

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 1 of 57

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### Wednesday, March 13, 2019

End of 3rd Quarter, Groton Area School District

### Thursday, March 14, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

### Friday, March 15, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

## Help Wanted

Looking for a fun, part-time job? Groton Dairy Queen is now hiring. Stop in for an application. (0216.0316)

- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Death Notice: Eunice Alberts
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 2- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- Mighty big snow drift
- 4- Noem Approves Bill Allowing Schools to Carry Opioid Antidotes
- 5- Sunshine Week Article: Communities lose when newspapers die or slide into decline
- 7- Groton Area DI teams reveiwed
- 8- Frosty Morning
- 8- Winter Storm Watch
- 9- From Garden to Bouquet – Growing Your Own Cut Flowers
- 10- School Board Story
- 11- State Officials Urge Public to Prepare Now for Major Storm
- 12- Strong storm expected Wednesday/Thursday
- 13- Today in Weather History
- 14- Weather Pages
- 16- Daily Devotional
- 17- 2019 Groton Events
- 18- News from the Associated Press
- 56- Noem Vetoes Industrial Hemp Legislation

## Death Notice: Eunice Alberts

Eunice Alberts, 86, of Groton passed away Monday, March 11, 2019 at her home. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## **CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

After already covering the quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end and fullback positions, we come to the final group on the offensive side of the ball: offensive line. The offensive line has been a weak spot on the Vikings' roster for years now, and many fans believe a decent offensive line to protect Kirk Cousins and open holes in the running game is the missing piece that will vault the Vikings back into Super Bowl contention. There is no doubt the front office will look to strengthen the position this off-season, but let's take a look back at last season to see who played well, and who will need to be replaced.

At left tackle, Riley Reiff played 13 games in 2018. He was perhaps the Vikings most consistent offensive lineman, but that doesn't mean much when the team gives up 40 sacks and nine fumbles by Kirk Cousins. Reiff is 30 years old and is entering the third year of a five-year contract the Vikings gave him in 2017. He will make \$11.7 million this year. With his contract, don't be surprised to see him once again lining up at left tackle for the Vikings in 2019.

Tom Compton started 14 games for the Vikings at left guard in 2018. The Vikings signed him to a one-year contract last off-season, so he is more than likely gone unless the Vikings re-sign him because they can't find anybody better in free agency or the draft.

Pat Elfien started 13 games at center last season, and should be back there again this year. He is entering the third year in the NFL, and injuries have plagued him throughout his brief career so far. If he can stay healthy, he has shown flashes of promise that he will become a good center in this league. He is set to make a little over \$1 million this season.

Mike Remmers, who was signed by the Vikings in 2017 to play right tackle, actually ended up starting all 16 games at right guard in 2018. He was just released by the team, a move that will save the Vikings \$4.5 million.

Brian O'Neill was the Vikings' second round pick in 2018, and most had him projected as a project – someone who would take a year or two to develop before he found the field. Instead, O'Neill impressed the coaching enough that he played in 15 games and started 11 of them. The 23-year-old is entering the second year of his rookie contract and he will count for a little over \$1 million against the cap.

The Vikings have some young pieces along the offensive line, but as it sits now that team is looking at some big changes coming to the position. At this point, we have to hope that Rick Spielman, Mike Zimmer, and the rest of the Vikings' front office will be able to turn the group around. With the explosive playmakers the Vikings have at other positions, the offensive line doesn't need to be great – all we need them to be is average and the team will look a whole lot better than it did last season. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWright-NFL)

# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts &  
Class A CDL Drivers

New Starting Competitive Wages  
Overtime Available

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health,
- Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- STD
- LTD
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit [www.uslbn.com/careers](http://www.uslbn.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.





## Mighty big snow drift

This is, perhaps, the largest snow drift in Groton. Brenda Englund lives on 16th Avenue in the far northern part of the city. This is a natural made drift made by the winds and snow of South Dakota. She is pictured above with her son, Gavin. She estimates that the drift grew by two feet with the last storm and with the upcoming storm scheduled to hit this week, it could grow even taller. The photo below is a view of the backyard snow. You can barely see the fence in the middle left. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



## Noem Approves Bill Allowing Schools to Carry Opioid Antidotes Signs 24 Bills on Variety of Topics

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today signed SB84, a bill that allows trained staff at schools to administer opioid antidotes in case of an overdose.

“In recent years, opioids have stolen the lives of hundreds of South Dakotans, and students are not immune,” said Noem. “As we work to educate students on the extreme consequences of opioids, meth, and other drugs, we must also take steps to help those already caught in addiction. This bill allows trained staff at schools to administer an opioid antidote if a student has overdosed, giving them another chance for recovery. If one life is saved as a result of this legislation, it’s worth it.”

Governor Kristi Noem today signed the following bills into law:

HB1080 – An act to increase the property tax exemption allowed for certain veterans with a disability and the surviving spouses of certain veterans with a disability

HB1081 – An act to authorize certain paraplegic or amputee veterans or their surviving spouses to retain a property tax exemption without having to reapply each year

HB1122 – An act to revise references to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing

HB1176 – An act to provide for the regulation of saline tattoo removal by municipalities

HB1215 – An act to revise provisions regarding the posting of county and municipality ordinances

HB1242 – An act to include opossums within the definition of predator and to declare an emergency

SB40 – An act to authorize the transfer of certain real property to the Animal Industry Board

SB43 – An act to redirect funding to a collaborative program in rural veterinary medical education and to provide tax revenue for the support of veterinary students

SB45 – An act to revise the provisions regarding the filing of a statement of additional issues on appeal in certain contested cases

SB 53 – An act to authorize certain retailers to offer quantity discounts or cash discounts for the purchase of alcoholic beverages

SB63 – An act to increase the penalty for a subsequent conviction for trespass to hunt, fish, or trap

SB75 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding who is eligible to serve as a candidate in the event of a vacancy

SB77 – An act to revise provisions regarding candidates running for office

SB78 – An act to exempt certain medical providers from licensure

SB84 – An act to authorize the possession and administration of opioid antagonists by school district and nonpublic school personnel, and to declare an emergency

SB85 – An act to revise the deadline for the Department of Health's annual report regarding abortions

SB90 – An act to revise provisions regarding certain financial interest statements filed by persons elected to state or local office

SB92 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding the signature requirements for municipal elections

SB98 – An act to repeal the sunset of a wine manufacturer license

SB114 – An act to attribute campaign contributions by certain minors to their parents

SB121 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding manufacturers' warranties for motor vehicles to include all-terrain vehicles

SB129 – An act to exempt motor vehicles owned by licensed ambulance services from certain motor vehicle registration fees

SB143 – An act to revise visitation rights of a person causing conception by rape or incest

SB163 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding jury lists



## Communities lose when newspapers die or slide into decline

By JOYCE TERHAAR

It is a story of corruption that will stay secret, politicians who will need fewer votes to win, even dangerous communicable diseases that will spread faster as our best scientists struggle to fight them.

The story is the slow and painful demise of local newspapers, a story whose ending is not yet written but which — without bold intervention and strong reader support — could bring catastrophic repercussions.

Whether you follow the news or not, whether you trust journalists or not, the financial challenges slaying local newspapers will affect your community, your wallet, your quality of life. In some cities, they already have.

We've watched local newspapers lose revenue to tech giants for the better part of the last quarter century. In recent years, the outcome has become dire, with nearly one in five — almost 1,800 newspapers — closed in the last 15 years, according to Penelope Muse Abernathy, the Knight Chair in Journalism and Media Economics at the University of North Carolina.

Even more prevalent than closures are what Abernathy calls "ghosts," newspapers that are a shell of what they were. Tens of thousands of journalists left newsrooms in the decade ending 2017.

You can blame the insatiable grab for profits from hedge fund ownership like Alden Global Capital and its Digital First Media. But even companies with deep commitments to their journalistic mission have been forced to issue one layoff after another, dismantling newsroom staffs that once kept a check on the powerful.

When they walked out of the newsroom, those journalists took with them their connections to the community and their knowledge of issues and people. We've all lived through the result: Your newspaper's best coverage still might be very good; there's just not nearly enough of it.

I used to think journalists in digital startups would replace newspapers that disappeared. That isn't happening enough. Abernathy identified hundreds of cities with no credible news source left. And last July, Pew Research Center reported that in the decade ending in 2017, roughly 32,000 newspaper journalist jobs evaporated and only 6,000 were created by digital news startups. Newspapers still employed more journalists — 39,000 — than the 13,000 at digital sites.

What happens when a community loses a newspaper? Or when the newspaper no longer has enough reporters to cover the news? The Federal Communications Commission as far back as 2011 had a bleak prognosis: "More government waste, more local corruption, less effective schools, and other serious community problems."

It was right:

— It costs you money: Higher wages for government employees, higher deficits and — perhaps a more esoteric example — higher costs for municipal borrowing. Last May, researchers at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Illinois at Chicago found all three after looking at how local newspaper closures affected public finance. "... local newspapers hold their governments accountable, keeping municipal borrowing costs low and ultimately saving local taxpayers money."

— It might hurt your health: Scientists with the US Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization told the health news site STAT last year they use local newspaper reports to watch for the spread of infectious diseases and are handicapped in communities without newspapers. For instance, the CDC obtained urgent data about a 2016-17 mumps outbreak in northwest Arkansas only because of



# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 6 of 57**

coverage from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

— Fewer people hold power: When local newspapers go out of business, several recent studies show, we don't vote as often or stay engaged with politics. That means fewer people elect our politicians. Think about the last time you voted. Did you vote in every race on the ballot? Or did you skip some because you couldn't easily find verified information about the candidates?

Without local newspapers, who reveals injustices like the widespread sexual abuse by Catholic priests reported by the Boston Globe in 2003? Or leads a community-wide discussion of race relations and the impact on housing, crime and education, as Ohio's Akron Beacon Journal did in 1993? Or exposes high death rates among Las Vegas construction workers as the Las Vegas Sun did in 2009? These are just three examples of public service so exemplary they received a Pulitzer Prize.

We can't afford to lose this kind of journalism. You can help by subscribing to at least one local newspaper. The Knight Foundation last month announced a major effort to help, committing \$300 million to organizations including those that pay for local journalism, like the American Journalism Project, Report for America and the investigative journalism nonprofit ProPublica. Philanthropists around the country are funding nonprofit startups to help fill the void.

We should pay attention to what other countries are doing, and to Sen. Elizabeth Warren's proposal on Friday to break up tech company dominance, even though government intervention rightly raises some hackles.

Late last year, the Canadian government announced it would spend \$600 million to protect public service journalism, using tools such as tax incentives. A British inquiry into what it will take to sustain high quality journalism last month rightly questioned whether it's time for government intervention given the market dominance of Facebook and Google, and made recommendations including possible journalism subsidies.

What about that market dominance?

It is, after all, threatening public service journalism, an essential part of our democracy and citizen power. In January, we saw Facebook pledge to spend \$300 million in the U.S. to help local newspapers, a year after Google promised the same amount.

It's a good start, but not nearly enough: The duopoly controls most online advertising revenue, benefits from news content, yet doesn't pay for the substantial cost of quality journalism. Bold intervention is what we need. Will it take the British?

---

Terhaar is a board member with the American Society of News Editors and the former executive editor of The Sacramento Bee. Follow her at <https://twitter.com/jterhaar>

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 7 of 57



**Groton Area held its regional Desitination Imagination Review Monday at the Groton Area Elementary School. Dean Fenenga, the South Dakota DI Affiliate Director, introduced the first team which was the Rising Stars team. A good crowd was on hand for the event. Since there was no regional tournament held due to the weather, all Groton Area teams were reviewed last night and will attend the State DI Tournament set for March 30 in Pierre. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 8 of 57



**The frost made for pretty views on Monday morning.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## **WINTER STORM WATCH**

**Issue Date: 6:39 AM Tue, Mar 12, 2019**

**Expiration: 1:00 AM Fri, Mar 15, 2019**

...WINTER STORM WATCH REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY MORNING THROUGH LATE THURSDAY NIGHT...

\* **WHAT...**Blizzard conditions possible. Total snow accumulations of 4 to 14 inches and ice accumulations of around one tenth of an inch possible. Winds could gust as high as 55 mph.

\* **WHERE...**Portions of north central and northeast South Dakota.

\* **WHEN...**From Wednesday morning through late Thursday night.

\* **ADDITIONAL DETAILS...**Travel could be very difficult to impossible. Patchy blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute. Strong winds could cause extensive damage to trees and power lines.

A Winter Storm Watch for blizzard conditions means there is a potential for falling and/or blowing snow with strong winds and extremely poor visibilities. This can lead to whiteout conditions and make travel very dangerous.



## From Garden to Bouquet – Growing Your Own Cut Flowers

By Melinda Myers

Keep your flower vases filled all summer long with beautiful blossoms picked right from your own garden and containers. Growing seeds, plants and tender bulbs that can double as cut flowers makes it easy to create casual, fresh-cut bouquets for your dinner table, guest room or to share with family and friends.

For early spring flowers, look to spring-blooming bulbs like tulips and daffodils, and cool weather annuals like pansies and snapdragons. Clipping branches from trees and shrubs such as forsythia, quince and daphne is another good way to bring spring into your home. Your perennial garden can provide bleeding heart, iris, hellebores, peonies and much more.

If the selection in your own spring garden is limited, strike up a trade with a friend. Pick some of theirs in the spring and share some of yours in the summer. Then make a note to add more spring-blooming bulbs and perennials to your landscape.

Gladiolas and dahlias add pizzazz to summer and fall bouquets. These spring-planted bulbs combine nicely with other summer flowers and they continue to bloom well after other flowers have faded in the heat of late summer. Get some free help planning your additions with the "How to Design a Cutting Garden" article found at [longfield-gardens.com](http://longfield-gardens.com).

The flower-packed spikes of gladiolas are available in a rainbow of colors that will inspire your creativity. These inexpensive bulbs are easy to plant and take up very little space. Pop them into containers, flowerbeds or even your vegetable garden. Start planting in mid spring and continue every two weeks until midsummer for months of colorful flower spikes.

With dahlias, you can choose from dozens of different flower sizes, flower styles and colors. For easy, eye-catching bouquets, plant a color-themed blend such as the Sugar Plum Mix from Longfield Gardens. Another option is to select colors that will harmonize with flowers that are already in your gardens such as phlox, sunflowers, asters and lilies.

Hybrid lilies are perennial garden favorites as well as fabulous cut flowers. Plant the bulbs of Asiatic lilies, Oriental lilies and Oriental-trumpet lilies in spring, for color and fragrance that lasts all summer long. To ensure months of flowers, be sure to plant a few bulbs of each type of lily.

Annuals play an essential role in any cut flower garden. Extend your budget by starting zinnias, sunflowers, larkspur and cosmos from seed, and supplement with greenhouse-grown transplants of snapdragons, celosia, amaranth and statice.

Foliage can elevate an ordinary homegrown bouquet from good to great, and your garden can provide all sorts of interesting options. Incorporate the leaves of perennials such as hosta, baptisia, artemesia and sage as well as flower farmer favorites such as bells of Ireland, bupleurum and dusty miller. Shrubs such as ninebark, boxwood, viburnum and holly are another source of attractive foliage and some offer colorful berries as well.

Cutting and arranging flowers is a fun way to exercise your creativity and bring the beauty of your garden indoors. The more you do it, the easier it gets, and you'll soon be sharing your flowers with friends, neighbors, family, coworkers and everyone who stops by.

Melinda Myers has written numerous books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 10 of 57



**The Groton Area School Board met Monday evening and as you can tell in the center window, snow is starting to encroach in on the visibility. The left window appears to be covered over. Elementary Principal Brett Schwan said the same thing is happening at the elementary school. Pictured left to right are Kara Pharis, Marty Weismantel, Deb Gengerke, Elementary Principal Brett Schwan, MS/HS Principal Kiersten Sombke, Superintendent Joe Schwan, Board President Steve Smith, Business Manager Michael J. Weber, Merle Harder, Grant Rix and Clint Fjelstad.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## **Sternhagen, Hanson and Strom will be done this year**

Justin Hanson and Nick Strom both turned in their resignations as boys basketball coaches, effective at the end of the current school year. Hanson has been the head coach and Strom the assistant coach. Jodi Sternhagen will be retiring at the end of the school year as high school counselor. All four administrators turned in their contracts for another year. (Supt. Joe Schwan, Elementary Principal Brett Schwan, MS/HS Principal Kiersten Sombke, Business Manager Mike Weber)

## **National motto to be displayed in SD Public Schools**

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that SB55 has been signed by the governor and will go into effect the next school year. The national motto, "In God we Trust" will need to be displayed in all public schools in South Dakota. If there is a lawsuit against a school district, the state will defend them.

The Groton Area School District will be a TSI school where more emphasis is needed on students with disabilities. Targeted Support (TSI) is any school with a consistently low-performing subgroup (subgroup has been performing significantly below the All Students group on all indicators). Schwan said that Groton's students are higher than the state average, but there is a gap between those students in the general students within the district; thus causing the district to fall into special needs. This spring, the district will need to develop a plan. Then from July-December 2019, the data needs to be collected and organized. In January 2020, the data needs to be analyzed as facilitators synthesize the data. From February-March 2020, the data is analyzed with the team. From March-May 2020, the needs are to be prioritized. Then the connect to implementation needs to be submitted by May 31, 2020. Then monitor and evaluate the action plan progress in years 2-4. Elementary Principal Brett Schwan said it may be time consuming, but it will be worth it in the end.

There was discussion on the end of the school year with the number of missed days due to storms. So far, the district has missed six full days of schools and has had six late starts. Going past Memorial Day is not really an option. Board Member Deb Gengerke suggested going to school on Easter Monday as a make-up day. A decision will be made at the next school board meeting.

Business Manager Mike Weber reported that the Groton Area School will receive an additional \$80,000 tax revenue from Day County that will help the Capital Outlay and Special Education budget. Results from Brown County were not available.

The Groton School received a 99/100 at the the high school and elementary school for the Health Food Service Inspection. A ceiling tile at the high school and contact paper on a shelf at the elementary school were the only dings on the report.

Mitchell Holler, a student teacher for Shaun Wanner, introduced himself to the board.

Homecoming for 2019 will be Friday, Sept. 20, against Milbank. Coronation will be on Monday, Sept. 16.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 11 of 57

## State Officials Urge Public to Prepare Now for Major Storm

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota state government officials urge citizens to make preparations now, which includes adjusting travel plans, for a late-winter storm this week that will cover most of the state with several inches of snow, high winds and freezing rain.

The latest National Weather Service forecast calls for the heaviest snow to begin falling in western and central South Dakota Wednesday morning. At the same time, portions of eastern and south central South Dakota will see freezing rain or heavy rain, which could result in downed power lines and flooding. Overnight Wednesday into Thursday, central South Dakota can expect winds as high as 70 miles per hour, which will bring blowing and drifting snow and reduced visibility. Snow is expected throughout most of South Dakota by Thursday before finally ending that afternoon and evening. Up to two feet of snow could fall in some areas.

Those staying at home are encouraged to make sure they have enough supplies on hand, including needed medication. Citizens also are urged to check on elderly neighbors, pets and livestock.

Wednesday and Thursday are expected to be heavy traffic days with many people attending state high school basketball tournaments starting Thursday in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Sioux Falls. State Department of Public Safety Secretary Craig Price says people should start to adjust their travel plans now.

“There are still a lot of questions about the timing and direction of this storm, but for now we encourage people going anywhere in western South Dakota to be at their place of destination by Tuesday night,” he says. “For those headed elsewhere in South Dakota, you should get to your destination by sometime Wednesday afternoon. The current forecast indicates travel will likely be very difficult by Thursday morning.”

Department of Transportation Operations Director Greg Fuller says crews are preparing now to keep highways open as much as possible.

“Motorists need to keep updated with latest weather and road conditions,” he says. “This appears to be a fast-moving storm that could quickly impact roads and driving conditions.”

Drivers are reminded to check [safetravelusa.com/sd](http://safetravelusa.com/sd) or call 5-1-1 before they begin their trip.

### **Motorists also are urged to take the following steps:**

- Check [safetravelusa.com/sd](http://safetravelusa.com/sd) or call 5-1-1 to check road conditions.
- Wear your seatbelt
- Travel during the day
- Drive with your headlights on (not daytime running lights) so you can be seen by other motorists from the front and rear
- Don't use cruise control on icy or snow-covered roads
- Use highly traveled roads and highways
- Keep family and friends informed of your travel schedule and route
- Keep a winter weather survival kit in your car. The kit should include blankets, warm clothing, water, energy bars, a flashlight, a distress flag, a shovel and matches
- Travel with a charged cell phone, but don't rely on it to get you out of a bad situation
- Change travel plans as weather conditions warrant

### **If you do get stranded:**

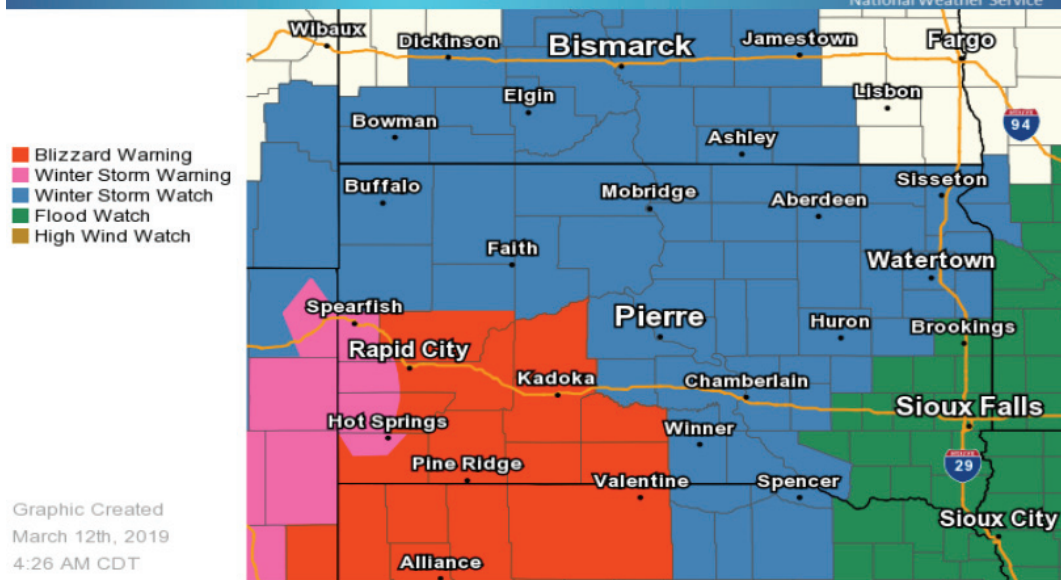
- Stay in your vehicle
- Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes an hour to stay warm
- When the engine is running, open a window slightly to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Periodically clearing snow from the exhaust pipe will also help prevent carbon monoxide buildup
- When it's dark outside, turn on the interior light so rescuers can see you
- Put up a distress flag, or spread a large colored cloth on the ground to attract attention from rescuers

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 12 of 57

## Strong Storm Expected Wed/Thu

### Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

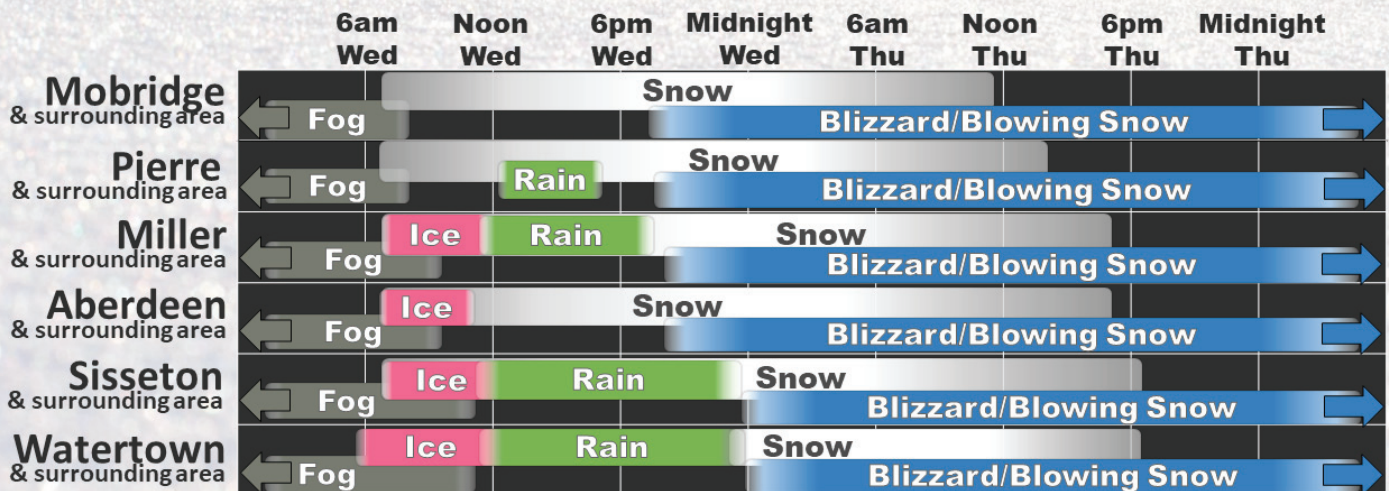


A powerful winter storm will affect the region Wednesday and Thursday. Periods of rain or freezing rain are possible before the precipitation changes to snow Wednesday night and Thursday. Significant snow accumulations are expected. Strong winds are also expected Wednesday night and Thursday.



## Approximate Winter Weather Threats Timeline

A significant winter storm is taking aim at the area, and hazardous to impossible travel conditions are expected. Your location may see ice, rain, snow and/or blizzard conditions, and **50-65 mph wind gusts** may even result in power outages. Prepare now!



Visit [www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr) for a detailed forecast for your specific location

Updated: 3/11/2019 3:59 PM CT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 13 of 57

## Today in Weather History

March 12, 1995: Rapid snowmelt, due to warm temperatures, caused widespread flooding of streams, low areas, and farmland. Many roads were covered with water, and some were washed out. Some utility poles and lines were damaged. High water levels damaged some schools, houses, and other buildings. Day County was especially stricken, with damage to roads alone estimated at \$75,000. Ice jams exacerbated the flooding on some culverts and streams.

1928: The St. Frances dam near Santa Paula, California burst before midnight, sending 138,000 acres of water rushing down the San Francisquito Canyon, killing 450 people. The dam was designed and built between 1924 and 1926 by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, then named the Bureau of Water Works and Supply.

1976: A large tornado outbreak spawned tornadoes in the Great Lakes and Midwest, including 9 in northern Indiana and extreme southern Michigan. A tornado missed President Ford's motorcade by a quarter mile near O'Hare. The next morning, he got out of his vehicle to view the damage.

1993: An incredible blizzard known as "The Superstorm" struck the eastern United States on this date through the 15th. The storm was described as the most costly non-tropical storm ever to hit the U.S. doing an estimated \$6 billion in damage. The storm was as strong as a hurricane regarding winds and low pressure. The pressure dropped to an incredible 28.35 inches of mercury or 960 millibars when then the storm was located over the Chesapeake Bay. Boston, Massachusetts recorded a wind gust to 81 mph, the most substantial wind they had recorded since Hurricane Edna in 1954. Also, as the storm was intensifying over the Gulf of Mexico, a wind gust to 99 mph was recorded by an offshore oil rig. It dumped incredible amounts of snow from Alabama to New England. The snow amounts were significant everywhere, but for places like Birmingham, Alabama the 17 inches recorded brought the city to a standstill for three days. Mount Leconte, North Carolina recorded 60 inches of snow. Practically every weather station in West Virginia established a new 24-hour snowfall record during the event. Syracuse, New York was buried under 43 inches of snow. 270 people were killed during the storm and another 48 lost at sea. The storm also brought a 12-foot storm surge and 15 tornadoes to Florida, where 51 people were killed. Air travel was brought to a halt as every major airport from Atlanta north was closed during the height of the storm. During the late evening into the early morning hours of the 13th, a vicious squall line swept through Florida and spawned 11 tornadoes resulting in five fatalities. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 110 mph at Alligator Point and 109 mph at Dry Tortugas. Exceptionally high tides occurred along the western Florida coast. A 13-foot storm surge occurred in Taylor County, Florida, resulting in 10 deaths with 57 residences destroyed. A 5 to 8-foot storm surge moved ashore in Dixie County. Over 500 homes were destroyed with major damage to another 700 structures.

1888 - A blizzard paralyzed southeastern New York State and western New England. The storm produced 58 inches of snow at Saratoga NY, and 50 inches at Middletown CT. The blizzard was followed by record cold temperatures, and the cold and snow claimed 400 lives. New York City received 20.9 inches of snow, Albany NY reported 46.7 inches. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - A blizzard raged from eastern Wyoming into the Black Hills of western South Dakota, while a severe ice storm was in progress from northeastern Nebraska to central Iowa. The ice storm isolated 153 towns in Iowa. Dust from the Great Plains caused brown snow, and hail and muddy rain over parts of Wisconsin and Michigan. (11th-13th) (The Weather Channel)







1967 - A tremendous four day storm raged across California. Winds of 90 mph closed mountain passes, heavy rains flooded the lowlands, and in sixty hours Squaw Valley CA was buried under 96 inches (eight feet) of snow. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., with gale force winds along the Middle Atlantic Coast. A storm in the Pacific Northwest produced rain and gale force winds. Crescent City CA received 2.27 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Winds gusting to 70 mph produced snow drifts six feet high in Minnesota, and sent twelve foot waves on Lake Superior over the breakwalls of the ship canal at Duluth MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 14 of 57

Today	Tonight	Winter Storm Watch			
					
Partly Sunny	Dense Freezing Fog and Patchy Fog	40% → 90%	100%   100%	80%	Patchy Blowing Snow and Windy
High: 37 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 14 °F

## More Snow and Wind Wednesday - Thursday!

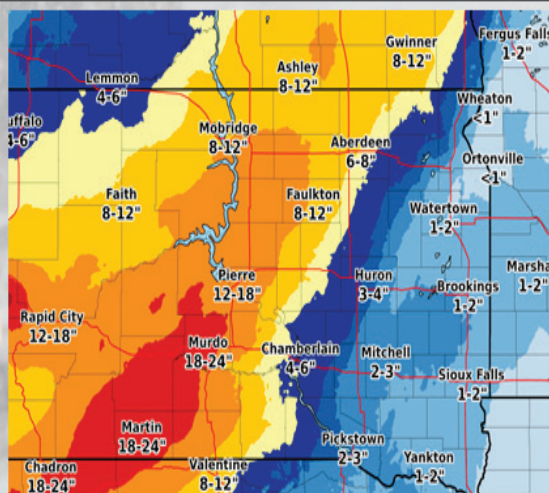
- ✓ Beginning Wednesday morning south of Highway 212. Spreading north through the day.
- ✓ Precipitation may begin as rain or freezing rain before changing over to snow.
- ✓ Winds of 35 to 45 mph developing Wednesday night – Thursday
- ✓ Monitor Road Conditions



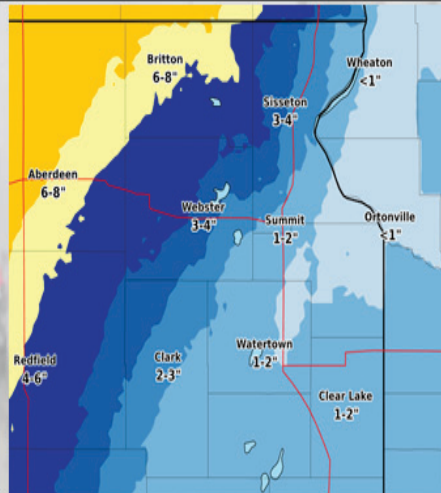
SD... <https://www.safetravelusa.com/sd/>  
 MN... <https://hb.511mn.org>



### Possible Snowfall Amounts Wed - Thu



### Challenging Area – Rain? Freezing Rain? Snow?



Northeast SD and western MN could see more mix precipitation.

Confidence is low in this area.  
Stay Tuned!

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)  
Updated: 3/12/2019 5:02 AM Central

Published on: 03/12/2019 at 5:03AM

A powerful winter storm will affect the region Wednesday and Thursday. Periods of rain or freezing rain are possible before the precipitation changes to snow Wednesday night and Thursday. Significant snow accumulations are expected along the Missouri River Valley. Strong winds are also expected Wednesday night and Thursday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 15 of 57

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 28 °F at 7:39 PM

Low Outside Temp: -4 °F at 5:14 AM

High Gust: 23 mph at 6:29 PM

Precip: .

## Today's Info

Record High: 72° in 2016, 1934

Record Low: -20° in 1897

Average High: 38°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.33

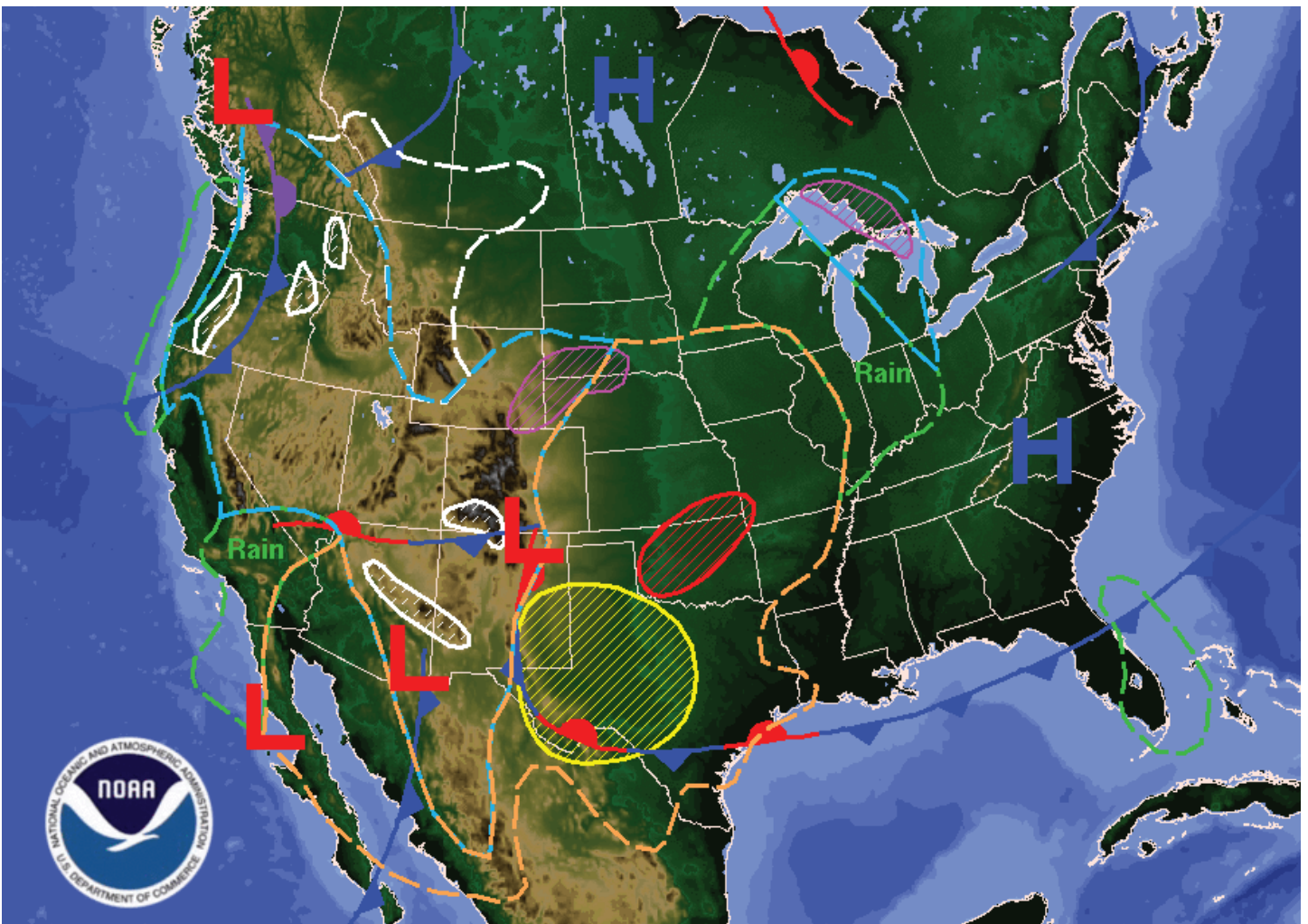
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.35

Precip Year to Date: 1.46

Sunset Tonight: 7:35 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 12, 2019, issued 4:48 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 16 of 57



## CAUTION! DANGER AHEAD

Highway signs and signals can be very helpful if we follow their directions and commands. If we read and heed them, safe passage is usually assured. But, if for some reason we go against the warnings - danger lurks.

In fifteen words, Solomon gives us some critical advice: Avoid it, do not travel on it, turn from it, and go on your way!

But what is this it?

The path of the wicked or the way of wicked men. That's simple and easy to read. But we are inclined to say, Simple may not always be easy!

Again and again, we are encouraged to walk in paths of righteousness. In this verse, however, we are given four important tactics for safe passage.

**Avoid it: (temptation):** What a simple first step. How much better life would be for all of us if we did everything we could to avoid temptation. Allowing ourselves to become intrigued by the lusts of the world is where evil begins.

**Travel by it:** means that we will stay as far away as possible from being tempted. If we know some thing can destroy our walk with God, run quickly from it.

**Turn from it:** means that we activate our will immediately and do not delay or hesitate to seek refuge in God.

**Get away from it as soon as possible:** To delay is to invite disaster and defeat. Hesitation allows time for the devil to seduce us. Run into the arms of God for His protection!

**Prayer:** We thank You, Father, for giving us guidance that is simple and easy to follow. Now, give us Your strength, power, and courage to follow it. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 4:15 Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving.



## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

## News from the Associated Press

### **Kansas tries to forget regular-season flop in Big 12 tourney**

**By DAVE SKRETTA AP Basketball Writer**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Just about the only good thing that comes with failing to win at least a share of the Big 12 title for the first time in 15 years is Kansas knows its first-round opponent in the league tournament.

It's not much. But it's something.

The No. 3 seed Jayhawks, who were trumped by Kansas State and Texas Tech during the regular season, will face sixth-seeded Texas in the nightcap of the quarterfinals Thursday. It will be an opportunity for a group responsible for the end of one of college basketball's remarkable streaks to win a championship ring whenever the season finally concludes.

"Whether I want to admit it or not, it's deflating not winning the league," said coach Bill Self, whose team arrives at Sprint Center as defending champs. "For us to win the tournament in Kansas City, we're going to have to beat three teams that are all quadrant-one teams and all that stuff.

"It's going to be hard to do. We know that," Self said. "But we've done it before. We did it last year and we're certainly capable of going over there and putting together a nice run. I think it'll be good for us to get our batteries recharged."

The tournament opens Wednesday night, when eighth-seeded TCU faces No. 9 seed Oklahoma State (12-19) and seventh-seeded Oklahoma plays No. 10 seed West Virginia (12-19). The Horned Frogs (19-12) and Sooners (19-12) are both in a precarious NCAA Tournament position heading into the weekend.

The Longhorns (16-15) are in a similar position, even though they earned a better seed and a tougher draw. A loss to the Jayhawks (23-8) would leave coach Shaka Smart's team at .500, and an at-large bid with that kind of mark — even in the rugged Big 12 — is hard to imagine.

"We've got to be so much better than we were if we want to win any games in Kansas City," Smart said after a loss to the Horned Frogs in their regular-season finale. "I know our players are better than they played. I know we're a better team than we've played. It doesn't matter, you've got to go do it."

Asked where Texas deserves to be in the dance, Smart replied: "We'll find out in Kansas City."

Indeed, there is plenty to learn.

Kansas State (24-7) earned the top seed after winning a share of its second Big 12 title under Bruce Weber, and a veteran team led by seniors Barry Brown Jr., Kamau Stokes and Dean Wade will take the floor against the TCU-Oklahoma State winner in the quarterfinals. Despite reaching the tournament championship game in 2010 and 2013, the Wildcats have never hoisted the trophy.

Weber sounded optimistic that Stokes and Wade will be closer to 100 percent after dealing with a series of injuries late in the season. Top backup Cartier Diarra could also be close to returning after he required surgery on his shooting hand midway through the league schedule.

"We're going to push him a little bit this week," Weber said. "I don't want to promise he's going to be in the game in Kansas City but there's a chance and we've just got to see. Doctors are so worried. He wants that thing to be so healed. He can shoot now, he can pass, he can dribble. But when you get in the game and somebody nails you, you don't want to have something happen to him."

The Red Raiders (26-5) will await the Oklahoma-West Virginia winner in the quarterfinals. Like the Wildcats, they have never won the tournament, and they haven't even been to the finals since 2005.

The quarterfinal opener Thursday features fourth-seeded Baylor (19-12) and No. 5 seed Iowa State (20-11), which has made a habit of wreaking havoc in the tournament.

Buoyed by thousands of fans that make the annual pilgrimage south on Interstate 35, the Cyclones have won three of the past five Big 12 Tournaments. That includes back-to-back titles in 2014-15 and another in 2017, when Iowa State entered the weekend as the No. 4 seed.

Never has a lower-seeded team won the Big 12 Tournament.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 19 of 57

Plenty of No. 3 seeds have won it, though, including Kansas during the 1999 tournament. And if the Jayhawks can turn the trick again, knocking off three highly regarded opponents in three days, perhaps the disappointment of failing to win the regular-season title will be somewhat assuaged.

If nothing else, it would give them some momentum headed into the NCAA Tournament.

"I don't really think that I'm in love with how we're playing, but I also don't think that I'm ultra-concerned with how we're playing," Self said. "You're going to be concerned this time of year because from this point forward it's one-and-done, so to speak, if you lose in both tournaments."

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## Hahn scores 16 to lead Omaha over Purdue Fort Wayne 61-60

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Mitch Hahn posted 16 points, including the final points with 3:13 remaining, and grabbed seven rebounds as Nebraska Omaha narrowly defeated Purdue Fort Wayne 61-60 in the Summit League Conference Tourney semifinals on Monday night.

Zach Jackson had 12 points and six rebounds for Nebraska Omaha (21-10). JT Gibson added 10 points. Matt Pile had 11 rebounds for the home team.

After heading to the locker room at halftime with a 37-30 advantage, Nebraska Omaha managed to hang on for the victory despite being outscored by six points in the second half. The Mavericks' 24 points in the second half marked a season low for the team.

Kason Harrell had 13 points and six rebounds for the Mastodons (18-15). John Konchar added 13 points and seven rebounds. He also had seven turnovers but only four assists. Dylan Carl had four blocks.

## Griesel carries North Dakota St. past W. Illinois 76-73

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sam Griesel had a season-high 20 points as North Dakota State narrowly defeated Western Illinois 76-73 in the semifinals of the Summit League Conference Tourney on Monday night.

Vinnie Shahid had 14 points for North Dakota State (17-15). Deng Geu added 11 points.

Tyson Ward, the Bison's leading scorer heading into the contest at 13 points per game, shot only 17 percent in the game (1 of 6).

Kobe Webster had 24 points for the Leathernecks (10-21). Ben Pyle added 14 points and seven rebounds. Brandon Gilbeck had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

## Gov. Noem vetoes bill legalizing industrial hemp production

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem on Monday vetoed a bill to legalize industrial hemp production in the state, saying it would make law enforcement's job more difficult and could be a first step to eventually legalizing recreational marijuana.

Noem had previously opposed legalizing hemp this year but had not threatened a veto. She raised a host of objections to the bill as it was being drafted.

"There is no question in my mind that normalizing hemp, like legalizing medical marijuana, is part of a larger strategy to undermine enforcement of the drug laws and make legalized marijuana inevitable," Noem said in a statement along with her veto.

Earlier Monday, the House voted overwhelmingly for the bill and sent it to her. But a 21-14 vote in the Senate fell short of the two-thirds support it would need to override her veto.

At least 41 states have enacted hemp growing and production programs, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The bill's main sponsor, Democratic Rep. Oren Lesmeister, has said it would allow South Dakota farmers and ranchers to keep up with the demand and the expansion of the hemp industry.

Noem said she was worried that drug detection dogs flag hemp like marijuana and that the plants look alike. Her administration has said allowing hemp cultivation would come with a multi-million dollar price

tag and lead to another push to legalize marijuana in South Dakota.

Wyoming Republican state Rep. Bunky Loucks, who sponsored a hemp legalization bill signed recently there, told the Rapid City Journal that a veto from Noem would mean less competition for the Wyoming hemp industry.

"Tell her I hope she vetoes it, because that would be good for Wyoming," he said.

Lesmeister said the Senate added "close to 90 percent" of a suggested amendment from the governor's office. The alterations include broader background check requirements, giving more rulemaking authority to state agencies and restricting who could transport industrial hemp. The changes also require hemp to be grown outdoors.

The 2018 federal farm bill legalized cultivation of industrial hemp nationally. Supporters contend planting hemp wouldn't even happen until 2020 under the South Dakota proposal, which defines industrial hemp as containing no more than 0.3 percent THC.

## Man who found dead baby in 1981 reflects on mother's arrest

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who discovered a dead infant in a ditch 38 years ago said following the arrest of the child's biological mother that he still mourns the loss of a child he wishes he had found alive.

Lee Litz told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader that he cried tears of relief when he learned Theresa Bentaas, 57, had been charged with murder and manslaughter in the killing of the child known as Baby Andrew.

Litz found the boy's body wrapped in a blanket in a cornfield ditch in February 1981.

Litz said his family and the 50 strangers who attended the infant's funeral are the boy's true family, even though they didn't know him or his parents. Litz said his wife was pregnant when he discovered the baby and he was already a father, so he couldn't comprehend why someone would leave their child to die.

"It was a human life. He never got the chance to live," Litz said. "There are times when I wish I hadn't found him and there are times that I'm glad I did. I just wish I found him earlier, when he was still alive."

His 37-year-old daughter, Crystal Litz-Oestreich, said she and her family hope for justice for the child whose body was found just months before she was born.

"Bentaas threw him away like trash," Litz-Oestreich said.

Sioux Falls Police used DNA to determine Bentaas was the biological mother and arrested her Friday.

Bentaas' attorney, Raleigh Hansman, declined to comment Monday afternoon. She argued at a bond hearing earlier Monday that Bentaas should be released on her own recognizance, arguing that she is a lifelong Sioux Falls resident with no criminal history and "not a danger to this community." Judge Pat Schroeder granted prosecutors' request for \$250,000 cash-only bond.

Bentaas told authorities last month that she concealed her pregnancy from her friends and family and gave birth alone in her apartment, according to an affidavit. Bentaas said she drove the infant to the area where he was later discovered and left him there to die.

Bentaas said she was "young and stupid" and felt sad and scared as she drove away, according to the court document.

Litz said that's no excuse.

"What she did 38 years ago was wrong. It doesn't matter how long it's been," Litz said. "As far as her, I don't have any sympathy for her."

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## Rapid City math teacher named district's teacher of the year

By MATTHEW GUERRY Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Seth Keene first plans his lessons by looking at real-world applications for the material at hand.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 21 of 57

Scatter plots and correlations, for example, are used by Netflix to recommend new movies and by eHarmony to pair potential partners.

Tate Helfenstein, a Rapid City Stevens High School student, said he can use math to safely fell trees for his job with his father's lumber company. He took his first class with Keene his sophomore year.

"Up to that point, I thought math was the worst. But when I had Keene as a teacher, math became more of a fun thing to do," said Helfenstein, 18.

Keene, 44, was recognized for his work this year, his seventh at Stevens, when the Rapid City Public School Foundation named him the district's teacher of the year, the Rapid City Journal reported. He received a check for \$1,000 with the award, which was the first one the foundation gave out since putting the program on hiatus five years ago.

The recognition puts Keene in the running for regional and state teacher of the year awards, which are managed by the South Dakota Department of Education.

"My first reaction when I got the call that I won the award for the district was that of relief," Keene said. "So many other teachers in my department and in this school were worthy of a nomination or the award themselves that I really felt like if I didn't win for the whole district, there were so many people at Stevens who could have."

Now, Keene said, he feels a pressure to continue representing his colleagues well.

Originally from Deadwood, Keene has taught for 18 years in a career that included stops in Minnesota, St. Thomas More High School and at other Rapid City schools. Two of his children graduated from the Rapid City school district, where his youngest daughter still attends.

He is married to Barb Keene, who serves as operations manager for the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.

Seth Keene teaches classes in statistics, probability and remedial math at Stevens, and this year is piloting the school's first Advanced Placement Statistics course.

"Statistics is my true passion because it's what you use every day," he explained.

After graduating from Lead-Deadwood High School in 1992, Keene went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame. It was in college that he discovered his passion for teaching, having tutored several of his classmates.

"As we worked, I understood the material better, and as we worked, I got a lot of joy out of seeing that they understood it," he said. "I knew right then that that was the path that I wanted to take."

Keene worked in retail and in banking after college before earning his state alternative teaching certificate. Those experiences, he said, drove home some of the practical applications for mathematics that he uses to engage students today.

"Seth's passion for students' learning is what I believe is really something that makes him a great educator," Stevens Principal John Julius said. "He really works hard to connect with students, develop relationships and figure out ways that he can work on his craft to provide valuable learning opportunities."

Outside of the classroom, Keene serves as coordinator for the Black Hills MathCounts competitive program and as adviser for the Stevens' cycling club, which takes weekly trips to Hansen-Larsen Memorial Park and Skyline Wilderness Park. He's been at the forefront of an effort to redevelop Raider Park, which sits across from Stevens and is owned by the district, into a multi-use trail and green space.

It's Keene's hope that the space will not only be used for athletics but education as well. Agricultural classes will help decide which trees will be planted there, he said, and science classes will be able to study animal and plant life outdoors.

A nonprofit organized by the friends and family of Tom Pfeifle, the late Stevens graduate for whom the trails are named, has already raised \$70,000 for the project, which is entirely donation driven. Keene said there are plans to apply for additional grant funding.

"The group of teachers who are kind of leading this had the opportunity to work with Tom, so for us it's really kind of a special, personal thing as well," he said.

Keene's colleagues are part of what he said makes working at Stevens special. Their commitment to

trying new things for their students, he said, is second to none.

"As long as I'm in education, this is where I'll be," Keene said.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## Functional dry needling gains popularity in South Dakota

By KAIJA SWISHER Black Hills Pioneer

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — On Aug. 1, 2018, a law in South Dakota became effective to approve physical therapists to practice functional dry needling, a therapy to manage musculoskeletal problems, and local physical therapists are seeing people seeking out the natural pain relieving treatment.

"These patients have usually learned about dry needling from a friend in a different state or from their own research to manage their pain. Since it is so new to our area, we have had to educate our patients and community on the effectiveness of dry needling," said Julie Wingen, a physical therapist at Pain & Movement Solutions in Belle Fourche. "Most of our patients have been very open and excited to have another treatment alternative to improve their pain and expedite their healing process. In other states where dry needling is more well-known, it is an expected part of physical therapy treatment due to its large popularity for good outcomes."

Wingen told the Black Hills Pioneer that many area physical therapists will receive their certifications for dry needling in the next year.

"I believe you will begin to see the popularity of this treatment grow rapidly in the next couple years," she said, explaining that the technique has long been used in Europe, but it's only been in the past 15 years that it's risen in popularity in the United States.

"Our state physical therapy association advocated strongly last legislative session to approve dry needling for physical therapists, as our state was one of only six states left to approve this effective treatment technique," Wingen said, voicing appreciation to state legislators.

She explained that the providers at Pain & Movement Solutions completed an intensive continuing education course to receive their Level 1 certification for Functional Dry Needling immediately once the law was passed and have been performing the technique since August.

Wingen said that the technique was introduced during her doctorate schooling for physical therapy and that research studies have found dry needling to be similar in effectiveness when compared to cortisone injections when treating trigger points.

"I have been waiting for dry needling to become an approved treatment in our state for over 10 years," she said.

Wingen explained that the technique treats muscular tension and spasms produced by myofascial trigger points, which are painful "knots" in taut bands of impaired muscles that play a role in producing and maintaining a pain cycle.

She described that when an injury occurs from repetitive use or acute trauma, inflammation will be produced from the damaged tissues, which can go into a protective tension state or contracture to guard against further damage from utilizing the injured tissue leading to compression and irritation of nerves.

"Dry needling involves identifying the source of the pain and advancing thin, solid filament needles into the related muscles to stimulate underlying neural, muscular, and connective tissues," Wingen said, describing that research shows that the strategic insertion of the needle creates a quick muscle twitch stimulating the body's natural healing capabilities, increasing blood flow and oxygen circulation to the area, decreasing muscle contraction, reducing chemical irritation, and improving flexibility, pain and dysfunction. "This process essentially 'reboots' the muscle and the decrease in pain is related to the removal of muscular compression on joint, nerve, and vascular tissue."

Wingen said the technique is a natural extension of hands-on physical therapy to decrease muscle dysfunction, but the muscle must then be retrained with appropriate exercises and motor control training to break the pain cycle.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 23 of 57

She added that patients often ask how dry needling compares to acupuncture and that one of the main differences is that dry needling does not have the purpose of altering the flow of energy along traditional Chinese meridians for the treatment of disease and is a modern, science-based intervention for the treatment of pain and dysfunction in musculoskeletal conditions by doctors of physical therapy with a thorough knowledge and understanding of a patient's condition based on professional evaluations and assessments.

"Unlike acupuncture sessions, which can involve dozens of needles in several areas of the body, dry needling often utilizes just a few needles that are strategically placed along affected muscles," she said. "Another way that dry needling differs from acupuncture is that it's not considered curative on its own. It's often part of a multi-technique physical therapy plan that may also include movement analysis, targeted exercises, and other interventions."

Patients also ask about side effects, and Wingen said that there may be some soreness immediately after treatment in the area of the body treated that lasts between a few hours and 2 days, and there is occasional bruising.

"Typically it feels like you have had an intense workout at the gym, but a small number of patients report drowsiness, tiredness, or dizziness (1-3 percent)," she said, and soreness may be alleviated by applying ice or heat to the area and performing specific stretches for the treated muscle.

Patients also ask about how many sessions of dry needling are needed.

"We are looking to get improvements even from the first visit such as increased range of motion, ease of movement and decreased symptoms, but complete restoration of the muscle dysfunction is based on the chronicity and severity of your condition," Wingen said. "We will only dry needle the same muscle group one time per week to allow for completion of the physiological response with dry needling."

She added that the technique may not be for everyone, and the decision to implement treatment is based on the patient's condition and interest for receiving dry needling.

The technique is considered a natural pain reliever that can reduce muscle tension, ease joint pain, improve blood flow, and oxygen circulation within the body, and desensitize irritated tissues in the body, which brings results for those who are trying to optimize sports performance, recover faster from injury, or prevent issues from becoming chronic, Wingen said.

She described that dry needling has allowed her to be more precise and definitive with her treatment strategy.

"I have seen great results for neck pain, headaches, and sciatica," Wingen said, describing that she was excited when she utilized the treatment on a patient that was experiencing severe pain down his leg from an acute bulging disc. "He had failed typical treatments and was about to be referred to receive oral steroids to address the pain. He was agreeable to try dry needling and experienced an 85 percent reduction in his symptoms following and did not need any expensive medications or imaging to address his pain. I knew dry needling was effective, but I was blown away by the great results with some of the most difficult pains to treat."

Wingen described that the technique is one tool that therapists can use to address myofascial pain and muscle tightness.

"In some cases, a therapist might do two to three treatments of dry needling in order to make subsequent movement therapies more effective," she said. "For example, a runner with active trigger points in her hamstring would likely benefit from a few dry needling sessions before going through therapy that can improve her running gait."

She added that it has been really exciting to be on the frontline of offering this new treatment for pain management in the state.

"We see a wide variety of patients and have been able to utilize it for new injuries to chronic pains and everything in-between," she said, adding, "Pain is a huge epidemic in our country and has currently led to a serious opioid problem."

Physical therapists will continue to be at the frontline to address these issues in a conservative manner, Wingen said, adding, "Many do not realize that in our state all patients have direct access to physical therapy, meaning that you can come to PT without a physician referral. Research has proven over and



over again that the sooner that you seek physical therapy, the better your outcomes will be.”

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## South Dakota man retires after 50 years driving school buses

By SHELLY CONLON Argus Leader

HARRISBURG, S.D. (AP) — When a fire ripped through George’s Service station in 1972, longtime Harrisburg resident George VanDenHul rushed into the flames to grab what may have been the most important thing to him at the time.

A set of keys to a school bus resting too close to the fire for comfort.

Five years prior, VanDenHul had started the Harrisburg School District’s first busing system in a town with one school and about 300 people, and he wanted to protect his \$3,400 investment in that effort.

He didn’t know at the time that driving children to and from school in that bus every day would become a 50-year career.

And because of the fire, it almost hadn’t, he said.

“I don’t know if the bus would’ve got destroyed or not,” VanDenHul said. “Either way, I somehow would’ve pulled it out I think.”

But by then, he had already fallen in love with serving children who needed help getting to and from school every day, he said.

The 80-year-old retired from school bus driving recently following some recent health concerns. City officials declared Feb. 28 George VanDenHul Day as friends and family as far away as Kansas held a reception for him and former students waved goodbye to him on a bus ride home, the Argus Leader reported.

“It was very clear when his bus of students stopped at his social event that they missed him. He knew them all by name,” district communications director JoAnne VerMulm said. “I had students come up to me and tell me George was their mom or dad’s bus driver when they were in school. They wanted to know when he was coming back.”

But VanDenHul is modest when it comes to his life and contributions to Harrisburg in the last half-century. He often keeps his sentences short, not saying more than necessary.

Beyond starting the district’s first bus system, VanDenHul was also a mechanic and bar owner.

He owned a race car and chased hot air balloons. He ran the town’s hardware store, coached local baseball teams, delivered fuel to the co-op in Canton and served as the city’s volunteer fire chief for a bit, he and his supporters said.

VanDenHul even helped organize the first Harrisburg Days in the late ’60s, when the town didn’t have the fastest-growing school district in the state, he said. That’s when the fire department sponsored tractor pulls, street dances and barbecues. And he helped raise money for the town’s original baseball diamond.

But his connection with the children is what kept him coming back year after year, he said.

And that time has allowed him to see his beloved Harrisburg School District expand to what it is today with more than 4,700 students.

“It was a job,” he said. “And I got attached to the kids. That was a big deal. I just enjoyed it.”

After the fire, he rebuilt the station. The bus he started with, he drove to North Carolina to pick up, he said. He owned the chassis, while the district owned the bus, he said. Today, that bus could cost at least \$100,000, VanDenHul said in a press release from the school district.

He’s driven at least three generations of Harrisburg students to and from school each day, he said. And he’s seen the district grow from five bus routes to today’s 23.

“I don’t know anybody no more,” he said. “I used to know everybody.”

His days started early, and the last few years he had a route of about 40 minutes, eight stops and 70 students. Ask him what his favorite moment has been, and he’ll only tell you, “There’s so many, I could write a book on them.”

And though he wouldn’t go into too much detail about any antics his students did while he drove, he did

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 25 of 57

admit he had to pull the bus over a couple times to settle the rowdy ones. One instance even included a student who tried to jump out of a window, he said.

"Most of the time I'd just greet them good morning. Some of them wouldn't say nothing, and some of them would say good morning back to you," VanDenHul said. "I had one little girl come on. She was a second-grader. She said, 'You saw my grandpa on the bus.' It made me feel old."

And VanDenHul's greetings meant as much to his students as they did to him.

Fifth-grader Carter Stein has known the bus driver for about the last four years, Stein said.

"We haven't had him drive our bus since about last year, but I was always happy to see him," Stein said.

VanDenHul would give his students candy canes or a little treat every Christmas, which was heartwarming, Stein said. Stein, thankful for VanDenHul's polite demeanor, said his bus driver taught him to always be kind even on the rough days.

"I'm going to miss his smile," Stein said. "I would always ask him does he like his job. He was like, 'Yes.' Then I asked him what his favorite part about his job was, and he was just like, 'Just seeing all the kids,' with a big smile."

When VanDenHul had to undergo a six-hour pancreatic surgery more than a year ago, he had to take a leave of absence, he said. The district was gracious enough to leave his job open for his return, but ultimately VanDenHul decided it was best not to, he said.

"I decided I better not. I didn't trust myself," he said. "It was tough, but I've got some other problems, too."

As VanDenHul looks back on the last 50 years, he said he's grateful for the friends he has made and hopes he's had a positive impact.

"I don't know," VanDenHul said. "I'm just glad they got to school safe and home safe."

He wants to remain involved in the community as he enters retirement, but how VanDenHul spends his days will depend on his health, he said. With a bit of a green thumb, he is also looking forward to working in his garden, his daughter Julie Ruud said in a press release from the school district.

Right now, though, he'll just focus on one thing at a time.

"At about 1 p.m., I'll take my nap," he said.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## South Dakota man inducted into darts hall of fame

By BECCA SIMON Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — When Alvin Gerlach of Aberdeen took his first position on the National Dart Association board of directors, tournaments were run entirely with paper brackets.

He used a wall chart to track a tournament's progress, and handed out scorecards that had to be filled out manually.

Today, everything is done electronically. A computer keeps track of scores, and an app informs players of their bracket placement — no paper needed.

That is largely thanks to Gerlach, who pushed to introduce the technology.

For his efforts, Gerlach was recently inducted to the Amusement and Music Operators Association-National Dart Association Hall of Fame, the Aberdeen American News reported.

The Amusement and Music Operators Association is a trade group that works with people and businesses involved in "the sales, marketing, distribution and manufacturing of currency-operated equipment," according to its website.

Gerlach has worked at Hub Music & Vending since 1986 and became service manager in 1996. He has served two terms as president of the National Dart Association board since.

In 2003, Gerlach was looking for a way to expand his dart leagues.

"We had them here with Hub Music, but they were kind of weak," he said.

So he got involved with the National Dart Association to learn how he could take his own league to the

next level.

"Next thing you know, they're asking me to take a position on the board," he said.

Since then, Gerlach has been busy traveling to and organizing tournaments, sometimes putting in 15-hour days at the larger events.

The program he helped introduce is called CompuSport, which is an automated event managing system specialized for pool, darts, foosball and ping pong, according to its website.

"It's an amazing tool," Gerlach said. "The first time we ran it out in (Las) Vegas, the board members were skeptical of it. I insisted we try it because it's a better system and a better experience for our players."

Gerlach is also responsible for developing a junior dart tournament for the association. He noticed the people in adult tournaments were typically the same year after year.

"It wasn't growing or getting new blood," he said.

But the numbers have grown since the junior tournament started.

Gerlach has kids of his own, ages 13 and 8, who play in tournaments.

"It's a great way to see it grow," he said. "Junior tournaments are the best, hands down. You get to see (the kids) grow year to year. Physically, you can see how much taller they've gotten. And you can see their skill level increase over the years."

Gerlach last served as board president in 2016 before he was termed out and retired from the board. Although he is part of the nominating committee for the hall of fame, he never saw himself as a candidate.

"I feel pretty humbled, I didn't see it coming," he said. "I love the NDA, and it's been a great experience for me."

---

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Heavy snow causes Upper Midwest roofs to collapse

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Heavy, wet snow that fell over the weekend in parts of the Upper Midwest caused roof collapses at a church, hotel, gas station and some homes.

There were no reported serious injuries caused by the collapses, which happened after more than a foot of snow fell in some places.

In Minnesota, part of the roof over the kitchen area gave way at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Moorhead at around noon on Sunday. The two people inside got out safely.

On the church's Facebook page, director of music and worship Bonnie Lee wrote, "A Sunday morning miracle! Praise God! This morning the roof over the parish center collapsed on our beautiful church. As terrible as it was, no one was hurt."

In Winona, the ceiling above the pool at a Holiday Inn Express collapsed Sunday morning. No one was hurt. In Plainview, the roof of a building housing classic cars collapsed Saturday.

A man pumping gas at a service station in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was injured Sunday when the canopy over the pumps collapsed.

"He said he heard noises above him and looked ahead and people were running away," said Joe Kelly, Eau Claire Fire & Rescue battalion chief. "He tucked back inside (the car)."

The man was able to free himself from the car after the collapse and was transported to a hospital with minor injuries, Kelly said. Police looked at surveillance camera footage to determine that no other people were under the wreckage.

In White Lake, the roof of the fire station collapsed trapping emergency response vehicles underneath early Sunday.

Also Sunday, more than a dozen people working at RJ Corman, a railroad service company in West Fargo, North Dakota, escaped injury when the roof gave way. Firefighters checked for gas leaks afterward, as the biggest issue following a roof collapse is the potential for an explosion, according to West Fargo Fire Chief Dan Fuller.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 27 of 57

Also in West Fargo, a partial roof collapse at a trailer manufacturer touched off a fire when a gas line was sheared. Officials say the collapse caused significant damage to the offices at Trail King Industries. No one was in the building at the time.

## Fatal stabbing victim identified in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a verbal altercation after hours of drinking led to a fatal stabbing in Sioux Falls.

Thirty-eight-year-old Ronnie Baker was stabbed twice in the chest at a residence Sunday. A 40-year-old suspect was arrested several blocks away. He is expected in court later Monday.

Lt. Mike Colwill says witnesses at the home went to a neighbor's house to call police following the stabbing. Jim Hanscom tells KELO-TV he was checking for his Sunday paper when he saw police handcuffing a man in shorts. Hanscom says he didn't recognize the man. He says he's lived in the neighborhood for nearly 50 years and usually the biggest problem is speeding.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

**American News, Aberdeen, March 9**

### Legislators fail to find enough help for struggling nursing homes

Mobridge. Madison. Tripp. Roslyn. Bryant.

All of those South Dakota towns have seen the doors on their nursing homes shuttered in recent years. And in recent days, the Violet Tschetter Memorial Home in Huron has been added to the list. It will close by May 10. Like others, the facility cited not being able to sustain operations due to being severely underfunded.

When it comes to the state's nursing home crisis, Deb Peters said it best as a guest on South Dakota Public Broadcasting Feb. 28.

"If you're treading water in an ocean and the sharks are circling, innovation is not always the best possible option," she said.

As the vice president of communications and member relations for the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations and a former state legislator, Peters is well-positioned to use that analogy.

It's an opinion we share.

One-time funding might be a Band-Aid for a much bigger problem, but a bill offering \$8 million didn't make it out of committee.

The only measure relating to nursing homes still alive this legislative session is for innovation grants, but it doesn't offer any immediate help.

Now there are just a handful of days left in the session, and it's too late to file any new bills.

The sad part is that any measure that would have offered true help — money — to struggling nursing homes was killed.

That's frustrating because perhaps it could have saved nursing homes that will close before a long-term solution is found.

Senate Bill 173 would appropriate \$5 million from the general fund for nursing home innovation grants and hire an outside consultant to review the nursing home rate methodology.

The review is needed because our state offers nursing homes the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rate in the U.S., according to the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations. But it also means legislators have to wait another year to have more information.

Meanwhile, nursing homes are losing hundreds or thousands of dollars every day. So before the problem is fixed, more will close. The proposed increase simply won't be enough.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 28 of 57

In her January budget address, Gov. Kristi Noem proposed \$3.8 million in one-time funding to give nursing homes and other Medicaid service providers a 2.5 percent increase. Another \$5.8 million allocation would raise the reimbursement rate by an additional 2.5 percent as an ongoing increase.

At the March 2 legislative cracker barrel session in town, Sen. Al Novstrup, R-Aberdeen, spoke to the expected increase.

"It might not be enough, but it will be something," he said.

That's a problem.

While there's been talk of working to save nursing homes, meaningful action has been limited, the result of the state's frugal and sometimes miserly mindset.

South Dakota has had a moratorium on the number of nursing home beds allowed in the state for years. When a facility closes, its beds can be transferred to another — usually in a larger city.

So while the number of beds will not change, the distribution of the beds will. And that will likely force more members of the oldest generation to spend the final years of their lives farther from home.

This issue caught nobody by surprise, so we expected better.

Clint Graybull, senior executive director of post-acute care at Sanford Health, shared powerful words on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

"We're (at crisis level). Nobody likes this. This isn't something anybody is happy about. The urgency is there," he said. "We're behind. We're gonna have to move forward ... but we will see more closures before we get to ... sustainable, ongoing reimbursement."

In other words, it's already too late.

---

## Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, March 8

### Noem's pipeline package thwarts First Amendment

The South Dakota Legislature should be winding down as it heads into the final days of the 2019 session. Instead, in a flurry of last-minute outrage and "emergency" clauses, state lawmakers and the governor are making plays to bend the First Amendment of the United States Constitution to suit their purposes.

We find it disturbing that, in several of these cases, they attempt to subvert freedom of assembly by invoking their singular interpretation of freedom of speech.

What they conveniently ignore is that these fundamental guarantees are two sides of the same constitutional coin.

Take the pair of emergency measures brought by Gov. Kristi Noem that were submitted long after the deadline to submit new bills and rammed through the Senate and the House in a mere 72 hours, allowing for minimal debate.

The measures target expected protests of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline by Native American tribal members and their allies inside and outside the state. A federal judge halted preliminary construction on the pipeline late last year after finding that its approval violated tribal treaties with the U.S. government.

Senate Bill 189 outlines a new crime, "riot boosting," despite there already being functional laws on the books that cover "encouraging or soliciting violence in riot." The new law details criminal culpability for donors or vocal supporters if violence occurs at what begins as a peaceful protest.

Senate Bill 190 establishes the cynically named PEACE (Pipeline Engagement Activity Coordination Expenses) Fund to collect financial liabilities from "riot boosters" for up to three times the estimated damage or expenses incurred. The legislation allows a third party, presumably TransCanada, to partner with the state in these lawsuits.

Noem's still-functioning gubernatorial campaign website yearns for "a different kind of relationship with South Dakota's nine tribes, one that truly embraces the meaning of Dakota, or ally."

It's difficult to believe that she is operating as a good faith ally with this move — after closed door meetings with TransCanada — to silence objection to the pipeline running through sacred Native American lands.

The American Civil Liberties Union is weighing its options against the approved bills as they head to Noem's desk. The ACLU has condemned the measures as "unnecessary" and "meant to chill speech."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 29 of 57

Noem has said she supports the freedoms of assembly and speech. Yet these bills double-down on the 2017 anti-protest law initiated by former Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The governor has also called herself a supporter of property rights in the same statement where she praises a project that has utilized eminent domain to claim private land along its route.

In her Monday press conference, Noem insisted that the bills create a legal avenue "to go after out-of-state money funding riots that go beyond expressing a viewpoint but instead aim to slowdown the pipeline build."

She further claimed that "the most typical national offender that we see funding these types of activities would be George Soros," echoing wider national right-wing talking points about the philanthropist, who frequently supports progressive causes. A Soros nonprofit spokesperson said that there was no involvement in North Dakota's Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

It's nothing new for South Dakota Republicans to try to halt out of-state support for political viewpoints that they oppose. House Bill 1094, the most recent attempt to limit not only out-of-state influence but also the ability of South Dakota citizens to make law through ballot initiatives, is on its way to Noem's desk, too.

And a bill killed earlier in the session to firm up Board of Regents control over state college campus principles of "intellectual diversity" and "free speech" was raised from the dead. House Bill 1187's resuscitation followed controversy last week over the Student Bar Association at the University of South Dakota School of Law renaming "Hawaiian Day" and deciding not to distribute leis after a student raised concerns about possible cultural insensitivity.

The timing of the bill's revival is telling. Conservative commentators regularly lament such instances of what they term "political correctness." Their push for "free speech" on campus often swells immediately after a university rejects a conservative speaker over student objections.

While we question some of the motives behind this particular bill and have concerns over Title IX-related comments made by current Board of Regents president Kevin Schieffer, we resoundingly advocate for a free exchange of viewpoints at universities. College campuses have long been and should remain a proving ground for ideas and a bastion for civil liberties, supported by federal precedent.

American history is filled with examples of opposition to powerful forces, including on college campuses. It's been messy. Freedom is messy. Democracy is messy.

But it's important to note that freedom of speech does not equate to freedom from criticism. It is imperative that we acknowledge the right of Americans, whether students or tribal protesters, to speak out, with the understanding that they are bound by the same laws that guide us every day.

When words and their meanings are twisted to advance an ideological agenda, up can become down, black can become white, right can become wrong. It can be as simple as coining a scary new name for a crime that's already on the books to preemptively shut down argument.

In the end, we see it for what it is: An effort to suppress opposition in favor of powerful interests, a far cry from the constitutional freedoms that our country's founders had in mind.

---

## Rapid City Journal, March 7

### Let voters decide on sports betting

South Dakota bet the town when it opened Deadwood to casino gambling three decades ago.

When two thirds of South Dakota voters approved that wager in November 1988, Deadwood was a dying historic relic 12 miles off the interstate with no money, no commerce and mostly boarded up buildings. Gaming has since injected the place with \$350 million in public and private dollars. Crumbling infrastructure has been rebuilt. Gaming there currently supports roughly 1,300 jobs. Not a bad payoff.

Success didn't come without costs, but so far South Dakotans have continued to support what they wrought. In 2014, 57 percent of state voters approved an amendment paving the way for keno, craps and roulette in Deadwood.

Gaming officials now seek lawmakers' help in presenting voters with a constitutional amendment to enable sports betting there and in tribal casinos. A House panel dealt the measure a setback Monday, but



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 30 of 57

a procedural move offers another spin of the wheel. The Senate has already voted to approve.

Without House support, Deadwood must collect nearly 34,000 signatures to bring the question directly to voters. Would anyone like to wager against their ability to do that?

Gov. Kristi Noem opposes making it easy for Deadwood to bring the vote forward, citing personal preference and financial reasons.

"Gov. Noem has made it clear that she does not wish to have gambling expanded in South Dakota," Revenue Department Deputy Secretary David Wiest told lawmakers Monday. The administration also argues that regulatory costs would exceed revenues generated.

The latter might be true. A recent analysis by the Legislative Research Council estimates the constitutional amendment would result in roughly \$2 million in casino revenues and about \$185,000 in new tax collections during FY2022. Total Deadwood gambling revenues were roughly \$100 million in 2017.

In Nevada, sports books contribute only 2.4 percent of gambling revenue statewide — dwarfed by the proceeds from table games and slots. Even so, March Madness still makes for an impressive Vegas party.

Deadwood Gaming Association Executive Director Mike Rodman acknowledges sports betting wouldn't be a big payoff for Deadwood, but he argues state casinos must stay current in an increasingly competitive environment. Political handicappers estimate sports betting could soon expand to 20 states. The floodgates were opened last year when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a 1992 federal prohibition.

"We certainly think that it is important that Deadwood maintain itself as a competitive gaming destination," Rodman said. "We need to have those same game types that other destinations have."

Sports betting proponents say approval could encourage visits from a younger crowd and help stabilize the casino workforce over slow winters.

In the grand scheme, any small deficit in regulatory cost was long ago underwritten by the gambling proceeds collected over a generation. The state should be willing to write off any paltry incremental debt as winter tourism promotion.

As for state gambling, that horse left the barn long ago. After three decades of the grand experiment, is sports betting the place to draw a line in the sand?

We say let the voters decide.

We suspect they will anyway.

## Deadly plane crash puts dent in Ethiopia's grand designs

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — The crown jewel in Ethiopia's transformation to continental power in recent years is Ethiopian Airlines, the state-owned company that calls itself "the new spirit of Africa."

Sunday's crash that killed 157 people also puts a dent in Ethiopia's grand designs, spurred on by a dazzlingly reformist new leader. He vows to turn a state controlled-system into free and fair elections next year.

Even as the crash crater smoked, Africa mourned not only the dead but a symbol of the continent's rise.

"This couldn't have come at a worse time for Ethiopian Airlines," Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said in a statement, mindful that his own country, Africa's largest economy, has no national carrier. "Like every other African leader, I am proud of the fact that Ethiopian Airlines represents one of Africa's success stories."

The airline, Africa's only profitable carrier, is the high-flying symbol of a country shaking off its decades-old image of devastating poverty and famine.

Thanks in part to financing from China, Ethiopia has ambitious undertakings in infrastructure and industry that have facilitated some of Africa's fastest rapid economic growth.

Bold projects include one of Africa's few metro rail services, a massive hydropower dam on the Nile and numerous projects linking the landlocked nation with the Red Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

"Many Ethiopians see yesterday. I see tomorrow," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Africa's youngest head of government, told The Financial Times last month in his first major interview.

Abiy, who took power nearly a year ago, left the country of some 110 million people breathless with

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 31 of 57

reforms. His government freed jailed opposition figures, welcomed home exiles and made peace with neighboring Eritrea — startling changes that he hopes to continue in business, opening the airline and other state-owned sectors to the world.

As more countries and investors reach out to Africa, they increasingly land in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. Sunday's crash occurred shortly after takeoff there. The dead came from 35 countries.

"Ethiopian Airways is a key player in linking Africa to Gulf relations and a signature project of Ethiopia's internal capacity," said Angelo Izama, a regional analyst based in the United Arab Emirates. "So the wider community basically took the crash as a shock to Ethiopia and its status as a potential hegemon in the Horn (of Africa) and in East Africa."

In January, Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport inaugurated a new passenger terminal equipped to handle 22 million visitors a year, tripling its capacity in a city that is a diplomatic hub with the headquarters of the African Union continental body.

The opening was a dramatic pushback against the long-held image of African air travel as chaotic and dangerous on a bustling continent of more than 1 billion people. Before Sunday, no major deadly air accident had occurred in more than two years.

Ethiopian Airlines appears determined to spread the success, reaching out to other African airlines for partnerships and investment. Many African carriers have collapsed in the last few decades, often because of mismanagement.

In its push for dominance, Ethiopian Airlines continues to open new international routes, flying to nearly 120 destinations. In January it opened a route to Moscow and announced plans to fly nonstop to Houston.

The company has been among the first buyers of commercial jets hitting the market. In 2012 it became the first in Africa, and one of the first around the globe, to take delivery of Boeing's flagship Dreamliner jet.

The purchase was celebrated with fanfare at home as a source of immense pride.

Ethiopian Airlines' latest headline purchase was the Boeing 737 Max 8, the newest version of the best-selling airliner in history.

Heady with optimism, the airline ordered 30 of them last year.

One of the planes was delivered in mid-November.

On Sunday, six minutes after takeoff, it crashed. No one yet knows why.

Ethiopian Airlines within hours tweeted a photo of its CEO standing in the wreckage, an image shared around the world.

The prime minister went to the site as well. But he mourned in private.

Follow Africa news at [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Africa](https://twitter.com/AP_Africa)

## Trump's budget proposal offers preview of upcoming campaign

By ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Frustrated by a divided Congress and rifts within his own party, President Donald Trump is giving little indication in his latest budget proposal of any new policy ambitions for the coming two, or six, years.

Trump's budget plan increases spending on his border wall and the military but is light on fresh ideas heading into his re-election campaign. His budget for the next fiscal year, which has little chance of advancing in Congress, largely focuses on deep spending cuts and pushing more money toward established goals such as his long-promised wall, improving care of veterans and combating opioid abuse.

Budgets may offer a president's vision for the direction of the nation, but Trump's latest also offers an early window into his upcoming campaign.

With the Democratic race to unseat him heating up, Trump is contending with middling approval ratings, energized Democrats and political vulnerabilities in critical states. Like his predecessors, he'll soon be called on to complete the politically loaded phrase, "Send me back to the White House so that I can ..."

"I think, as he gets closer to 2020, he will need to lay out what a second term would look like," said

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 32 of 57

Republican consultant Alex Conant. "Voters always want to know, 'What have you done for me lately?' If he doesn't paint a picture of what his second term will look like, then the Democrats will do it for him."

The White House argues that Trump isn't just advancing the same policies a second time over, he's enhancing them with more detail than his first go-round, particularly in the area of trade policy.

Following a State of the Union address that contained little new policy, the budget is hardly a surprise. Still, the budget can serve more than one political purpose, argued former Trump campaign aide Barry Bennett, who said the document highlights Trump's clashes with Democrats over border and military funding. He argued that the Democratic tilt to the left also will benefit Trump as he seeks to frame the argument.

Bennett said Trump's pitch can be: "If your paycheck likes what I've done, send me back. If you don't, they'll undo it all."

Trump has already addressed much of his laundry-list agenda from 2016, notching victories in many areas while seeking to minimize losses and mixed results. He has cut taxes, exited global accords and installed conservative judges on the courts, including two Supreme Court justices. He has not succeeded in replacing President Barack Obama's health care law, is still working on renegotiating trade deals and has struggled to secure all the funding he wants for his border wall.

In all, the efforts have largely pleased his political base, but satisfaction with past performance is hardly a reliable tactic for expanding your support.

Thus far, Trump's re-election campaign moves have been laser-focused on maintaining his most ardent supporters. It's a risky wager, laid down by the president himself, that he can overcome weakness with moderate and independent voters by turning out even more loyalists in 2020 than he did in 2016.

During his aggressive push to maintain the GOP's hold over the Senate during the midterm elections, Trump emphasized his hardline immigration rhetoric above all else. He has returned again and again to his long-promised border wall, even forcing the government to partially shut down in an effort to win funding. The latest budget also calls for repealing "Obamacare," limiting future federal spending on Medicaid for people with lower incomes, as well as breaking out the new Space Force as its own military branch.

"We believe that every budget is an opportunity to put forward our vision for the next 10 years," said acting budget director Russell Vought.

Trump's gamble has skeptics among some in the president's inner circle, who have pushed the president and the White House to embrace larger policy ideas designed to win over moderates and independents.

Aides point to Trump's cautious embrace of a family medical leave policy pushed by his daughter, Ivanka Trump, as the sort of proposal Trump's team should spend more time developing ahead of 2020. She is backing new funding for child care in the current proposal. A White House-backed infrastructure plan, the hobbyhorse of Washington election year policy, appears no closer to fruition than when Trump first raised it two years ago, with his budget allocation unchanged from previous years.

Trump's nascent re-election campaign has just begun staffing-up for 2020, with a focus on developing a more professionalized operation than 2016, but has yet to announce a policy staff.

Trump's light policy load is also a function of his increasingly strained relationship with Congress. Under divided control, the White House views it as unlikely that any new proposals can win legislative approval — and plan to be judicious about sending anything to Capitol Hill only to see it defeated.

## A state Senate race in Iowa is drawing presidential hopefuls

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa (AP) — A month ago, Eric Giddens was just a member of the Cedar Falls school board thinking about maybe, someday, running for higher office.

Today, he feels like the most popular Democrat in Iowa.

California Rep. Eric Swalwell called to congratulate him the day he won the nomination for a surprise special election for Iowa state Senate. California Sen. Kamala Harris did the same the next day. And this month, Democratic White House hopefuls have descended on his district to support his bid. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren helped him launch his campaign earlier this month. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock,



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 33 of 57

another possible presidential contender, had a beer with him at a bar on the University of Northern Iowa's campus while telling students to get out and vote. Swalwell worked the phones with him, calling voters to remind them about the race.

Giddens has a jam-packed Saturday coming up, with former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke expected to campaign for Giddens in his first trip to Iowa. That day, presidential candidates Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker are planning events as well. And even those contenders who can't make it to the district, like Harris and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, are sending their campaign staff to canvass for him.

This is what it looks like when your campaign is the only game in town less than a year before the Iowa caucuses. For the Democratic field, campaigning alongside Giddens is an opportunity to prove their commitment to building up the state party, something local elected officials and party operatives are looking for as they evaluate whom to support for the White House. And it's a chance for candidates to promote themselves in traditionally blue Black Hawk County.

For Giddens, whose full-time job is to head up the University of Northern Iowa's energy programs, it's all a little "bizarre" — but he isn't fazed by all the attention. Asked how it feels to have hung out with a handful of people who may someday be the next president, Giddens shrugs, smiles and deems it "cool."

"It feels kind of normal, in a weird way," he says. "They're just . they're just people."

Kevin Geiken, executive director of the Iowa Democratic Party, said the candidate involvement "shows that they're committed to actually seeing Iowa Democrats succeed, and giving back resources rather than taking resources."

The state Senate seat opened in February after the incumbent Democrat resigned. The special election will be held March 19.

For Giddens, the high-profile visits offer a visibility boost for a race that Democrats say they aren't taking for granted. Senate District 30 is about evenly split between Democrats and Republicans in party registration, and Iowa's Republican governor scheduled the election during spring break — a major concern for Democrats, as the district encompasses Cedar Falls, which is home to the University of Northern Iowa.

Jacob Becklund, director of the Iowa Senate Majority Fund, said Democrats were concerned about low turnout.

"Anything that makes it harder for both students and university personnel to vote is both wrong and more likely to cause the Republicans to win," he said.

So the presidential candidates are a welcome addition to Giddens' campaign.

"It helps build enthusiasm around a race and helps get people to turn out and vote. Our view is that it's nothing but a good thing to get people more aware and engaged in a special election," Becklund said.

While local Democrats are excited about the national attention the race is getting, Republicans see the visits as an opportunity to nationalize the race. Giddens' GOP opponent, former state Rep. Walt Rogers, called Giddens an "avowed socialist" because of his campaign contributions to Sen. Bernie Sanders, another presidential candidate, and noted Giddens' support from Warren, who "may not be a socialist, but she's pretty far left."

"Do you really want a socialist representing a moderate district?" Rogers said of Giddens. "This is a pretty important race for Iowa, and really for the country. It's sort of a microcosm of what's happening in the country because I think socialism is going to be an issue in the coming election as well."

He said the candidate visits have sparked interest and enthusiasm for the race among Republican voters as well.

Giddens dismisses the attacks as a "desperate tactic" and insists he's focused on local issues like education and his experience on the school board. He and other Democrats say the enthusiasm boost the candidates may add to the race outweighs the potential complications brought on by having national figures come through.

But canvassing on an icy Wednesday in Cedar Falls, where Giddens has lived and worked for over a decade, it's not clear he needs all the national attention. Neighbors and friends say hi to him on the street. He skips a number of homes included on a party list of likely Democrats, telling his campaign manager

“don’t bother” — they’re definitely going to vote for him. Most of the voters he does encounter that afternoon are aware of the special Senate race even if they didn’t know the Democratic caucus campaign is already taking place in their backyards.

Linda Taylor, a retired hospitality worker, said she wasn’t aware Warren and others had been to the county recently, but she was enthusiastically supporting Giddens and had already requested her absentee ballot.

“I’m not a person that loves politics, but I feel like it is so important, now more than it ever has been, for us to make our voices known,” she said.

## Judge’s ruling revives questions about Russian man’s death

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a foggy November morning in 2015, a heavily intoxicated man showed up before dawn at the Dupont Circle Hotel, forked over \$1,200 cash for a ninth-floor penthouse suite and kept drinking. His bender continued all day.

By the next morning, he was dead. Authorities concluded that he died of blunt force trauma, the result of repeatedly falling in his room and suffering at least one serious head wound.

Normally, such a case would be quickly forgotten. But Mikhail Lesin, 57, was no ordinary tourist on a drinking binge. He was one of Vladimir Putin’s top lieutenants during Putin’s rise to power in Russia. Speculation he was murdered has continued to this day.

Now a recent court ruling could shed light on the case.

On Feb. 13, a District of Columbia court ordered Washington’s medical examiner to turn over Lesin’s autopsy report and all related files. The order by Superior Court Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo was in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is considering an appeal, saying it should be up to the family to decide what details of Lesin’s death should be made public.

If the files are indeed released, they could provide new details about a case that has long been shrouded in suspicion.

There is no public evidence of foul play in Lesin’s death. Police and the medical examiner’s office stand by their finding that the death was accidental and Lesin’s family has not publicly challenged it. Phone calls and emails to Lesin’s two adult children, who live in Los Angeles, were unsuccessful.

Yet there is intrigue surrounding the case, fed by circumstantial evidence: It seems odd for someone Lesin’s age to die of blunt force trauma while alone in a room. There is also a gap in security video footage for the hours after Lesin was last seen alive. The police report eventually released to the public has been heavily redacted.

Above all, there is a long history of high-profile Russians turning up dead or seriously ill in foreign countries. In 2006, former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko died a few weeks after being dosed with a radioactive isotope in London; and in March 2018, former Russian spy turned double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia narrowly escaped death after being dosed with a nerve agent in the English city of Salisbury.

Lesin had amassed a fortune operating one of Russia’s first advertising agencies, then spent years as Putin’s media czar. He helped bring independent media outlets under state control during Putin’s rise to power. Later he founded the news network Russia Today. But he abruptly resigned in December 2014 and was believed by some Moscow-watchers to have fallen out of favor with the Putin government.

His death was headline news in Moscow. Russian media, citing the family, quickly reported the cause of death as a heart attack, but the medical examiner first listed the cause as “undetermined” and then later announced the “blunt force trauma” finding.

In December 2017, Washington’s Metropolitan Police Department released its 58-page report on Lesin’s death. It relies heavily on interviews with employees at two hotels where Lesin engaged in a 72-hour drinking binge. It also contains 14 pages of witness interviews that are almost totally redacted.

Still, it paints a grim portrait of a man drinking himself to death.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 35 of 57

Lesin checked into the Four Seasons Hotel in the tony Georgetown neighborhood on Nov. 2 and immediately began drinking heavily. Over the next two days, Lesin was escorted back to his room multiple times after drunkenly wandering the hallways or lobby.

He repeatedly asked hotel staff to get him more alcohol and twice went behind the hotel bar to grab bottles. His behavior was so erratic that Four Seasons staffers essentially confined him to his room and conducted periodic "welfare checks," according to the police report.

Around 5:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, while still booked at the Four Seasons, Lesin took a taxi to the more down-scale Dupont Circle Hotel. After paying for the penthouse, he returned to the Four Seasons where he was found wandering the hallways at 8 a.m. "in nothing but his underwear."

The Four Seasons staff eventually locked Lesin out of his room and he returned to the Dupont Circle Hotel, where the staff started doing their own welfare checks on the problematic guest.

Lesin was last seen alive while passed out on the floor of his room, at 8:15 p.m., and his body was found at 11:30 the next morning during another hotel welfare check. Security camera footage from the hallway outside Lesin's room had a 10-hour gap ending at 11:14 p.m. That means there was apparently no video covering the three hours after Lesin was last seen alive — and no way of knowing if anyone entered his room during that period.

The video gap and the redacted pages added to the online conspiracy theories. There was speculation, but no proof, that Lesin was killed before he could provide details of a Russian money laundering network and that police and the medical examiner either bungled the case or covered up the murder. There's no clear explanation, though, why American authorities would participate in such a cover-up.

Other more exotic theories suggest he faked his death and either went into hiding or entered the FBI's witness protection program.

A 2017 BuzzFeed investigation quoted unidentified FBI and intelligence officials who said they believe that Lesin was murdered. Those same officials said Lesin died the night before he was scheduled to meet with the Justice Department and that the DOJ was paying for his hotel. This could not be independently confirmed.

BuzzFeed's allegations were explosive, but with no officials speaking publicly and with Lesin's own family not feeding the flames, the issue became a bit of a cold case mystery for skeptics.

That was until Puig-Lugo's ruling. The medical examiner's decision to push back against the ruling and fight the release of information may only feed speculation of a cover-up.

But the chief medical examiner, Dr. Roger Mitchell, said in a statement that his office is "committed to protecting the medical confidentiality of the deceased in our possession."

## US joins Ethiopian-led investigation at Boeing crash site

By ELIAS MESERET Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — U.S. aviation experts on Tuesday joined a global investigation into the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jetliner that killed 157 people, as a growing number of airlines grounded the new Boeing plane involved in the crash.

The Federal Aviation Administration arrived at the crash site outside the capital, Addis Ababa, with representatives from the National Transportation Safety Board. They join an Ethiopian-led investigation.

The FAA said it expects Boeing will soon complete improvements to an automated anti-stall system suspected of contributing to the deadly crash of another new Boeing 737 Max 8 in October, and update training requirements and related flight crew manuals.

Boeing has said it has no reason to pull the popular aircraft from the skies.

The Ethiopian Airlines plane crashed in clear weather six minutes of taking off for Nairobi, and a growing number of countries and airlines have grounded the new Boeing model as a result.

One witness has told The Associated Press that smoke was coming from the plane's rear before it crashed in a rural field. "The plane rotated two times in the air, and it had some smoke coming from the back then, it hit the ground and exploded," Tamrat Abera said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 36 of 57

It should take five days to identify the victims' remains, Ethiopian Airlines spokesman Asrat Begashaw told the AP.

Investigators on Monday found the jetliner's two flight recorders at the crash site.

An airline official, however, said one recorder was partially damaged and "we will see what we can retrieve from it." The official spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authorization to speak to the media.

Safety experts have cautioned against drawing too many comparisons too soon with the Lion Air crash of the same model last year that killed 189 people.

Ethiopian Airlines decided to ground its remaining four 737 Max 8s until further notice as "an extra safety precaution." The carrier had been using five of the planes and awaiting delivery of 25 more.

More airlines announced they would ground the jets. On Tuesday, an official with South Korean airline Eastar Jet said they were doing so in response to customer concerns.

Airlines in China and Indonesia, Aeromexico, Brazil's Gol Airlines, India's Jet Airways and others also temporarily grounded their Max 8s.

Australia suspended all flights into or out of the country by Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

But Boeing said it did not intend to issue any new recommendations about the aircraft to its customers. It was sending a technical team to the crash site to help the investigators.

As a growing global team searched for answers, a woman stood near the crash site Tuesday morning, wailing.

Kebebew Legess said she was the mother of a young Ethiopian Airlines crew member among the dead. "She would have been 25 years old but God would not allow her," she wept. "My daughter, my little one."

Follow Africa news at [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Africa](https://twitter.com/AP_Africa)

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. FAA JOINS ETHIOPIA CRASH PROBE

U.S. aviation experts join the investigation into the deadly crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jetliner, as a growing number of airlines and countries ground the Boeing 737 Max 8 planes.

### 2. TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN AGENDA FOUND IN NEW BUDGET

His budget for the next fiscal year focuses on deep spending cuts and pushing more money toward his long-promised wall, improving veterans' care and combating opioid abuse.

### 3. US WITHDRAWING EMBASSY PERSONNEL FROM VENEZUELA

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announces the decision as the South American nation struggles to restore electricity and a political crisis deepens.

### 4. BREXIT FACES KEY TEST

Britain's prime minister is facing continued opposition to her EU divorce deal despite "legally binding" changes that she hopes will win parliamentary support for the agreement.

### 5. WHERE VIOLENCE STILL RAGES

In northwestern Syria, where dozens have been killed over the past three weeks and tens of thousands more displaced, imperiling a truce between Turkey and Russia.

### 6. NEW MEXICO MULLS STATE-RUN POT SHOPS

Legislators broker a bill that would set up government-operated marijuana stores and subsidize medical cannabis for the poor.

### 7. STAKES UNUSUALLY HIGH IN SLEEPY STATE BALLOT

A special state Senate election in Iowa is gaining national attention as presidential hopefuls try to help a fellow Democrat win.

### 8. EXPLORATION MISSION OFF SEYCHELLES MAKES HISTORY

A scientific mission to document changes taking place beneath the Indian Ocean broadcasts its first live,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 37 of 57

TV-quality video transmission from a two-person submersible.

## 9. MMA STAR CONOR MCGREGOR ARRESTED IN FLORIDA

The popular fighter was detained in Miami Beach for stealing the cellphone of someone who was trying to take his photo, authorities say.

## 10. WESTBROOK HAS VERBAL ALTERCATION WITH JAZZ FANS

The Oklahoma City star got into a heated verbal altercation with a fan and the man's wife during second-quarter action in Utah.

## New Mexico mulls state-run pot shops, subsidized medical use

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico would become the first U.S. state to set up its own government-operated marijuana stores and subsidize medical cannabis for the poor under a bill brokered between Republicans and Democrats, as a new wave of states weighs legislation that would legalize recreational sales and consumption.

The idea for state-run pot shops comes from a trio of GOP state senators who broke with local Republican Party orthodoxy to embrace legal marijuana with a decidedly big-government approach that would have the state directly oversee most sales — and require that marijuana consumers carry receipts of purchase or confront penalties.

Those provisions were sown into Democrat-sponsored legislation that contains currents of social justice, including a provision to subsidize medical cannabis for poor people with “debilitating medical conditions” who might not otherwise be able to afford treatment. Tax dollars from recreational marijuana sales would fund employment and counseling programs in communities “disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies,” including training to enter the marijuana sector.

Carly Wolf, state policies coordinator at the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, says the provisions for state-run stores and medical cannabis subsidization both would be new to the United States, as New Mexico seeks to become the first state to set up a complete regulatory framework through legislation.

Ten states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana — all by ballot initiative except Vermont, which allowed for personal use and growing but is still debating whether to authorize commercial production and sales.

Other legislative efforts to legalize recreational marijuana are underway in New York and New Jersey, while a bill to legalize recreational cannabis in Democrat-dominated Hawaii fizzled last week.

In New Mexico, a coterie of powerful conservative Democrats still stands in the way of a Senate floor vote on legalization.

“It’s not a priority,” said Democratic Sen. John Arthur Smith of Deming, who will decide whether the marijuana bill is heard by the Senate Finance Committee, a final hurdle before a Senate vote. Smith does not favor legalization and worries about harmful effects of marijuana on the brain.

Sen. Peter Wirth, the chamber’s Democratic majority leader, believes legalization would prevail in a floor vote. He said support from a contingent of Senate Republicans has redrawn the political battle on marijuana along generational lines rather than partisan affiliation.

Wirth also called the concept of state-run pot shops — that would sell marijuana on consignment without owning or producing it — a political game changer that allays anxiety about welcoming the nation’s rollicking, multibillion-dollar marijuana industry. In addition, marijuana production licenses would come with an in-state residency requirement of two years.

“It puts some parameters around it,” Wirth said. “The state can monitor what it looks like and how it expands.”

Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has expressed guarded support for recreational marijuana — provided the legislation addresses concerns about child access, impaired driving, workplace safety and

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 38 of 57

safeguarding the state's existing marijuana market for medical patients.

"If the Legislature can check those boxes, bring it on," Nora Sackett, a spokeswoman for Lujan Grisham, said in an email.

New Mexico has watched neighboring Colorado's pioneering decision to legalize and tax marijuana with a mixture of apprehension and envy, as lawmakers in Santa Fe struggle to find stable sources of tax revenue to improve public education and raise teacher salaries. The judiciary is threatening to intervene in school funding decisions, citing inadequate educational opportunities for children from poor and minority families.

New Mexico would levy a 17 percent tax on recreational marijuana sales and allow possession of up to 1 ounce (28 grams). Local governments can opt out, forgoing tax proceeds in the process. State tax proceeds would fund detection technologies and training for police to identify impaired drivers. Businesses could maintain "zero-tolerance" policies for drug testing as a condition of employment.

Sponsors say the bill would safeguard New Mexico's medical marijuana program by removing taxes on medical pot to keep down prices and ensure its 70,000 participants don't flock to the recreational market.

New Mexico also would authorize marijuana consumption "lounges" for smoking and vaping — or eating any number of marijuana-infused confections and foods — though the bill offers few details on regulatory oversight.

Republican Sen. Cliff Pirtle, a dairy farmer from Roswell, in a conservative political stronghold of the state, said state-run stores can prevent the proliferation of pot shops that some other states have witnessed, and provide retail shelf space at a low cost to fledgling marijuana producers.

"You drive through Anonito and you used to not even have a gas station, and now it has four marijuana shops," said Pirtle, describing a Colorado town of 750 residents near the New Mexico state line. "I know in my district that's not what they want downtown to look like, so this would help."

A number of U.S. states retain a monopoly on liquor sales through state-operated stores — a regulatory option that dates back to prohibition. Several provinces in Canada, which legalized marijuana last year, sell cannabis exclusively through government-run retail and online stores.

In New Mexico, some private dispensaries would be allowed in remote areas at least 25 miles (40 kilometers) from the nearest state-run pot shop.

State-run stores are among a host of provisions that respond to experiences in states with voter-approved legalization, where regulations were sometimes forged by lawmakers after the fact, whether they sought legalization or not.

House Democrats in New Mexico, where ballot initiatives aren't available, say they spent years exploring policies and tax provisions for a bill that now includes funding for research on the health effect of legalization.

"One of the benefits of doing it through the legislative process is you just jump into the nuanced details," said Emily Kaltenbach, state director of the nonpartisan Drug Policy Alliance that favors decriminalization. "You iron those out."

In negotiations over a final bill, local governments gained a greater share of tax proceeds to spend on anything from roads to counseling for drug addiction, and Republicans held on to prohibitions on home-grown recreational marijuana.

The measure's opponents include the local Roman Catholic diocese, New Mexico's primary chamber of commerce and many medical marijuana companies that are scrambling to decipher what the future would hold with an unlimited number of licensed commercial producers.

"The price of cannabis is going to go down, which is good for the patient," said Erik Briones, who owns a business that produces and sells about \$5 million worth of medical marijuana products a year. "But you still have to stay in business. We're the ones that build this thing. We need some protection."



## Ethiopian crash victims were aid workers, doctors, academics

By The Associated Press undefined

They worked to bring food to the hungry, medicine to the sick and clean water to people living in areas without it. Among the 157 people who died in the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jetliner Sunday were dozens of international aid workers hailing from several countries in Africa and around the globe.

Described as dedicated and impassioned employees of nonprofit environmental, immigration and refugee organizations, they lost their lives alongside pastors, professors, ambassadors, police chiefs and respected writers and sports leaders. All were on board the Boeing 737 Max 8 jetliner when it crashed shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, en route to Nairobi, Kenya.

At least five Ethiopian nationals who worked for aid agencies died in the crash. Save the Children mourned the loss of Tamirat Mulu Demessie, a technical adviser on child protection in emergencies who "worked tirelessly to ensure that vulnerable children are safe during humanitarian crises," the group said in a statement. Catholic Relief Services lost four Ethiopian staff members who had worked with the organization for as long as a decade. The four were traveling to Nairobi for training, the group said.

Immaculate Odero of Kenya, who served as CARE's regional security officer for the Horn of Africa, was "dedicated to keeping her colleagues in the region safe," and took on her role "with great enthusiasm," the agency said.

The Red Cross; The United Nations' World Food Program; the International Committee for the Development of Peoples; the World Council of Churches; and Civil Rights Defenders, an international human rights group based in Stockholm, were among other humanitarian and cultural groups reporting losses. A family of six from Canada, African expatriates visiting families back home and tourists were also among the victims, who hailed from 35 countries.

Kenya lost 32 people, more than any country. Relatives of 25 of the victims had been contacted, Transport Minister James Macharia said. "They are in shock like we are," he said. "They are grieving."

Both Addis Ababa and Nairobi are major hubs for humanitarian workers, and some had been on their way to a large U.N. environmental conference set to begin Monday in Nairobi. At least 21 staff members from the United Nations were killed in the crash, said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who led a moment of silence at a meeting. "A global tragedy has hit close to home," Guterres said.

Irishman Michael Ryan was among the seven dead from the Food Program. The Rome-based aid worker and engineer known as Mick was formerly from Lahinch, County Clare, in Ireland's west. His projects included creating safe conditions for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and assessing the damage to rural roads in Nepal that were blocked by landslides.

"Michael was doing life-changing work in Africa," said Irish premier Leo Varadkar.

Mombasa, Kenya, native Cedric Asiavugwa worked with groups helping refugees in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania before he enrolled in law school at Georgetown university, the university said. Also a student of international business and economic law at Georgetown, Asiavugwa was remembered by family and friends as a "kind, compassionate and gentle soul."

In Italy, the International Committee for the Development of Peoples mourned the loss of one its founders, Paolo Dieci.

"The world of international cooperation has lost one of its most brilliant advocates and Italian civil society has lost a precious point of reference," wrote the group, which partners with UNICEF in northern Africa.

Joanna Toole of Exmouth in Britain's Devon County, was heading to Nairobi to attend the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Toole, 36, was "bonkers" about animals her entire life, and her work "was not a job — it was her vocation," according to her father, Adrian Toole, who said his daughter had traveled to the remote Faroe Islands to prevent whaling.

Karim Saafi was co-chair and "foremost brother" of the African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe, the group said on its Facebook page. The 38-year-old French-Tunisian, who left behind a fiancée, was on an official mission representing the group at the time of the crash, the group said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 40 of 57

"Karim's "noble contribution to youth employment, diaspora engagement and Africa's socio-economic development will never be forgotten," the post read.

Explorers, preachers, professors and police chiefs were among others who lost their lives.

Sarah Auffret, a French-British national living in Tromsø, northern Norway, was a staffer with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators. She was on her way to Nairobi to talk about a Clean Seas project in connection with the U.N. Environment Assembly this week, the company said in a statement.

Abiodun Oluremi Bashu was an ex-ambassador and career foreign service officer in Nigeria, the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. The department said it had received the news of his death "with great shock" and prayed for "the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss."

Bashu was born in Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1951 and joined the foreign service in 1976. He had served in different capacities both at headquarters and foreign missions such as Vienna, Austria, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire and Tehran, Iran. He also served as secretary to the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the time of his death, Bashu was on contract with the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa.

Pius Adesanmi, a Nigerian professor with Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, was on his way to a meeting of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council in Nairobi, John O. Oba, Nigeria's representative to the panel, told The Associated Press.

The author of "Naija No Dey Carry Last," a collection of satirical essays, Adesanmi was director of Carleton's Institute of African Studies, according to the university's website. He was also a former assistant professor of comparative literature at Pennsylvania State University.

"Pius was a towering figure in African and post-colonial scholarship and his sudden loss is a tragedy," said Benoit-Antoine Bacon, Carleton's president and vice chancellor.

## As IS fight nears end, violence flares on other Syrian front

By **BASSEM MROUE** Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — While the final battle to retake the Islamic State group's last pocket of territory rages in eastern Syria, violence is escalating in the country's northwest, pitting al-Qaida-linked militants against Syrian government forces.

The alarming violence in the Idlib region threatens to unravel a truce reached between Turkey and Russia last year that averted a bloody assault by the government to retake the province, the last major rebel stronghold in war-torn Syria. The escalation raises fears once more of a major assault by the forces of President Bashar Assad.

Idlib has been in the hands of opposition forces for years, even as Assad's military has succeeded in retaking other rebel enclaves one after the other. The province is now home to some 3 million people, many of them displaced from other former opposition territory. Earlier this year, al-Qaida-linked militants took over the province, squeezing out most other factions after clashes with Turkey-backed opposition fighters.

Since then, government forces have intensified airstrikes and bombardment of Idlib towns. Since mid-February, some 100,000 people have been displaced, largely by government bombardment, and have fled to villages deeper in rebel-held territory, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory of Human Rights. The group said that around 140 people, including 69 civilians, have been killed.

The mounting violence points to how Syria's nearly 8-year-long civil war still has the capability to burst once more into major bloodshed. The focus of the U.S. and other countries has been on defeating the Islamic State group, which once held eastern and northern Syria, and Assad's conflict with his opponents has quieted in recent months after government victories and the truce. But the root of that conflict remains.

The militants, from an al-Qaida-linked group called Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, Arabic for the Levant Liberation Committee, have also stepped up their attacks — in retaliation, they say, for the government bombardment.

In the early hours of a cold morning earlier this month, militants attacked several Syrian army positions and checkpoints on the edge of Idlib in the village of Masasneh, killing nearly two dozen soldiers — one

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 41 of 57

of the most serious attacks on government forces since the truce reached in September. The attack triggered hours of fighting and bombardment that killed and wounded dozens of insurgents.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry warned afterward that the military was in "full readiness" to deal with repeated violations of the truce.

Russia, which backs Assad, and Turkey, which supports opposition factions, put together the truce in September. They agreed to establish a 15-20 kilometers (9-12 miles) deep demilitarized zone in Idlib in which they said militants will not have a presence. The deal also offered the Syrian government and Russia one of their main demands — opening two key highways that pass through Idlib and link northern Syria with Damascus and other cities. But neither provision was implementing despite a deadline for opening the roads by the end of 2018.

Still, the truce has been vital to keeping a degree of calm and preventing an all-out battle for Idlib that could be extremely bloody and drag in Russia and Turkey.

The U.S. deputy ambassador at the United Nations, Jonathan Cohen, last month expressed American concern over the increase in government airstrikes and other violence in Idlib.

"Terrorism cannot be used as a pretext for targeting civilians," he said in a reference to al-Qaida-linked group's control of the area. "Any major military operation in Idlib would be a reckless escalation of the conflict and would result in a humanitarian catastrophe far beyond what we've witnessed."

The main immediate aim of the government operations appears to be to eventually force open the key highways crossing through Idlib — the M5 that links southern and northern Syria and the M4 that links the coastal city of Latakia with the northern city of Aleppo, said Akram al-Ahmad, a Turkey-based Syrian opposition activist who heads a monitoring group called the Syrian Press Center.

The towns most targeted by government bombardment have been Khan Sheikhoun, Saraqeb and Maaret al-Numan, which control the M5 highway.

An HTS military commander known as Abu Khaled al-Shami released a video statement Wednesday expressing pride for killing government soldiers and vowing more attacks.

"Hayat Tahrir al-Sham will retaliate forcefully if regime forces try to advance toward liberated areas," he said.

The leaders of Russia and Turkey held another summit in mid-February after which both leaders said there will be no offensive by Syrian government forces on Idlib and promised to work together to prevent the province from becoming a "stronghold of terrorists."

On Friday, Turkey's defense minister said Turkey and Russia will begin patrols in the demilitarized zone in Idlib — though violence continued over the weekend despite some patrols.

Turkey has struggled to rein in HTS.

According to al-Ahmad and Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Observatory, there appears to be a split within HTS. On one side is its leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani, who has gotten closer to Turkey, and on the other is an Egyptian religious figure in the group known as Abu al-Yaqzan al-Masri, who represents hard-liners in HTS opposing Turkey's role. Al-Masri defected from the group in February along with other hard-liners.

Another militant group in Idlib, Horas al-Din, is also resisting the Turkish mediation. The group, made up mostly of non-Syrian al-Qaida-linked fighters, rejected the demilitarized zone, calling it a "great conspiracy."

The Syrian government has repeatedly vowed that its forces will eventually retake the whole country.

The government "is determined more than ever to regain control of its land and liberate from terrorism and illegitimate foreign presence," said the Syrian ambassador to the United Nations, Bashar Ja'afari.

## Drummer Hal Blaine, played on hits of Sinatra, Elvis, dies

By ANDREW DALTON and HILLEL ITALIE Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hal Blaine, the Hall of Fame session drummer and virtual one-man soundtrack of the 1960s and '70s who played on the songs of Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and the Beach Boys and laid down one of music's most memorable opening riffs on the Ronettes' "Be My Baby," died Monday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 42 of 57

Blaine died of natural causes at his home in Palm Desert, California, his son-in-law, Andy Johnson, told The Associated Press. He was 90.

On hearing of his death, the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson called him "the greatest drummer ever."

The winner of a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award last year, Blaine's name was known by few outside the music industry, even in his prime.

But just about anyone with a turntable, radio or TV heard his drumming on songs that included Presley's "Return to Sender," the Byrds' "Mr. Tambourine Man," Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were," the Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations," dozens of hits produced by Phil Spector, and the theme songs to "Batman," "The Partridge Family" and dozens of other shows."

"Hal Blaine was such a great musician and friend that I can't put it into words," Wilson said in a tweet that included an old photo of him and Blaine sitting at the piano. "Hal taught me a lot, and he had so much to do with our success — he was the greatest drummer ever."

As a member of the Los Angeles-based studio band "The Wrecking Crew," which also featured keyboard player Leon Russell, bassist Carol Kaye and guitarist Tommy Tedesco, Blaine forged a hard-earned virtuosity and versatility that enabled him to adapt quickly to a wide range of popular music. According to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, he played on 40 No. 1 hits, 150 top 10 songs.

"Trust me, you loved his work," comedian J. Elvis Weinstein tweeted Monday.

Blaine also played on eight songs that won Grammys for record of the year, including Sinatra's "Strangers In the Night" and Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

He may be the only drummer to back Presley, Sinatra and John Lennon.

"Godspeed Old Friend," Sinatra's daughter Nancy Sinatra said alongside an Instagram picture she posted of Blaine backing her up as she sang.

Some accounts have Blaine playing on 35,000 songs, but he believed that around 6,000 was more accurate, still making him a strong contender for the most recorded drummer in history. In 2000, he was inducted into the Rock Hall of Fame.

Out of so many notable sessions, his signature moment was the attention-grabbing "on the four" solo — Bum-ba-bum-BOOM — that launched the classic "Be My Baby," a hit for the Ronettes in 1963 that helped define Spector's overpowering "Wall of Sound" productions.

The song remained a radio staple for decades and got new life in the '70s when it was used to open Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets" and again in the '80s when it was featured in "Dirty Dancing."

Few drum parts have been so widely imitated, from Billy Joel's "Say Goodbye to Hollywood" to The Jesus and Mary Chain's "Just Like Honey."

In a 2005 interview with Modern Drummer magazine, Blaine said that he wasn't quite sure how he came up with the solo. To the best of his memory, he accidentally missed a beat while the song was being recorded and improvised by only playing the beat on the fourth note.

"And I continued to do that," he recalled. "Phil might have said, 'Do that again.' Somebody loved it, in any event. It's just one of those things that sometimes happens."

Blaine nicknamed himself and his peers "The Wrecking Crew," because they were seen by their more buttoned-down elders as destructive to the industry — an assertion that Kaye and others disputed. Many members of The Wrecking Crew worked nonstop for 20 years, sometimes as many as eight sessions a day, a pace that led to several marriages and divorces for Blaine.

As more bands played on their own records and electronic drums arose, business dropped off in the 1980s even as younger musicians, such as Max Weinberg of the E Street Band, cited his influence.

His memoir, "Hal Blaine & The Wrecking Crew," came out in 1990 and he continued to appear at symposiums and workshops into his 80s. Blaine also was seen in the 2008 documentary "The Wrecking Crew" and was played by Johnny Sneed in the Wilson biopic "Love & Mercy."

Many younger drummers counted him as a friend and mentor.

"Hal was funny, sweet, and genuine," Jon "Bermuda" Schwartz, drummer for the "Weird Al" Yankovic Band, said in email to the AP. "He made you feel like you were the most important person in the room. His inspiration and influence to drummers everywhere is immeasurable. Hal was a treasure."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 43 of 57

The son of Jewish immigrants, Blaine was born Harold Simon Belsky in Holyoke, Massachusetts. By age 8, he was already drumming, using a pair of dowels he removed from a seat in the living room. He was a professional by age 20 and within a few years switched from jazz to rock.

The use of session musicians became a scandal in the late 1960s when it was discovered that the Monkees, the million-selling TV foursome, did not play on their songs. Blaine, who, of course, drummed for the Monkees, knew that many top groups depended on him and his peers. He even became friendly with some of the players he sat in for, including Wilson's brother Dennis Wilson.

"He was thrilled that I was making their records because while I was making Beach Boy records, he was out surfing or riding his motorcycle," Blaine told *Modern Drummer*.

Blaine told the magazine that Bruce Gary, who played drums in the Knack, was once asked who his favorite drummer was.

"He was never so disappointed in his life to find out that a dozen of his favorite drummers were me." Blaine is survived by his daughter Michelle Blaine, and seven grandchildren.

Italie reported from New York.

## US withdrawing last of its embassy personnel from Venezuela

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ** and **SCOTT SMITH** Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The United States announced late Monday that it is pulling the remaining staff from its embassy in Venezuela, citing the deteriorating situation in the South American nation.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the decision as Venezuela struggles to restore electricity following four days of blackouts around the country and a deepening political crisis.

The U.S. has led an international effort to oust socialist President Nicolas Maduro and replace him with opposition leader Juan Guaido, who vows to hold a new presidential election. Guaido is backed by some 50 countries, while Maduro maintains support from countries such as China, Russia and Cuba.

Maduro had ordered all U.S. diplomats to leave Venezuela in late January because of its support from Guaido, but he retreated and allowed them to stay. The U.S. still withdrew dependents of embassy personnel as well as some of the staff. Pompeo said the remaining diplomats would be out of Venezuela by the end of the week.

The move came after another day of chaos as power outages that began Thursday evening continued to cause problems for Venezuelans, leaving them with little power, water and communications.

People converged on a polluted river to fill water bottles in Caracas, and scattered protests erupted in several cities

A 3-year-old girl with a brain tumor languished in a Caracas hospital, awaiting treatment after doctors started surgery but then suspended the operation when nationwide power outages first hit on Thursday, said the girl's fearful mother, who only gave her first name, Yalimar.

"The doctors told me that there are no miracles," said Yalimar, who hopes her daughter can be transferred Tuesday to one of the few hospitals in Venezuela that would be able to finish the complex procedure.

The girl's story highlighted an unfolding horror in Venezuela, where years of hardship got abruptly worse after the power grid collapsed. On Monday, schools and businesses were closed, long lines of cars waited at the few gasoline stations with electricity and hospitals cared for many patients without power. Generators have alleviated conditions for some of the critically ill.

President Nicolas Maduro said on national television Monday night that progress had been made in restoring power in Venezuela. He also said two people who were allegedly trying to sabotage power facilities were captured and were providing information to authorities, though he gave no details.

Guaido, who heads the opposition-controlled congress, and the United States say Maduro's claims that the U.S. sabotaged the power grid with a "cyberattack" are an attempt to divert attention from the government's own failings.

There have been acts of kindness during Venezuela's crisis: People whose food would rot in refrigera-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 44 of 57

tors without power donated it to a restaurant, which cooked it for distribution to charities and hospitals.

The blackouts also have hit the oil industry. The country hasn't shipped \$358 million in oil since the power failures started, and "the whole system is grinding to a halt," said Russ Dallen, a Miami-based partner at the brokerage firm Caracas Capital Markets.

Two large tankers are sitting empty at the Jose offshore oil-loading dock, and at least 19 other ships are waiting their turns there, Dallen said.

Engineers have restored power in some parts of Venezuela, but it often goes out again. There have been a few protests in Caracas and reports of similar anti-government anger elsewhere. Guaido tweeted about reports of looting in some cities, but details were difficult to confirm.

Security forces in the city of Maracaibo dispersed "criminals" trying to take advantage of the power cuts, Mayor Willy Casanova told local media. However, numerous videos posted on social media that purported to be from Maracaibo showed crowds roaming the streets and people running from looted, damaged buildings with no police in sight.

In Caracas, some people reported more sightings of "colectivos," a term for armed groups allegedly operating on behalf of the state to intimidate opponents.

The mood in Caracas was desperate.

Marian Morales, a nurse working for a Catholic youth group, and several colleagues handed out diapers and food from a car parked near a hospital. Police and men in civilian clothing ordered them to leave, saying they didn't have permission.

Morales said the needy are cautious about approaching to collect the handouts because of the presence of security forces.

Early Monday, an explosion rocked a power station in the Baruta area of Caracas. Residents gathered to look at the charred, smoldering equipment.

Guaido said three of four electricity transformers servicing the area were knocked out. He has blamed the blackouts on government corruption and mismanagement.

Winston Cabas, the head of Venezuela's electrical engineers union, which opposes the government, disputed government allegations that the country's main hydroelectric dam was sabotaged last week. He blamed a lack of maintenance as well as the departure of skilled workers from the troubled country over the years.

"The system is vulnerable, fragile and unstable," he said.

Spain's airline pilots union asked for Spanish airline Air Europa to stop flying to Venezuela after one of its crews was attacked at gunpoint in Caracas. The Sepila union said two pilots and eight more crew members of a flight from Madrid were assaulted on Saturday while going from the airport to their hotel in the Venezuelan capital. None of the crew members was injured.

Air Europa responded by ordering the crews of flights to Venezuela to not spend the night in the country, according to the union.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on a Moscow-based bank jointly owned by Russian and Venezuelan state-owned companies, alleging it tried to circumvent U.S. sanctions on the South American country. The U.S. said it is targeting Evrofinance Mosnarbank for supporting Petroleos de Venezuela SA, the state oil company previously targeted by sanctions in January.

Evrofinance said it was carrying out its activities normally despite the announcement and pledged to "meet its obligations to the clients and partners in full."

The U.S. and the other governments that recognize Guaido as Venezuela's interim president say Maduro wasn't legitimately re-elected last year because opposition candidates weren't permitted to run. Maduro says he is the target of a U.S. coup plot.

---

Associated Press writer Christopher Torchia contributed to this report.



## Musk's lawyers say tweet complied with SEC fraud settlement

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Tesla CEO Elon Musk should not be found in contempt of court because he has complied with the terms of a securities fraud settlement, his attorneys wrote in documents filed Monday night with the U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Musk's lawyers wrote that a Feb. 19 tweet merely restated prior disclosures on electric car production volumes. They wrote that the tweet after the markets closed did not reveal material information, nor did it alter the mix of data available to investors.

The lawyers also accused the Securities and Exchange Commission of censorship and of violating Musk's First Amendment rights.

U.S. District Judge Alison Nathan ordered Musk to respond to a motion for contempt filed by the SEC. The agency alleges the Feb. 19 tweet was inaccurate and violated a requirement for tweets that could influence Tesla's stock price to be approved by a company lawyer.

Musk's 13-word Feb. 19 tweet said that Tesla would produce around 500,000 vehicles this year, but it wasn't approved by the company's "disclosure counsel," the SEC said in court records.

The lawyer quickly realized it and summoned Musk to the company's Fremont, California, factory to help write a correction four hours later. The company would make vehicles at a rate of 500,000 per year, but it wouldn't produce a half-million in 2019.

The response by Musk attorney and Enron prosecutor John C. Hueston of Newport Beach, California, also said that the settlement allows Musk "reasonable discretion" to determine if his communications would require the lawyer's approval. In the case of the Feb. 19 tweet, Musk determined that it did not.

Musk, the document stated, has diligently complied with the court-approved settlement, dramatically reducing his activity on Twitter. Even though in his view there was no need to do it, Musk posted a clarification to the tweet after speaking with the lawyer, the paperwork said.

The SEC's interpretation of the order also raises serious First Amendment issues "effectively requiring Musk to seek pre-approval of any tweet that relates to Tesla," according to the documents.

The lawyers also wrote that the SEC is seeking enforcement authority that is far broader and less clearly defined than it was granted by Congress. The contempt motion, which came after Musk criticized the agency in an interview on CBS' "60 Minutes," shows "concerning and unprecedented overreach on the part of the SEC," the lawyers wrote.

Musk said during the interview that he didn't respect the SEC, but he would obey the settlement out of respect for the justice system. The SEC cited the interview in its contempt motion, which "smacks of retaliation and censorship," Musk's lawyers wrote.

Messages were left after business hours Monday seeking comment from the SEC.

It was unclear Monday night when Judge Nathan would rule on the SEC's contempt motion, which was filed on Feb. 25.

The October settlement stemmed from tweets by Musk in August about having the money to take the company private at \$420 per share. The funding was far from secured. The settlement specified governance changes, including Musk's ouster as board chairman, as well approval of Musk's tweets. Musk and Tesla each paid \$20-million fines for the August tweets, which Musk made from his car on the way to the airport.

At 7:15 p.m. Feb. 19, Musk tweeted "Tesla made 0 cars in 2011, but will make around 500k in 2019." That turned out to be in error, and it wasn't consistent with prior company disclosures. In its fourth-quarter earnings release on Jan. 30, Tesla said it was targeting annualized Model 3 output "in excess of 500,000 units" sometime between the fourth quarter of this year and second quarter of 2020.

Musk did say on a conference call that day that the company this year would make maybe 350,000 to 500,000 Model 3s, its lowest-priced car.

Legal experts say it's unlikely that Musk will be punished severely, but the commission wants to get on the record that Musk violated the terms, to prepare for any future violations.

The tweet was posted and corrected after U.S. markets had closed, but experts say regulators don't

care much about that because stocks are traded nearly around the clock. Tesla's stock rose by just \$1.10, or less than 1 percent, the next day.

## 2nd crash renews safety concerns for Boeing's prized new jet

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The second deadly crash of a prized new airplane in five months has renewed safety concerns about the 737 Max that could shape Boeing's fortunes for many years.

The 737 Max is the newest version of the 737, the best-selling airliner ever. Since debuting in 2017, Boeing has delivered more than 350 of them in several versions that vary by size.

Dozens of airlines around the world have embraced the plane for its fuel efficiency and utility for short and medium-haul flights.

Boeing has taken more than 5,000 orders for the various Max versions, and they constitute the largest share of the company's backlog of nearly 5,900 planes. They carry list prices from \$100 million to \$135 million, although airlines routinely get deep discounts.

The plane suffered its first fatal accident in October, when a 737 Max 8 operated by Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea, killing 189 people. Boeing bounced back, however, with little apparent effect on new orders.

However, the second deadly crash for a Max 8 on Sunday in Ethiopia, which killed all 157 people on board, could prove far more damaging if investigators find fault in Boeing's design or airlines and their passengers lose confidence in the jet.

Already airlines in Ethiopia, Mexico, China, Brazil, Argentina and Indonesia have temporarily grounded their Max 8s, in addition to Caribbean carrier Cayman Airways, Comair in South Africa, and Royal Air Maroc in Morocco.

Crucially, however, there was no outward sign that the influential U.S. regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration, would do the same.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said her department, which includes the FAA, was "very concerned" and monitoring developments around Sunday's crash. She said she met with acting FAA Administrator Dan Elwell to discuss the situation "and what are our possible paths forward." She didn't say whether the agency was considering grounding any planes.

It's unusual for authorities to take the step of grounding planes, and it's up to each country to set standards on which planes can fly and how those planes are maintained, said Todd Curtis, an aviation safety analyst who directs the Airsafe.com Foundation.

In the last major FAA recall, the agency grounded Boeing 787 passenger jets in 2013 after several instances in which lithium-ion batteries overheated. The plane was relatively new at the time. United was the only U.S. carrier affected, with six planes grounded.

Late on Monday, the FAA issued a statement saying that while others have drawn similarities between the Indonesia and Ethiopia crashes, the agency was not.

"This investigation has just begun and to date we have not been provided data to draw any conclusions or take any actions," the FAA said.

The FAA also said that no later than April it expects Boeing will complete changes, including new training for pilots in automated anti-stall technology that is suspected of playing a role in the Lion Air crash. Data released by Indonesian investigators indicates that pilots struggled unsuccessfully to counter the system, which repeatedly pointed the plane's nose down and may have sent it into a death spiral.

A consumer group, FlyersRights.org, urged the FAA to ground the Max 8.

"The FAA's wait-and-see attitude risks lives," said the group's president, Paul Hudson.

U.S. airlines repeated their belief that the plane is safe.

American Airlines, which operates 24 Max 8s, said it bases its judgment on collecting extensive data on its entire fleet, including the Max 8.

"We have full confidence in the aircraft and our crew members," the carrier's vice president of flight service, Jill Surdeck, said in a memo to employees.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 47 of 57

Southwest Airlines operates the largest U.S. fleet of Max planes, with 34 Max 8s. Spokesman Brian Parish said the airline remains confident in their safety. United has about a dozen Max 9s, which are slightly bigger than the Max 8.

Dozens of Max aircraft crisscrossed the skies over the United States on Monday, and passengers continued to board them and fly without incident. Passengers interviewed at Houston's Hobby Airport were keenly aware of the crash in Ethiopia. They expressed concern but no panic.

"I drive in Houston every day," said Brian Browder, who was waiting for a flight to Washington, D.C. "That's the place to be worried."

Still, Browder, who works for a construction-industry trade group and flies several times a month, said he would be "a bit apprehensive" about getting on a 737 MAX.

"They need to explain exactly what happened and why," he said.

Kelly Wells, a health care worker from Austin, believes a catastrophic accident is less likely to happen in the United States.

"Those pilots are very well trained to handle an emergency. I'm in capable hands," she said before a flight on Southwest, which operates the Max, although her flight was not among them.

Peggy Chang Barber, a lawyer for a Houston nonprofit who was on her way to New York, said U.S. airlines are "pretty vigilant" about maintenance and pilot training, and she won't be concerned "unless they find a fault with the plane."

It isn't clear yet whether the plane's technology played a role in the Ethiopian Airlines crash, or whether that accident is related to the deadly Lion Air accident on Oct. 29 in Indonesia.

Even if Boeing must make software or hardware changes to the plane, "it's nothing they can't get past, but it would be an expensive process," said Richard Aboulafia, an aviation consultant with Teal Group.

"Historically, (airlines) cancel orders because of (fuel) performance shortfalls or because somebody else gave them a discount — not because of safety," Aboulafia said.

The FAA stripped the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 of its airworthiness certificate after numerous safety problems including a 1979 crash in Chicago, yet it still outsold a rival plane made by Lockheed, he said.

---

Associated Press writers Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Niniek Karmini in Jakarta, Indonesia, Cathy Bussewitz in New York, and Tom Krisher in Detroit contributed to this report. Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

## UK, EU announce change to Brexit deal ahead of key vote

By RAF CASERT and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Britain and the European Union emerged from last-minute talks late Monday to announce they had finally removed the biggest roadblock to their Brexit divorce deal, only hours before the U.K. Parliament was due to decide the fate of Prime Minister Theresa May's hard-won plan to leave the EU.

On the eve of Tuesday's vote in London, May flew to Strasbourg, France, to seek revisions, guarantees or other changes from European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker that would persuade reluctant British legislators to back her withdrawal agreement with the EU, which they resoundingly rejected in January.

At a joint news conference, May and Juncker claimed to have succeeded.

May said new documents to be added to the deal provided "legally binding changes" to the part relating to the Irish border. The legal 585-page withdrawal agreement itself though was left intact.

"In politics, sometimes you get a second chance. It is what you do with this second chance that counts. Because there will be no third chance," Juncker warned the legislators who will vote late Tuesday.

"Let's be crystal clear about the choice: it is this deal or Brexit might not happen at all," he said.

May said the changes should overcome lawmakers' qualms about a mechanism in the deal designed to keep an open border between Britain's Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. The mechanism, known



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 48 of 57

as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU until a permanent new trading relationship is in place.

Brexit-supporters in Britain fear the backstop could be used to bind the country to EU regulations indefinitely.

May said the new wording "will guarantee that the EU cannot act with the intent of applying the backstop indefinitely."

"Now is the time to come together to back this improved Brexit deal and deliver on the instruction of the British people," she said.

But the changes appear to fall well short of Brexiteers' demands for a unilateral British exit mechanism from the backstop.

Pro-Brexit U.K. lawmakers said they would read the fine print and wait for the judgment of Britain's attorney general before deciding how to vote on Tuesday.

Announcing the breakthrough in Britain's House of Commons, Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington said lawmakers faced "a fundamental choice ... to vote for the improved deal or to plunge this country into a political crisis."

And Juncker warned Britain "there will be no new negotiations" if lawmakers rejected the deal again.

Britain is due to pull out of the EU in less than three weeks, on March 29, but the government has not been able to win parliamentary approval for its agreement with the bloc on withdrawal terms and future relations. The impasse has raised fears of a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit that could mean major disruption for businesses and people in Britain and the 27 remaining EU countries.

"This is a government in chaos, with a country in chaos because of this mess," Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said.

May has staked her political reputation on securing an exit deal with the EU and is under mounting pressure to quit if it is defeated again. She survived a bid to oust her through a no-confidence vote in December. As a result, she cannot be forced from office for a year.

The EU is frustrated at what it sees as the inability of Britain's weak and divided government to lay out a clear vision for Brexit. It is irritated, too, that Britain is seeking changes to an agreement that May herself helped negotiate and approve.

May has been working frantically to save her deal, speaking by phone to eight EU national leaders since Friday, including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

If Parliament throws out May's deal again on Tuesday, lawmakers will vote over the following two days on whether to leave the EU without an agreement — an idea likely to be rejected — or to ask the EU to delay Brexit beyond the scheduled March 29 departure date.

Conservative lawmaker Nicky Morgan said May's position will become "less and less tenable" if she suffers more defeats in Parliament this week.

"It would be very difficult for the prime minister to stay in office for very much longer," Morgan told the BBC.

Alan Wager, a Brexit expert at the U.K. in a Changing Europe think tank, said Parliament this week could decisively rule out both May's deal and a no-deal departure.

That, in turn, would make such options as a new Brexit referendum or a "softer" withdrawal from the EU lot more likely, he said.

"Finally, the House of Commons is going to have to make a final judgment on what it wants in terms of Brexit," he said.

---

Casert reported from Strasbourg, France. Danica Kirka in London, Lorne Cook in Brussels and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this story.

---

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## French musher was leading Iditarod, but then his dogs quit

By MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — French musher Nicolas Petit looked like he was in solid control of the world's most famous sled dog race and about to erase a year of doubts and second-guessing after a last minute misstep cost him the 2017 title.

Then the dogs quit on him Monday morning.

A dog named Joey had been fighting with another dog on the team and jumped it during a break as the team was making its way to the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race checkpoint of Koyuk on the Bering Sea coast.

"I yelled at Joey, and everybody heard the yelling, and that doesn't happen," Petit told the Iditarod Insider website. "And then they wouldn't go anymore. Anywhere. So we camped here."

Several mushers passed Petit's team on the trail, erasing his five-hour lead in the race. Pete Kaiser of Alaska was the first musher into Koyuk, followed about an hour later by defending champion Joar Ulsom of Norway. Kaiser rested for nearly 5 ½ hours before getting back on the trail.

The checkpoint is 827 miles (1,330 kilometers) into the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) race across Alaska.

Petit said his dogs are well-fed, and there's no medical issue keeping them from getting up and running.

"It's just a head thing," he said. "We'll see if one of these dog teams coming by will wake them up at all."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals took issue with Petit's reasoning.

"It's not the dogs who need to have their heads examined — it's anyone who supports this merciless race. Illness, injury, or fatigue likely prompted Nicolas Petit to drop four dogs from his team, forcing the remaining 10 to work even harder before they gave up altogether, which he blamed on 'just a head thing,'" PETA Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman said in a statement.

But Libby Riddles, the 1985 Iditarod champion and the first woman to win the race, said the incident demonstrates why dog mushing is a fine art. It requires a balance between being competitive and keeping the dogs happy.

"People have this idea that you can force these dogs to Nome," she said in a phone interview. "It's not like that at all."

"The amount of intuition and communication and trust and experience you have with your dogs is how it all happens and comes together, and Nic Petit happens to actually be one of the best in the business at this," Riddles said.

Riddle been involved with mushing for 40 years and said she could live 20 lifetimes and not learn everything. But if the dogs get unhappy, they can quit on you, she said.

"Sometimes all it takes is just this one sour grape in the team," Riddles said. "One dog that has a bad attitude, and it infects the whole rest of the team."

Huskies in some ways are more primitive than other dogs, she said. Mushers are dealing with their pack mentality.

"It's like a wolf. Things happen over food. Sometimes if they think a dog is a little wimpy, when they're crabby, they might want to pick on it," she said.

Petit will learn from the experience and rebuild, she said.

"I think Nic is handling this pretty well, actually. I think he wants to make sure to preserve a good mental attitude with these dogs for the rest of their careers. That's what he's looking at — not just today's race," Riddles said.

For Petit, it's another bad memory from the stretch between the Shaktoolik and Koyuk checkpoints.

He was in command of last year's race when he got off trail during a blizzard and lost the lead. He wound up finishing second behind Ulsom.

"Something about right here, huh?" he mused.

The race started March 2 in Willow, just north of Anchorage. The course through the Alaska wilderness took mushers over two mountain ranges and the frozen Yukon River before they reached the treacherous Bering Sea coast.

The winner is expected to come off the sea ice and mush down Nome's main street to the finish line

sometime in the middle of the week.

Associated Press writer Dan Joling contributed to this report.

## Trump proposes record spending, trillion-dollar deficit

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump proposed a record \$4.7 trillion budget on Monday, pushing the federal deficit past \$1 trillion but counting on optimistic growth, accounting shuffles and steep domestic cuts to bring future spending into balance in 15 years.

Reviving his border wall fight with Congress, Trump wants more than \$8 billion for the barrier with Mexico, and he's also asking for a big boost in military spending. That's alongside steep cuts in health care and economic support programs for the poor that Democrats — and even some Republicans — will oppose.

Trump called his plan a bold next step for a nation experiencing "an economic miracle." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called his cuts "cruel and shortsighted ... a roadmap to a sicker, weaker America."

Presidential budgets tend to be seen as aspirational blueprints, rarely becoming enacted policy, and Trump's proposal for the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, sets up a showdown with Congress over priorities, especially as he reignites his push for money to build the U.S-Mexico border wall.

The deficit is projected to hit \$1.1 trillion in the 2020 fiscal year, the highest in a decade. The administration is counting on robust growth, including from the Republican tax cuts — which Trump wants to make permanent — to push down the red ink. Some economists, though, say the bump from the tax cuts is waning, and they project slower economic expansion in coming years. The national debt is \$22 trillion.

Even with his own projections, Trump's budget would not come into balance for a decade and a half, rather than the traditional hope of balancing in 10.

Titled "A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First," Trump's proposal "embodies fiscal responsibility," said Russ Vought, the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Despite the large projected deficits, Vought said the administration has "prioritized reining in reckless Washington spending" and shows "we can return to fiscal sanity."

The budget calls the approach "MAGAnomics," after the president's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.

Some fiscal watchdogs, though, panned the effort as more piling on of debt by Trump with no course correction in sight.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, said Trump "relies on far too many accounting gimmicks and fantasy assumptions and puts forward far too few actual solutions." She warned the debt load will lead to slower income growth and stalled opportunities for Americans.

Perhaps most notably among spending proposals, Trump is returning to his border wall fight. Fresh off the longest government shutdown in history, his 2020 plan shows he is eager to confront Congress again over the wall.

The budget proposes increasing defense spending to \$750 billion — and building the new Space Force as a military branch — while reducing nondefense accounts by 5 percent, with cuts recommended to economic safety-net programs used by many Americans. The \$2.7 trillion in proposed reductions over the decade is higher than any administration in history, they say.

On Capitol Hill, the budget landed without much fanfare from Trump's GOP allies, while Democrats found plenty not to like.

"Dangerous," not serious, a "sham," they said. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called it an "Alice in Wonderland document."

The plan sticks to budget caps that both parties have routinely broken in recent years. To stay within the caps, it shifts a portion of the military spending, some \$165 billion, to an overseas contingency fund, which some fiscal hawks will view as an accounting gimmick.

The budget slashes \$2 trillion from health care spending, while trying to collect \$100 million in new fees



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 51 of 57

from the electronic cigarette industry to help combat a surge in underage vaping. It provides money to fight opioid addiction and \$291 million to "defeat the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

It cuts the Department of Housing and Urban Development by 16 percent and Education by 10 percent, but includes \$1 billion for a child care fund championed by the president's daughter, Ivanka Trump, a White House adviser.

Trump is returning to old battles while refraining from unveiling many new initiatives. He re-opens plans for repealing "Obamacare," imposing work requirements for those receiving government aid and slashing the Environmental Protection Agency by about a third — all ideas Congress has rejected in the past.

The budget proposes \$200 billion toward infrastructure, much lower than the \$1 trillion plan Trump once envisioned, but does not lay out a sweeping new plan.

By refusing to raise the budget caps, Trump is signaling a fight ahead. The president has resisted big, bipartisan budget deals that break the caps — threatening to veto one last year — but Congress will need to find agreement on spending levels to avoid another federal shutdown in the fall.

Conservatives railed for years against deficits that rose during the first years of Barack Obama's administration as tax revenue plummeted and spending increased during the Great Recession. But even with Republican control of Congress during the first two years of the Trump administration, deficits were on a steady march upward.

The Democratic chairman of the House Budget Committee, Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky, said Trump added nearly \$2 trillion to deficits with the GOP's "tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations, and now it appears his budget asks the American people to pay the price."

The border wall remains a signature issue for the president, even though Congress refuses to give him more money for it.

To circumvent Congress, Trump declared a national emergency at the border last month as a way to access funding. Lawmakers are uneasy with that and set to vote in the Senate to terminate his national emergency declaration. Congress appears to have enough votes to reject Trump's declaration but not enough to overturn a veto. The standoff over the wall led to a 35-day partial government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history.

There's also money to hire more than 2,800 additional law enforcement officers, including Border Patrol agents, at a time when many Democrats are calling for cuts — or even the elimination — of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The wall with Mexico played a big part in Trump's campaign for the White House, and it's expected to again be featured in his 2020 re-election effort. He used to say Mexico would pay for it, but Mexico has refused to do so.

---

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Catherine Lucey, Matthew Daly, Richard Lardner, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Collin Binkley and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## White House mum on if Trump really thinks Dems 'hate' Jews

By DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House press secretary Sarah Sanders on Monday repeatedly refused to say whether President Donald Trump really thinks Democrats "hate" Jewish people.

Before Trump left the White House on Friday for his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, he said: "The Democrats have become an anti-Israel party. They've become an anti-Jewish party, and that's too bad." Later in the day, Trump told Republican National Committee donors that Democrats "hate" Jewish people, according to a person who heard the remarks but spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the president's comments at a private event.

Trump's comments followed an emotional debate on Capitol Hill about statements made by freshman Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Muslim lawmaker from Minnesota who suggested Israel's supporters were pushing lawmakers to take a pledge of "allegiance" to a foreign country — comments that some viewed as anti-Semitic.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 52 of 57

Democrats wrestled for days over whether a House resolution should call Omar out by name, what other types of bias should be mentioned in the measure and whether the party would tolerate dissenting views on Israel. When the final resolution passed the House, it did not mention Omar by name. Trump called the resolution "disgraceful."

Sanders refused several times to say whether Trump really thinks Democrats "hate" Jews.

"The president has been an unwavering and committed ally to Israel and the Jewish people and, frankly, the remarks that have been made by a number of Democrats and failed to be called out by Democrat leadership is frankly abhorrent and it's sad," she said.

"It's something that should be called by name. It shouldn't be put in a watered-down resolution. It should be done the way the Republicans did it when Steve King made terrible comments," Sanders said. "We called it out by name. We stripped him of his committee memberships and we'd like to see Democrats follow suit."

In January, the House approved a Democratic measure disapproving of comments that Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, made about white supremacy. King had a long history of controversial rhetoric about immigrants, but it wasn't until he defended white supremacy in an interview with The New York Times that Republicans in Congress moved to strip him of committee assignments and called for his resignation.

In August 2017, after violence erupted at a white nationalist "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, Trump said "both sides" were to blame, a comment some saw as a refusal to condemn racism.

"The president has been incredibly clear and has consistently and repeatedly condemned hatred, bigotry, racism in all of its forms whether it's in America or anywhere else," Sanders said Monday.

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## In Dems' 'Medicare for All' battle cry, GOP sees '20 weapon

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Medicare for All" has become catnip for Democratic presidential candidates and many lawmakers, yet Republicans prepping for next year's congressional races are also flocking to it — for entirely different reasons.

GOP strategists say they'll use proposals to expand government-run health insurance to pummel Democrats for plotting to eliminate job-provided coverage, raise taxes and make doctors' office visits resemble trips to the dreaded Department of Motor Vehicles. If Republicans can define the health care issue on their terms — and they face significant obstacles — that would be a stunning turnabout.

"Democrats have opened the door," GOP consultant Glen Bolger said.

Democrats made health care their defining 2018 issue as they captured the House and limited losses in a difficult set of Senate races. They denounced Republicans, who tried repealing President Barack Obama's health care law, for seeking to end coverage for patients with pre-existing conditions. In one monthlong stretch last fall, 6-in-10 ads backing Democratic House candidates focused on health care, according to the nonpartisan Wesleyan Media Project.

Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., chairman of the House GOP's campaign committee, says thanks to Medicare for All, times have changed.

"We are going to associate every Democrat running with socialized medicine," he said. "By the end of this cycle, that is going to be, to them, their pre-existing condition Waterloo."

Republicans intend to tie the proposal to other currents in Democratic politics, including the Green New Deal for fighting climate change and talk of President Donald Trump's impeachment and reparations to slaves' descendants. The goal: A narrative that Democrats are marching toward socialism and beholden to extremists.

Yet it's unclear that Medicare for All will be the tonic GOP tacticians envision.

Elections are 21 months off and will be dominated by Trump and his Democratic presidential rivals, whatever congressional candidates emphasize. And Republicans start with a disadvantage: A November poll

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 53 of 57

by the Pew Research Center found most people preferred Democrats' to Trump's handling of health care. Looking to woo moderate voters, Democrats led by now-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., campaigned last year on an agenda that included curbing prescription drug and other medical costs. A total health care overhaul wasn't featured.

"Nobody has to advise Nancy on the political implications of any policy," said House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky.

While Pelosi said in a brief interview that there will "probably" be votes on some type of Medicare for All, few expect a full-blown version to reach the House floor. Instead, committees will hold hearings while work proceeds on other measures, like curbing prescription drug prices.

"We will deliver on our promise of passing legislation to lower the costs of health care," said Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., who heads House Democrats' campaign organization. Medicare for All is "just one idea," she said.

Democrats worry that Medicare for All would put candidates on the defensive in suburban swing districts, where moderate voters abound. Those districts were crucial to House Democrats' 40-seat gain last November and will be 2020 battlegrounds.

"Do what you can to help people now, and don't get yourself in a box on Medicare for All, which can't pass Congress" soon anyway, advises Democratic consultant John Anzalone.

There are several Medicare for All variants. The most sweeping would replace today's blend of private and federal health care like Medicare and Medicaid with a federally run system for everyone, likely financed by higher taxes or astronomical boosts in federal deficits.

One was introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., a Democratic presidential candidate, and co-sponsored by fellow presidential contenders Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, New York's Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris of California and Massachusetts' Elizabeth Warren. A similar House measure by Reps. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., and Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., has over 100 Democratic co-sponsors.

Government coverage would replace private policies and patients would pay no premiums or deductibles. The 10-year price tag would be an enormous \$25 trillion to \$35 trillion, private estimates say, though supporters say it would cost less.

While Medicare for All polls well, the details face skepticism. While a January survey by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation showed that 56 percent back the overall idea, majorities turned against it when told it could boost taxes and eliminate private health insurance companies.

"Once you get past the bumper sticker, it doesn't do that well. It's got a glass jaw" when details are explained, said Jim Kessler, executive vice president of center-left research group Third Way.

Because Medicare for All is deeply popular with Democrats' presidential contenders and galvanized liberal wing, it should remain a prominent campaign theme. That invites Republicans to wield it against Democrats whether they're supporters or not.

"It's hard to imagine that Medicare for All doesn't become the banner which Democrats have to defend up and down the ticket," said Steven Law, the president of the Senate Leadership Fund, a super political action committee whose purpose is to help Republicans win more Senate seats.

In 2018, Republicans had little success accusing Democrats of backing Medicare for All. Democrats won House seats in Maine, Texas and elsewhere despite such attacks.

But in one open seat in eastern Kansas, Democrat Paul Davis lost by 1 percentage point after ads linked him to Pelosi. One spot accused them of backing "a government takeover of health care" that "could double your income taxes."

Those ads tried tying him "to national Democrats and policies that were not going to have a great deal of acceptance," Davis said last week.

The proposals could also fuel Democratic primary challenges, particularly in urban districts loaded with liberal voters. Activist groups like Justice Democrats, which last year backed Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's successful ouster of a longtime Democratic incumbent from New York City, say Medicare for All will be one test as they seek targets.

"We need Democrats fighting for big ideas and big solutions," said Waleed Shahid, spokesman for the



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 54 of 57

group.

Associated Press writer Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed.

## **UnitedHealthcare broadens consumers direct rebate program**

MINNETONKA, Minn. (AP) — The nation's largest health insurer is expanding a program that passes rebates from drugmakers directly to the people that use their medications.

Beginning next year, all employer-sponsored health care plans that use UnitedHealthcare must give point-of-sale discounts directly to consumers.

Insurers typically get rebates from pharmaceutical companies to help offset high list prices for well-known drugs. Those are often passed on companies that sponsor employee insurance plans to lower everyone's premiums.

Yet how these rebates are used has become contentious as the cost of medical care soars.

UnitedHealthcare said Tuesday that its initial direct-rebate program, begun last year, has lowered drug costs by an average of \$130 per prescription.

UnitedHealthcare is the insurance arm of UnitedHealth Group Inc.

## **Asian stocks follow Wall Street higher ahead of Brexit vote**

**By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks followed Wall Street higher on Tuesday as investors awaited Britain's vote on a plan to leave the European Union.

The Shanghai Composite Index rose 2.2 percent to 3,092.99 points and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 1.9 percent to 21,530.17. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.5 percent to 28,912.55 and Seoul's Kospi was 0.8 percent higher at 2,155.80.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.1 percent to 6,186.00 and markets in New Zealand, Taiwan and Southeast Asia also rose.

Tech stocks drove the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index to its biggest daily gain since January, snapping a five-day losing streak for the S&P, which was coming off its worst weekly stumble this year.

The S&P 500 gained 1.5 percent to 2,783.30. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.8 percent to 25,650.88. The Nasdaq composite jumped 2 percent to 7,558.06.

Nvidia rose after agreeing to buy chipmaker Mellanox. Apple benefited from an analyst upgrade.

Boeing Co.'s stock slumped 5.3 percent after the second fatal crash involving the newest version of its popular 737 jetliner. An Ethiopian Airlines jetliner went down Sunday, killing 157 people. That followed the crash of another 737 Max 8 crashed in Indonesia on Oct. 29 that killed 189 people.

Authorities in Ethiopia, China, Singapore and Indonesia have grounded all Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft. At one point Monday, Boeing shares slid more than 13 percent.

British lawmakers were due to vote Tuesday on a plan to leave the European Union following negotiations in Strasbourg over details including Britain's border with the Irish Republic.

Britain is due to pull out of the EU in less than three weeks, on March 29, but Prime Minister Theresa May's government has not been able to win parliamentary approval for its agreement. The impasse has raised fears of a chaotic "no-deal" Brexit that could disrupt businesses in Britain and the 27 remaining EU countries. May said the latest changes should overcome lawmakers' qualms about a mechanism to keep an open border between Britain's Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

"Investors will likely favor risk-taking on positive Brexit news and a strong showing on Wall Street overnight," said Nicholas Mapa and Prakash Sakpal of ING in a report. "Technology and energy shares are seen to drive the rally in Asia but market players remain wary ahead of China retail sales data later in the week."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 19 cents to \$56.98 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract jumped 72 cents on Monday to close at \$56.79. Brent crude, used to

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 55 of 57

price international oils, added 12 cents to \$66.70 per barrel in London. It gained 84 cents the previous session to \$66.58.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 111.35 yen from Monday's 111.21 yen. The euro advanced to \$1.1254 from \$1.1245.

## Today in History By the Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, March 12, the 71st day of 2019. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 12, 1864, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assumed command as General-in-Chief of the Union armies in the Civil War.

On this date:

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1914, American inventor George Westinghouse died in New York at age 67.

In 1923, inventor Lee De Forest publicly demonstrated his sound-on-movie-film system, called "Phonofilm," in New York.

In 1925, Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen died in Beijing.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

In 1938, the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman announced what became known as the "Truman Doctrine" to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.

In 1955, legendary jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker died in New York at age 34.

In 1971, Hafez Assad was confirmed as president of Syria in a referendum.

In 1980, a Chicago jury found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; he was executed in May 1994.)

In 1993, Janet Reno was sworn in as the first female U.S. attorney general. A three-day blizzard that came to be known as "The Storm of the Century" began inundating the eastern third of the U.S. A series of bombings in Mumbai, India, killed 257 people (the explosions were allegedly masterminded by India's most wanted man, Dawood Ibrahim).

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee. (Mitchell is serving a life sentence; Barzee was released from prison in September 2018.)

Ten years ago: Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty in New York to pulling off perhaps the biggest swindle in Wall Street history. The Iraqi journalist who'd thrown his shoes at President George W. Bush received a three-year sentence. (Muntadhar al-Zeidi ended up serving nine months.) Lindsey Vonn became the first American woman to win the super-G season finale at the World Cup finals in Are, Sweden.

Five years ago: With Ukraine's interim prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk (ahr-SEHN'-ee yaht-sehn-YOOK'), at his side, President Barack Obama said the United States would "completely reject" a referendum in Crimea opening the door for the Ukrainian peninsula to join Russia. In New York City, a gas explosion destroyed two five-story East Harlem apartment buildings, killing eight people and injuring more than 60.

One year ago: Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee said they'd completed a draft report concluding that there was no collusion or coordination between Donald Trump's presidential campaign and Russia. British Prime Minister Theresa May said Russia was "highly likely" to blame for poisoning a former spy and his daughter in an English city with a military-grade nerve agent. Two package bomb blasts a few miles apart killed a teenager and wounded two women in Austin less than two weeks after a similar

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 56 of 57

attack left a man dead in another part of the Texas capital. (The attacks were part of a series of bombings that killed two people and wounded four others; the suspect, Mark Conditt, died after detonating a bomb in his SUV as officers moved in.) After a 46-year career at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, conductor James Levine was fired; an investigation had found evidence of sexual abuse and harassment. A dog died on a United Airlines plane after a flight attendant told the dog's owner to put the pet carrier in the overhead bin.

Today's Birthdays: Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 87. Actress Barbara Feldon is 86. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 83. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 73. Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, is 72. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 71. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 71. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 70. Actor Jon Provost (TV: "Lassie") is 69. Author Carl Hiaasen (HY'-ah-sihn) is 66. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 63. Actress Lesley Manville is 63. Actor Jerry Levine is 62. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 62. Actor Jason Beghe is 59. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 59. Actor Titus Welliver is 57. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 57. Actress Julia Campbell is 56. Actor Jake Weber is 56. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., is 51. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 51. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 50. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 50. Country musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 46. Actor Rhys Coiro is 40. Country singer Holly Williams is 38. Actor Samm (cq) Levine is 37. Actress Jaimie Alexander is 35. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 25. Actress Kendall Applegate is 20.

Thought for Today: "If power corrupts, being out of power corrupts absolutely." — Douglass (cq) Cater, American author and educator (1923-1995).

## Noem Vetoes Industrial Hemp Legislation

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem yesterday vetoed HB1191 and sent the following message to the South Dakota House of Representatives:

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives,  
I respectfully return to you House Bill 1191, with my VETO. House Bill 1191 is an Act to legalize the growth, production, and processing of industrial hemp and derivative products in the state.

South Dakota must stand as an example for the rest of the country, not simply go along with others. Our focus must be on leading for South Dakota's next generation. Our state is not yet ready for industrial hemp.

Foremost among the many defects of this bill are the challenges it creates for law enforcement. HB 1191 complicates law enforcement searches and provides a ready-made defense for those breaking our drug laws. This poorly drafted bill changes the definition of marijuana with little regard for the implications elsewhere in our Code. It would create uncertainty for prosecution under our ingestion statute because the source of THC is placed in doubt when industrial hemp products that contain small amounts of THC, such as cannabidiol or CBD, are legalized. As Governor, I will not leave it to our courts to interpret how this bill impacts our prohibition on the active ingredient in marijuana, and I do not believe the Legislature intended to complicate enforcement of our ingestion statute in this way.

Although proponents claim hemp has a wide variety of uses, the legislative debate makes it clear that this bill is less about helping farmers and more about commercial interest in one product: CBD. No other type of hemp producer or processor retained paid lobbyists this Session. HB 1191 rejected critical parts of the amendment my Administration discussed with the bill's sponsors. It would instead allow the immediate, widespread production and use of CBD, as well as other hemp derivatives, even though the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has yet to approve them as safe for therapeutic use or for interstate commerce. In fact, the FDA has not yet begun its regulatory process on hemp derivatives, including CBD. South Dakota should be guided by the FDA on these issues, not special interests.

As I first stated many weeks ago, HB 1191 is premature. There is no urgent problem requiring an immediate solution this session. Until the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA") issues its own rules, the

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 245 ~ 57 of 57**

regular growth and interstate transport of hemp cannot begin. No industrial hemp will cross into South Dakota without those rules, which USDA has announced it will not issue until late 2019. We have no way of knowing today what those rules will require. What limited structure HB 1191 does create to regulate industrial hemp in our state could very well be in conflict.

Finally, I am concerned that this bill supports a national effort to legalize marijuana for recreational use. I do not doubt the motives of this bill's legislative champions. However, an overwhelming number of contacts I have received in favor of this bill come from pro-marijuana activists. There is no question in my mind that normalizing hemp, like legalizing medical marijuana, is part of a larger strategy to undermine enforcement of the drug laws and make legalized marijuana inevitable.

This issue was never ripe for discussion during this legislative session, and our state government's efforts and resources should be focused elsewhere until the federal government's approach on this issue is clear. For these reasons, I oppose this bill and ask that you sustain my veto.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristi Noem  
Governor