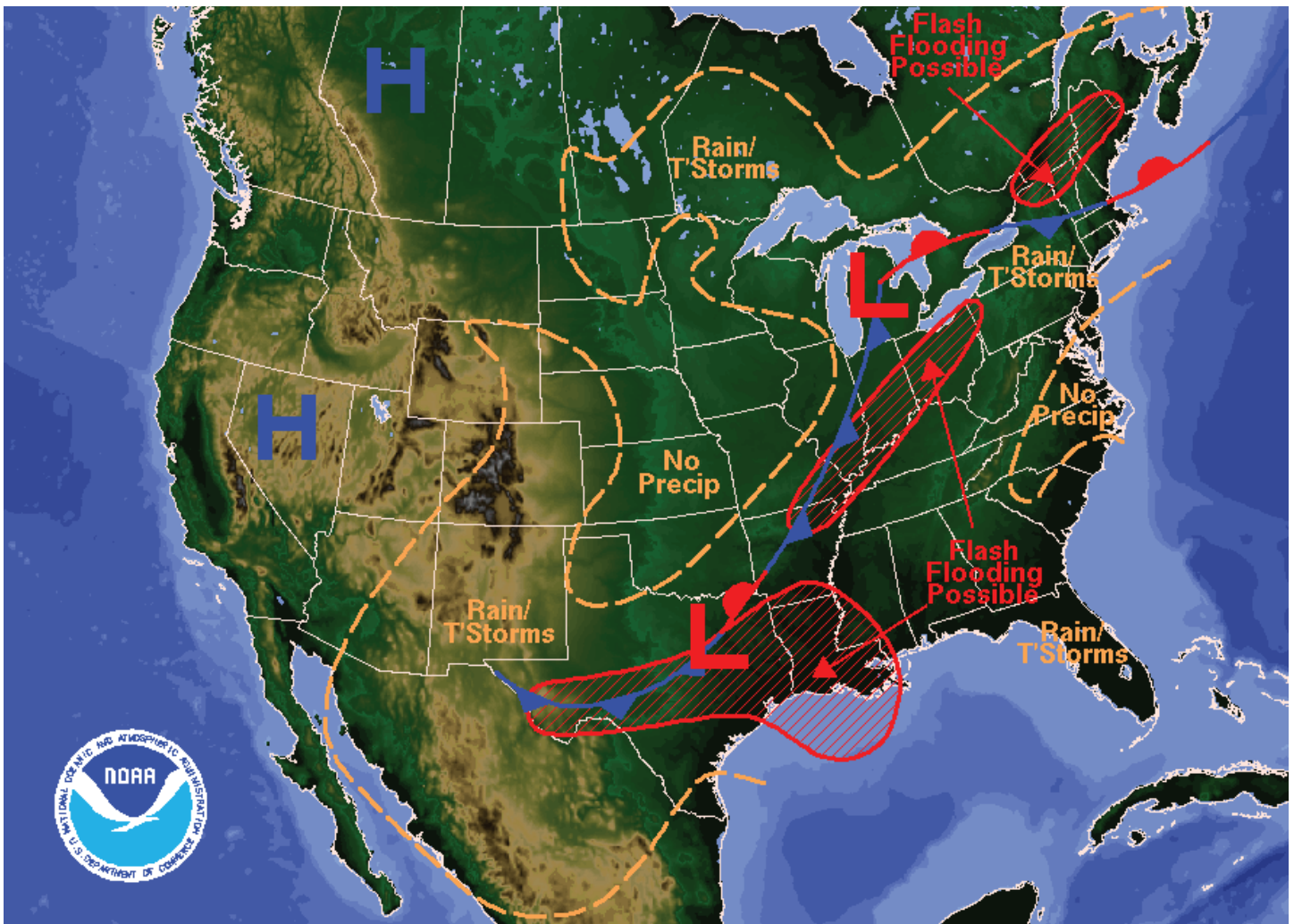
Precip to date in Aug: 1.40

Average Precip to date: 14.88

Precip Year to Date: 12.48

Sunset Tonight: 8:43 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:33 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Aug 13, 2016, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 13 of 41



GIVING AND RECEIVING

Little Amy was pleased that her teacher came to visit her farm. Taking her through the barn and out into the pasture, she pointed with pride to a cow that was quietly chewing its cud.

Filled with pride she said to her teacher, "That's my cow!"

"Oh, how wonderful, Amy," she commented. "Does she give milk?"

"Not really," replied Amy. "We have to take it from her."

Some Christians are like Amy's cow – there is good in them but it has to be taken from them. This may be true because of the influence of the world rather than the influence of the Word.

All of us are encouraged to hold on to whatever we possess as tightly as possible. We are constantly advised to invest our money wisely so that when we advance in age we will have enough to survive.

But the writer of Proverbs says, "It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy." What did he mean?

God always blesses those who give freely of their time, treasures and talents in service to others. When we give we are simply sharing with others what God has given us and providing space for more of His blessings.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to believe in Your Word and trust in Your ways. Open our hearts to share the blessings You have given us with those in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 11:24-25 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person – such a man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

News from the Associated Press

Capitol flags to fly at half-staff to honor past legislator

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered flags at the state Capitol in Pierre to be flown at half-staff on Aug. 19 in memory of former state legislator Jim Dunn of Lead.

Dunn died Thursday at age 89, and his funeral is being held Aug. 19.

He served as a state representative starting in 1971 before quickly jumping to the Senate and serving until 2001. During his time in the Pierre, he served in different leadership capacities.

2 arrested in Mitchell after police allegedly discover drugs

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say they have arrested two people in Mitchell after allegedly finding drugs and more than \$33,000 in their home.

Mitchell police say 23-year-old Kaitlin Minder and 26-year-old Jordan Muntefering were arrested Wednesday on drug charges.

Police say they discovered cocaine, marijuana and what is thought to be ecstasy in the home, as well as over \$30,000 in a safe disguised as a furnace vent.

It wasn't immediately clear if Minder and Muntefering have attorneys.

South Dakota corn crop forecast to be down 3 percent

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says South Dakota's corn crop is forecast to be down 3 percent from last year.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates the average yield for corn to be 147 bushels per acre, based on Aug. 1 conditions. That is down 12 bushels from last year's record high.

Soybean production is forecast to be down 13 percent and alfalfa hay down 9 percent from last year.

Oat production is forecast up 6 percent, while winter wheat is expected to be up 35 percent from last year.

Shailene Woodley joins oil pipeline protest in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Actress Shailene Woodley has joined a group of protesters in North Dakota demonstrating against the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline.

The Bismarck Tribune reports (<http://bit.ly/2b3S3q4>) the star of the "Divergent" movie series joined more than 200 protesters Thursday at a "spirit camp" established by the Standing Rock Sioux at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers.

The pipeline would start in North Dakota and pass through South Dakota and Iowa before ending in Illinois. Construction of the pipeline began this week just north of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

Authorities say a dozen protesters were arrested Thursday evening were for disorderly conduct or criminal trespass. Woodley was not among those arrested.

Sioux man praises fed's switch from Harney to Black Elk Peak

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The 82-year-old Oglala Sioux member whose push to rechristen South Dakota's highest point for a revered tribal spiritual leader fell on receptive federal ears said Friday that the decision was a sign of compassion and reconciliation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 15 of 41

Harney Peak, named after a man whose soldiers killed Native Americans, was changed Thursday to Black Elk Peak by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which determined from input that Harney was offensive to area Native Americans. The change applies to federal usage on new maps or other products.

Basil Brave Heart first made the request to change the name as a tribute to "a Native American icon" in 2014; state officials declined to recommend a new designation to the federal board last year.

Brave Heart, who lives on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, said the federal board's move represents compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation. Army Gen. William S. Harney's men massacred Native American women and children during a battle in September 1855, according to historic records.

"I'm elated," Brave Heart said. "It's like saying, 'we acknowledge what happened, and by changing this name, we want to make it right.'"

But Gov. Dennis Daugaard and U.S. Sen. John Thune, both Republicans, said the move came as a surprise and criticized it as rejecting local sentiment about the peak.

Members of the governor's administration opposed recommending a new name. Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said in an email Friday that officials are evaluating how best to respond to the decision. For now, the state isn't going to incur any expense to make a change, he said.

Brave Heart said he hopes the change will be embraced. He also plans give to the governor proof of the outpouring of support from people for renaming the peak.

For Brave Heart, the new name is also a tribute to one of his spiritual role models, Black Elk, who died in 1950.

Brave Heart said that when he was a boy working in a Nebraska potato field in the early 1940s, his father pointed out Black Elk working with his family. Brave Heart said he was impressed with the man's humility.

"The profoundness is that we corrected a wrong with a right decision to change the energy from someone who caused harm to a name that epitomizes a good human being," Brave Heart said.

Audit: 2,300 VA patients in Iowa, SD were on 'ghost panels'

RYAN J. FOLEY, Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — More than 2,300 VA patients in Iowa and South Dakota were assigned to primary care "ghost panels," or doctors who no longer worked at their hospitals, a federal audit found.

Critics say the practice is a way that some VA hospitals have made their doctors' caseloads appear artificially small and within federal guidelines. It can also be disruptive for patients, who have to see different doctors if they need care and may face longer wait times.

The report issued Thursday by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General found the practice was limited to two health care systems — in Iowa City, Iowa and Black Hills, South Dakota — out of eight that serve 300,000 veterans in the upper Midwest. The report did not say whether those two systems benefited from using ghost panels.

It recommended the hospitals discontinue the practice, which violates a department policy that requires patients to be reassigned to new doctors when their primary care physicians leave. The practice also results in the publication of inaccurate data on doctor-to-patient ratios. But auditors found no evidence that patients were negatively affected because hospitals used other strategies to provide them needed care.

Nonetheless, Rep. Dave Loebsack, an Iowa Democrat, said in a statement Friday that anyone involved with creating ghost panels should be punished.

"The use of ghost panels at any Veterans Administration facility to misrepresent the true panel size

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 16 of 41

is disconcerting," he said. "The fact that the VA has created an environment where the use of ghost panels appears to be in use across the nation is unacceptable."

The investigation came in response to a request by U.S. Rep. Timothy Walz of Minnesota after a whistleblower claimed the VA in St. Cloud, Minnesota, inaccurately reported the size of its primary care caseloads.

The investigation found no evidence that the St. Cloud VA used ghost panels but confirmed that hospital officials had under-represented its workload and staffing availability in flawed data provided to Walz and the general public.

In a joint statement, Walz and Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minnesota, said the report "validates our most serious concerns."

"Misrepresenting panel sizes is completely unacceptable and a serious breach of the public trust. We call on the Secretary of the VA to hold anyone who intentionally misled veterans, members of Congress and the public accountable," they said.

Auditors in January found two ghost panels at the VA in Iowa City, Iowa, where 1,245 patients were assigned to doctors who had left for jobs at other VA facilities in November and August. They found two other such panels in Black Hills, where 1,056 patients were assigned to doctors who had left employment in September and October.

Hospital administrators in both states said they did not reassign those patients because they expected to hire replacement doctors who would then take over the workloads within months.

In Iowa, acutely ill patients were assigned to other physicians who had the capacity to treat them in the meantime and a pool of providers was used to help others, the report said. In South Dakota, the hospital used existing providers to manage those patients.

Both hospitals said they hired replacement doctors earlier this year, and the VA promised additional oversight to prevent the use of ghost panels in the future.

Tribes can gather national park plants under new rule

PHOENIX (AP) — Tribes can begin entering into agreements with the National Park Service to allow their members to pick plants on protected land under a new federal rule.

The rule announced in June by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell went into effect Thursday.

Under the rule, tribes must have a culturally significant tie to the land that makes up a national park in order for its members to harvest foliage that grows there. And Native Americans or Alaskan Natives must use the plants for traditional reasons, such as using a root for medicinal purposes, or branches or bark to make a basket.

There are 58 national parks in the U.S., with some covering vast expanses within proximity to some of the nation's largest Indian reservations.

People thrown 'like little rag dolls' in JetBlue turbulence

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — People were "thrown around like little rag dolls" when turbulence rocked a JetBlue flight from Massachusetts to California, a passenger said Friday, in an incident that left more than 20 people injured and forced an unscheduled landing in South Dakota.

The New York-based airline said Flight 429 was traveling from Boston to Sacramento with 146 passengers and five crew members on board Thursday evening, when it hit major turbulence and chaos ensued.

Passenger Rhonda Lynam said the plane began to rock as it went "right through a black cloud."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 17 of 41

"It was like a movie. It was just crazy," Lynam said Friday morning from a hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota, where the plane was diverted to the night before. "We started hopping all over the air, and then all of a sudden, it, like an elevator, just dropped. And when that happened, even people who had their seatbelts on flew out of their seats. I did, my mom did."

Lynam, of Pacific Grove, California, said overhead compartments flew open and luggage tumbled out. She described seeing wallets, sunglasses, sugar packets and other items on the floor when the aircraft landed.

She said the seatbelt sign was on when turbulence rocked the plane.

"We are really sore, we got pretty banged up, thrown around like little rag dolls," she said. "We are still kind of in shock."

Seven customers and two crew members were taken to a Rapid City hospital by ambulance, and an additional 15 customers were taken by bus for further evaluation. All 24 patients had been released by Friday morning. JetBlue said 122 of the passengers completed their trip Friday morning, landing in Sacramento more than seven hours after their scheduled arrival.

National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway said the agency is investigating the incident and has requested that flight recorders be sent to its headquarters.

Pilots get detailed reports from various metrological services about wide areas with the potential for turbulence. While in flight, they also monitor shared radio frequencies for reports from other planes about the conditions ahead. Pilots will often warn other aircraft about moderate or severe "chop" at around 35,000 feet. A jet flying behind can ask air traffic controllers for permission to drop to 31,000 feet to try to avoid the worst turbulence.

When planes hit extreme turbulence, they usually drop about 40 or 50 feet, although it can feel like more because it happens so quickly and our bodies aren't used to the force, said former US Airways pilot John M. Cox, now CEO of the consulting firm Safety Operating Systems. In rare cases, planes have fallen 200 feet or more.

Cox said the "very best thing" that passengers can do to enhance their safety is to keep their seat belts fastened during flight. If the pilots go one step further and ask the flight attendants to also take their seats, Cox added, "take that as a significant event and make sure your seatbelt is low, across your hips and secure."

Overhead bins are supposed to resist opening in such conditions, but sometimes aren't latched closed properly or an item bumps against them, causing them to open, Cox said.

The Latest: JetBlue passenger: Turbulence was 'like a movie'

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Latest on a JetBlue flight that hit bad turbulence while traveling from Massachusetts to California, leaving more than 20 people injured and forcing a diversion to Rapid City, South Dakota (all times local):

11:15 a.m.

A woman who was among the 146 passengers on a JetBlue flight that was diverted to South Dakota due to terrible turbulence says the scene inside the aircraft was "like a movie."

Passenger Rhonda Lynam says the aircraft flying from Boston to Sacramento, California, dropped suddenly as it went through a dark cloud and began rocking Thursday evening. Lynam says people were "thrown around like little rag dolls" in the cabin.

Twenty-two passengers and two crew members were injured and taken to a hospital. All were released by late Friday morning.

Lynam, of Pacific Grove, California, says suitcases fell out of overhead compartments. She says wal-

lets, sunglasses and other items were all over the floor when the aircraft landed.

8:46 a.m.

JetBlue says more than 20 passengers and crew members were injured when turbulence rocked their flight from Massachusetts to California, forcing the aircraft to be diverted to South Dakota.

Flight 429 was traveling from Boston to Sacramento on Thursday with 146 passengers and five crew members on board when it was diverted to Rapid City, where it landed around 7:30 p.m.

JetBlue spokeswoman Sharon Jones says 122 of the passengers have since completed their trip, landing in Sacramento almost 10 hours later.

JetBlue spokesman Doug McGraw says seven customers and two crew members were taken to a rapid City hospital by ambulance; 15 additional customers were taken by bus for further evaluation.

The hospital has not responded Friday morning to a request for information about the passengers' conditions.

Interstate 90 car crash in Aurora County kills passenger

WHITE LAKE, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 in Aurora County killed a passenger and left the driver with life-threatening injuries.

The Highway Patrol says the car the two were in went out of control just west of White Lake about 3 p.m. Thursday and rolled in the ditch.

The 20-year-old female passenger died at the scene. The 22-year-old male driver was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Authorities did not immediately release their names.

New Mexico village cop slain; motorist shot; 3 in custody

HATCH, N.M. (AP) — A New Mexico police officer was gunned down during a traffic stop and a motorist was shot during a rest stop carjacking before authorities were able to chase down three suspects and take them into custody, Dona Ana County law enforcement officials say.

The officer was making a traffic stop Friday afternoon in the village of Hatch, about 40 miles northwest of Las Cruces, when a passenger got out of the vehicle and started firing, Dona Ana County sheriff's spokeswoman Kelly Jameson said in a news release.

The suspects drove south on Interstate 25 at speeds up to 100 mph, then stopped at a rest stop near Radium Springs, where one of them carjacked a parked Chevrolet Cruze. Jameson said that car's owner also was shot.

Sheriff's deputies spotted the Cruze, pursued it and were able to slow it down with "stop sticks"; the suspect crashed the vehicle into a pile of wood and briefly barricaded himself in the car before surrendering to sheriff's deputies, Jameson said. The suspect had a gunshot wound to the right thigh, she said.

Meanwhile, deputies tracked down the other two suspects in Rincon after being alerted by a passerby of two men "acting suspicious" in the area, the sheriff's spokeswoman said.

Thirty-three-year-old Hatch Officer Jose Chavez, who had been shot in the neck, died at University Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, authorities say. Chavez had been with the Hatch police for two years.

The motorist, who was not identified, shot in the carjacking also was taken to the hospital; his condition wasn't immediately available.

Authorities didn't identify the three suspects or the injured motorist.

The Chillicothe Gazette in Ohio reported Saturday that James D. Nelson II and Jesse D. Hanes have

been taken into custody in New Mexico on warrants in the July 25 shooting death of an Ohio man, and are believed to be involved in the New Mexico officer's killing.

Spain: Injured spelunker safe after 3-day rescue from cave

MADRID (AP) — Spain's Civil Guard says it has rescued an injured French spelunker after a three-day rescue operation that required 50 controlled mini-detonations to blast open an escape route through the twisting cave.

The Civil Guard says the 37-year-old man was part of a group exploring the cave in the northern province of Navarra on Wednesday when a rock fell on him, immobilizing him with injuries to his back and stomach.

Rescue specialists needed to make the controlled mini-detonations at different points in the narrow cave so they could carry the spelunker out on a stretcher from 200 meters (650 feet) underground to the surface.

The guards say the rescue was safely completed early Saturday morning. The spelunker was treated at the site and then transported to a hospital in France.

The Latest: 22 gold medals on tap Saturday at Rio Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro (all times local): 6:50 a.m.

There are 22 golds to be won on Day 8 of the Rio Games in 13 different sports.

Competitions wrap up Saturday in swimming and rowing — but they are just heating up in track and field, which will award five golds: for the women's 100 meter sprint and the heptathlon, and the men's 10,000 meters, discus and long jump.

In the pool, Saturday could be Michael Phelps's last time in an Olympic competition if he swims in the 4x100 meter medley relay. Simone Manuel is in the women's 50 free finals and likely for the women's 4x100 medley relay. Medals also will be awarded in the men's 1500 meter freestyle.

On the water, the smallest sculls (singles) and the largest (eights) are fighting for gold for both the men and the women.

On the tennis court, Germany's Angelique Kerber faces Monica Puig, who is looking for Puerto Rico's first gold in any Olympic sport.

Other medals will be awarded in fencing, track cycling, boxing, shooting, trampoline and weightlifting

6:35 a.m.

The last day of the Rio Olympics rowing competition could write another entry in the epic rivalry between Olympic singles champion Mahe Drysdale of New Zealand and world champion Ondrej Synek of the Czech Republic.

Either Drysdale or Synek has won gold at every world championship or Olympics since 2009.

Four gold medals are waiting to be won Saturday as the smallest sculls (singles) and the largest (eights) take to the water.

The U.S. women's eight hope to extend their winning streak after dominating the qualifiers. Britain and Germany are the favorites in the men's eight but could be challenged by the U.S. crew.

5:35 a.m.

Hope Solo sure has a way with words.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 20 of 41

The U.S. goalie called the Swedish team "a bunch of cowards" after they beat the favored U.S. women's soccer team 4-3 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw Friday at the Rio Olympics.

Solo says "I think we showed a lot of heart. We came back from a goal down. I'm very proud of this team." Then she added "I also think we played a bunch of cowards. The best team did not win today."

Solo said the Swedes "didn't want to pass the ball. They didn't want to play great soccer."

Sweden coach Pia Sundhage, who coached the U.S. team to Olympic gold medals in Beijing and London, quipped: "It's OK to be a coward if you win."

Later, Solo tweeted: "Losing sucks. I'm really bad at it."

The U.S. women are heading home without an Olympic medal for the first time.

5:15 a.m.

A potential Latin American grudge match is on tap at the Rio Olympics as Brazil takes on Colombia in the men's soccer quarterfinals.

The Brazilian men, booed by fans and squeaking by so far in the Olympic tournament, could get a chance to recapture their nation's adoration in the match Saturday. There's not too much warmth between the two sides since the 2014 World Cup, where Colombia's Juan Camillo Zuniga kneed Brazilian star striker Neymar, fracturing his back.

In other men's soccer matches, Portugal takes on Germany, Nigeria goes up against Denmark and Korea faces Honduras.

The Brazilian women, led by star Marta, are already in the Olympic quarterfinals after beating Australia on penalty kicks Friday night. Sweden also beat the U.S. women on penalty kicks, sending the favored U.S. team home without an Olympic medal for the first time.

4:50 a.m.

Four years ago at the London Olympics, a roar was heard across the stadium, across the capital and across the nation as three British athletes won gold within an hour of each other.

Long distance runner Mo Farah, heptathlete Jessica Ennis-Hill and long jumper Greg Rutherford are hoping to recreate that scenario Saturday in Rio.

The men's 10,000 kicks off with Farah the dominant athlete. He has not lost a major race since the 2011 worlds, but Ethiopia's Yigrem Demelash is hoping to restore his nation's ownership of the race.

In the men's long jump finals, Rutherford, American Jarrion Lawson and Australia's Fabrice Lapierre are the ones to watch.

Over halfway home in the 7-event heptathlon, Ennis-Hill is where she wants to be — on top. With a blistering 200 meters on Friday, the defending champion overtook early leader Nafissatou Thiam of Belgium to regain the momentum going into the final day of competition.

4:25 a.m.

It's the final day of swimming at the Rio Olympics and four gold medals are up for grabs.

Saturday could be Michael Phelps's last time in an Olympic competition. While the American team is not yet set, he could be swimming in the men's 4x100 meter medley relay final. On Friday, he was upset in the 100 fly, taking the silver behind Joseph Schooling of Singapore.

Simone Manuel, who became the first African-American woman to win a gold medal when she set an American and Olympic record in the 100 free on Thursday, is in the women's 50 free finals Saturday. She is also likely to compete in the women's 4x100 medley relay.

Medals also will be awarded in the men's 1500 meter freestyle but defending champion Sun Yang of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 21 of 41

China failed to qualify.

4:05 a.m.

At least seven sprinters are in the mix to be crowned the fastest woman in the world as the 100 meter final takes place at Rio's Olympic Stadium.

Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the two-time defending Olympic champion, had the fastest time in qualifiers Friday night.

Others to watch include Elaine Thompson of Jamaica, Murielle Ahoure of the Ivory Coast, Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands and Americans English Gardner, Tianna Bartoletta and Tori Bowie.

The fastest man in the world — Usain Bolt, the two-time defending champion — also appears on the Rio track for the first time Saturday for preliminary heats.

The men's 100 meter finals are on Sunday, and Bolt has told his parents he's ready despite a sore hamstring. American Justin Gatlin is considered the best threat to stop him.

3:45 a.m.

'For the first time since 1968' — how cool does that sound?

Katie Ledecky capped off one of the greatest performances in Olympic history on Friday night, winning her fourth gold medal and posting her second world record, shattering her own mark in the 800-meter freestyle.

The 19-year-old American says "I just wanted to lay it all out there."

Ledecky and Debbie Meyer are now the only female swimmers to sweep the three longest freestyle races. Meyer took the 200, 400 and 800 meter free at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968.

"I try not to think about the history much," Ledecky said. "But joining Debbie in that history is incredible."

3:15 a.m.

Russia's Olympic team has complained to Rio organizers after flags hanging in its Olympic village accommodation were allegedly desecrated.

Synchronized swimmer Alexandra Patskevich told Russian newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda that flags hanging inside Russia's building were "torn down and tied in knots" on the floor on two occasions.

Her comments sparked protests on Russian social media at what some suggested was a deliberate attempt to provoke Russia by people hostile to its team's presence at the games following reports of wide-scale, state-sponsored doping in Russia.

The head of the Russian delegation, Igor Kazikov, says in video posted online that he is investigating and has raised the issue with the Rio organizing committee.

Kazikov says only one flag was involved and perhaps it was "the fault of a cleaner" rather than an anti-Russian conspiracy.

Thai police look for suspects after bombs hit tourist sites

PENNY WANG, Associated Press

TODD PITMAN, Associated Press

HUA HIN, Thailand (AP) — Thais and tourists headed warily into the main part of a long holiday weekend Saturday as police looked for suspects and a motive behind a series of blasts that shook resort towns across Thailand, killing four people and wounding dozens more.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attacks Thursday and Friday, which followed a success-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 22 of 41

ful referendum last weekend on a new constitution that critics say will bolster the military's power for years to come.

The violence appeared aimed at dealing a blow to the country's tourism industry, which brings in crucial income to the government. One small bomb exploded on a beach in Patong on the island of Phuket and four others rattled the seaside resort city of Hua Hin, prompting businesses to shut their doors, streets to empty and anxious tourists to huddle inside their hotels.

Eleven foreigners were wounded in the blasts, including nationals of Austria, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

"We hope we may have some suspects today or tomorrow," Police Gen. Pongsapat Pongcharoen, a deputy national police chief, told reporters Saturday. He did not elaborate, but said police were gathering evidence and that international militant groups were not believed to be behind the attacks.

He said the perpetrators are believed to belong to the same networks and still inside the country. Police said firebombs also triggered blazes at markets and shops in six places, including Phuket, Trang, Surat Thani, Phang Nga and a souvenir shop in the tourist town of Ao Nang, Krabi, a seaside province known for its stunning limestone cliffs.

Speaking late Friday, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said the attacks "struck at the hearts of all Thai people."

Royal Thai Police Col. Krisana Patanacharoen also said Friday that it was "too early to conclude" who was behind the attacks. But he said the bombings followed "a similar pattern used in the southern parts of the country" — a reference to a low-level insurgency in the country's largely Islamic south that has ground on for more than a decade and killed more than 5,000 people.

Southern militants fighting for greater autonomy have carried out sophisticated, coordinated attacks before, but most have hit three provinces in the far south that were not among those targeted this week.

The violence occurred just ahead of the first anniversary of the Aug. 17 bombing of Bangkok's popular Erawan Shrine, which left 20 dead and injured more than 120 others. Thai authorities said that bombing was revenge by a people-smuggling gang whose activities were disrupted by a crackdown, but analysts suspect it might have been the work of Uighur separatists angry that Thailand forcibly repatriated more than 100 Uighurs to China.

Foreign governments, including the United States, issued warnings urging travelers to use caution and avoid affected areas. Many of the tourists interviewed Saturday were resuming their vacations while keeping an eye for any sign of trouble.

"We feel pretty safe. At first we had a lot of mixed feelings, because we didn't know the area well enough," said Lexus Chlorad, 21, from New York, after arriving in Hua Hin on Friday afternoon.

Carl Suensson, 68, from Sweden, said Saturday that "today it's pretty OK, but yesterday was scary."

"We follow the news 24 hours. Wherever there's a lot of people, like the market, bars behind Hilton, the train station, we try to avoid it," he added.

The first bomb exploded in the southern province of Trang — an area full of beautiful beaches and tourist islands — killing one person and injuring six, according to police. Then on Thursday night, attackers in Hua Hin hid bombs on a busy street filled with bars and restaurants, planting them inside two potted plants and were detonated by remote control about half an hour apart.

One Thai woman was killed and about 20 people were wounded, 11 of them foreigners.

Last Sunday, Thai voters approved a referendum on a new constitution that is supposed to lead to an election next year. Critics say it is undemocratic and is fashioned to keep the military in control for at least five more years even if a free election is held.

Friday's blast took place on a public holiday marking the birthday of Thailand's Queen Sirikit. The junta has repeatedly said that defending the monarchy is a top priority, and the army and its allies are eager to ensure a smooth succession for King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch.

Many foreigners living in Thailand have gotten used to bouts of violence.

"I've seen it go up and down going through all the coups and everything," said Gabrielle Boccer, a Swiss-Australian who has lived in Thailand for 25 years. "I'm just a little wary, but life goes on."

Victories against IS leave Iraq's Sunni heartland shattered

SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

AMIRIYAH AL-FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — As Iraqi political and military attention shifts north in the fight against the Islamic State group, the military victories that have put Iraqi forces on Mosul's doorstep have left behind shattered cities, towns and communities in Iraq's Sunni heartland.

Anbar has witnessed the most successful military phase of the ground fight against IS to date. But rather than restore government order, services and security, liberation at the hands of Iraqi forces closely backed by the U.S.-led coalition has merely moved many Anbaris from one waiting room into another.

For Ali Athab, his most painful memory of IS rule in Fallujah was watching his daughter's health deteriorate. Born with a rare neurological disorder, his daughter Zeina had been receiving treatment at a Fallujah hospital that helped control her seizures, but once IS solidified its grip on the city less than an hour's drive from Baghdad, almost all the doctors fled.

"She was starting to get better, but now she's stopped speaking," he said, explaining that the few doctors who stayed behind were only allowed to treat IS fighters.

First the cost of medicine skyrocketed, then specialized medicine wasn't available in Fallujah at all.

Athab, 34 said he prayed for liberation, hoping once his city was retaken by Iraqi government forces his daughter would again be able to see a doctor. But more than a month after IS was pushed out of Fallujah, the city remains a ghost town and Athab and his family are stuck in a camp on the edge of Anbar province.

This year, Athab's family joined the more than 1 million other Anbaris who have been forced from their homes since 2014.

Zeina, age 8, sits politely in a corner of the family's tent, occasionally fidgeting and making sounds that don't form words.

In the small, hurriedly constructed camp on the outskirts of Amiriyah al-Fallujah, a single mobile clinic only had antibiotics and mild painkillers on hand. In Baghdad — just over 40 kilometers (25 miles) away, Zeina could have access to the care she needs, but her family — as Anbar residents — lack the legal paperwork required to cross over into Baghdad Province.

"There's an assumption that after Daesh is defeated you can put the nation back together and in essence create a new nation, but that's not what we're seeing in Anbar," said a western diplomat based in Baghdad, referring to the Islamic State group by its Arabic acronym.

Instead, industry and agriculture have ground to a halt, schools are closed, electrical grids are down and many roads remain unusable. In that vacuum, tribal politics are becoming more powerful and families are adopting more conservative habits, said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity due to a lack of authorization to release information to the media.

While Iraqi government security forces administer databases of information to identify possible IS

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 24 of 41

fighters among civilians, much of the screening process is handed over to local Anbari officials and communities.

At one of the larger displacement camps in Amiriyah al-Fallujah, a crowd of women gathered around a humanitarian convoy calling for help, they all had sons who were detained while fleeing Fallujah. Two weeks after they were taken, the women didn't know where they were or who was holding them.

Detainees say that tribes and powerful families are accusing rivals of being IS sympathizers to settle blood feuds, unpaid debts and grievances that go back generations.

"Anyone who has a problem with someone can just accuse him of being with Daesh," said Hussein, a middle-aged man just released from a detention center, speaking on condition that only his first name is used for fear of his own security.

Anbar's residents describe feeling increasingly alienated from the central government, adrift in camps for the displaced or sharing close quarters with extended family. The vast majority of assistance that they are growing increasingly dependent on comes not from the central government, but from local political, tribal and religious leaders.

For Ahmed Fahel, 30, the fight against IS in Hit plunged his family into poverty. Living in a desolate camp further west in Anbar in the desert that lies between Hit and Ramadi, Fahel is now his extended family's only breadwinner. His brother was executed by IS fighters just days before the town was retaken by Iraqi forces and his body was dumped in the street. Fahel only had time to quickly bury his brother in the garden before they fled.

"I have nothing and I also need to provide for my sister-in-law and her children," he said, explaining he has since heard his house back in Hit was completely destroyed.

Nearly 1.3 million Anbaris are estimated to have been forced from their homes since early 2014 when IS first began to grow in power in the province, ferrying fighters and munitions through the lawless deserts along the border with neighboring Syria.

A decade ago, when the predecessor to IS had torn Anbar apart, a U.S.-led effort to stabilize the province built support against al-Qaeda by pouring enormous amounts of resources into existing local tribal leadership networks. Today, Iraq's central government — due in part to budget shortfalls sparked by the plunge in the price of oil — doesn't have the resources and the U.S.-led coalition doesn't have the appetite for such an ambitious undertaking.

Without similarly large amounts of money, putting Anbar back together again will be impossible, said Ahmed al-Dara, a religious sheikh from Fallujah. And beyond the issue of resources, he said, the fight against IS in his home province is fundamentally different from the fight against al-Qaeda after the overthrow of Saddam in 2003.

"This idea of reconciliation is not possible with Iraqis who joined Daesh," said al-Dara, explaining that recovering from this insurgency would not only drive a greater wedge between Iraq's Sunni and Shiites, but has also begun to fracture Iraq's Sunni community.

"I know the people of Fallujah and Ramadi, they will never let a single Daesh supporter return to their cities," he said. "This conflict has taken Iraq's Sunnis back 50 years."

Athab, the Fallujah resident stuck in the tented camp on Anbar's edge, describes the past 13 years of cyclical violence as exhausting.

"This is the third time this has happened to Fallujah," he said referencing the two U.S.-led offensives against al-Qaeda insurgents in his home town in the mid-2000s. The battle against IS this year was the first to force him to flee his home and Athab vows it will be the last.

"I don't want to live in Anbar anymore," he said sucking at his front teeth. "Fallujah is finished, you can take it."

After verbal missteps, Trump blames others

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — It's the media's fault. That's out of context. Never said it in the first place.

Donald Trump's claim Friday that he was merely being "sarcastic" in accusing President Barack Obama of establishing a terrorist group was his latest attempt to blame others for the uproar over what he says. It's an instinct that Trump's opponents say a president can't possess. Some Republicans seem to have the same concern.

This time, it followed two days of critical headlines and Democratic outrage over Trump's claim that Obama was the "founder" of the Islamic State group. As Trump repeated the claim more than a dozen times, interviewers sought to ensure Trump wasn't being misconstrued. Surely, they offered, he meant Obama's policies had enabled the extremist group's rise.

"No, I meant he's the founder of ISIS. I do," Trump said, using one acronym for the group.

Then an about-face Friday. "THEY DON'T GET SARCASTM?" he tweeted.

Or was he being sarcastic about the sarcasm? Hours later, he told a rally in Pennsylvania he was "obviously being sarcastic — but not that sarcastic, to be honest with you."

That it took Trump two days to walk back his widely debunked remark — and then walk back the walk-back — was worrying for Republicans who see such missteps as playing to Democrat Hillary Clinton's advantage. Equally worrying for some was the fact that he again would not take responsibility for his words.

Ryan Williams, a Republican strategist who advised Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign, said there's a common-sense playbook for dealing with political slip-ups: "Stop the bleeding and put it behind you by apologizing.

"That's what normal candidates do," he went on. "However, normal candidates don't careen from one self-inflicted wound to another on an hourly basis."

It was only two days earlier that Trump blamed the media for making much ado about nothing after he suggested during a rally that gun rights enthusiasts might find a way to stop Clinton if elected.

Clinton, whose lead over Trump has widened in recent polls of the most competitive states, has seized on those and other eyebrow-raising comments to portray the reality TV star as lacking the temperament to run the nation — Trump has his own argument for why she's unfit to do so. She's hammered him for avoiding accountability for his actions.

To that end, Clinton's campaign on Friday intensified pressure on Trump to release his tax returns, while disclosing her 2015 filings and a decade of returns from her running mate. The filing shows that the Clintons earned \$10.6 million and paid a federal tax rate of 34.2 percent last year.

Trump has refused to make his filings public, saying they're under audit by the Internal Revenue Service and he'll release them only once that review is complete. All major U.S. presidential candidates in modern history have released their returns.

Minutes after releasing her returns, Clinton tweeted that it's possible Trump paid no tax at all.

Trump worked to profit on the fuss over his Islamic State remark. In an email to supporters asking them to donate, Trump accused the "liberal media" of telling "outrageous lies about me."

It's no surprise that the media are Trump's go-to scapegoat. Just 6 percent of Americans said they have a great deal of confidence in the media in a Media Insight Project poll earlier this year.

Almost never does Trump admit error. One exception came this month when he acknowledged a video he said showed a plane carrying U.S. cash to Iran was actually a plane carrying U.S. hostages who were being released.

Most of the time, Trump casts blame elsewhere:

STAR OF DAVID: In July, Trump's campaign tweeted an anti-Clinton message that seemed to show the Star of David atop a pile of cash, raising questions about anti-Semitism. When Clinton's campaign cried foul, Trump blamed her for trying to "divert attention from the dishonest behavior of herself and her husband." Also, the media.

PAGING MOSCOW: Last month Trump caused a stir in a news conference by saying "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails" missing from Clinton. Even some Republicans questioned whether he was encouraging a foreign government to interfere in the election. Trump's response later? "Of course, I'm being sarcastic."

CRIMEA RIVER: Heads spun in the foreign policy world when Trump said this month that Russia wouldn't enter Ukraine, seemingly unaware it already had. When an interviewer pointed out Russia had annexed Crimea, Trump said he meant Russia wouldn't dare go farther if he were president. He insisted he'd said nothing incorrect.

ABOUT SADDAM: In July, Trump said former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was "so good" at killing terrorists. He also suggested the Mideast would be more stable were Saddam still in power. He took offence that his comments were interpreted as praise for Saddam.

Clinton releases 2015 tax returns, pushing Trump for his

LISA LERER, Associated Press

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary and Bill Clinton earned \$10.6 million last year, according to a tax filing released by her campaign that sought to pressure presidential rival Donald Trump to disclose his tax returns.

The filing shows that the Clintons paid a federal tax rate of 34.2 percent in 2015. The bulk of their income — more than \$6 million — came from speaking fees for appearances made largely before Hillary Clinton launched her campaign in April 2015. They gave more than \$1,042,000 to charity, with \$1 million going to the Clinton family foundation. That is the financial vehicle the family uses to give money to museums, schools, churches and other charitable causes. It is not the same organization as the better-known Clinton Foundation.

The Clintons' income puts them well within the ranks of the top 0.1 percent of Americans, though they pay a higher tax rate than many of their elite peers, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, based on 2013 data.

The release on Friday is part of an effort to undercut Trump's character by questioning the celebrity businessman's record. Trump has refused to make his filings public, saying they're under audit by the Internal Revenue Service and he'll release them only once that review is complete. All major U.S. presidential candidates in modern history have released their returns.

Trump steered clear of mentioning his personal taxes Friday. A spokesman pointed to Clinton's move to delete tens of thousands of personal emails from her private account as secretary of state and questions about whether she used her government post to benefit the Clinton Foundation.

"Hillary Clinton has turned over the only records nobody wants to see from her — the American public wants to see the 33,000 emails she deleted to obstruct an FBI investigation," said Trump spokesman

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 27 of 41

Jason Miller.

The Clintons have disclosed tax returns for every year since 1977, in part due to laws requiring public officials release returns. She put out her most recent eight years of tax filings last summer and several years during her first presidential bid.

Seeking common ground with blue-collar workers who have been attracted to Trump, Clinton frequently mentions his returns as a way of underscoring how his economic plans would benefit his personal interests and questioning whether he's as wealthy as he claims.

Democrats believe Trump's returns could be a trove of politically damaging information. They want to see his tax rate, charitable giving, and business dealings with foreign governments.

"Here's a pretty incredible fact: There is a non-zero chance that Donald Trump isn't paying (asterisk) any(asterisk) taxes," Clinton tweeted, after releasing her own returns.

Protesters at Trump afternoon rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, held up signs reading "Tax Forms" before being escorted out by security.

Clinton's strategy borrows from President Barack Obama's winning playbook against Mitt Romney in 2012. Obama repeatedly used Romney's business dealings against him and seized upon his reluctance to release certain tax records.

Clinton's campaign also released 10 years of returns from running mate Tim Kaine and his wife, Anne Holton. Over the last decade, the couple has donated 7.5 percent of their income to charity, the campaign said, and paid an effective tax rate of 25.6 percent last year.

Kaine, the Virginia senator who's spent much of his life in public service, reported a far lower income than the Clintons. Over the past decade, he and his wife earned the most in 2014, more than \$314,000 in adjusted gross income. The Clintons made about 90 times more, reporting nearly \$28 million for the same year.

Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, has yet to say if he will release his taxes, which he has not done as governor of Indiana. A spokesman for the governor's office referred all tax-related questions to his vice presidential campaign. The campaign did not respond to messages.

Clinton has tried to paint Trump as an out-of-touch business mogul. But her substantial wealth has caused headaches. Republicans have seized upon the millions in speaking fees and a tone-deaf comment by Clinton in a 2014 interview that she was "dead broke" after leaving the White House in 2001. The couple owed millions in legal fees, but quickly generated far more from book deals, paid appearances and consulting fees.

In total, the Clintons earned than \$139 million between 2007 and 2014, according to eight years of federal income tax returns released by her campaign last July.

The bulk of their income came from speeches delivered to corporate and interest groups, which paid Bill Clinton and later Hillary Clinton after she resigned as secretary of state in early 2013.

Clinton delivered six paid speeches in 2015, including one to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. She commanded her highest rate from EBay, which paid her \$315,000 for a March 2015 address in San Jose.

Bill Clinton's consulting work for GEMS Education, a global network of for-profit schools based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, earned him more than \$5.6 million in fees between 2010 and 2015, according to the tax returns.

He also earned more than \$17 million over the same period for consulting work for Laureate Education, Inc., another for-profit education system based in Baltimore that makes most of its profits from overseas operations. Several former students have sued a school operated by the company, alleging fraud.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 28 of 41

Bill Clinton's office previously said he had ended his consulting work with Laureate last year. On Friday, his office confirmed that Clinton also halted his business dealings with GEMS Education last year. His office said he had "engaged with GEMS students and faculty around the world and assisted the Varkey GEMS Foundation in its efforts to increase access to education to underprivileged children."

The Latest: Clinton says email rules different for Hillary

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. presidential race (all times local):

8:05 p.m.

Bill Clinton says it was a mistake for Hillary Clinton to maintain a personal email server even though her predecessors and her successor at the State Department did it.

But the former president says his wife should have known that there would be a different set of rules applied to her if she ran for the presidency.

Bill Clinton defended the Democratic nominee for president Friday during a question-and-answer period at a Las Vegas forum organized by the Asian American Journalists Association and APIA Vote.

Clinton says it didn't occur to diplomats sending the emails at the time that they should be concerned with records classification.

The former president also says the email server shouldn't be a cause for distrust, and that people in the national security community wouldn't endorse Hillary Clinton's candidacy if it was.

7:15 p.m.

Donald Trump says the only way he can lose in Pennsylvania is if there's cheating.

Trump tells a rally in Altoona that he plans to watch certain parts of Pennsylvania closely on Election Day. He's noting that he's had huge turnout for rallies in the state as evidence of what he says is overwhelming support.

But Trump says he wants to ensure that Hillary Clinton's supporters don't vote multiple times. He's citing concerns about voter fraud.

7:10 p.m.

Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson says he thinks he has a chance at the presidency if he gets to participate in debates with the major-party candidates.

The former governor of New Mexico spoke Friday at a Las Vegas forum organized by the Asian American Journalists Association and APIA Vote.

Johnson was asked if Americans would be wasting their vote on him. He responded that a wasted vote is choosing someone you don't believe in.

Johnson highlighted his permissive stance on marijuana, saying he consumed marijuana edibles three months ago but isn't using it now because he doesn't want to come to work impaired.

7:05 p.m.

Donald Trump claims the National Security Agency has Hillary Clinton's missing emails and suggests that the agency release them publicly.

Trump made the assertion during a Friday evening rally in Altoona, Pennsylvania, and riled up the crowd by asking them whether the NSA should release the emails. The crowd responded in unison that it should.

The NSA has never said that it has Clinton's emails. Trump appears to be referring generally to the widespread assumption that the NSA has information about millions of people.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 29 of 41

Clinton's legal team turned over more than 30,000 emails from her server to the State Department last March, but only after deleting another 30,000 messages that the legal team deemed private and personal. The FBI has reconstructed some of the missing emails.

6:50 p.m.

Donald Trump is warning his Pennsylvania supporters about potential voter fraud in the state and suggests that they volunteer to monitor the election.

Speaking at a Friday evening rally in Altoona, Trump says, "We don't want to see people voting five times, folks," and adds: "We have to be very careful."

In 2014, a Pennsylvania judge struck down a law requiring voters to produce state-approved photo ID in order to vote.

Trump has repeatedly questioned the integrity of the nation's voting system, an unprecedented assertion by a modern presidential candidate.

6:35 p.m.

Donald Trump is offering effusive praise for Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus.

Trump tells rally-goers in Altoona, Pennsylvania, that Priebus is doing a great job. He says he and Priebus are friends and work well together and that they have "great unification."

Priebus is joining Trump this week as he campaigns amid increasing frustration among many Republicans about their nominee. Priebus and Trump are working to dispel speculation that the GOP may abandon Trump.

Trump says he's been putting "a lot of money" into the Republican Party.

6:20 p.m.

Donald Trump is in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, touring a facility that builds mineral and agricultural equipment, McLanahan Corp.

Trump walked through the factory with company executives and workers. He was joined by campaign staffers and Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus.

The Republican presidential nominee inspected the metal-shaping foundry, the fabrication area and the rest of the plant before sitting down with workers at a small table.

Meeting with voters in small, intimate settings is a new development for Trump, who has typically preferred large rallies. He's sought this week to focus attention on economic issues in rural parts of the country.

3:15 p.m.

Donald Trump is repeating his claim that he was "being sarcastic" when he called President Barack Obama "the founder" of the Islamic State terror group.

But then Trump added that he was "not that sarcastic, to be honest with you."

Trump has drawn criticism from Democrats this week for falsely claiming that Obama helped start the notorious extremist group. But Trump initially doubled down on this remarks, repeating the claim several times without any sense he was joking.

But he tweeted early Friday that he was being sarcastic and reiterated that at a rally Friday in Erie, Pennsylvania. He suggested he was also kidding when he called Obama "the MVP" of the Islamic State.

Trump said: "Obviously, I'm being sarcastic — but not that sarcastic, to be honest with you."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 30 of 41

3 p.m.

Donald Trump is urging former Republican rivals to “get over it” and support him for president.

At a rally Friday, Trump recalled the pledge all of the Republican contenders signed to support the eventual nominee. That pledge was organized by the Republican National Committee, whose chairman, Reince Priebus, was attending the rally in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Some of Trump’s former rivals, including Ted Cruz, John Kasich and Jeb Bush, have declined to endorse Trump.

“Some of them just can’t get over it,” Trump told the crowd. “Get over it! We were just having fun.”

2:40 p.m.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus is introducing Donald Trump at a campaign rally in the key battleground state of Pennsylvania.

Priebus’s appearance in Erie on Friday comes amid a series of bad polls for Trump and increased frustration among many Republicans about their nominee.

Priebus alluded to the negative headlines, imploring the crowd to ignore “the garbage you’re reading” and vowing to put Trump in the White House.

“This man is going to win,” said Priebus. “He’s going to save our country.”

Trump’s campaign has placed strong emphasis on winning Pennsylvania, which last went for a Republican candidate in 1988. But polls consistently show him trailing Hillary Clinton there.

1:35 p.m.

Donald Trump plans to return to Wisconsin next week and once again the state’s top Republican leaders won’t be there.

Trump is holding a pair of fundraisers in La Crosse and Milwaukee on Tuesday. The campaign has not released details, but Trump typically also holds public campaign stops while in battleground states.

Gov. Scott Walker was previously scheduled to be in Colorado on Tuesday as part of a Republican governors’ panel at the Aspen Institute. And House Speaker Paul Ryan will be on a trip with his family.

Walker is listed as an honorary host on invitations for both fundraisers.

A Marquette University Law School poll released Wednesday showed Trump trailing Hillary Clinton by 15 points among likely voters in Wisconsin.

12 p.m.

Hillary Clinton’s campaign says the Democratic nominee and her husband paid a federal tax rate of 34.2 percent and donated 9.8 percent of their income to charity last year.

The Clintons are releasing their 2015 filings on Friday. Her campaign is also releasing returns from running mate Tim Kaine and his wife.

The campaign says the Kaines have donated 7.5 percent of their income to charity over the last decade. They paid an effective tax rate of 25.6 percent in 2015.

Clinton is trying to undercut the trustworthiness of rival Donald Trump. He has refused to disclose any returns, breaking tradition with all recent presidential candidates.

Trump says he won’t release them until Internal Revenue Service completes audits of his returns.

The Clintons have disclosed returns for every year since 1977.

11:55 a.m.

Hillary Clinton says she brings a lot of stamina to her campaign — rebutting Donald Trump’s sugges-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 31 of 41

tion that she's not up to the rigors of the presidency.

Clinton is describing a typical day on the campaign trail in the launch of her campaign's podcast, "With Her." She says she's typically awake by 6:30 a.m. and gets news updates on her phone and from advisers.

She adds she has "a lot of stamina and endurance which is necessary in the kind of campaign that I'm engaged in."

Trump has criticized Clinton's stamina in recent weeks. He said Thursday that her speeches are short and then she goes back home to sleep.

The Clinton interview was conducted Tuesday in Miami with Max Linsky, a Clinton supporter who hosts a podcast.

10:50 p.m.

Donald Trump has reached a confidential settlement in a legal dispute with a former political consultant. The Republican presidential candidate had accused him of violating a nondisclosure agreement.

Attorneys for Trump and former aide Sam Nunberg filed court papers late Thursday ending the case. It was Trump's latest move to aggressively enforce terms of a nondisclosure agreement that he requires nearly every employee in his businesses and campaign to sign.

Trump had sought \$10 million in damages from Nunberg after accusing the former aide of leaking information to reporters after he was fired. In response, Nunberg filed a lawsuit in New York state court. It accused Trump of trying to silence him because he eventually supported Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas in the Republican primary

7:15 a.m.

Republican Donald Trump is now saying that his description of President Barack Obama as a founder of the Islamic State group was sarcasm.

At a rally Wednesday, Trump said that Obama "is the founder of ISIS," using one acronym for the group. He repeated that in two interviews Thursday.

But in a tweet Friday criticizing CNN's coverage, he said the network reported his claim "so seriously." Trump tweeted: "THEY DON'T GET SARCASM?"

Trump's comments were seen as accusing Obama of creating conditions that allowed IS to thrive. But asked about that Thursday, Trump seemed to go further. He told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt "No, I meant that he's the founder of ISIS, I do."

3:45 a.m.

In a rare show of humility by the boastful billionaire, Donald Trump is acknowledging that his presidential campaign faces challenges and could ultimately fall short.

The Republican presidential nominee is straying from his signature bravado as he campaigns in the battleground state of Florida. He told a gathering of evangelical ministers Thursday he's "having a tremendous problem in Utah."

The same day, Trump acknowledged that his lack of political correctness could cost him the election if Americans reject his blunt approach.

After trouncing 16 challengers in the Republican primary, Trump is encountering worrying signs as his campaign moves into the general election.

Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead over Trump in national polls has widened in recent days, while a growing number of fellow Republicans have declared they won't support him.

WHY IT MATTERS: Issues at stake in election

Publishable Editors Notes:

EDITOR'S NOTE _ A look at issues at stake in the election and their impact on people

WASHINGTON (AP) — A selection of issues at stake in the presidential election and their impact on Americans, in brief:

HEALTH CARE

About 9 in 10 Americans now have health insurance, more than at any time in history. But progress is incomplete, and the future far from certain. Rising costs could bedevil the next occupant of the White House.

Millions of people previously shut out have been covered by President Barack Obama's health care law. No one can be denied coverage anymore because of a pre-existing condition. But "Obamacare" remains divisive, and premiums for next year are rising sharply in many communities.

Whether Americans would be better off trading for a GOP plan is another question. A recent study found that Donald Trump's proposal would make 18 million people uninsured. GOP congressional leaders have more developed ideas, but key details are still missing.

Overall health care spending is trending higher again, and prices for prescription drugs — new and old — are a major worry.

Medicare's insolvency date has moved up by two years — to 2028.

Hillary Clinton would stay the course, adjusting as needed. Republicans are united on repealing Obama's law, but it's unclear how they would replace it.

AMERICA AND THE WORLD

How the U.S. uses its influence as the world's sole superpower is a central feature of presidential power.

It can mean taking the country to war — to protect the homeland or to defend an ally. Or it can mean using diplomacy to prevent war. It can affect U.S. jobs, too, as choices arise either to expand trade deals or to erect barriers to protect U.S. markets.

In the contest between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, America's role in the world is a point of sharp differences. Each says the U.S. must be the predominant power, but they would exercise leadership differently. Trump calls his approach "America first," meaning alliances and coalitions would not pass muster unless they produced a net benefit to the U.S. Clinton sees international partnerships as essential tools for using U.S. influence and lessening the chances of war.

These divergent views could mean very different approaches to the military fight and ideological struggle against the Islamic State group, the future of Afghanistan and Iraq, the contest with China for influence in Asia and the Pacific, and growing nervousness in Europe over Russian aggression.

VOTING RIGHTS

Voting rights in America are in flux. Republican-controlled legislatures are tightening voter laws, placing limits on early voting and same-day registration, and imposing new requirements for IDs at polling places. In 2013, the Supreme Court invalidated a key provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. That provision had required states with a history of racial discrimination to get federal preclearance to change election laws.

The issue has become highly partisan with the rapid growth of minority populations, which in recent

presidential elections have tilted heavily Democratic.

The Obama Justice Department has challenged voter ID and other laws, saying they could restrict access for minorities and young people. Recent lower court rulings temporarily softened some of the toughest restrictions, but litigation remains knotted up with Supreme Court appeals likely. Bills in Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act are stalled.

Donald Trump opposes same-day voter registration, backing laws to ensure only citizens vote. Hillary Clinton wants Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act and seeks a national standard of at least 20 days of early in-person voting.

Marines looks for a few more good women in recruiting drive

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. (AP) — The U.S. Marine Corps is looking for a few more good women.

And this time the campaign is a bit different. Marine recruiters are turning to girls high school sports teams to find candidates who may be able to meet the Corps' rigorous physical standards, including for the front-line combat jobs now open to women.

Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller says he wants to increase the number of women in the Corps to 1 in 10.

"I've told them that 10 percent is where we want to go and they're working on it," Neller told The Associated Press in an interview. "Go recruit more women. Find them. They're out there."

For years, only about 7 percent to 8 percent of the Corps, which numbers 184,200, has been women. It's the smallest percentage of women among all the military services. But on the heels of the Pentagon decision to allow women who qualify to serve in combat jobs, thousands of new infantry, armor and other front-line posts are now open.

Neller said he wants to see women in some of those posts. That order now rests with Maj. Gen. Paul Kennedy, head of the Marine Corps' recruiting command.

Kennedy is aggressively recruiting women for the service. He's sending targeted mailings, changing advertising to better represent female Marines, and traveling the country to meet with coaches and female athletes who may be well-suited for the rigors of Marine service.

In particular, Neller believes female wrestlers are good candidates.

"We looked at that and said, 'Wow, that's kinda what we're looking for,'" he said. "They're disciplined, they're fit, they're focused on their mission."

According to Kennedy, the Marines, for the first time, are mailing recruiting literature to thousands of high school girls. Also, updated advertising will show active-duty female Marines doing their jobs on the battlefield.

"The biggest complaint that we've heard and we're reacting to is that we were showing women in some of our material — whether it's commercial or print or whatever — and they were always training," Kennedy said. "And that was a mistake."

Already he's gone to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association conference and has targeted wrestling and other sports gatherings this year.

In those sessions, he said, he is working to debunk misconceptions about women in the Marine Corps, including worries about sexual harassment and sexual assault, limits on career options, lack of stability and difficulties having a family life.

"We got to talk to them, got to show them there are plenty of female married officers and enlisted,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 34 of 41

that it's not a good ol' boys club anymore when you talk about the career issues," Kennedy said in an interview in his office at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

The other military services attract far more women, and may be viewed as more receptive than the Corps, whose slogan used to say it was looking for "a few good men." The current slogan is more inclusive: "The Few. The Proud. The Marines."

The Air Force has the highest percentage of women serving on active duty, with more than 19 percent, followed by the Navy at 18.6 percent, the Army at 14.4 percent and the Marines at 7.9 percent, according to Defense Department data from May.

The key, Kennedy said, is to get to influencers — parents, coaches — and convince them that their daughters, their athletes, will be treated fairly. And he said he allays fears that women would be forced into combat jobs they don't want.

The recruiters, however, know it won't be easy. Data suggests they have to contact twice as many potential applicants to find a female candidate as they do to find a man. So far, very few are interested in the combat jobs.

In suburban Chicago, Marine Maj. Shanelle A. Porter, commanding officer for Recruiting Station Chicago, said most women coming in the door just want to be Marines, but so far two women have said they were looking for front-line roles.

The women, she said, want to be pioneers.

"They're looking for that challenge," said Porter. "They're trying to show we can do it, too."

A Marine for 13 years, Porter participated in college and professional sports — running the 400 meters — for seven years. So her goal is to make sure that any female recruit she sends to training is ready.

Some can't do a pull-up or hang from a bar for long enough. And sometimes they need to get faster so they can finish the 1.5-mile run in 13.5 minutes.

All female recruits, she said, go on a "high-risk action plan" for at least five months that include vitamin supplements, weight management and an exercise regimen that includes weights, cross-fit training and a pull-up program.

For Kennedy, having a female Marine like Porter available to talk to female recruits and their families is helpful. Women make up 165 of the Corps' 3,565 recruiters, and five of the 48 recruiting station commanders. For now, he says, that's sufficient.

"They don't actually need a female recruiter," Kennedy said, adding that the first person a potential recruit meets in high school or a shopping mall doesn't have to be the same gender.

But, "there has to be a female in the process," he said. "At some point, you've got to have a woman that can answer the specific questions and maybe even answer the parents' questions."

Already, he is having some success and is on track to send enough women to boot camp this year to hit 8.7 percent of the annual recruits, or about 3,100 women. The 10 percent goal would require him to bring in about 3,400 women recruits a year; he believes that is well within reach.

"We're going to exceed the goal that was set for us. I feel confident," said Kennedy. "I think we can blow through 10 percent like it's an elevator stop."

More rain expected to drop on soggy Louisiana, Mississippi

BILL FULLER, Associated Press

JEFF AMY, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — More rain Saturday was expected to swamp already soggy ground across Louisiana and other parts of the Gulf Coast where at least two people died and dozens had to be rescued from waist-high water surrounding their homes.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency as rescue workers in the southeastern

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 35 of 41

part of the state braced for more precipitation.

Edwards spokesman Richard Carbo said the governor returned to Louisiana on Friday because of the flooding. Edwards had been in Colorado for a policy meeting of the Democratic Governors Association but left early because of the storm.

Edwards has scheduled a news conference for 10 a.m. Saturday to discuss the flooding situation, which also affected the Louisiana Governor's Mansion, which has a flooded basement. WAFB-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2b4rZsO>) the governor's family has been relocated until the situation is resolved.

A spokeswoman for the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office said one man died Friday after slipping into a flooded ditch near the city of Zachary. Casey Rayborn Hicks identified the victim as 68-year-old William Mayfield. His body was found about noon Friday.

Dr. William "Beau" Clark, the parish coroner, ruled the death "an accidental drowning."

A second victim was found in St. Helena Parish, where crews pulled a body from a submerged pickup on Louisiana Highway 10.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning confirmed they found a man in his 50s inside a marooned Chevrolet pickup truck about 7 p.m. Friday. The body was turned over to the parish coroner's office. His name has not been released, but Browning said he's believed to be from the area.

Meanwhile, crews are continuing to search for possibly another washed away vehicle after residents reported a missing person.

Browning said the area is sparsely populated and authorities only came across the truck after earlier successfully rescuing the driver of an 18-wheeler whose rig was pushed off the roadway.

Numerous rivers in southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi were overflowing their banks and threatening widespread flooding after extreme rainfall that began late Thursday, the National Weather Service reported.

Meteorologist Mike Shields, with the service's Slidell, Louisiana office, said a flash-flood watch remained in effect through Sunday.

"Potentially, additional heavy rain from 4 to 8 inches can be expected west of Interstate 55 and lesser amounts east of there as the system continues moving further west," he said.

In a 24-hour period, Baton Rouge reported as much as 11.34 inches of rain fell compared with 2.34 inches at New Orleans' international airport in Kenner. Shields said one of their weather observers reported 17.09 inches fell in Livingston.

The Comite River near Baton Rouge and Amite River near Denham Springs, both in Louisiana, were predicted to set record crests over the weekend. Forecaster Alek Krautmann said both rivers could flood many houses in suburban areas near Baton Rouge.

The Tickfaw River, just south of the Mississippi state line in Liverpool, Louisiana, was already at the highest level ever recorded at 9 a.m. Friday.

Mike Steele, a spokesman for the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said requests were coming in for high-water vehicles, boats and sandbags. Tangipahoa Parish alone requested tens of thousands of sandbags.

In southwest Mississippi, rescues occurred in Amite and Wilkinson counties.

Leroy Hansford, his wife and stepson were among those rescued near Gloster.

Hansford, 62, said waters from Beaver Creek, which is normally more than 400 feet away from his house, rose quickly overnight. He said another stepson who lives nearby alerted him.

"We woke up and the water kept on coming," Hansford said. "It came up to my waist." His wife told Hansford that it's the highest she's seen the creek in the 48 years she's lived there.

In Crosby, Mississippi, more than 50 people flooded out of a neighborhood will be housed at a shelter

in Natchez.

Wilkinson County Chancery Clerk Thomas Tolliver said an apartment complex and surrounding houses in the town were flooded after 10 inches of rain fell. Authorities said they expect to shelter displaced Crosby residents at least until Monday.

Ervin pulls off Olympic swim victories 16 years apart

BETH HARRIS, AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Anthony Ervin finally has an Olympic gold medal to replace the one he sold 16 years ago.

The 35-year-old American won the men's 50-meter freestyle at the Rio Games on Friday, capping a night of upsets in the pool.

Ervin improbably touched first in 21.40 seconds — a hundredth of a second ahead of defending champion Florent Manaudou of France. Teammate and former training partner Nathan Adrian claimed bronze.

"It's surreal, kind of absurd," Ervin said. "When I touched and turned around and saw the '1' next to my name, I kind of smiled and laughed."

Katie Ledecky, his 19-year-old teammate and multiple gold medalist, marveled at Ervin's feat.

"Wow, who does that, winning 16 years apart?" she said. "That's like me winning gold in London and then not winning an individual gold medal until 2028. He's taken such a leadership role and it definitely rubs off on everybody."

It didn't come easily.

At the 2000 Sydney Games, Ervin tied teammate Gary Hall Jr. for gold in the 50 free, making him one of the sport's rising stars. But he stunningly walked away in 2003, burned out on swimming and seeking to find a deeper meaning to life. He auctioned off his gold medal for \$17,100 and donated the proceeds to help victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Ervin readily admitted he lost his silver from the 400 free relay in Sydney.

Ervin returned to make the American team in 2012, but finished fifth in the 50.

He'd fallen in love with the sport again, thriving on the love of family, friends and teammates, who at times over the years since Sydney had no idea where he was in the world. Ervin broke away from the winner's stroll on deck to share wild hugs with his brother and his "ride or die friends, the bam-bam fam."

"If I've achieved anything great, it's because I was upon their shoulders and they lifted me up," he said.

Ervin is easily identifiable in the splash-and-dash race by his sleeve of tattoos on each churning arm. He turns interviews into a discussion on everything from philosophy to Biblical parables. Earlier this year, he detailed his life's adventures, including drugs and sex, in a book called "Chasing Water: Elegy of an Olympian."

This is a guy who lists "rock star" as his future professional aspiration in his USA Swimming biography.

Ervin revealed a surprise after his win: he became a father during the U.S. trials last month. He had planned on attending his daughter's birth, but he was still at the meet and then got caught up in Olympic preparations.

"Oh man, it's like a thunderbolt," he said, declining to reveal her name. "I haven't had a chance to meet her yet and I tried to send a message to her after my race."

After leaving the sport in 2003, Ervin spent eight years working odd jobs, moved from California to

New York and then back again, and finished his college degree at California. In Berkeley, Ervin was coaching young kids at the pool when he rediscovered his love of the sport that remains to this day.

Unlike many swimmers who focus on getting their hand on the wall first, Ervin favors an intellectual approach.

"You just think about trying to swim the race that you imagine you can do," he said. "Maybe it starts as a dream and then it's a plan. You plan to do something and you start testing that plan. I don't think my age should limit me and I don't think fear of defeat should limit me either."

The gold medal hung around Ervin's neck, seemingly more comfortably than it did in Sydney, when he was 19 and restless.

"I'm keeping it for now," he said. "Who knows what the future holds?"

US women's soccer heads home after early Olympic exit

ANNE M. PETERSON, AP Sports Writer

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — There will be no fourth straight gold medal for the United States.

The hopes of becoming the first team to win the Olympics following a World Cup are also dashed.

Instead, the favored U.S. women's soccer team heads home from Brazil without an Olympic medal for the first time.

Alex Morgan's eyes were red from tears following a quarterfinal loss to Sweden, which won 4-3 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw on Friday. And goalkeeper Hope Solo was seething over Sweden's tactics, calling the team "a bunch of cowards."

"I was really optimistic. I didn't even anticipate it going into penalties," said Morgan, who scored the lone goal for the Americans but missed in the shootout. "But it just wasn't our day."

Sweden heads into a semifinal match against host Brazil in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. Canada, the bronze medalists from London in 2012, will play Germany in Belo Horizonte.

The Germans defeated China 1-0 in Salvador, while the Canadians upset France 1-0 in Sao Paulo. The night was capped by Brazil's 7-6 penalty shootout win after a scoreless draw against Australia in Belo Horizonte.

But there was no bigger upset — in a long time — than the U.S. loss to Sweden.

Solo, who had already been taunted mercilessly by the Brazilian fans over social media posts about the Zika virus, caused another stir in the aftermath of the loss by criticizing Sweden's defensive stand against the top-ranked Americans.

"I think we showed a lot of heart. We came back from a goal down. I'm very proud of this team," said Solo, considered one of the best goalkeepers ever in the women's game. "I also think we played a bunch of cowards. The best team did not win today. I strongly and firmly believe that."

Asked to clarify, she said: "Sweden dropped off. They didn't want to open play," Solo said. "They didn't want to pass the ball. They didn't want to play great soccer."

Sweden coach Pia Sundhage, who coached the U.S. for five years and led the team to gold medals at both the Beijing and London Olympics, quipped: "It's OK to be a coward if you win."

Later, Solo went to Twitter with a mea culpa of sorts: "Losing sucks. I'm really bad at it."

It was the first Olympic women's match ever to go to penalties. The sport joined the Olympics at the 1996 Atlanta Games, with the U.S. winning the first gold medal. Only Norway has been able to stop the U.S. string of golds, winning at the 2000 Sydney Games. The Americans won the silver that year.

Tied after three rounds in the shootout of Friday's match, Sweden captain Caroline Seger shot past Solo. U.S. forward Christen Press' attempt then went over Hedvig Lindahl's net. And with the next kick, Lisa Dahlkvist beat an outstretched Solo for the win.

"The game is the game, so I think tactically that's the coach's prerogative, the coach's choice," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said about Sweden's defensive approach. "They look at their personnel and they determine a game plan based on that. And I think to take us to penalty kicks is probably a good strategy, because then it becomes a crapshoot, right?"

"Can I criticize or knock someone for their tactics? No, that's their choice."

Sweden had won outright in only five prior matches against the United States. At last year's World Cup, the two teams played to a scoreless draw. The last time the two teams met in the Olympics was at the 1996 Atlanta Games. Sundhage was a player on the Sweden team that fell 2-1 to the Americans.

The United States returns home now with two friendly matches set for September, the first against Thailand in Columbus, Ohio, on Sept. 15, followed by a meeting with the Netherlands in Atlanta on Sept. 18.

After Friday's match, a reporter asked Morgan how big a "failure" the loss was.

"A big one," Morgan bluntly replied before quietly walking away.

A stunner in Rio: Phelps beaten by 21-year-old in 100 fly

PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Michael Phelps is used to being in a league of his own.

So it was strange to see him, after what he insists was his final individual race as an Olympian, crowding onto a medal stand with two other swimmers.

And it wasn't even the top step.

In a changing of the guard that left him totally at peace, Phelps was beaten Friday by a 21-year-old who grew up idolizing the most decorated athlete in Olympic history. Joseph Schooling of Singapore built a big lead in the 100-meter butterfly and easily held off one of Phelps' patented comebacks, leaving him at 22 gold medals with one race, a relay, left to go.

And that will be his final event, Phelps insisted.

No more comebacks.

"I'm not going four more years and I'm standing by that," he said. "I've been able to do everything I've ever put my mind to in the sport and after 24 years in the sport, I'm happy with how things finished."

While Phelps wasn't all that persuasive when he first retired after the 2012 London Games — and, indeed, he began eyeing a return to swimming about a year later — the big hug for Schooling and the huge smile when it was done told a different story this time.

He's a father now, to 3-month-old Boomer. He'll soon be marrying his fiancée, Nicole Johnson.

He's ready to move on, and this time he really seems to mean it.

"I'm happy," Phelps said. "I'm ready to spend some time with Boomer and Nicole and watch the little dude grow."

This being Phelps, he had to do something out of the ordinary, even in defeat.

He was part of the first three-way tie for silver in Olympic swimming history, joined on the next-highest step by longtime foes Chad le Clos of South Africa and Laszlo Cseh of Hungary. They all touched in 51.14 seconds, which was actually faster than Phelps' gold medal-winning time in 2012.

They clasped hands and stepped up together.

Then they all looked up to Schooling, receiving the gold for his blistering time of 50.39.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," Schooling said. "I don't know what to believe, like, whether I actually did it or I'm still preparing for my race."

What made it even more special: Schooling still has a picture that he took with Phelps when the U.S. team trained in Singapore before the 2008 Olympics, the games where Phelps won a record eight gold

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 39 of 41

medals in the pinnacle of his career.

"That's pretty crazy, what happens in eight years," said Schooling, who attends the University of Texas. "I'm just honored and privileged to have the chance to race alongside him."

With four gold medals at these games and 22 for his career, Phelps has an opportunity to pick up one more before he leaves Rio. He'll need some help from his teammates to do it — he leads off with the butterfly leg of the 400 medley relay on the final night of swimming Saturday.

While Phelps' loss left the crowd in shock, Katie Ledecky got them on their feet again with another dominating performance, handily breaking the world record in the 800 freestyle.

And two other Americans won gold, too.

Anthony Ervin capped a remarkable personal journey with a gold in the 50 freestyle — 16 years after he won his first individual gold in the same event at the Sydney Games. And Maya DiRado knocked off the Iron Lady in the 200 backstroke, pulling off a furious rally on the final lap to beat Katinka Hosszu. Bronze went to Canada's Hilary Caldwell.

Ledecky became the first woman since Debbie Meyer to sweep the three longer freestyle events at the same Olympics. Meyer took the 200, 400 and 800 at the 1968 Mexico Games, and Ledecky matched that performance with a couple of world records as well.

Ledecky was merely racing the clock as she powered away from the field to touch in 8 minutes, 4.79 seconds, eclipsing the mark of 8:06.68 that she set at a grand prix meet in Texas back in January.

Then, Ledecky played the waiting game, hanging on the rope for a while to let the rest of the field finish.

Jazz Carlin finally touched in 8:16.17 to claim the silver, just ahead of Hungary's Boglarka Kapas grabbing the bronze in 8:16.37.

Some 23 seconds after Ledecky touched the wall, the last of the eight finalists chugged to the end of the grueling race.

Ledecky was barely breathing hard.

"I hit all my goals right on the nose this week," she said.

Ledecky also became only the third American woman to win four gold medals in a single Olympics, following fellow swimmers Amy Van Dyken and Missy Franklin.

While Ledecky, at 19, is the youngest member of the U.S. team, Ervin is the oldest at 35.

In the blink of an eye, Ervin went from one end of the pool to the other in a furious dash, edging the defending Olympic champion, Florent Manaudou of France, by a mere hundredth of a second. Another American, Nathan Adrian, took the bronze.

Ervin won his first gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, tying teammate Gary Hall Jr. for the top spot. Then, Ervin walked away from swimming, skipping the next two Olympics while he embarked on a journey to find his purpose in life.

Turns out, it was swimming all along.

Ervin returned to make the American team in 2012, but failed to win a medal in London. Now, improbably, he's back on the top of the podium again.

DiRado's upset denied Hosszu a fourth gold in Rio, and capped off a remarkable one-and-done Olympics for the American.

She's already got a job lined up in Atlanta after the Olympics and made it clear she would be retiring no matter the results. She certainly has nothing to complain about after winning two golds, a silver and a bronze.

"This whole day has been kind of crazy because it's all of these little last things that I've gotten to do, like my last warmup with the girls at the training pool," DiRado said. "I tried to keep it all under control, but there's been a lot of tears these last 24 hours."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 40 of 41

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 13, the 226th day of 2016. There are 140 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 13, 1961, East Germany sealed off the border between Berlin's eastern and western sectors before building a wall that would divide the city for the next 28 years.

On this date:

In 1624, King Louis XIII of France appointed Cardinal Richelieu (ree-shuh-LYOO') his first minister.

In 1792, French revolutionaries imprisoned the royal family.

In 1846, the American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1923, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was again elected Speaker of Turkey's Grand Assembly.

In 1934, the satirical comic strip "Li'l Abner," created by Al Capp, made its debut.

In 1946, author H.G. Wells, 79, died in London.

In 1960, the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite took place with the help of Echo 1. The Central African Republic became totally independent of French rule.

In 1979, Lou Brock of the St. Louis Cardinals became the 14th player in major league baseball history to reach the 3,000th career hit plateau as his team defeated the Chicago Cubs, 3-2.

In 1981, in a ceremony at his California ranch, President Ronald Reagan signed a historic package of tax and budget reductions.

In 1989, searchers in Ethiopia found the wreckage of a plane which had disappeared almost a week earlier while carrying Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 other people — there were no survivors.

In 1995, Baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle died at a Dallas hospital of rapidly spreading liver cancer; he was 63.

Ten years ago: Israel's Cabinet became the final party to sign on to a U.N. cease-fire deal with Hezbollah. Fidel Castro sent Cubans a sober greeting on his 80th birthday, saying he faced a long recovery from surgery.

Five years ago: Seven people were killed when a stage collapsed at the Indiana State Fair during a powerful storm just before a concert was to begin. In the Republican presidential race, Rep. Michele Bachmann won the Iowa straw poll; Texas Gov. Rick Perry officially declared his candidacy. In eastern Pakistan, al-Qaida gunmen kidnapped an American development expert, Warren Weinstein. (Weinstein was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Jan. 2015.)

One year ago: In one of the deadliest single attacks in postwar Baghdad, a truck bomb shattered a popular fruit-and-vegetable market in a teeming Shiite neighborhood, killing dozens of people. The New York Times reported that DNA testing had proved that President Warren G. Harding fathered a child with long-rumored mistress Nan Britton, according to AncestryDNA, a division of Ancestry.com.

Today's Birthdays: Former Cuban President Fidel Castro is 90. Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 83. Actor Kevin Tighe is 72. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is 70. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 68. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 67. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 67. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 61. Movie director Paul Greengrass is 61. Actor Danny Bonaduce is 57. TV weatherman Sam Champion is 55. Actress Dawnn (correct) Lewis is 55. Actor John Slattery is 54. Actress Debi Mazar is 52. Actress Quinn Cummings is 49. Actress Seana Kofoed is 46. Country singer Andy Griggs

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 044 ♦ 41 of 41

is 43. Actor Gregory Fitoussi is 40. Country musician Mike Melancon (Emerson Drive) is 38. Actress Kathryn Fiore is 37. Actor Sebastian Stan is 34. Pop-rock singer James Morrison is 32. Actress Lennon Stella is 17.

Thought for Today: "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe... Yet, clumsily or smoothly, the world, it seems, progresses and will progress." — H.G. Wells (1866-1946).