

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 1 of 24

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 1- Dakota Brush Help Wanted Ad
- 1- Harry Implement Help Wanted
- 2 - Brock Greenfield's Column
- 4- Lana Greenfield's Column
- 5 - GDI Living Heart Fitness Ad
- 6- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 7- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 8- DIsfunctional Broad Squad team
- 9- Wonderful Nonsense team
- 10- Upcoming GDI Live Events
- 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- News from the Associated Press

**Monday, Feb. 27**

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

**School Lunch:** Sub Sandwich, smile potato, fruit.

**School Breakfast:** Cheese omelette, muffin, fruit, juice, milk.

**Senior Menu:** Chicken rice casserole, green beans, spinach salad with dressing, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

**Special School Board Meeting:** 7 p.m. at the Columbia American Legion

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**

First Round of Boys' Basketball Regions at Webster

**United Methodist:** Bible Study at 10 a.m., Evening Bible Study at 7 p.m.

**School Lunch:** Cheese sticks, mixed vegetables, fruit, carrots and dip.

**School Breakfast:** Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

## Help Wanted

Office Manager, Dakota Brush, call Topper  
605 397 7337

## Apts for Rent

1 bedroom apartment for rent. Move in by Feb. 28th and get a FREE 32" Flat Screen TV! All utilities included except A/C, for \$600. Please call or text 239-849-7674 .

**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**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

## PARTS COUNTER SALES

Self motivated individual needed to fill our Parts Counter Sales position. Duties include parts sales, display stocking, shipping and receiving. Sponsored training, excellent benefits package and the possibility for advancement. Contact Steve at 605-395-6421 or email resume to s.harry@harrysinc.com.

### Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841  
Ferne, SD  
57439



"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all!"

**NOW OPEN**

# Harris

Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**



## Glimpse From Greenfield

**Brock Greenfield**  
**State Senator**  
**District 2**

With crossover day now in the rear view mirror, the end of the 2017 Session is now in sight. Crossover day is the point at which all Senate bills have either been killed or passed over to the House and vice versa. Committees now have only two or three regular meeting times left to deal with the remaining bills from their house of origin. Next Tuesday is the final day to take up action on the floor in the second chamber, after which

the remaining days are reserved for conference committees to meet and consider differences of opinion between the House and Senate on bills that have been amended, as well as for the Appropriations Committee to button up the budget and make its recommendations to the full House and Senate.

I mentioned SB 124 last week. This is the bill I brought that repeals an obsolete reference to the Federal Refugee Act of 1980 and requires any private entity providing refugee resettlement services to report to the Governor and the Legislature on an annual basis certain demographic data relative to those they serve. Although the bill had passed out of committee unanimously, the vote on the floor was a partisan vote that resulted in a 28-6 victory.

Another one of my bills is SB 171. This bill also met with Senate support, this time on a unanimous vote. The bill would create the Government Accountability Task Force to study gov't accountability, campaign finance, lobbyist restrictions, and ethics in the interim. With the repeal of the unconstitutional IM22, we have had our hands full considering a whole host of issues this session regarding each of these areas. If SB 171 passes, the task force would review current law, any bills we pass this year, anything that may have been overlooked during the session, and would make recommendations for further changes to our law next year. This has been a front-burner issue throughout session. We have passed a host of bills to address all-things related to IM22, but we realize we may need to take a deeper dive into the books over the course of the summer to iron out any wrinkles created by competing language as well as to consider anything overlooked during the 2017 Legislative Session. That SB 171 received support from both sides of the aisle shows that everybody is committed to doing our best to fully consider the matter(s) from every angle.

SB 54 establishes new campaign finance reporting limits and guidelines. This bill was brought forth as a result of a summer work group commissioned by Secretary of State Shantel Krebs. The work group was comprised of a bipartisan group of legislators and a bipartisan group of members of the public who combed through our campaign finance laws and made recommendations to be considered by the legislature. Subsequent to IM22's passage and the subsequent repeal, SB 54 has been amended several times so far as it has worked its way through committee and the full Senate. As it goes to the House, I look for it to be further amended in the hopes of striking the best compromise and balance for all sides. The bill passed the Senate 19-16. Many of the "no" votes were not satisfied with the campaign contribution limits contained within the bill, so that will remain an area of focus in the House.

SB 151 passed with an identical 19-16 vote, but with some members who voted yes on SB 54 changing to no and some no's voting yes. This bill seeks to establish a formal process for bringing matters before an ethics commission for investigations of misconduct by public employees, including legislators and bureaucrats. This, too, is part of our consideration of a matter related to IM22. Again, the goal is

# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 3 of 24**

to reinstate various elements of the measure passed in November in a constitutional manner. This fate of this bill remains in-the-air at the moment, but as with SB 54, I expect it to be further amended as the House takes it up and seeks to improve it.

SB 135 sought to repeal a 1964 law regarding meat labeling and to replace it with language that was substantially similar. Essentially, this was a local response to the repeal of federal country-of-origin labeling (COOL) requirements. In floor debate, a number of agriculture producers spoke to the fact that our current law has been difficult to enforce because the matter goes beyond just being a local one. They suggested that passage of this bill would replace old, unenforceable language with new, unenforceable language. Moreover, there was great concern over whether an over-reach would actually lead to depressed local markets, which we can certainly not afford. Livestock are already a fraction of what they were mere months ago. With so much uncertainty regarding the matter, the bill failed 13-21. We did, however, take the occasion of a visit from our Congresswoman to ask for the federal government to take up the COOL matter and to reinstate the policy on a nationwide scale. Congresswoman Noem said she has always supported COOL and that they may have an opportunity to reinstate it through their NAFTA negotiations. Clearly she is a strong advocate for COOL and knows that it is important to our rural economy that it is readdressed sooner than later.

Finally, SB 95 passed the Senate after an attempt to amend it was unsuccessful. SB 95 would place cannabidiol (CBD) oil into Schedule IV of our Controlled Substances once it is approved by the FDA. Currently, the FDA is considering whether CBD oil, which is a derivative of marijuana without THC which is the hallucinogenic agent in marijuana, in it. CBD oil has been shown to curtail seizures in those who have used it in trials. We have heard countless accounts from people who have benefitted or who have children who have benefitted from CBD oils. Because it is a byproduct of marijuana, we are proceeding with caution, but it does appear the FDA is poised to approve the product in the near future. Under the bill, only upon FDA approval will the drug be inserted into our schedule of approved medications. This is important because some states have already granted approval, but without the caveat that it must receive FDA approval. Therefore, CBD in those states remains a federally-prohibited substance. Although the Department of Justice under the previous administration chose not to enforce drug laws in states that enacted their own laws, the new administration has indicated that they WILL enforce federal law. Hence, with our "trigger" legislation, we remain compliant with federal law, while offering hope to those who could benefit from CBD treatments that immediately upon confirmation from the FDA that it is granting authority to the states to allow it, our law will accommodate the change in federal policy.

It truly is a privilege to work for you, and I appreciate the trust you have placed in me. I thank you for your input, well-wishes, and prayers. Until next time, I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability! God bless!

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 4 of 24



## Lana's Annals

**Lana  
Greenfield  
District 2  
State  
Representative**

Greetings to all once again. It was a very busy week in the People's House. While hours were long, tempers were short. Many House bills had to be done by Thursday, crossover day, so that those that survived can be passed on to the Senate for review and vice versa. Monday we started considering the Senate bills and only have two weeks to review and vote on them. One thing I can say for sure: every bill on the floor has a fair amount of discussion before the final vote!!!

This week we passed HB1200, which requires groups contributing \$25,000 or more to ballot question committees to disclose their 50 largest donors. I did not vote for it as I feel that naming the top five contributors is adequate. I would hope that people who contribute to a cause, though, are trying to improve South Dakota and not deter us from our business.

HB1072 was also passed. This allows "Constitutional Carry" and would repeal and revise certain provisions relating to permits to carry a concealed weapon. I voted in favor of this after listening to all of the testimony. What was testified is that background checks are done at the time of a gun purchase, and then applying for a permit does not add a safety feature. As we have law enforcement officers as House members, it was interesting to listen to what they had to say. I would be remiss not to mention here that the Governor will likely veto this bill, and we may not have the votes to override. I received numerous e-mails imploring me to vote for its passage. Many people are adamant not to erode what is felt to be a right invoked into our Constitution. Now it goes to the Senate for debate!

I began a firestorm on a very long Thursday by trying to persuade the House members to cast a "no" vote on HB1209, the sale of Star Academy near Custer. Why? We have clearly established that South Dakota is trying to combat meth and opioid addiction. The Appropriations Committee has been working to come up with money by setting up two separate bills to help with this cause. One specifies money would aid the Native Americans to fight drug abuse on the reservations, and the other injects money to help non-reservation people. I have a vision that the area around Star Academy would be an excellent place of comfort and healing if turned into a treatment facility. It already belongs to our state, has a huge dormitory, eleven homes to house workers, and a relatively new physical plant. I realize that some upgrades may have to be made, but it would cost much less than building an entirely new facility. Currently our few treatment facilities have limited capacities. The vote was 31-36 to defeat the bill and keep the facility. At once there was a motion on the floor to reconsider. About six hours later we re-voted, and many members flipped their votes. The tally now was 46-21 in favor of closure. Needless to say, I was very disappointed in the "flippers" who buckled with the pressure. I still feel it is needless to hurry and get rid of the property. Every now and then, some community people talk about the way we quickly sold the state cement plant. Guess we did not learn a thing from that. We will see what the Senate thinks.

SB78 will be re-hashed in our local government committee. This bill that revises election petitions for district soil conservation commissioners. Many people weighed in via e-mail. Some definitely favored the new method, some were deathly against, and some admitted they had mixed feelings. The coin here has more than two sides if that is possible. Some feel election procedure would be changed to allow people who live on small plots of land, perhaps in towns, to be on the commission. Some feel that environmentalists will muddy up the way we promote our state's soil conservation. I seriously do question the number of signatures needed under the new proposal. Only 20 would be needed in a population of 40,000 and over. I was not at numerous meetings when this was discussed so was not privy to information; therefore I do not know the actual reasons for the bill. We will be listening to more testimony this week as the it was deferred on a 6-5 vote with 2 committee members absent. Stay tuned.

Our Commerce committee heard testimony on SB81, a bill to ban the manufacture, sale, and possession of powdered alcohol. The proponents testified that this product should be banned from being shipped and delivered. One major question asked was if it was a bill in search of a problem. While powdered

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 5 of 24

alcohol may not have surfaced in our state, California is trying to regulate and restrict the substance, so it does have some presence in our country. I voted in favor of the bill as it appeared to be proactive. It never hurts to have a policy in place.

We continue to work on replacing parts of IM22. This week our chamber passed, 64-3, Rep. Soli's HB1076, which establishes an ethics commission. A major component would be to have four former judges as members, two Democrat and two Republican. This Sioux Falls Democrat has worked very long and hard to put together a viable bill, and I truly think it has promise of passage. Perhaps amendments will be forthcoming as with many bills, but it certainly has positivity and substance.

I will wrap up by saying this: some bills may be important to you, some may not be; however, ALL bills are important to someone, or they would not have been written and presented. We must respect that fact and work hard to see how these affect and benefit our state and particularly the people of District 2. Till next week, may you be well and safe. I can be reached at [ana.greenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ana.greenfield@gmail.com) or Lana.Greenfield@sdlegislature.gov Also you can reach me on weekends at 635-6932. Rep. Greenfield



The advertisement is a composite image. On the left, there is a white and black Smith machine with a black bench. On the right, there is a row of treadmills in a gym setting with orange walls and a television mounted on the wall. At the bottom center, there is a logo for 'GDI Living Fitness' featuring a red heart with a white ECG line. Below the logo, the address '25 Main St., Downtown Groton' is written in yellow. To the right of the image, there is a white box containing contact information.

**GDI Living Fitness**  
25 Main St., Downtown Groton

Call or Text  
Paul at  
397-7460  
or Tina at  
397-7285  
for  
membership  
Information

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 6 of 24

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

This week, we continue our review of the Minnesota Vikings' roster from 2016 and move on to the wide receiver and tight end positions. There will be a lot of info to cover and not much space to cover it in, so if you have any questions feel free to reach out to me through my contacts listed below.

Minnesota's offense was subpar in 2016, but the team was surprisingly average when it comes to receiving stats. The team was ranked 17th with 4,119 total receiving yards and tied for 20th with 20 touchdown catches. However, the team was ranked 30th with 9.9 yards per catch, which shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who watched their games. Sam Bradford consistently threw the ball short, opting for the "safe" throws instead of the game changing ones.

Adam Thielen led the Vikings with 967 receiving yards, and led the Vikings' receivers with five touchdowns. Thielen was given a player grade of 81.6 by Pro Football Focus, which ranked him 18th out of 115 qualified receivers. Adam Thielen is a free agent this offseason, and even if the Vikings get a hometown discount, he will be making considerably more money than he did last season.

Stefon Diggs was second on the team with 903 receiving yards. Even though he only had three touchdowns, Diggs led the team in the "YAC, or yards after catch" category. Diggs was given a slightly better player grade by PFF than Thielen, with his 82.6 ranking him 16th in the league. Diggs is playing on a 4-year rookie contract that will run through the 2018 season, so he's locked down for a couple more years.

Cordarrelle Patterson entered 2016 with something to prove. After being selected in the first round of the NFL draft, Patterson has been considered by many to be a bust. He finished fourth on the team with 453 yards through the air to go with his two touchdowns. Even though he made the Pro Bowl as a kick returner, Patterson ranked 78th in the league with a wide receiver player grade of 67.2. Cordarrelle has stated he would love to re-sign in Minnesota, but the Vikings will have to be careful how much they spend on him. If he demands anywhere near the contract Tavon Austin recently signed in Los Angeles (4 year, \$42 million), the Vikings have to be willing to part ways.

Charles Johnson is the only other Viking receiver who played enough snaps to qualify for a ranking by Pro Football Focus. His player grade of 59.9 ranked him 90th out of qualified wide receivers, and since he is a free agent this offseason, it's very unlikely the Vikings will elect to bring him back.

Jarius Wright signed a contract extension in 2015, but was relegated to the bench for most of the 2016 season. The team will take a hit if they were to cut him, but with his cap hit surpassing the \$3 million mark, it might be something the team will consider.

Laquon Treadwell was selected in the first round of last off-season's draft, but hardly saw the field as a rookie. Some people are already calling him a bust, but I haven't given up hope yet. Head coach Mike Zimmer likes to take his time with rookies instead of throwing them into the fire, as evidenced by Trae Waynes two years ago. Treadwell should get a shot this year to prove his worth, and I expect him to step up to the plate.

Rounding out the Vikings' receivers from last year are Isaac Fruechte and Moritz Boehringer, both of whom saw very little playing time and shouldn't be expected to make any serious impact next year.

At the tight end position, Kyle Rudolph quickly developed into Sam Bradford's security blanket. Rudolph had the most targets on the team, with Sam throwing the ball his way 132 times. Kyle caught 83 of those passes for 840 yards (both career highs) and seven touchdowns. Rudolph was given a player grade of 78.1, which ranked him 13th out of 63 qualified tight ends. He signed an extension in 2014, and will remain under contract through the 2019 NFL season.

Rhett Ellison and David Morgan round out the rest of the Vikings' tight ends. Neither played much in 2016, which was slightly surprising since they are both decent blockers in the run game and in pass protection. Ellison is a free agent, but there is a chance the Vikings will elect to bring him back. Morgan was a rookie last year, so his contract runs through 2019.

Next week, we'll be getting into the offensive line. I am both excited and nervous to get into it, since the offensive line was by far the Vikings' biggest weakness in 2016. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me! Facebook.com/SkolJWright or Twitter: @SkolJWright

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 7 of 24



## An Unglamorous, Yet Necessary, Undertaking

The word that best sums up the public trust held by elected officials is stewardship. Stewardship – the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care – has been my goal as governor. It is through good stewardship that we balance the budget each year, make improvements to the state pension system and adopt new budget practices.

Stewardship also involves the sound management of tangible state assets. Regular maintenance of state-owned facilities prevents larger problems in the future, but state government also needs to constantly reevaluate its need for the facilities that we have. When I first ran for governor, I talked about the need to scrutinize state-owned land and buildings – and to sell assets that were underutilized. This has been an ongoing process now for six years.

We first addressed the Human Services Center in Yankton. A number of buildings on the campus were vacant and some were beyond repair. As we started to pursue sales options, we heard concerns from those within the community who stressed the need to preserve the history of HSC. We worked with the Yankton County Historical Society to negotiate a lease-purchase agreement for the historic Mead Building. The local historical society has since been beautifully restoring this building. With the Legislature's support, we then sold the remaining unneeded land and demolished many vacant, dilapidated buildings.

Next, we looked at the campus of the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield. Like the Yankton facility, this large campus was built to house over a thousand South Dakotans with developmental or mental health issues, often for their entire lives. Today, the campus serves only about 125 persons. This year, I am asking legislators to authorize the transfer of several vacant buildings and the adjoining lands from that campus to the City of Redfield, which has expressed an interest in refurbishing the buildings and returning them to a public use.

We are also discussing a potential sale of the former State Training School campus in Plankinton. This property has been leased for over a decade to a private company that operates the Aurora Plains Academy there. We are evaluating the potential to sell the campus, and I have brought a bill to authorize that potential sale this year as well.

There is also a bill pertaining to the potential sale of the STAR Academy property outside of Custer, which closed last March. There are too few juveniles in the corrections system to justify this large campus. Even a future increase of juveniles in corrections would not justify reopening STAR Academy; we would use smaller, more efficient facilities that are closer to population centers. My hope is that the STAR Academy property, which is at a scenic Black Hills location, can be sold and developed to create jobs and economic activity in the area.

Also in the Black Hills area, the construction of the new State Veterans Home in Hot Springs has led us to reevaluate the land and buildings on that campus, and I am asking legislators to approve legislation that allows us to explore repurposing portions of that campus.

Likewise, property formerly used by Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City will be reverting to state ownership. The state has no use for this property, and another bill would authorize its sale. I also hope the Legislature will pass a similar bill allowing the state to sell the former School for the Deaf buildings and property, located on East Tenth Street in Sioux Falls.

Stewardship efforts such as these may seem run-of-the-mill or un-noteworthy during a busy legislative session. Yet, they are still important proposals. We owe it to the taxpayers to keep the state's footprint to a minimum, to avoid spending tax dollars on maintenance of unneeded facilities and to return these properties to the tax rolls when possible. It may be an unglamorous undertaking, but it's a necessary one.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 8 of 24



Pictured are the members of the **Disfunctional Broad Squad** that took first place at the region DI Tournament held Saturday in Groton. They will advance to the state competition March 25 in Pierre. Pictured left to right are Alyssa Fordham, Tiara DeHoet, Julianna Kosel, Sage Mortenson and Hailey Monson. They are competing in Challenge C, Middle Level, Vanished!. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

The members of the **Disfunctional Broad Squad** are pictured in front of one of their props in the right photo. Featured are Hailey Monson, Tiara DeHoet, Alyssa Fordham (she made the peacocks), Julianna Kosel and Sage Mortenson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The members of the **Disfunctional Broad Squad** are featured in the left photo during their performance at the regional DI tournament. Pictured are Hailey Monson, Alyssa Fordham, Julianna Kosel and Tiara DeHoet. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 9 of 24



The Wonderful Nonsense team of Kayla Jensen, Rylee Rosenou and Katlyn Kyar placed first in the senior level Challenge C, Vanished! They will go to state in Pierre on March 25. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Katlyn Kyar, Rylee Rosenou and Kayla Jensen are pictured here performing at the regional DI tournament held Saturday in Groton. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 10 of 24

## Today in Weather History

February 27, 1969: Snowfall of up to 15 inches blocked many roads in South Dakota. Freezing rain formed a glaze on many utility lines resulting in extensive damage to the lines. The greatest damage occurred in the north central part of the state.

February 27, 1996: Across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota, a strong area of low pressure brought 4 to 11 inches of snow from the late afternoon of the 26th to the late evening of the 27th. Along with the snow came strong cold north winds of 20 to 40 mph, creating near blizzard conditions at times. Wind chills were from 20 below to 60 below. Some schools were closed or started late the 27th along with some activities canceled. Snowfall amounts included, 4 inches at Sisseton, 5 inches at Aberdeen, Redfield, near Reliance, Wheaton, Browns Valley, Britton, and Gettysburg. Other snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Lebanon, Hoven, Miller, Webster, Eden, Frederick, and Seneca, 7 inches near Chelsea and Mellette, 8 inches at Roscoe and east of Hosmer, Tulare and near Milbank, 9 inches south of Ree Heights, 8 to 10 inches in the Ortonville area, and 11 inches at Wilmot.

1717 - What was perhaps the greatest snow in New England history commenced on this date. During a ten day period a series of four snowstorms dumped three feet of snow upon Boston, and the city was snowbound for two weeks. Up to six feet of snow was reported farther to the north, and drifts covered many one story homes. (David Ludlum)

1969 - A record snowstorm in Maine came to an end. Two to four feet of snow buried southern and central Maine, with a state record of 57 inches reported at West Forks. Drifts covered many single story homes, and the weight of the snow collapsed many roofs. Two to four feet of snow also buried north-eastern Vermont and northeastern Massachusetts. In New Hampshire, Mount Washington NH reported 97.8 inches of snow, a record storm total for New England. (24th-28th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1986: It was 99 degrees in Palm Springs, California. This is the highest temperature on record for February. This also occurred on Fe2/26/1986.

2010: A magnitude 8.8 earthquake occurred off the coast of central Chili at 3:34 local time. The

earthquake triggered a tsunami which devastated several coastal towns in south-central Chile. Tsunami warnings were issued in 53 countries. Waves caused minor damage in San Diego area and the Tohoku region of Japan.

2010 - A weak EF0 tornado causes no damage as it moved across California's southern San Joaquin Valley. However it is the only tornado reported in the United States during the month. According to the Storm Prediction Center only five months since 1950 have lacked a tornado report. The Weather Doctor



**livestream**

**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, BBB Region**








**6 p.m. at Webster**

**Groton Area vs. Britton-Hecla**

**gdilive.com**

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 11 of 24

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Decreasing Clouds	Slight Chance Snow then Snow Likely	Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow then Mostly Sunny	Chance Snow	Chance Snow then Mostly Sunny
High: 39 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 30 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 29 °F



## Mild Today – Light Snow Tonight Seasonal Temps & Dry Tuesday



### Sun & High Clouds

#### Highs:

Upper 30s North  
40s Elsewhere

#### Light Winds

### Snow Departs Mostly Cloudy

#### Highs:

Low 30s

#### North Breeze

Light Snow  
Generally ~ 1"  
Locally 2-3"

Lows: 20s

Light Winds



weather.gov/Aberdeen



US National Weather Service Aberdeen South Dakota



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 02/27/2017 at 4:46AM

The region will see widespread mid and high clouds with temperatures a couple degrees above average. A weak system will cross the area overnight with generally light snow, although a few spots could top 2 to 3 inches accumulation by Tuesday morning. Temperatures will be close to average for the middle of the work week with a warm up towards the end and into the weekend.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 12 of 24

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 32.8 F at 4:16 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 17.8 F at 7:58 AM**

**High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 8:29 AM**

**Rain: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 68° in 2016**

**Record Low: -23 in 2001**

**Average High: 32°F**

**Average Low: 12°F**

**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.52**

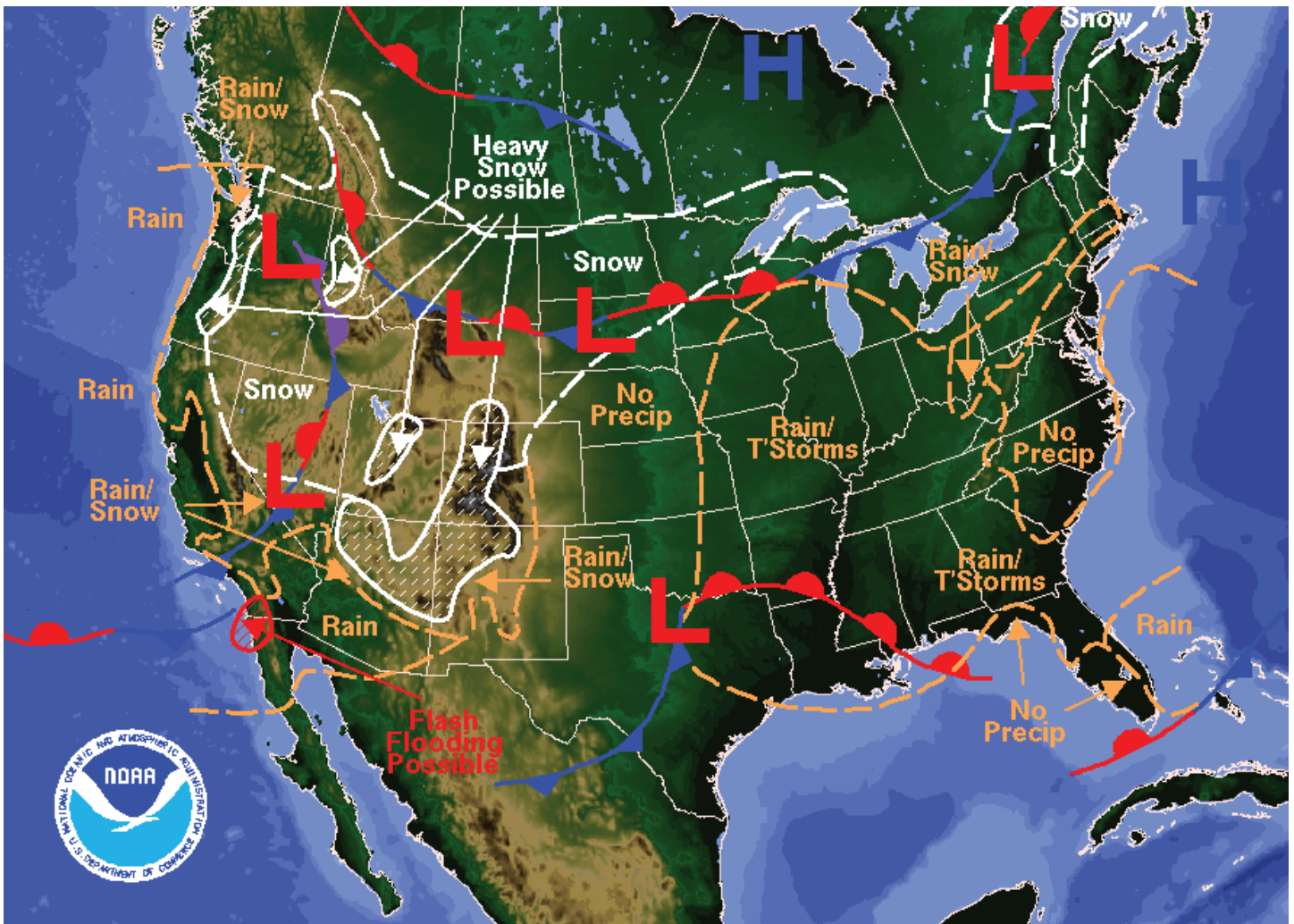
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.99**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 6:18 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:13 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Mon, Feb 27, 2017, issued 4:50 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 13 of 24



## PRAY OR WORRY: WHICH?

Each morning Josie and her Mom prayed together before she left for school. One morning after they prayed, Josie noticed a look of distress and concern on her Mom's face.

Concerned, she said, "Mom, we just prayed together and thanked the Lord for everything we had and then told Him about everything we needed. I thought that if we prayed we wouldn't have to worry. I didn't know that we could do both."

Worry and faith are actually incompatible. If we have faith there is no need to worry and if we worry we do not need to pray. One seems to cancel out the other.

Many would argue that it is impossible not to worry at least some of the time. But listen to Paul: "Don't worry about anything," he said. "Instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and then thank Him for all He has done and will do."

Maybe that's the key to not worrying: When we thank God for all that He has done for us, we can see His hand at work in our lives. And rather than worrying about what might or might not happen, we can see what has happened and know that God is protecting us and providing for our every need.

Paul advised the church members at Philippi to turn their worries into prayers. He wanted them to have a strong faith and trust and believe in the Lord for all things. If our faith and trust are weak, worrying won't help.

Prayer: Lord, increase our faith to exceed the size of our fears and our trust to be large enough to combat the uncertainties of life. May we become steadfast and sure. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 14 of 24

## News from the Associated Press

### 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

#### 1. AT ACADEMY AWARDS, AN EPIC ERROR

In an apparently unprecedented mistake, the wrong winner is announced for best picture. Things are soon sorted out — and “Moonlight,” not “La La Land,” wins the Oscar.

#### 2. TERROR ‘WAGED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD’

Former congregants say they were subjected to years of emotional and physical abuse inside an evangelical church in western North Carolina, an AP investigation reveals.

#### 3. WHERE US FORCES COULD BE HEADED

A new military strategy to meet Trump’s demand to “obliterate” the Islamic State group is likely to deepen American military involvement in Syria.

#### 4. IRANIANS CHEER CHOICE FOR BEST FOREIGN FILM

His countrymen are also lauding the decision by Asghar Farhadi, director of “The Salesman,” to boycott the Academy Awards because of the Trump administration’s travel ban.

#### 5. POLAND A POPULIST FRONT-RUNNER

Months before Britain voted to leave the EU Union or the U.S. elected Trump, Poles booted out their own political establishment.

#### 6. LITTLE CONSEQUENCE FOR DRUG MISDEEDS

Staff at VA hospitals were fired or reprimanded in a small fraction of thousands of reported cases of opioid theft and missing prescriptions since 2010, according to government data provided to the AP.

#### 7. GUILTY PLEA EXPECTED IN AIR BAG SCANDAL

Japanese auto parts maker Takata is also expected in U.S. federal court to agree to a \$1 billion penalty for concealing the deadly air bag inflator problem.

#### 8. WHO’S NOT LOWERING GUARD ON POT

The American Academy of Pediatrics is beefing up warnings about marijuana’s potential harms for teens amid increasingly lax laws and attitudes on pot use.

#### 9. KURT BUSCH USES LAST-LAP PASS FOR DAYTONA WIN

It’s a victory of redemption for the driver, who was suspended by NASCAR two days before the 2015 Daytona 500 for off-track behavior.

#### 10. WHAT’S NEXT MOVE FOR BILL COSBY

The actor is set to return to a Pennsylvania courtroom to ask a judge to bring in outside jurors in his criminal sex assault case.

### Iranians welcome Farhadi’s Oscar for best foreign film

By NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranians on Monday cheered the choice of one of their own for the best foreign film Oscar, lauding director Asghar Farhadi’s boycott of the Hollywood ceremony for his film “The Salesman” as an act of defiance against the Trump administration.

Farhadi refused to attend the Academy Awards, announcing after the temporary U.S. travel ban was initially imposed last month for citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries that he would not attend the ceremony — even if an exception was made for him. Iran was one of the seven countries affected by the measure, which has since been blocked from being carried out by a federal court ruling.

“The Salesman” — about a couple performing Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman” and their attempts to find peace and justice after the wife is attacked at their Tehran apartment — had become a rallying cry

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 15 of 24

for immigrant rights after the travel ban.

The six nominated directors in the foreign language category had put out a joint statement ahead of the award decrying what they called the climate of "fanaticism" in the United States and dedicating the award to the promotion of "unity and understanding" regardless of who won.

Film critic Esmail Mihandoost, who wrote a book about Farhadi, told The Associated Press that thanks to the boycott, the film director has now "more influence on public opinion than a politician."

"It created an exceptional opportunity for criticism" of Trump's policy, he added.

The award was the second Oscar for Farhadi, after his film "A Separation" won in the same category for 2012.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said he saw the prize as taking a stance against Trump's executive order. "Proud of Cast and Crew of "The Salesman" for Oscar and stance against #MuslimBan. Iranians have represented culture and civilization for millennia," he tweeted in English.

Vice President Ishaq Jahangiri praised Farhadi both for the award and for boycotting the ceremony, calling it a "priceless action."

State radio and television briefly reported on Farhadi's Oscar, while Tehran film daily Banifilm ran an op-ed saying that Trump had "probably never imagined what contribution the travel ban would have for Farhadi's film." The trade paper said the executive order had likely propelled "The Salesman" to victory.

Trump's victory has prompted concern among many in Iran, particularly in the wake of a 2015 nuclear deal with the U.S. and other world powers that led to the lifting of crippling economic sanctions. The Trump administration earlier this month said it was putting Iran "on notice" after it test-fired a ballistic missile.

Many Iranians learned of the Oscar win from social media.

"I am proud of this," said Mahbod Shirvani, a 19-year-old music student said outside the campus of Tehran University. "It shattered the U.S president's stance on Muslim nations. It showed that American people and artists are against Trump's policies."

Davood Kazemi, 21, who studies painting, said the "award showed Trump cannot stop international figures and he cannot thwart artists' solidarity that has formed, regardless of race, nationality and religion."

Iranian news websites published cartoonist Bozorgmehr Hosseinpour's sketch depicting Farhadi playing chess and using a small Oscar statue to knock out an unseen's opponent's last chess piece, a figure resembling Trump.

In a statement read out at the Oscars ceremony on his behalf by Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian-American astronaut, Farhadi said the empathy filmmakers can foster is needed today more than ever. Ansari was joined onstage by another accomplished Iranian-American, Firouz Naderi, a former NASA director.

"I'm sorry I'm not with you tonight," Farhadi's statement read. "My absence is out of respect for the people of my country and those of other six nations who have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the U.S."

"Dividing the world into the 'us' and 'our enemies' categories creates fear," it said.

---

Associated Press writer Linsey Bahr in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Oscars flap eclipses 'Moonlight' win, but civility reigns

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 89th Academy Awards got off on the right foot, with a song and dance, but ended with the most stunning mistake ever to befall the esteemed awards show when the best picture Oscar was presented to the wrong movie. Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty, holding an incorrect envelope, wrongly presented the top prize to "La La Land," instead of "Moonlight."

The moment at the conclusion of the Sunday night show was so jaw-dropping, it eclipsed everything else in a ceremony that was packed to the brim with Donald Trump jabs, fun stunts, heartfelt positivity and a stunning upset by "Moonlight" over what had been a "La La" juggernaut throughout award season. Yet somehow, even the embarrassing moment pivoted into grace.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 16 of 24

As confusion and bafflement overwhelmed those in the Dolby Theatre and at home on their couches, "Moonlight" director Barry Jenkins and "La La Land" director Damien Chazelle shared a hug on the back of the stage, out of sight from the television cameras.

"The folks of 'La La Land' were so gracious. I can't imagine being in their position and having to do that," Jenkins told reporters backstage. "It was unfortunate that things happened as they did but, goddamn, we won best picture."

Oscar tabulators PwC, in their 83rd year providing the service to the academy, later apologized to all in a statement and are investigating why it happened.

There's no denying, though, that "Moonlight's" win over "La La Land" was a massive upset, made only more pointed by the envelope gaffe. Chazelle's candy-colored musical was widely presumed to be a shoo-in for the top prize after its record-tying 14 nominations and a relative sweep of award season. The film still won six Oscars, including best director for Chazelle, who at 32 became the youngest ever to take the prize, and for score, song ("City of Stars") and actress to Emma Stone.

The actress, who pledged her deep love of "Moonlight," said later, "Is that the craziest Oscar moment of all time? Cool!"

The academy usually throws awards at films that gaze lovingly at Hollywood, but Barry Jenkins' heartfelt coming-of-age drama seduced academy voters in the end — a subtle tide change perhaps informed by both a prickly political climate and an urgent imperative to honor more diverse films after two consecutive years of OscarsSoWhite.

Diversity could be found in every corner of the awards this year, with supporting acting wins for "Moonlight's" Mahershala Ali and "Fences'" Viola Davis, although the best actor category proved to be a bit of an upset when Casey Affleck won for "Manchester by the Sea" over Denzel Washington of "Fences," who had picked up momentum in recent weeks.

The improvement followed efforts by Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs to diversify the membership of the largely white, older and male film academy. "Tonight is proof that art has no borders, no single language and does not belong to a single faith," said Isaacs.

Davis gave a particularly powerful speech in which she praised the late "Fences" playwright August Wilson who, she said, "Exhumed and exalted the ordinary people." Kimmel said later that Davis, "Just got nominated for an Emmy for that speech."

Ezra Edelman, whose nearly eight hour epic "O.J.: Made in America" took best documentary, dedicated the award to the victims of the famous crime, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Rich Moore, one of the three directors of Disney's best animated film winner "Zootopia," described the movie as about "tolerance being more powerful than fear of the other."

The majority of speeches were moving and personal and generally in praise of art's ability to create empathy in the world, including Jenkins' in his win for adapted screenplay, who said, "All you people out there who feel like there isn't a mirror out there for you, the Academy has your back, the ACLU has your back, and for the next four years we will not leave you alone, we will not forget you." But not one speech came close to Meryl Streep's Golden Globes barnburner.

"Personally, I didn't say anything because my head was completely blank," Affleck said backstage of his not political speech.

Instead, politics stayed largely with host Jimmy Kimmel, who kept his barbs coy and irreverent, stating at the start that he wasn't the man to unite the country.

The host peppered the evening with digs at President Trump, at one point asking the crowd to stand for the "overrated Meryl Streep," and, later, for any news outlet with the word "Times" in its name to leave, saying "we have no tolerance for fake news."

Kimmel even jokingly thanked the president for shifting the focus of the night.

"Remember last year when it seemed like the Oscars were racist?" he said in the opening.

The evening's most blunt protests against Trump came not from the A-list stars but from foreigners, a few of whom were not even in attendance and could communicate their sentiments only through statements.

Kimmel, as if predicting that this would be the case, said early that the Oscars are watched by 225



countries "that now hate us."

Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, whose "The Salesman" won best foreign film, his second win in the category, did not attend the ceremony in protest of Trump's travel ban to seven predominantly Muslim nations.

Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian astronaut, read a statement from Farhadi.

"I'm sorry I'm not with you tonight," it read. "My absence is out of respect for the people of my country and those of other six nations who have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the U.S."

Gael Garcia Bernal, the Mexican actor, while presenting an award also declared: "As a migrant worker, as a Mexican, and as a human being, I am against any wall."

But, of course, the big best picture mistake will be the thing that history remembers about the 89th Academy Awards.

"Let's remember this is just an awards show," Kimmel said at the close. "I knew I would screw this show up, I really did. I promise I'll never come back."

AP Film Writer Jake Coyle contributed from Los Angeles.

## 'Moonlight' wins best picture at botched Academy Awards

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oscar winner, take two.

Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight" — not, as it turned out, "La La Land" — won best picture at the Academy Awards in a historic Oscar upset and an unprecedented fiasco that saw one winner swapped for another while the "La La Land" producers were in mid-speech.

Presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway apparently took the wrong envelope — the one for best actress winner Emma Stone — onto the stage for the final prize. When they read "La La Land" as the winner, representatives for ballot tabulators PwC — formerly Price Waterhouse Coopers — realized the mistake and raced onstage to try to stop the acceptance speeches. Host Jimmy Kimmel came forward to inform the cast that "Moonlight" had indeed won, showing the inside of the envelope as proof. "I knew I would screw this up," said Kimmel, a first-time host.

Gasps were heard around the auditorium. Presenters, winners and Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences huddled to discuss the debacle. Beatty refused to give up the envelopes until he could hand them first to Jenkins. "La La Land" director Damien Chazelle and Jenkins hugged amid the chaos.

"Even in my dreams this cannot be true," said an astonished Jenkins, once he reached the microphone. "To hell with dreams! I'm done with it because this is true."

Backstage, Stone said she was holding her winning envelope at the time. "I think everyone's in a state of confusion still," said Stone. Later the actress, who pledged her deep love of "Moonlight," added, "Is that the craziest Oscar moment of all time? Cool!"

It was, nevertheless, a shocking upset considering that "La La Land" came in with 14 nominations, a record that tied it with "Titanic" and "All About Eve." Jenkins' tender, bathed-in-blue coming-of-age drama, made for just \$1.5 million, is an unusually small Oscar winner. Having made just over \$22 million as of Sunday at the box office, it's one of the lowest grossing best-picture winners ever — but also one of the most critically adored. "Moonlight," released by indie distributor A24, also had some major muscle behind it, including Brad Pitt's Plan B, which also backed the 2015 winner "12 Years a Slave."

"It was unfortunate that things happened as they did but, goddamn, we won best picture," the still cool and composed Jenkins told reporters.

The "La La Land" team was celebrating onstage when producer Jordan Horowitz took to the microphone to say: "There's been a mistake. 'Moonlight,' you guys won best picture." He then graciously passed his statue to the "Moonlight" producers, saying, "This is not a joke."

"I noticed the commotion that was happening and I thought that something strange had occurred," Jenkins said backstage. "The last 20 minutes of my life have been insane."

"Moonlight" co-star Mahershala Ali, the supporting actor winner, said the conclusion "threw me a bit."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 18 of 24

"I don't want to go up there and take anything from someone," he said afterward. "It's very hard to feel joy in a moment like that."

In a statement, PwC apologized to each film, Beatty, Dunaway and Oscar viewers. "The presenters had mistakenly been given the wrong category envelope and when discovered, was immediately corrected," said the accounting firm. PwC, which has long watched over the Oscar ballots, said it was currently investigating "how this could have happened."

For "La La Land," a musical in which reality repeatedly intrudes on fantasy, it was another alternate ending. "La La Land" still collected a leading six awards, including honors for cinematography, production design, score, the song "City of Stars" and best director. Chazelle, the 32-year-old filmmaker, became the youngest to win best director. "This was a movie about love and I was luckily enough to fall in love while making it," said Chazelle, speaking about his girlfriend and Oscars date, Olivia Hamilton.

Up until the frenzied end, the telecast had seesawed between jabs at Donald Trump and passionate arguments for inclusivity. "All you people out there who feel like there isn't a mirror out there for you, the academy has your back, the ACLU has your back and for the next four years we will not leave you alone, we will not forget you," said Jenkins, whose film is, in three chapters, about a young black kid growing up poor and gay in impoverished Miami.

Kenneth Lonergan, the New York playwright whose last film ("Margaret") was beset by lawsuits and conflict, won best original screenplay for "Manchester by the Sea." "I love the movies. I love being part of the movies," said Lonergan. After the wild ending, Lonergan deadpanned to reporters, "It turned out that we actually won best picture."

Shortly later, Affleck — in one of the night's most closely watched races, won best actor — his first Oscar — for his soulful, grief-filled performance in Lonergan's film. Affleck and Denzel Washington ("Fences") were seen as neck-and-neck in the category. An admittedly "dumbfounded" Affleck looked shocked when his name was read. "Man I wish I had something bigger and more meaningful to say," said Affleck, who hugged his more famous brother, Ben, before taking the stage.

The show kicked off with Justin Timberlake dancing down the Dolby Theatre aisles, singing his ebullient song, "Can't Stop the Feeling," from the animated film "Trolls." It was an early cue that the Oscars would steer, at least in part, toward festiveness rather than heavy-handedness. Protests, boycotts and rallies have swirled ahead of Sunday night's Oscars. But Kimmel, in his opening monologue, quickly acknowledged that he "was not that guy" to heal a divided America.

But he pointedly led a standing ovation for the "overrated" Meryl Streep and later tweaked the president by tweeting to him on air, including telling him that Streep "says hi."

Viola Davis, co-star of Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation "Fences," won best supporting actress. She and Ali, both widely expected winners, marked the first time in more than a decade that multiple Oscar acting honors went to black actors.

"I became an artist, and thank god I did, because we are the only profession to celebrate what it means to live a life," said Davis, the best supporting actress winner. "So here's to August Wilson, who exhumed and exalted the ordinary people."

The evening's most blunt protest came from a winner not in attendance. Best foreign film for the second time went to Asghar Farhadi, director of Iran's "The Salesman." Farhadi, who also won for his "A Separation," had said he wouldn't attend because of Trump's travel ban to seven predominantly Muslim nations. Anousheh Ansari, an Iranian astronaut, read a statement from Farhadi.

"I'm sorry I'm not with you tonight," it read. "My absence is out of respect for the people of my country and those of other six nations who have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the U.S."

The broadcast often veered between such strong personal statements and Kimmel's efforts to keep things a little lighter with bits reminiscent of his late-night show. Shortly before he led a dazed, unsuspecting tour group into the theater, presenter Gael Garcia Bernal, the Mexican actor, declared: "As a migrant worker, as a Mexican, and as a human being, I am against any wall." Rich Moore, one of the three directors of Disney's best animated film winner "Zootopia," described the movie as about "tolerance being more

powerful than fear of the other.”

Mel Gibson’s World War II drama “Hacksaw Ridge” was, surprisingly, the evening’s first double winner, taking awards for editing and sound mixing. Gibson, for a decade a pariah in Hollywood, was seated front and center for the show, and was a frequent presence throughout.

Ezra Edelman’s “O.J.: Made in America” took best documentary, making it — at 467 minutes — the longest Oscar winner ever, beating out the 1969 Best Foreign Language Film winner “War and Peace” (431 minutes). Edelman’s documentary, while it received an Oscar-qualifying theatrical release, was seen by most on ESPN as a serial, prompting some to claim its place was at the Emmys, not the Oscars.

Edelman dedicated the award to the victims of the famous crime, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. “This is also for other victims, victims of police violence, police brutality,” Edelman said. “This is their story as it is Ron and Nicole’s.”

The “OscarsSoWhite” crisis of the last two years was largely quelled this season by a richly diverse slate of nominees, thanks to films like “Moonlight,” “Fences” and “Hidden Figures.” A record six black actors are nominated. For the first time ever, a person of color is nominated in each acting category.

“I want to say thank you to President Trump,” Kimmel said in the opening. “Remember last year when it seemed like the Oscars were racist?”

The nominees follow the efforts by Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs to diversify the membership of the largely white, older and male film academy. “Tonight is proof that art has no borders, no single language and does not belong to a single faith,” said Isaacs.

---

Associated Press’ Sandy Cohen, Lindsey Bahr and Matt Sayles contributed to this report.

## **Pediatricians warn against pot use: Not your dad’s marijuana**

**By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer**

CHICAGO (AP) — An influential doctors group is beefing up warnings about marijuana’s potential harms for teens amid increasingly lax laws and attitudes on pot use.

Many parents use the drug and think it’s OK for their kids, but “we would rather not mess around with the developing brain,” said Dr. Seth Ammerman.

The advice comes in a new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, published Monday in Pediatrics. The group opposes medical and recreational marijuana use for kids. It says emphasizing that message is important because most states have legalized medical use for adults, and many have decriminalized or legalized adults’ recreational use.

Those trends have led parents to increasingly ask doctors about kids’ use, said Ammerman, a Stanford University pediatrics professor who co-wrote the report.

“Parents will say, ‘I use it moderately and I’m fine with it, so it’s really benign and not a problem if my kid uses it,’” he said.

Doctors need to know how to respond to that thinking, and parents and teens need to know the risks, Ammerman said.

### **POTENTIAL HARMS**

The brain continues to develop until the early 20s, raising concerns about the potential short- and long-term effects of a mind-altering drug. Some studies suggest that teens who use marijuana at least 10 times a month develop changes in brain regions affecting memory and the ability to plan. Some changes may be permanent, the report says.

Frequent use starting in the early teen years may lower IQ scores, and some studies have shown that starting marijuana use at a young age is more likely to lead to addiction than starting in adulthood. Not all teen users develop these problems and some may be more vulnerable because of genetics or other factors.

### **MEDICAL VERSUS RECREATIONAL USE**

Solid research on medical marijuana’s effects in children and teens is lacking, although some studies have suggested it may benefit kids with hard-to-treat seizures. The report says other potential benefits,

doses and effects are mostly unknown.

Recreational use is illegal for those under age 21 even in states that allow adult use. Parents should avoid using marijuana in front of their kids and should keep all marijuana products stored out of kids' sight, the academy says. Some young children who accidentally swallowed their parents' pot-containing cookies or drinks have landed in the emergency room for mostly minor symptoms although some developed breathing problems.

#### WHO'S USING

Government data show that almost 40 percent of U.S. high school students have tried marijuana, about 20 percent are current users and close to 10 percent first tried it before age 13. Use has increased in recent years among those aged 18 and older but not among young teens. Still, kids aged 12-17 increasingly think that marijuana use is not harmful.

Dr. Sheryl Ryan, a Yale University pediatrics professor and lead author of the academy report, said marijuana "is the drug of choice" for many of her teen patients in New Haven, Connecticut. Some think daily use is safe, noting that their parents or grandparents smoked pot in college and turned out OK. But today's marijuana is much more potent and potentially more risky, Ryan said.

#### Online:

American Academy of Pediatrics: <http://www.aap.org/marijuana>

National Institute on Drug Abuse: <http://tinyurl.com/q22s8uh>

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at <http://www.twitter.com/LindseyTanner>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/lindsey-tanner>

## AP: VA data show low rate of discipline for drug loss, theft

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doctors, nurses or pharmacy staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs' hospitals were fired or reprimanded in only a small fraction of thousands of reported cases of opioid theft and missing prescriptions since 2010, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press.

About 372 VA employees were disciplined for a drug or alcohol-related issue across a network of 160 medical centers and 1,000 clinics over the last six years, according to internal figures kept by the facilities that were reported to VA's headquarters. During that time, there were more than 11,000 reported incidents of drug loss or theft at federal hospitals — the vast majority within the VA, according to law enforcement data. Roughly translated, VA employees were disciplined in 3 percent of cases.

Nearly one-third of the disciplined employees were dismissed or forced to resign, according to VA data. Others were suspended without pay, admonished or given "last chance" warnings. Disciplined employees had failed a drug test or were suspected of stealing drugs, among other offenses.

The VA declined to comment on reasons behind the low disciplinary rate, saying some cases were still being adjudicated. It also would not immediately release the case reports, citing employees' personal information.

"We would like there to be no drug diversion anywhere at any time," Michael Valentino, chief consultant at VA's Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, told AP. "No matter how robust our systems are, people will be determined to find ways to get around them."

"It's a lesson we can learn to tighten things up if possible," he said.

The AP reported last week on government data showing a sharp increase since 2009 in opioid theft and drugs that had simply disappeared at the VA, amid rising opioid abuse in the U.S. Reported incidents of drug losses or theft at federal hospitals jumped from 272 in 2009 to 2,926 in 2015, before dipping to 2,457 last year, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. "Federal hospitals" include the VA's facilities as well as seven correctional hospitals and roughly 20 hospitals serving Indian tribes.

Aggravating the problem is that some VA hospitals have been lax in tracking drug supplies. Congressional

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 21 of 24

auditors said spot checks found four VA hospitals skipped monthly inspections of drug stocks or missed other requirements. Investigators said that signals problems for VA's entire network.

A House panel planned a hearing Monday on the issue. Recent audits also found spotty VA compliance with federal drug testing, for instance failing to test 70 percent — or 15,800 — prospective employees over a 12-month period who would serve in sensitive VA positions such as doctor, nurse or police officer.

"Until VA employees understand that there will be real consequences for misconduct, they're completely disincentivized from following the rules. We believe that the VA should ramp up drug testing to help weed out those who are abusing the system," said Dan Caldwell, policy director for the conservative Concerned Veterans for America.

Addressing the Disabled American Veterans group on Sunday, new VA Secretary David Shulkin, who served as the department's undersecretary of health while the drug problem was growing, listed employee accountability as a top priority. Shulkin said he would work with Congress to pass legislation so that "bad employees are leaving the system."

The VA said it had strong policies, such as 72-hour inventory checks and "double lock and key access" to drugs, but acknowledged that required inspections and other protocols weren't being followed consistently.

VA cited its own data showing 2,405 cases of drug loss or theft from January 2014 to March 2016. It said nearly 92 percent of controlled substance losses went missing in transit — describing many as lost in the mail, though acknowledging VA drugs also could have disappeared during employee handling right before mailing. Another 1.5 percent of losses were specifically reported as theft by VA staff, while 1.2 percent was reported as "external theft" and 5.9 percent were attributed to unknown or other reasons such as dispensing errors.

Keith Berge, a Mayo Clinic anesthesiologist who chairs its Medication Diversion Prevention group, said drug theft was serious and patients could be seriously harmed if deprived of medication. Drug addicts are clever and will seek out hospitals where they believe monitoring is weak, he said.

"It is not good enough to merely have effective policies and procedures on the books; they must actually be rigorously followed," Berge said.

Randall Williamson, health care director at the Government Accountability Office, cited "not a great track record" of accountability at the VA. He said employees who fail to conduct inspections should be held responsible.

"The culture has to be changed," he said. "The question is whether the VA will quit making excuses and fix the system."

---

Follow Hope Yen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

## **New anti-IS strategy may mean deeper US involvement in Syria**

**By ROBERT BURNS and LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new military strategy to meet President Donald Trump's demand to "obliterate" the Islamic State group is likely to deepen U.S. military involvement in Syria, possibly with more ground troops, even as the current U.S. approach in Iraq appears to be working and will require fewer changes.

Details are sketchy. But recommendations due at the White House on Monday are likely to increase emphasis on nonmilitary elements of the campaign already underway, such as efforts to squeeze IS finances, limit the group's recruiting and counter IS propaganda that is credited with inspiring recent violence in the U.S. and Europe. One official with knowledge of the recommendations said the report would present a broad overview of options as a starting point for a more detailed internal discussion. The official wasn't authorized to speak to reporters about the contents of the document and demanded anonymity.

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday that the emerging strategy will take aim not just at the Islamic State militants but at al-Qaida and other extremist organizations in the Middle East and beyond, whose goal is to attack the United States. He emphasized that it would not rest mainly on military might.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 22 of 24

"This is a political-military plan," he said. "It is not a military plan."

Dunford's comment suggests that Pentagon leaders have a more nuanced view of the IS problem than is reflected in Trump's promise to "obliterate" the group, as he put it on Friday. Dunford said the U.S. should be careful that in solving the IS problem it does not create others, hinting at the sensitive question of how to deal with Turkey, which is a NATO ally with much at stake in neighboring Syria, and Russia, whose military action in Syria has had the effect of propping up the Syrian regime.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is giving the White House the ingredients of a strategy, which officials say will be fleshed out once Trump has considered the options. Officials described the Mattis report as a "framework" built on broad concepts and based on advice from the State Department, the CIA and other agencies. Officials have indicated the recommended approaches will echo central elements of the Obama administration's strategy, which was based on the idea that the U.S. military should support local forces rather than do the fighting for them. Mattis already has signaled publicly that he sees no value in having U.S. combat forces take over the ground war.

"I would just tell you that by, with and through our allies is the way this coalition is going against Daesh," Mattis said last week in Baghdad, using an Arabic term for the Islamic State group. "We're going to continue to go after them until we destroy them and any kind of belief in the inevitability of their message."

Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 28 giving Mattis 30 days to present a "preliminary draft" of a plan. He said it should include a comprehensive strategy that would not only deliver a battlefield victory but also "isolate and delegitimize" the group and its radical ideology.

Asked if adding more U.S. troops or arming the Syrian Kurds was under discussion, Mattis said he will "accommodate any request" from his field commanders.

"We owe some degree of confidentiality on exactly how we're going to do that and the sequencing of that fight so that we don't expose to the enemy what it is we have in mind in terms of the timing of the operations," Mattis told reporters. But he said those are "some of the issues that we'll be dealing with as we go forward, and we'll be addressing each one of them, from intelligence, to tactics, to logistics as we sustain the fight going into this."

Army Gen. Joseph Votel, the commander of U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Mideast, has said more American troops may be needed to speed up the fight in Syria. The U.S. currently has about 500 special operations forces in Syria helping to organize, advise and assist local forces.

One of the thorniest problems the Trump administration will consider is whether to change the U.S. approach to Russia's military role in Syria. Although Trump has suggested an interest in working with Russia against IS, the Pentagon has been reluctant to go beyond military-to-military contacts aimed at avoiding accidents in the airspace over Syria.

Senior military leaders, including Mattis, seem more confident in the Iraqi military campaign, lending weight to the idea that the options will put a greater emphasis on Syria.

Officials say providing more heavy equipment and arms to the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds is a likely — but politically sensitive — option.

NATO ally Turkey considers the Kurdish fighters, known as the YPG, a terrorist organization. But the YPG forms the main force to retake Raqqa, the Islamic State militants' self-proclaimed capital and base of operations. Some in the Pentagon have suggested giving the Kurds heavy weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and heavy combat vehicles, but the Obama administration rejected the idea.

Other options include sending more Apache helicopters into the fight, and sending in more U.S. troops to help train Syrian forces.

The options on Iraq may well include decisions on the future U.S. commitment to the country. Both Mattis and Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said that they believe the U.S. will have an enduring partnership with Iraq.

"I imagine we'll be in this fight for a while, and we'll stand by each other," Mattis said in Baghdad.

Townsend declined to say how long the U.S. will stay in Iraq. But, he said, "I don't anticipate that we'll be asked to leave by the government of Iraq immediately after Mosul," he said, referring to the city that

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces are in the midst of retaking.

Associated Press writer Bradley Klapper contributed to this report.

## Trump toasts nation's governors ahead of health care talks

By **KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump toasted the nation's governors Sunday night, welcoming state leaders to a black-tie ball at the White House ahead of discussions about his plans to repeal and replace the so-called Obamacare law.

Trump welcomed 46 governors and their spouses to the annual Governors' Ball at the White House, the first major social event of his administration. The president congratulated first lady Melania Trump on the elegant candle-lit event in the State Dining Room, telling the audience, "The room, they say, has never looked better, but who knows."

During his toast, the president noted his Monday meeting with the governors at the White House, saying, "Perhaps health care will come up," a nod to the effort in Congress to repeal and replace the sweeping health care law installed under President Barack Obama.

Trump saluted the nation's governors, joking that "it's such an easy job you have." Despite some of the turmoil at the start of his administration and legal challenges to his executive order temporarily banning travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries, Trump told the governors he had already made strides.

"I can say that after four weeks — it's been a lot of fun — but we've accomplished almost everything we've started out to accomplish. The borders are stricter, tighter," Trump said, praising the work of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly. He added: "We're very happy with the way things are working but, again, we've made a lot of promises over the last two years and many of those promises already are kept so we're very honored by that."

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat and longtime ally of Trump's campaign rival, Hillary Clinton, led the governors in a toast of Trump. McAuliffe, the chairman of the National Governors Association, said they all shared the common goals of jobs, education, quality health care and infrastructure across the nation.

"We want to work with you to build on those ideals," McAuliffe said.

The governors, their guests and members of Trump's Cabinet sat at long tables topped with white floral centerpieces and candles in the State Dining Room, where Trump addressed the guests from a lectern near a portrait of Abraham Lincoln. The president wore a black tuxedo while the first lady was dressed in a long black evening gown.

At the tables, Vice President Mike Pence was seated next to his successor, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, while chief of staff Reince Priebus sat next to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, his friend from his home state. The president's daughter Ivanka Trump was seated between Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2017. There are 307 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 27, 1942, the Battle of the Java Sea began during World War II; Imperial Japanese naval forces scored a decisive victory over the Allies.

On this date:

In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1911, inventor Charles F. Kettering demonstrated his electric automobile starter in Detroit by starting a Cadillac's motor with just the press of a switch, instead of hand-cranking.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 230 ~ 24 of 24

In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag (RYKS'-tahg), was gutted by fire; Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire to justify suspending civil liberties.

In 1939, the Supreme Court, in *National Labor Relations Board v. Fansteel Metallurgical Corp.*, effectively outlawed sit-down strikes. Britain and France recognized the regime of Francisco Franco of Spain.

In 1943, during World War II, Norwegian commandos launched a raid to sabotage a German-operated heavy water plant in Norway. The U.S. government, responding to a copper shortage, began circulating one-cent coins made of steel plated with zinc (the steel pennies proved unpopular, since they were easily mistaken for dimes).

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until the following May.)

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved telecasts of its debates on a trial basis.

In 1991, Operation Desert Storm came to a conclusion as President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

In 1997, a jury in Fayetteville, North Carolina, convicted former Army paratrooper James N. Burmeister of murdering Jackie Burden and Michael James, a black couple, so he could get a skinhead tattoo. (Burmeister, sentenced to life, died at a federal prison hospital in Missouri in 2007.) Divorce became legal in Ireland.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber struck the entrance to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan during a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney, who was unhurt; 23 people were killed in the attack claimed by the Taliban. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 416.02 points to end the day at 12,216.24, the worst drop since 9/11.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama urged the nation's governors at the White House to invest more state resources in education, saying a highly skilled workforce was crucial for the U.S. to remain competitive with other countries. Three students were shot to death in a Chardon, Ohio, high school cafeteria by a 17-year-old who later received three life terms in prison.

One year ago: Hillary Clinton overwhelmed Bernie Sanders in the South Carolina primary. A cease-fire brokered by the United States and Russia went into effect across Syria. A violent altercation between Ku Klux Klan members and counter-protesters in Anaheim, California, left three people stabbed. "Fifty Shades of Grey" nabbed five prizes at the Golden Raspberry Awards: worst screenplay, actor, actress, screen combo, and film of the year in a tie with "Fantastic Four."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joanne Woodward is 87. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 83. Opera singer Mirella Freni is 82. Actress Barbara Babcock is 80. Actor Howard Hesseman is 77. Actress Debra Monk is 68. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 63. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 60. Actor Timothy Spall is 60. Rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 57. Country singer Johnny Van Zant (Van Zant) is 57. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer James Worthy is 56. Actor Adam Baldwin is 55. Actor Grant Show is 55. Rock musician Mike Cross (Sponge) is 52. Actor Noah Emmerich is 52. Actor Donal Logue (DOH'-nuhl LOHG) is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chilli (TLC) is 46. Rock musician Jeremy Dean (Nine Days) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Roderick Clark is 44. Country-rock musician Shonna Tucker (Drive-By Truckers) is 39. Chelsea Clinton is 37. Actor Brandon Beemer is 37. Rock musician Cyrus Bolooki (New Found Glory) is 37. Rock musician Jake Clemons (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobby Valentino is 37. Singer Josh Groban is 36. Banjoist Noam (cq) Pikelný is 36. Rock musician Jared Champion (Cage the Elephant) is 34. Actress Kate Mara is 34. Actress Lindsey Morgan is 27.

Thought for Today: "Reasoning with a child is fine, if you can reach the child's reason without destroying your own." — John Mason Brown, American essayist (1900-1969).