

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 1 of 51

- 1- Bates Township Notice
- 1- Service Notice: Kevin Radke
- 1- Death Notice: Jack Mahan
- 1- Morton Card of Thanks
- 2- Dairy Queen 25th Anniversary Celebration
- 2- Bowling Scores
- 3- Noem Signs Bill to Fast-Track Licensing Processes for Military Spouses
- 3- S.D. 11 Bridge Over Split Rock Creek Closed
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 4- Middle School Legion Auxiliary Essay and Poetry Winners
- 5- Fourth Grade Legion Auxiliary Americanism essay/poetry winners
- 5- Noem Closes Portions of Southeast Waterways Due to Flooding
- 6- Noem Signs Bill to Increase Transparency in Government Settlements
- 7- 163-mile Big Stone South to Ellendale Transmission Line energized
- 8- Complaints Filed Seek Revocation of Law Enforcement Certifications
- 8- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 9- Tracking the spring flooding
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Pages
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- 2019 Groton Events
- 15- News from the Associated Press

## **Bates Township**

### **ROW**

#### **Maintenance**

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and expenses charged to the landowner.

Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist  
Township Clerk  
(0313.0320)

Published twice at the total approximate cost of \$20.11. 17307

## **Service Notice: Kevin Radke**

Services for Kevin Radke, 38, of Ferney will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 26th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Andrew Wolfgram will officiate. Inurnment will follow at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday at the chapel with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Kevin passed away March 20, 2019 at his home.

## **Death Notice: Jack Mahan**

Jack Mahan, 93, of Groton passed away March 20, 2019 at Sanford Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## **Card of Thanks**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to send me a card for my 80th birthday. You helped to make my birthday a joyous occasion.

Darlene Morton

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

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 2 of 51

## Groton Dairy Queen's 25th Anniversary!

*Come Celebrate With Us - March 25-29!*

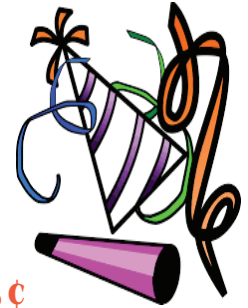
**Monday: Soft Drinks for 25¢**

**Tuesday: Buy one regular priced Blizzard®  
and get one of the same size or smaller for 25¢**

**Wednesday: Root Beer Float: \$1.25**

**Thursday: Indian Tacos: \$5.25**

**Friday: Small Cones for 25¢**



*Thank You For 25 Years of Serving You, our great customers!*



11 East US 12, Groton

605-397-8627

### Groton Coffee Cup

**March 19 Team Standings:** James Valley 29 champions, Biker Chix 27, Kens 26, Ten Pins 22.

**High Games:** Mary Jane Jark 189, 182; Vickie Kramp 169, 166; Nancy Radke 165.

**High Series:** Mary Jane Jark 483, Vickie Kramp 478, Sue Carlson 456

### Conde National League

**March 20 Team Standings:** Pirates 28½, Cubs 22, Giants 22, Braves 21½, Tigers 21, Mets 17.

**Men's High Games:** Butch Farmen 194; Collin Cady 193, 191, 185; Russ Bethke 193, 182; Lance Frohling 173.

**Men's High Series:** Collin Cady 569, Russ Bethke 523, Butch Farmen 515.

**Women's High Games:** Sandy Hoops 181, Mary Larson 179, Kayla Johnson 169.

**Women's High Series:** Mary Larson 476, Vickie Kramp 445, Sandy Hoops 431.

### Groton Prairie Mixed

**March 21 Team Standings:** Foxes 49 ½, Cheetahs 47, Coyotes 45, Shih Tzus 37 ½, Jackelopes 32, Chipmunks 29.

**Men's High Games:** Roger Colestock 209, 202, Brad Larson 204, Doug Jorgensen 203, 201

**Women's High Games:** Karen Spanier 183, Brenda Madsen 168, Sue Stanley 161

**Men's High Series:** Doug Jorgensen 588, Roger Colestock 567, Brad Waage 538

**Women's High Series:** Nicole Kassube 460, Karen Spanier 450, Vicki Walter, Sue Stanley 410

## Noem Signs Bill to Fast-Track Licensing Processes for Military Spouses

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today approved HB1111, a bill to ease the professional licensing process for the spouses of military members assigned to Ellsworth Air Force base or other locations in South Dakota.

“More than 20 percent of military spouses cite state licensing regulations as one of their greatest challenges,” said Noem. “The bill I’m signing today changes that reality for South Dakota’s military families, fast-tracking military spouses through the licensing process and expanding the experienced talent pool of South Dakota’s workforce.”

Current military spouse licensing laws call for the “expedited issuance” of licenses, permits, certificates, or registrations. HB1111 calls for issuance within 30 days.

Today, Noem also signed SB175, which makes an appropriation to the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority. These dollars will be matched with federal funds to improve the long-term operations and effectiveness of the base.

## S.D. 11 Bridge Over Split Rock Creek Closed

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation has closed the bridge on Highway 11 over Split Rock Creek located about two-and-a-half miles south of Brandon.

Southbound traffic on Highway 11 is being detoured to Madison Street and northbound traffic is being detoured on Highway 42.

The water levels of Split Rock Creek continue to rise and when they reach a certain threshold, the department closes the structure to monitor the material in the bed of the channel for erosion.

The department asks motorists to be aware of flooding and to not drive through floodwaters or go around barricades, the road may be washed out underneath.

Complete and up-to-date information can be found at [www.safetravelusa.com/sd](http://www.safetravelusa.com/sd) or by calling 5-1-1.



The logo for HARR Motors, featuring a red square with the letters 'hm' in white, followed by the word 'HARR' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, and 'Motors' in a black, cursive script font below it.

**4255 6th Ave  
SE, Aberdeen**

**Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!**



## Middle School Legion Auxiliary Essay and Poetry Winners

Middle School place winners of the American Legion Auxiliary essay and poetry contest through the Groton and Columbia American Legion Auxiliary Units.

Back row: Tate Larson 1st place essay Groton Unit, Jacob Lewendowski 2nd place essay Groton Unit, Colby Dunker overall winner Groton unit, Andrew Marzahn 2nd place essay Columbia Unit, Lexi Osterman 2nd place essay Groton Unit

Middle row: Emma Kutter 2nd place essay Groton Unit, Alexis Geffre 1st place poetry Groton Unit, Payton Mitchell 2nd place poetry Columbia Unit, Rebecca Poor 2nd place poetry Groton Unit, Gretchen Dinger 1st place essay Groton Unit, Ellie Weismantel overall winner Columbia unit

Front row: Kayla Lehr 1st place poetry Columbia Unit, Abby Jensen 2nd place essay Columbia Unit, and Hannah Monson, 1st place Columbia Unit.

Missing Logan Pearson 1st place essay Groton Unit. (Courtesy photo)



## Fourth Grade Legion Auxiliary Americanism essay/poetry winners

4th grade place winners for the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism essay and poetry contest through Groton and Columbia Auxiliary units.

Dylan McGannon 2nd place poetry Columbia Unit, Jayden Helvig 1st place poetry Groton Unit, Teagan Hanten 1st place poetry Columbia Unit, Halee Harder 1st place essay Columbia Unit, Kira Clocksene 1st place essay Groton Unit, and Caroline Bahr 2nd place poetry Groton Unit. (Courtesy photo)

## Noem Closes Portions of Southeast Waterways Due to Flooding

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem has closed portions of three waterways in southeast South Dakota to recreational use because of flooding.

The Governor's executive order bans all recreational uses on the Big Sioux River, Skunk Creek, and Split Rock Creek, including their tributaries, in the counties of Lincoln, Minnehaha, and Union. Noem signed the order Tuesday and the order took effect immediately.

"With so much water and ice starting to flow through those rivers, the danger level has increased," said Noem. "It is not safe for people to be using those portions of the rivers at this time. Safety of people needs to be our top priority."

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is in charge of enforcing the closure of the designated river areas.

People who violate the closure order are subject to criminal penalties.

## Noem Signs Bill to Increase Transparency in Government Settlements Signs 18 Bills on Variety of Topics

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today signed SB59, a transparency bill that prevents the state government from entering into secret lawsuit settlements and makes these state legal agreements public record.

“South Dakotans deserve to know where their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent, but current law allows the government to confidentially negotiate agreements in order to protect wrongdoers,” said Noem. “The bill I signed today holds the government accountable by preventing secret lawsuit agreements. If tax dollars are used in a settlement, tax payers deserve to see a receipt.”

Noem’s approval of SB59 follows her previous work to shine light into the inner-workings of state government. Earlier in March, Noem signed a reporter shield law that protects the constitutional right to a free and independent press. In Noem’s State of the State address, she committed to building “the most transparent administration South Dakota has ever seen.”

SB59 will go into effect on July 1.

Noem signed the following bills today:

SB59 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding public records

SB74 – An act to revise provisions regarding multiple convictions for certain offenses

SB91 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding open meeting requirements

SB126 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding the common language of the state and to recognize the official indigenous language of the state

SB149 – An act to increase the amount authorized for certain brand fees and to authorize a brand registration application fee

SB153 – An act to authorize the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to provide for a special hunting license with the proceeds to be used for habitat

SB164 – An act to establish procedures for the investigation of certain missing and murdered indigenous persons

SB173 – An act to make an appropriation to fund certain health care innovation grants, to require certain reports, expedite the nursing home rate methodology review, and to declare an emergency

SB174 – An act to make an appropriation for the construction of a health services building and renovation at the Jameson Prison Annex on the grounds of the state penitentiary and to declare an emergency

SB177 – An act to authorize the Department of Public Safety to remodel an existing structure in Sturgis for use as the state metrology lab, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency

HB1093 – An act to establish legal standards applicable to petition challenges.

HB1094 – An act to revise certain programs regarding transparency of the petition circulation process

HB1146 – An act to revise provisions related to unclaimed property.

HB1155 – An act to provide for certain privileged communications between social workers and students

HB1180 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding the collection and storage of sexual assault kit evidence

HB1259 – An act to make an appropriation for costs related to disasters in the state and to declare an emergency

HB1261 – An act to make an appropriation for costs related to suppression of wildfires in the state and to declare an emergency

HB1264 – An act to authorize the payment of a self-insured retention on a cyber liability insurance policy from the extraordinary litigation fund, to make an appropriation for the payment of extraordinary litigation expenses, and to declare an emergency

# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 7 of 51

## 163-mile Big Stone South to Ellendale Transmission Line energized

Big Stone City, South Dakota, March 21, 2019: On February 5 crews from co-owners Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co., energized the 163-mile, 345-kV Big Stone South-Ellendale (BSSE) Transmission Line after eight years of planning and three years of construction. The \$215 million line extends from the Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the Ellendale Substation near Ellendale, North Dakota.

"The team completed construction on time, under budget, and with a stellar safety record," said Project Manager Al Koeckeritz from Otter Tail Power Company. "I'd like to extend a special thanks to communities and residents throughout the project area. Your partnership has brought us to the finish line. Thank you."

The project is one of 16 multi-value projects approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and state regulatory agencies. "This portfolio was designed to improve reliability of the electric system and increase system capacity to address growth in demand, support public policy by enabling renewable energy to be integrated into the system, and boost regional economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses, and contributing taxes," said Otter Tail Power Company President Tim Rogelstad. "Congratulations to the project team and all those who touched this project."

The project used local and regional contractors, including Webster-based Webster Scale, Inc.; Rapid City-based Brink Constructors, Inc.; and Sioux Falls-based Jacobsen Tree Experts.

High-voltage transmission lines, such as BSSE, allow access to diverse generation resources in a large geographic area. As the Regional Transmission Organization, MISO manages these high-voltage transmission lines and dispatches—or balances—generation resources to ensure all customers within MISO's 15-state footprint receive the reliable energy they need with the most cost-effective mix of resources available. MISO cost-allocation mechanisms allow recovering project costs from all customers who benefit from the line, so Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota customers will pay less than one percent of the project costs.



## Complaints Filed Seek Revocation of Law Enforcement Certifications

Pierre, SD (March 21th, 2019) – Four sworn complaints were recently filed with the South Dakota Attorney General’s Office Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training Commission seeking the immediate and permanent revocation of law enforcement certifications of Brown County Sheriff Mark Milbrandt (R), Brown County Chief Deputy David Lunzman (R), former Brown County Deputy Ross Erickson, and recently hired Madison police officer Mathew Wollman (R).

The Commission made news in December 2018 when it charged and subsequently revoked Marshall County’s Sheriff Dale Elsen’s (D) SD law enforcement certification for making inappropriate sexual comments. In December 2017, a U.S. Court judge awarded former DCI Special Agent Laura Kaiser over \$1.5 Million in damages and costs against the state of South Dakota in a verdict stemming from sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation suffered by Kaiser while working jointly with the Brown County Sheriff’s Office. Governor Noem’s 2018 Republican primary win over former Attorney General Marty Jackley is credited by many to Noem’s negative campaign TV ads in which Noem used the Kaiser court judgement to mock Jackley being tough on crime and attacked Jackley for dismissing and ignoring Kaiser’s complaints. Despite these facts, neither the Commission nor Governor Noem filed complaints with the Commission to address the notorious illegal and unethical conduct of the offending officers who cost the state of South Dakota over \$1.5 Million.

The Commission was the subject of recent Legislative hearings in SB127. Legislators and former law enforcement officers expressed concerns publicly and in private that there appears to be a double set of standards in how the Commission deals with persons who are politically connected.

“The illegal actions highlighted in these four filed complaints make the misconduct Sheriff Elsen’s was accused of, pale in comparison.” Said Senator Stace Nelson (R-Fulton) who filed the complaints. “There is nothing worse in law enforcement than bad cops. Allowing people who have been proven to be dishonest and unethical, to remain in authority over the public as law enforcement officers, defeats the whole purpose of the Commission and is a massive failure to protect South Dakotans.” South Dakota has witnessed some significant criminal cases involving law enforcement officers in the news over the last several years. Some are concerned that it is a symptom of failings in our Commission to police the police and of ensuring SD’s law enforcement employment standards are properly adhered to. “We have a new Attorney General with Jason Ravensborg and the Commission under him will be staffed with his new appointments. We briefly discussed concerns about these problems and he expressed willingness to review the Commission to see where it can be improved upon to ensure efficient, fair, and consistent high law enforcement standards of conduct are being equally enforced across South Dakota.”

Senator Nelson is a retired NCIS federal agent, and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### 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:

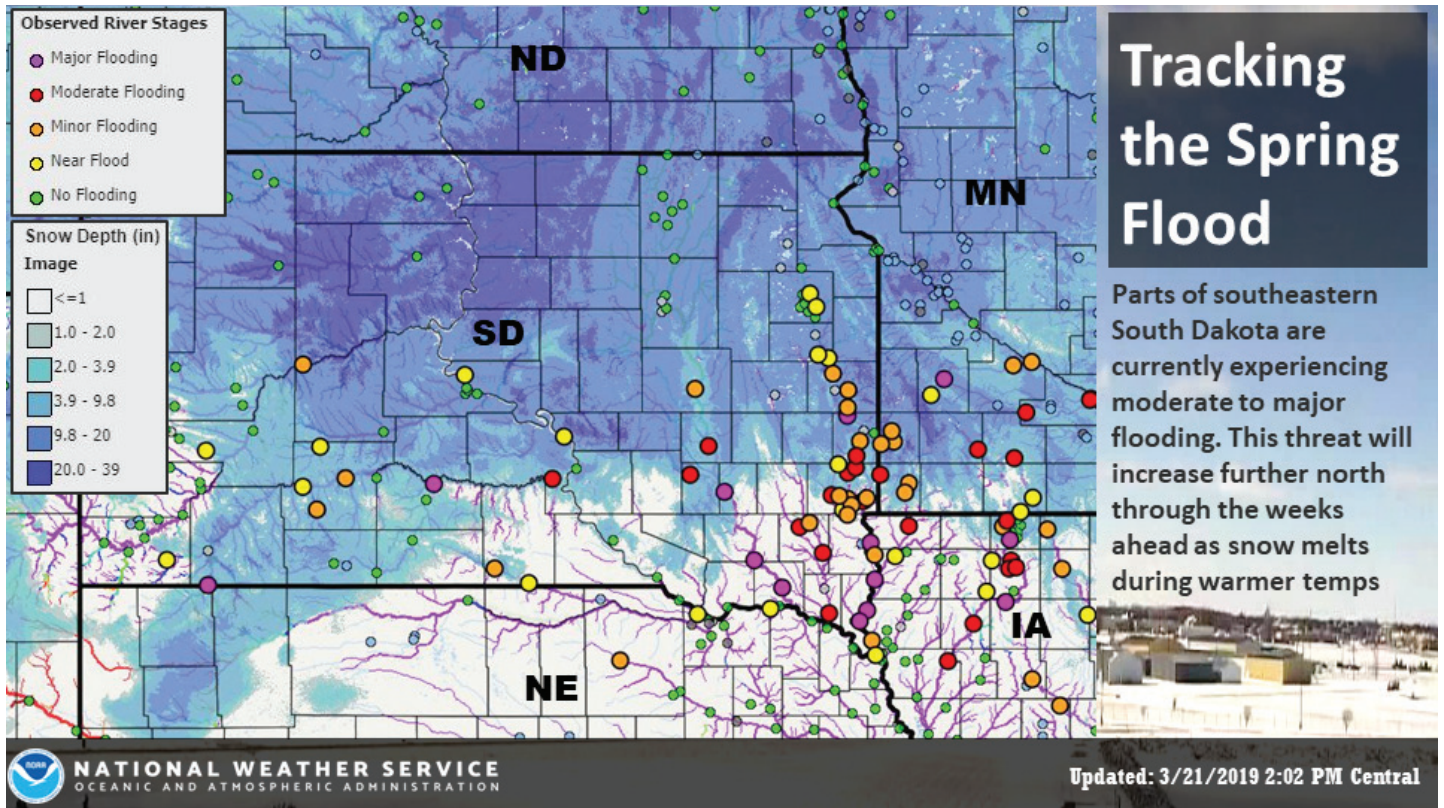
- Comprehensive Health,
- Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- STD
- LTD
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 9 of 51



Published on: 03/21/2019 at 3:05PM

As of March 21st, parts of southeastern and south central South Dakota are experiencing moderate to major flooding. This threat will increase further north in the weeks ahead as snowmelt continues. Ice jams are possible meanwhile as well. <https://go.usa.gov/xEejH>

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 10 of 51

## Today in Weather History

March 21, 1997: As temperatures began to warm up towards the end of March, the near-record to record winter snowpack over central, north central, and northeast South Dakota began melting. The resulting runoff filled up ditches, lakes, creeks, streams, and low-lying areas. The massive amount of water swamped hundreds of sections of county and township roads as well as several state and federal highways. The inundated parts of roads were either broken up or washed out. Tens of culverts were blown out or damaged, and several bridges were either destroyed or washed out by chunks of ice and the high water flow. Road closures were extensive, with rerouting taking place for school buses, mail carriers, farmers, and ranchers. Many spillways and dams received some damage or were washed out. In addition, thousands of acres of farmland and pastureland were underwater. Due to the high groundwater, a countless number of homes received water in their basements. A few towns were partially flooded, including Twin Brooks in Grant County, Corona in Roberts County, and Raymond in Clark County. The following week, in the early morning hours of March 27, water flowed into Raymond filling the basements of several homes. In rural areas, several farms were surrounded by water and were inaccessible, leaving some people stranded and livestock marooned. Many other residences and businesses, mainly across northeast South Dakota, received significant damage or were a total loss. As a result, several people had to be evacuated. At the time, many long-term residents said this was the most significant flooding they had seen in their lifetimes. The flooding continued into early to mid-April.

March 21, 2012: Several record high temperatures occurred across the region in March.

1801: The Jefferson Flood hit the Connecticut Valley. The flooding was the greatest since 1692. The Federalists named the flood for the new President, who they blamed for the disaster.

1876: More than 40 inches of snow stopped traffic at Montreal, Quebec Canada. Trains were delayed, and mail carriers resorted to snowshoes.

1932: A tornado swarm occurred in the Deep South. Between late afternoon and early the next morning, severe thunderstorms spawned 31 tornadoes in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee. The tornadoes killed 334 persons and injured 1784 others. Northern Alabama was hardest hit. Tornadoes in Alabama killed 286 persons and caused five million dollars damage.

1951: Antarctica is the windiest place in the world. Port Martin averaged 40 mph winds throughout the year. On this day, the winds averaged 108 mph.

1920 - A spectacular display of the Northern Lights was visible as far south as Bradenton FL, El Paso TX, and Fresno CA. At Detroit MI, the display was described so brilliant as to blot out all stars below first magnitude. (22nd-23rd) (The Weather Channel)

1936 - A great flood crested on rivers from Ohio to Maine. The flood claimed 107 lives and caused 270 million dollars property damage. (David Ludlum)

1954 - Six to ten inch rains caused the Chicago River to overflow its banks. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - An intense storm produced heavy snow in the southern and central Rockies, and high winds from southern California to West Texas. Wolf Creek Pass CO received 24 inches of snow, and winds gusted to 69 mph at Ruidoso NM. Blizzard conditions were reported in eastern Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Rain and high winds battered the Northern Pacific Coast Region, with wind gusts to 78 mph at Ocean Shores WA. The high winds uprooted trees and down power lines. Ten cities in the northeastern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. Eight cities in the central U.S. reported record highs. Southerly winds gusting to 60 mph helped push the mercury at Ottumwa IA to a record warm reading of 83 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Six cities in the Great Lakes Region, and three in southern Texas, reported new record low temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 9 above zero, and Brownsville TX with a reading of 38 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A surge of arctic air kept temperatures in the teens and 20s during the day in the north central U.S., and heavy snow fell over parts of Montana. Record warmth was reported in the western U.S., and in Alaska. Phoenix AZ reported a record high of 94 degrees, and the town of Barrow, located along the arctic coast of Alaska, reported a record high of 20 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 11 of 51

Today



Dense Fog

High: 39 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 21 °F

Saturday



Partly Sunny

High: 42 °F

Saturday  
Night



Chance Rain



Low: 33 °F


Sunday



Chance Rain



High: 40 °F

 **Snow Melt Continues** 



Higs in the  
Upper 30s & Low 40s

Dry Today – Rain/Snow Showers This Weekend

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD 

Published on: 03/22/2019 at 5:26AM

Temperatures will continue to run into the 30s and 40s today with ample sunshine. A weak system will bring some showers to the region for the weekend, but with little moisture this should have little impact on our nice slow thaw.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 12 of 51

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 40 °F at 5:33 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 16 °F at 4:53 AM**

**High Gust: 13 mph at 2:35 PM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 79° in 1907**

**Record Low: -16° in 1899**

**Average High: 43°F**

**Average Low: 22°F**

**Average Precip in Mar.: 0.71**

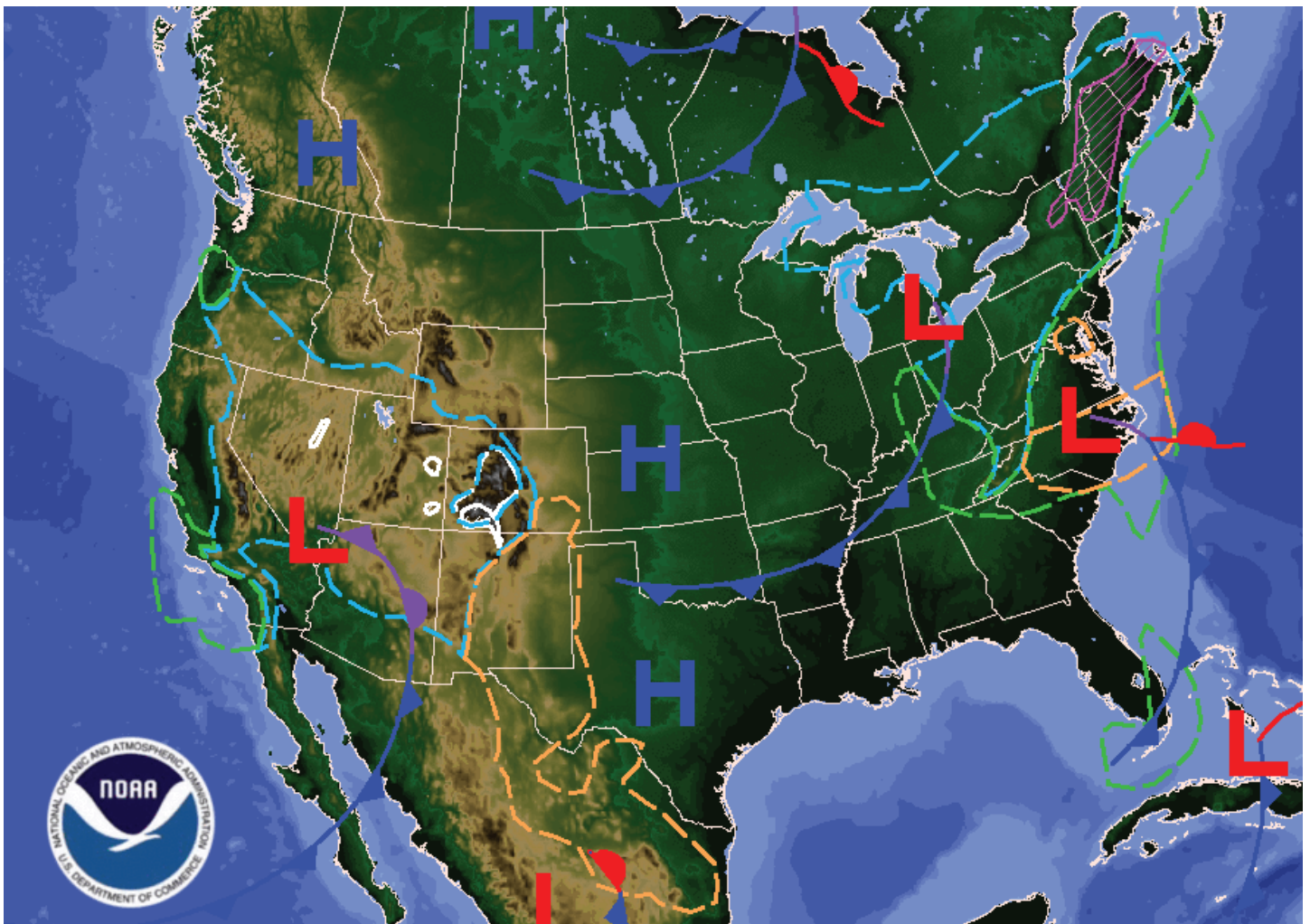
**Precip to date in Mar.: 0.87**

**Average Precip to date: 1.73**

**Precip Year to Date: 3.06**

**Sunset Tonight: 7:49 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Mar 21, 2019, issued 7:27 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong 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

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 13 of 51



## NOW, WHAT?

One of the most influential teachers in my life was Gunny Smith. I met him one beautiful, sunny fall evening in Newport, RI. He stood as straight and rigid as the flag pole beside him. As new Navy Chaplain recruits, we had no idea what to expect. But, one look at his crisp uniform, brightly shined shoes, short hair, and steady gaze left no doubt in our minds that what we expected didn't matter. Our lives were in his hands. He knew it. We would soon accept it.

With obvious confidence in his voice, he said, Gentlemen, I will soon become the most loved and feared person you will ever meet. He lived up to that statement. He was responsible for teaching us how to live as officers in the Navy and how to survive in combat if necessary. He took his responsibilities seriously.

Solomon took his responsibilities as a father seriously, too. He warned his son to continually bind God's laws around his heart, tie them around his neck... so when you walk, they will guide you, when you sleep they will watch over you, and when you awake they will speak to you. In other words, wherever he was, no matter the time or circumstances, whether night or day, His law would be a lamp and light always, and, when necessary, correct and discipline him.

Gunny and Solomon knew and accepted their responsibilities with all their heart. They were well aware of the fact that lives depended on their effectiveness to prepare heads and hearts, and shape the conduct and attitude of the untrained children and recruits alike!

Prayer: We pray, Heavenly Father, that we will accept the responsibility and fulfill our obligation to You to train others whom you have entrusted to us to accept Your teachings and walk in Your light. May our walk be more obvious than our words, as we seek to honor You in all things. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 6:21-22 Keep their words always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. When you walk, their counsel will lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up, they will advise you.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 14 of 51

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-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
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 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
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 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 (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

## News from the Associated Press

### **Sioux Falls prepares for river flooding**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The City of Sioux Falls is installing a trap bag system to prevent flooding in a vulnerable neighborhood along the Big Sioux River.

Property owners are still recovering from last week's flooding during which 17 people were rescued. Between 800 and 900 tons of sand have been brought in to fill the trap bags to protect more than 80 homes from flooding early next week. That's nearly enough sand to fill 40,000 sandbags.

The trap bag system is a wall of 2-foot tall plastic bags filled with sand and open on the top to allow water to fill the bag before overflowing.

Sioux Falls engineer Brad Ludens tells the Argus Leader the trap bags have been used successfully in Fargo, North Dakota and other communities.

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

### **S Dakota man sentenced for killing bald eagle in Nebraska**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Prosecutors say a South Dakota man has been sentenced for his role in killing a bald eagle.

A news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for Nebraska said Thursday that 27-year-old Abel Hernandez, of Yankton, South Dakota, was given three years of probation and fined \$1,250. He also was ordered to perform 300 hours of community service.

Investigators say that in January 2016 Hernandez and another person shot and killed the eagle and left the carcass in Cedar County, Nebraska. Pictures recovered from a cellphone showed Hernandez posing with the dead eagle.

Bald eagles once nearly disappeared from most of the U.S. but flourished under federal protections and came off the endangered list in 2007. As a protected species, hunting them generally remains illegal.

### **Woman pleads guilty to leaving homicide victim in ditch**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One of two people charged in a homicide last fall in the Sioux Falls area has admitted to helping leave the body of the victim in a ditch and cleaning the car where the victim was shot.

The Argus Leader reports 23-year-old Kelsey Roubideaux pleaded guilty to being an accessory to a crime. She had been facing manslaughter and drug charges in the September killing of LaKendrick Thornton.

The plea deal also calls for Roubideaux to cooperate with authorities in the April murder trial of co-defendant Henry Little Long. Authorities allege Little Long shot and killed Thornton after the two argued while in a vehicle filled with people on their way to buy drugs.

Roubideaux faces up to five years in prison. Sentencing wasn't immediately scheduled.

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

### **Unprecedented spring flooding possible, US forecasters say**

**By SETH BORENSTEIN and JEFF MARTIN Associated Press**

The stage is set for unprecedented major flooding this spring for most of the nation, U.S. weather officials said Thursday.

More than 200 million Americans are at risk for some kind of flooding, with 13 million of them at risk of major inundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in its spring weather outlook. About 41 million people are at risk of moderate flooding.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 16 of 51

Major flooding now occurring in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri and other Midwestern states is a preview of an all-too-wet and dangerous spring, said Mary Erickson, deputy director of the National Weather Service. "In fact, we expect the flooding to get worse and more widespread," she said.

This year's flooding "could be worse than anything we've seen in recent years, even worse than the historic floods of 1993 and 2011," she said. Those floods caused billions of dollars in damage, and officials said this year's damage in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota has already passed the billion-dollar mark.

Forecasters said the biggest risks include all three Mississippi River basins, the Red River of the North, the Great Lakes, plus the basins of the eastern Missouri River, lower Ohio River, lower Cumberland River and the Tennessee River.

"This is the broadest expanse of area in the United States that we've projected with an elevated risk that I can remember," said Thomas Graziano, a 20-year weather service veteran and director of the Office of Water Prediction. "Is this the perfect storm? I don't know."

A lot depends on how much rain falls in the next couple months, Graziano said, but forecasters say it will be more than average.

The Missouri River has already set records with historic flood marks measured in 30 places in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota, Kansas City forecaster Kevin Lao said.

The river "remains vulnerable to moderate flooding for the remainder of the spring and early summer," Lao said. "People should be prepared for major flooding along the Missouri River ... going into the future."

Most of Nebraska, except right along the Missouri River, is unlikely to see major flooding again this year, but the rest of the flooded area is still prone to more, Lao said.

Several factors will likely combine to create a pulse of flooding that will eventually head south along the Mississippi: above average rainfall this winter— including 10 to 15 inches earlier this year in a drenching along the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys; the third wettest year in U.S. history; and rapidly melting snow in the Upper Midwest.

Extra rain will bring more farm runoff down the Mississippi, which will likely lead to more oxygen-starved areas in the Gulf of Mexico and likely make the summer dead zone larger than normal, said Edward Clark, director of NOAA's National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

It's too early for scientists to make the complex calculations to see if human-caused climate change played a role in the flooding. However, scientists said the conditions are consistent with what they expect from global warming.

In addition to the year-to-year natural variability of weather, there is a long-term, climate change-driven trend that is making extreme rainfalls even more intense, said Texas A&M University climate scientist



**This Wednesday, March 20, 2019 aerial photo shows flooding near the Platte River in Plattsmouth, Neb., south of Omaha. The National Weather Service is warning that flooding in parts of South Dakota and northern Iowa could soon reach historic levels. A Weather Service hydrologist says "major and perhaps historic" flooding is possible later this month at some spots on the Big Sioux and James rivers. The worst of the flooding so far has been in Nebraska, southwestern Iowa and northwestern Missouri.** (DroneBase via AP)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 17 of 51

Andrew Dessler.

"You can think of climate change as steroids for these rain events," he said.

University of Illinois climate scientist Donald Wuebbles, co-author of a report released Thursday on climate change and the Great Lakes, said "we have been seeing a significant increase in precipitation coming as larger events, especially in the Midwest and Northeast, over the last five to six decades." It will get worse, so flooding will get to be a bigger concern, he said.

In part of the South, it already is.

Major flooding is already occurring this week on the Mississippi River near several Southern cities including Arkansas City, Arkansas; Natchez, Mississippi; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, according to river gauges and data from NOAA. Since Feb. 8, about 100 Army Corps of Engineers personnel have been monitoring levees and other flood protection in Memphis; Clarksdale, Mississippi; and Helena, Arkansas.

The swollen river has been flooding some unprotected western Mississippi communities since last month.

One Mississippi region protected by levees is also flooding. The smaller rivers there can't drain into the Mississippi River as normal, because a floodgate that protects the region from even worse flooding by the big river has been closed since Feb. 15.

Residents around Rolling Fork, Mississippi, first noticed water rising from swamps in late February. The water eventually invaded some homes in that community, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of Vicksburg.

Borenstein reported from Washington, Martin from Atlanta. Associated Press Writers Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee, and Jeff Amy in Jackson, Mississippi, contributed.

## **AP: GOP won more seats in 2018 than suggested by vote share**

**By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Democrats won more votes, regained control of the U.S. House and flipped hundreds of seats in state legislatures during the 2018 elections. It was, by most accounts, a good year for the party.

Yet it wasn't as bad as it could have been for Republicans.

That's because they may have benefited from a built-in advantage in some states, based on how political districts were drawn, that prevented deeper losses or helped them hold on to power, according to a mathematical analysis by The Associated Press.

The AP's analysis indicates that Republicans won about 16 more U.S. House seats than would have been expected based on their average share of the vote in congressional districts across the country. In state House elections, Republicans' structural advantage might have helped them hold on to as many as seven chambers that otherwise could have flipped to Democrats, according to the analysis.

The AP examined all U.S. House races and about 4,900 state House and Assembly seats up for election last year using a statistical method of calculating partisan advantage that is designed to flag cases of potential political gerrymandering. A similar analysis also showed a GOP advantage in the 2016 elections.

The AP used the so-called "efficiency gap" test in part because it was one of the analytical tools cited in a Wisconsin gerrymandering case that went before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2017 and is part of a North Carolina case scheduled to be argued on Tuesday before the court. In that case, justices will decide whether to uphold a lower court ruling that struck down North Carolina's congressional districts as an unconstitutional political gerrymander favoring Republicans.

The high court also is to hear arguments Tuesday on whether Democrats in Maryland unconstitutionally gerrymandered a congressional district in 2011 in order to defeat a long-time Republican incumbent.

The U.S. Supreme Court has never struck down districts because of excessive partisan manipulation, and the efficiency gap formula is no guarantee it will start. During arguments on the Wisconsin gerrymandering case, Chief Justice John Roberts called it "sociological gobbledygook."

Some Republicans also have criticized it, insisting they win simply because they run better candidates. The formula does not necessarily prove political shenanigans, because partisan advantages also can arise

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 18 of 51

naturally based on where Democratic and Republican voters choose to live.

Many political and redistricting experts say the formula provides a neutral way to determine the effects of gerrymandering and how one party can maintain power for a decade or beyond. Plaintiffs in the North Carolina case say now is the time for the court to end highly partisan gerrymandering, with the next round of redistricting set to follow the 2020 Census.

"Gerrymandering as a whole cheats voters out of our representation," said Love Caesar, a student at North Carolina A&T State University who works with Common Cause, an advocacy group that is a lead plaintiff in the case.

The AP's analysis found North Carolina Republicans won two or three more congressional seats than would have been expected based on their share of the vote. Republican candidates received 51 percent of the two-party vote compared to Democrats' 49 percent. Yet Republicans won a 9-3 seat advantage over Democrats, with one seat still undecided because of allegations of vote fraud.

Democrats say that illustrates the effect of Republican gerrymandering and point to Caesar's university, a historically black college in Greensboro, as an example. Republicans in the General Assembly divided the school when they drew the congressional map, dispersing a Democratic-leaning voting bloc among two Republican-leaning districts that extend from Greensboro into more rural areas.

The congressional districts that split the campus are both represented by Republicans.

"It's hard to explain to students who are already skeptical about the voting process ... that the state intentionally diluted their power in voting by putting this line back here in between our campus," said North Carolina A&T student Kylah Guion, who also works with Common Cause.

Republican lawmakers concentrated Democrats in other congressional districts. In the only three districts Democrats won last November, they carried at least 70 percent of the two-party vote.

The efficiency gap test offers a way to assess the effects of redistricting strategies — packing voters of one party into some districts, or spreading them out among others to make it easier for the other party to win seats. It compares a party's average district vote share to the share of seats it wins.

For the 2016 and 2018 elections, North Carolina had the highest pro-Republican tilt among the roughly two dozen largest states that determine the bulk of the seats in the U.S. House, according to the AP's analysis.

Other states that had consistently sizable Republican advantages in both congressional elections included Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Alabama and Texas — all places where Republicans were in charge of redistricting after the 2010 Census. Although Democratic victories mounted nationally in 2018, the AP's analysis



**Sophomore political-science major Kylah Guion stands in the middle of Laurel Street in Greensboro, N.C., on Tuesday, March 19, 2019. Gerrymandering has cut the campus of North Carolina A&T University in half, with this street as the dividing line between the 6th Congressional District on her left and the 13th District on her right, both represented by Republicans. "It's hard to explain to students who are already skeptical about the voting process ... that the state intentionally diluted their power in voting by putting this line back here in between our campus," she says.** (AP Photo/

Allen G. Breed)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 19 of 51

showed that the Republicans' efficiency gap advantage became more pronounced in those states.

Massachusetts showed a consistent Democratic tilt in its congressional districts, though not at the same magnitude as the most pro-Republican states.

In Pennsylvania, the Democratic-majority state Supreme Court redrew the congressional map for the 2018 elections after striking down the previous Republican-drawn version as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. The AP's analysis found the Republican tilt was cut by more than half from the 2016 to 2018 elections as the state's congressional delegation went from a 13-5 GOP majority to an even split of nine seats each for Republicans and Democrats.

The analysis shows Pennsylvania Democrats could have expected to win a 10-8 congressional majority based on getting about 55 percent of the total two-party vote. The fact they didn't might be explained by the high concentration of Democrats in urban areas, which diminishes their votes elsewhere.

The AP's analysis also found a persistent Republican advantage in state House or Assembly districts in Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin and South Dakota and a consistent Democratic edge in Nevada.

There were five state legislative chambers where Republicans retained the majority in 2018 even though Democratic candidates won more votes overall — Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The efficiency gap analysis showed more states with a Republican edge than a Democratic one in their U.S. and state House districts.

Yet "when you look at the nation as a whole, it's not just a radically tilted map," said Eric McGhee, a researcher at the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California who developed the efficiency gap model. "It's more that in these certain key states, they're paving the way for things to be much worse in the future" through gerrymandering.

The Republican State Leadership Committee, which has mounted an aggressive campaign to elect Republican-led legislatures ahead of redistricting, dismisses the efficiency gap analysis as "a political and intellectual sham" used to try to advance the fortunes of Democrats. The formula assumes a party has a right to win seats based on its statewide vote even if its candidates in particular districts aren't that good, said the group's president, Matt Walter.

"This is not a real formula. This is not a real theory," he said. "This is ivory-tower nonsense."

Republicans' success during the last round of redistricting led top Democrats such as former Obama administration Attorney General Eric Holder to launch a counteroffensive leading up to the 2020 Census. Part of the Democrats' strategy has been to challenge Republican-drawn maps in court and support voter initiatives that shift redistricting duties away from state lawmakers.

Democrats contend their candidates are good but face long odds in districts where the boundaries have been manipulated.

"The value of the efficiency gap is it puts some data behind what we see is evident from election results," said Patrick Rodenbush, communications director for the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. "It's clear that Republicans have an unfair advantaged based fully on gerrymandering."

---

Associated Press writer Allen G. Breed in Greensboro, North Carolina, and data editor Meghan Hoyer contributed to this report.

Follow David A. Lieb at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

## Third try: Mississippi St aims for title after close calls

By **DAVID BRANDT AP Sports Writer**

STARKVILLE, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi State has earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year and is now trying to embark on a third straight trip to the national championship game.

But before that starts, coach Vic Schaefer would like to take just one minute to reflect.

"I don't think people realize how hard it is to do what we've done," Schaefer said.

Mississippi State's been so good the last few years it's easy to forget this was a fairly mediocre program

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 20 of 51

as recently as 2013, when the Bulldogs finished with a 13-17 record. That was Schaefer's first season in Starkville and since then he's slowly built a powerhouse that's won two straight SEC regular-season titles and the most recent SEC Tournament title .

Now the Bulldogs are trying for the ultimate goal: winning the program's first national title. Mississippi State lost its previous national championship games against South Carolina in 2017 and a heartbreaker to Notre Dame in 2018.

Mississippi State hopes to have another chance at a title in a few weeks. The journey begins on Friday night when Mississippi State (30-2) hosts No. 16 seed Southern (20-12) in what's expected to be a sold out Humphrey Coliseum.

As Mississippi State's success has increased over the past several years, so have the crowds. The program's averaged more than 8,200 fans per game this season.

"Just seeing the crowd grow over the course of my freshman year to now, it's been a big jump," Mississippi State forward Teaira McCowan said. "This year, every game's almost sold out. So we're just putting on a show each and every night. It's special."

The Jaguars won the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament to earn an automatic bid and earn the right to face the Bulldogs.

No. 8 South Dakota (28-5) will face No. 9 Clemson (19-12) in Friday's other first-round game. The Coyotes earned an at-large bid out of the Summit League while Clemson finished a surprising seventh in the Atlantic Coast Conference to earn its first bid to the NCAA Tournament since 2002.

South Dakota's at-large bid was the first ever for a team from the Summit. The Coyotes are averaging more than 77 points per game while Clemson is particularly good on defense and led the ACC in steals.

"We look forward to two completely different styles of basketball and see what our young ladies can do," South Dakota coach Dawn Plitzuweit said.

Here are a few more things to watch in Starkville during the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament:  
**BUTLER'S RETURN**

Clemson coach Amanda Butler was named the ACC Coach of the Year in her first season with the program after leading a remarkable turnaround . The Tigers finished with nine wins in the ACC this season, which equaled the total from the last five seasons combined. The success comes after Butler was fired from Florida in 2017 after 10 seasons.

Said Butler: "On the personal front, I'm blessed beyond measure. It's the only way I can explain it. Not just the opportunity to be coaching women's basketball again, or to be in the NCAA Tournament, but to be doing it at Clemson University."

**DUFFY'S HEALTH**

South Dakota's success in this weekend might depend on the health of Ciara Duffy. The All-Summit League guard injured her left ankle in the first quarter of the conference tournament finals against South



**Mississippi State head coach Vic Schaefer, center, is presented the Tournament trophy by SEC commissioner Greg Sankey while MVP Teaira McCowan takes a photo after winning an NCAA college basketball championship game against Arkansas in the Southeastern Conference women's tournament, Sunday, March 10, 2019, in Greenville, S.C. (AP**

Photo/Richard Shiro)

Dakota State, which the Coyotes lost 83-71. She said she'll be ready for Friday's game.

"This has always been our goal and it's the first time any of us have gotten to do this. There's not much that's going to keep me from playing in this game," Duffy said. "Our trainer has done an awesome job with rehab, getting the swelling down and the bruising out."

Duffy is averaging a team-high 14.8 points per game and shooting nearly 41 percent from 3-point range.  
CLEANING THE BOARDS

Mississippi State is one of the nation's best rebounding teams, mostly thanks to Teaira McCowan and Anriel Howard. The Bulldogs are the rare team that has two players who are the career rebounding leaders at two different schools.

The 6-foot-7 McCowan has 1,447 to own Mississippi State's record. Howard had 1,002 rebounds at Texas A&M during her first three seasons to earn the Aggies' mark. The 5-foot-11 Howard came to Mississippi State as a graduate transfer during the offseason.

SEVENTH-YEAR WONDER

Clemson guard Simone Westbrook is averaging 13.5 points per game in her seventh season of eligibility after dealing with injuries and other issues. The guard, who recently turned 25, said the experience she's had with the Tigers this year is "something special." Westbrook has been at four schools during her career — Arizona, NW Florida State Community College, Florida and now Clemson.

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

## Man accused of killing, dismembering woman appears in court

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of killing his girlfriend and dumping her dismembered body into a river in Michigan's Upper Peninsula has made his first court appearance.

Stephen Falkenberg appeared Thursday in Yankton County court. He's charged with second-degree murder in the death of Tamara LaFramboise.

No plea was entered. His attorney, Clint Sargent, says he intends to plead not guilty.

Prosecutors say Falkenberg killed LaFramboise in Yankton, where they both lived, then drove to Menominee County, Michigan, where he grew up. Authorities say he discarded LaFramboise's dismembered body in the Little River, where two boys found it on Saturday.

LaFramboise's head, hands and feet have not been found.

A probable cause affidavit says Falkenberg told his sister he argued with LaFramboise, pushed her and she hit her head and died.

This story has been corrected to show that no plea was entered.

## 2nd South Dakota diocese publishes list of accused priests

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A second South Dakota diocese has released the names of clergy members with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse against a minor.

The Sioux Falls Diocese posted the names of 11 clergy members on its website Wednesday. The website says the allegations were substantiated by law enforcement or the diocese, or in some cases by both. Nine of the priests are dead.

A letter posted on the website by Bishop Paul Swain says he hopes the list will encourage any victim who has been harmed to report it to authorities or the diocese. Swain says he wants bishops from around the country to toughen accountability measures when they hold their semi-annual meeting in June.

The Rapid City Diocese last week published a list of 21 priests credibly accused of sexual abuse.

## **Survey: Bankers losing confidence in 10-state farm economy**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of rural bankers in parts of 10 Plains and Western states shows bankers are losing confidence in the future of the region's farm economy in the wake of falling farm income and rising floodwaters.

The Rural Mainstreet survey for March shows the survey's confidence index dropping to 45.7 from February's 48.5. Any score above 50 suggests a growing economy in the months ahead, while a score below 50 indicates a shrinking economy.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, says March floods, tariffs, trade tensions and anemic farm income "negatively influenced the economic outlook of bank CEOs."

The survey shows more than half of supply managers reported negative economic impacts from flooding. The overall index expanded to 52.9 from 50.2 in February.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

## **Child care provider charged with injuring baby**

WILLISTON, N.D. (AP) — A Williston day care provider is accused of critically injuring a baby in her care.

Twenty-two-year-old Corey Gardner is charged with felony child abuse involving a 2-month-old child in November. Police say the child had a brain injury, a broken arm and retinal bleeding. The child was initially taken to a Bismarck hospital and later transferred to a children's critical care hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Court documents say the child's parents told police their baby had a cold but was otherwise fine when dropped off for daycare, but was unresponsive and difficult to wake when they picked up their child.

## **False report prompts river search in Sioux Falls**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman is accused of making false report that prompted a river rescue effort at a local park.

The 30-year-old woman was arrested Wednesday night after she called 911 to report her wife had fallen into the river at Falls Park and she had jumped in after her. Fire crews began searching the river, but couldn't find anyone.

Police learned the woman that was supposedly missing was actually in Texas and they were able to speak with her over the phone. In addition to making a false report, the woman is accused of possessing a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia.

## **Floods show national security threat posed by climate change**

**By MARGERY A. BECK, ELLEN KNICKMEYER and ROBERT BURNS Associated Press**

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. (AP) — The Missouri River floodwater surging on to the air base housing the U.S. military's Strategic Command overwhelmed round-the-clock sandbagging by airmen and others. They had to scramble to save sensitive equipment, munitions and dozens of aircraft.

Days into the flooding, muddy water was still lapping at almost 80 flooded buildings at Nebraska's Offutt Air Force Base, some inundated by up to 7 feet (2.1 meters) of water. Piles of waterlogged corn cobs, husks and stalks lay heaped everywhere that the water had receded, swept onto the base from surrounding fields.

"In the end, obviously, the waters were just too much. It took over everything we put up," Col. David Norton, who is in charge of facilities at the base, told an Associated Press reporter on a tour of the damage. "The speed at which it came in was shocking."

Though the headquarters of Strategic Command, which plays a central role in detecting and striking at global threats, wasn't damaged, the flooding provided a dramatic example of how climate change poses a national security threat, even as the Trump administration plays down the issue.

It is also a reminder that the kind of weather extremes escalating with climate change aren't limited to the

# Graton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 23 of 51

coasts, said retired Rear Adm. David W. Titley, founder of both the Navy's Task Force on Climate Change and the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk at Penn State University.

"We probably do need some walls — but they're probably levees," Titley said, in a reference to President Donald Trump's proposal to take money from the military construction budget to fund a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border. "I would say those are the kinds of walls we need."

The late-winter floods that have swept over Plains states starting last week — breaching levees, halting Amtrak trains, and killing at least three people — are also the second major inundation in less than a decade to hit the air base outside Omaha.

It would take weeks or more for scientists to determine if the Plains flooding, or any weather disaster, was caused or worsened by climate change, which is occurring as emissions from coal, oil and gas alter the atmosphere. But federal agencies and scientists around the world agree that climate change already is making natural disasters more frequent, stronger and longer.

The military has warned in a series of reports under past administrations that climate change is a security threat on many fronts. That includes "through direct impacts on U.S. military infrastructure and by affecting factors, including food and water availability, that can exacerbate conflict outside U.S. borders," the federal government's grim climate report said last year.

But Trump has belittled his own government's warnings. During a January cold spell, he tweeted his wish for "a little of that good old fashioned Global Warming!" In response to security warnings on climate change, the Trump administration has allowed a physicist who rejects scientific consensus on manmade climate change to start organizing a White House panel to make its own determination.

Responding to an AP inquiry, the White House's National Security Council did not directly address whether the administration sees climate change as a national security threat, but said it takes the issue of climate change seriously.

But the Trump White House's national security strategy mentions climate only in the context of "countering an anti-growth energy agenda" for fossil fuels.

Department of Defense spokeswoman Heather Babb said the department "works to ensure installations and infrastructure are resilient to a wide range of challenges, including climate."

"DOD will focus on ensuring it remains ready and able to adapt to a wide variety of threats - regardless of the source - to fulfill our mission to deter war and ensure our nation's security," Babb said.

Under the Trump administration, unlike in previous administrations, the Pentagon has offered little public comment on climate change as a security threat. The Pentagon's guiding star of defense planning, known as the National Defense Strategy, does not even mention climate change.



**This March 17, 2019 photo released by the U.S. Air Force shows an aerial view of Offutt Air Force Base and the surrounding areas affected by flood waters in Neb. Surging unexpectedly strong and up to 7 feet high, the Missouri River floodwaters that poured on to much the Nebraska air base that houses the U.S. Strategic Command overwhelmed the frantic sandbagging by troops and their scramble to save sensitive equipment, munitions and aircraft.** (Tech. Sgt. Rachelle Blake/The U.S. Air Force via AP)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 24 of 51

That leaves it to former military leaders to raise the alarm about how climate change could affect national security. Retired Brig. Gen. Gerald Galloway said that worsening bouts of weather — floods cutting off troops' way in and out of bases, high waves complicating landings, heat waves depriving aircraft of the lift they need to fly — are all problems the military could be dealing with.

Military bases are launch platforms and you "can't fight a war unless you've got a place to leave from," said Galloway, a member of the Center for Climate and Security's advisory board.

Titley predicted Offutt Air Force Base would prove the latest military installation to have racked up \$1 billion or more in damage. Hurricanes struck North Carolina's Camp Lejeune in September and Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida in October.

The current political atmosphere discourages any big efforts building up base defenses against climate change, said Titley, who also served as chief operating officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Defense Department officials "by and large know what they need to do, but it's very hard for them to do. White House dynamics are the White House does not want to hear about it," he said.

"The Pentagon is really between a rock and a hard spot here," Titley said.

Earlier heavy flooding at Offutt has prompted the base to start raising its levee by 2 feet this year, said Maj. Meghan M. Liemburg-Archer, spokeswoman for Strategic Command.

Sandbagging had held back 2011 floods at the base. The flooding that poured in starting March 15 was worse, Norton, the base's support group commander, said.

"It was all hands on deck," Norton said. "All through the night, we worked. It was thousands of people, in total, working to sandbag, move in huge Hesco barriers; a whole host of people clearing equipment out of facilities, moving munitions ... even crews doing things like disconnecting power. It was a massive effort."

More than 30 aircraft were towed to higher ground or flown to other locations. Crews hauled out loads of equipment, engines and tools.

By Saturday, the flood had rolled over a third of the base, swamping more than 1.2 million square feet of buildings.

Though Strategic Command headquarters escaped flooding, it had to cut staff to a minimum as high water blocked roads. The command holds down a range of responsibilities, including global strike capacity, missile defense, nuclear operations and strategic deterrence.

Inundated buildings include the 55th Wing headquarters, the massive Bennie L. Davis Maintenance Facility and a building that houses the 55th Wing's flight simulators.

About 3,000 feet of the base's 11,700-foot runway is submerged.

"The good news is that no one on the base was injured," Norton said. "We know how lucky we are."

Touring Offutt, the base's fire chief, Dave Eblin, kicked one of the soggy corn cobs strewn throughout the base. Asked whether there had been some type of fodder silo that ruptured nearby, Eblin just laughed.

"No, it came in from the fields. Miles of corn fields around the base," he said, nudging at the cob underfoot. "It clogs everything: engines, boat motors. It's everywhere."

Knickmeyer and Burns reported from Washington. AP science reporter Seth Borenstein contributed, also from Washington.

## Pompeo in Lebanon to talk Hezbollah amid Golan condemnation

By ZEINA KARAM and MATHEW LEE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held talks with Lebanese leaders on Friday amid strong regional condemnation of President Donald Trump's declaration that it's time the U.S. recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The abrupt pronouncement was likely to cloud Pompeo's two-day visit during which he is to meet with top officials, including some who are aligned with the Iran- and Syria-allied militant Hezbollah group.

The visit is the last leg of a Mideast tour that took Pompeo to Kuwait and Israel, where he lauded warm



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 25 of 51

ties with Israel, met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on at least three separate occasions and promised to step up pressure on Iran.

From Israel, Pompeo's plane travelled through the Cypriot airspace, as Lebanon, which is technically in a state of war with Israel, bans direct flights from Israel.

Once on the ground, Pompeo was taken to the Interior Ministry for a brief meeting with Raya El-Hassan, who was named earlier this year as the Arab world's first female minister in charge of security.

Pompeo also met with Lebanon's powerful Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, before heading for a working lunch with Prime Minister Saad Hariri. The State Department's deputy spokesman, Robert Palladino, said Pompeo highlighted in the meeting with Berri U.S. concerns about Hezbollah's "destabilizing activities in Lebanon and the region" as well as the need to maintain calm along the border between Lebanon and Israel.

In his Lebanon visit, Pompeo hopes to step up pressure on the Shiite Hezbollah group, but could face resistance even from America's local allies, who fear that pushing too hard could spark a backlash and endanger the tiny country's fragile peace.

Hezbollah wields more power than ever in parliament and the government. Pompeo will also meet Friday with President Michel Aoun and foreign minister. Both, as well as Berri, are close Hezbollah allies, while Hariri is a close Western ally who has been reluctant to confront Hezbollah.

"We'll spend a lot of time talking with the Lebanese government about how we can help them disconnect from the threat that Iran and Hezbollah present," Pompeo told reporters earlier this week.

"Hezbollah is a terrorist organization. You ask how tough I am going to be? It is a terrorist organization. Period. Full stop," Pompeo said in Jerusalem on Thursday.

Pompeo was likely to announce new Iran-related sanctions from Beirut Friday, expected to include Iranian nuclear scientists and technicians, according to U.S. and Israeli officials briefed on Pompeo's plans.

Speaking to Russian journalists ahead of a visit to Moscow later this month, President Aoun said that the sanctions imposed on Hezbollah, Iran and Syria are negatively impacting the already fragile Lebanese economy.

"The negative effect of the sanctions on Hezbollah is hitting all Lebanese people as well as Lebanese banks," he said in remarks released late.

Trump's statement about Golan Heights on Thursday is a major shift in American policy. For some time, the administration has been considering recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the strategic highlands, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967. In a tweet that appeared to catch many by surprise, Trump said the time had come for the United States to take the step.

The U.S. will be the first country to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, which the rest of the international community regards as territory occupied by Israel whose status should be determined by negotiations between Israel and Syria.



**U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with Lebanon's Interior Minister Raya al-Hassan at the Interior Ministry in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, March 22, 2019.** (Jim Young/Pool Image via AP)

Syria, Iran and Turkey on Friday strongly denounced Trump's statement.

Lee reported from Jerusalem.

## Cyclone Idai deaths could exceed 1,000 as need for aid grows

By CARA ANNA and FARAI MUTSAKA Associated Press

BEIRA, Mozambique (AP) — Even as flood waters began to recede in parts of Mozambique on Friday, fears rose that the death toll could soar as bodies are revealed.

The number of deaths could be beyond the 1,000 predicted by the country's president earlier this week, said Elhadj As Sy, the secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In addition to worries about the number of dead, As Sy told The Associated Press that the humanitarian needs are great.

"They are nowhere near the scale and magnitude of the problem," As Sy said. "And I fear we will be seeing more in the weeks and months ahead, and we should brace ourselves."

Thousands of people were making a grim voyage toward the city of Beira, which although 90 percent destroyed has become a center for frantic rescue efforts throughout the region.

Some walked along roads carved away by the raging waters a week ago. Others, hundreds of them, were ferried in an extraordinary make-shift effort by local fishermen who plucked stranded people from small islands.

Helicopters set off into the rain for another day of efforts to find people clinging to rooftops and trees.

For those who reach Beira with their few remaining possessions, life is grim. Waterborne diseases are a growing concern as water and sanitation systems were largely destroyed.

"The situation is simply horrendous, there is no other way to describe it," As Sy said after touring transit camps for the growing number of displaced. "Three thousand people who are living in a school that has 15 classrooms and six, only six, toilets. You can imagine how much we are sitting on a water and sanitation ticking bomb."

What moved him the most was the number of children without their parents, separated in the chaos or newly orphaned.

"Yesterday (we) did a reconnaissance and we found another (inland) lake. So we are still very early in the phase of identifying what the scope of this is, for who is affected and how many are lost," Emma Batey, coordinator for the consortium of Oxfam, CARE and Save the Children, told the AP.

Luckily, the area is a national park and less densely populated, she said. Still, "there were devastatingly small amounts of people."

She estimated that another 100 people would be airlifted out on Friday: "We're only picking up those



**In this photo supplied by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre survivors of Cyclone Idai arrive by rescue boat in Beira, Mozambique, Thursday, March 21, 2019. The confirmed death toll in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi surpassed 500, with hundreds more feared dead in towns and villages that were completely submerged.** (Photo -Denis

Onyodi - Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre via AP)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 27 of 51

in absolute dire need.”

No one is still clinging to roofs and trees, she said.

Pedro Matos, emergency coordinator for the World Food Program, said that what rescuers are seeing now is “sometimes it’s just a hut completely surrounded by water.”

“If islands are big enough, we can even see smoke coming out, meaning that they’re cooking,” he said, adding that it remains “super difficult” to estimate a death toll or even the number of missing.

For residents of Beira, life staggered on. People salvaged the metal strips of roofs that had been peeled away like the skin of a fruit. Downed trees littered the streets. And yet there were flashes of life as it used to be. White wedding dresses stood pristine behind a shop window that hadn’t shattered.

Zimbabwe was also affected by the cyclone and as roads began to clear and some basic communications were set up, a fuller picture of the extent of the damage there is beginning to emerge.

The victims are diverse: a mother buried in the same grave with her child, headmasters missing together with dozens of school students, illegal gold and diamond miners swept away by raging rivers and police officers washed away with their prisoners.

The Ministry of Information said 30 pupils, two headmasters and a teacher are missing.

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa said Thursday that officers and prisoners were washed away.

In Mutare, fear gripped residents even though they are more than 140 kilometers (85 miles) from Chimanimani, the worst-hit part of Zimbabwe.

Maina Chisiriirwa, a city resident, said she buried her son-in-law, who had left the city to go to Chiadzwa diamond fields to mine illegally.

“There are no jobs and all he wanted was to feed his family. He was with his colleagues. They thought it would be easier to mine since the rains would keep the guards and the police away from patrolling,” Chisiriirwa said. His colleagues survived but her son-in-law was swept away, she said.

A man who traveled several kilometers to a reception center for survivors in Chimanimani said several of his colleagues were swept away as they tried to cross a river while fleeing from a mountain known for rich gold deposits and frequented by hordes of illegal miners.

Farai Mutsaka reported from Mutare, Zimbabwe.

## What next? Brexit delay gives UK more time to solve crisis

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Extra time has been added to the Brexit countdown clock. The European Union has granted Britain a few more weeks to overcome its political deadlock and chart a smooth road out of the bloc — or change its mind and seek a much longer delay.

Here’s a look at what might happen next:

### DEAL OR NO DEAL

With Brexit due in little over a week, British Prime Minister Theresa May came to Brussels seeking a three-month delay so she could salvage her twice-rejected EU divorce deal. Instead, the 27 other EU leaders offered a two-stage “flexextension.” If U.K. lawmakers approve the divorce deal agreed between Britain and the bloc, Britain will leave on May 22.

If they defeat it, Britain has until April 12 to tell the EU what it plans to do next: leave without a deal, risking economic chaos, or seek a long delay to Brexit and chart a course toward a softer exit or even remaining in the bloc.

### EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

The key factor in the EU’s decision is the election for the European Parliament due to be held May 23-26.

The bloc is adamant Britain must not take part if it is leaving — hence the May 22 cutoff date.

April 12 is the deadline for candidates to be enrolled, so the U.K. must decide before then if it is putting its departure on longer hold, in which case it would participate in the elections.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 28 of 51

## PARLIAMENTARY BATTLE

The battle now shifts back to the British Parliament, which is split down the middle between supporters and opponents of Brexit.

Both sides voted in large numbers, twice, to reject May's Brexit deal. But May plans to try again next week.

She hopes to persuade reluctant pro-Brexit lawmakers that backing her deal is their only hope of actually leaving the bloc, and to convince pro-EU legislators that they must choose between her deal and a chaotic no-deal Brexit.

May's plan was complicated last week when the speaker of the House of Commons said the prime minister couldn't seek a third vote on her twice-defeated divorce deal unless it was substantially altered.

May is likely to argue that the EU's extension means circumstances have changed and that ruling should no longer apply.

If Parliament approves her Brexit deal, May plans to use the delay until May 22 to pass the legislation necessary for Britain's orderly departure from the EU.

## OTHER OPTIONS

There is little evidence yet that lawmakers' opinion has shifted strongly in favor of May's deal.

Anti-EU supporters of "hard Brexit" still believe that rejecting it can lead to a no-deal departure from the bloc as soon as April 12.

The Brexiteers are in a minority, but form a powerful bloc in May's Conservative Party. A larger group in Parliament, from a range of parties, favors a compromise Brexit in which the U.K. keeps close economic ties with the bloc.

These pro-EU lawmakers will try to push through a plan next week that would give members of Parliament control of the House of Commons timetable in order to hold a series of votes on alternative forms of Brexit, to see if there is a majority for any of them.

Proposals could include seeking closer ties with the bloc than May's deal envisages, or putting the Brexit deal to a public vote.

## THE END OF MAY?

May has spent almost three years trying to shepherd Britain out of the EU, strongly opposes a long delay or a reversal of Brexit. She has hinted she could quit if Parliament forces one of those options on her.

Many on both sides of Britain's Brexit divide would be happy to see her go, but her replacement by a new Conservative leader would not solve the country's political crisis.

Opposition politicians think the only way forward is an early election that could rearrange Parliament and break the political deadlock. May has ruled that out, but could come to see it as her only option.

And anti-Brexit campaigners haven't abandoned the idea of a new referendum on remaining in the EU.



**European flags and a British Union flag placed by anti-Brexit remain in the European Union supporters are blown by the wind across the street from the Houses of Parliament, not pictured, backdropped by Westminster Abbey in London, Monday, March 18, 2019. British Prime Minister Theresa May was making a last-minute push Monday to win support for her European Union divorce deal, warning opponents that failure to approve it would mean a long — and possibly indefinite — delay to Brexit. Parliament has rejected the agreement twice, but May aims to try a third time this week if she can persuade enough lawmakers to change their minds. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)**

There's currently no majority for that in Parliament, but the political calculus could change if the paralysis drags on.

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

## EU shows united front on Brexit, loss of confidence in May

By LORNE COOK and SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders took back control of the Brexit process from British Prime Minister Theresa May, saying Friday they believe the risks were too great and that action was needed to protect the smooth running of the world's biggest trading bloc.

May's mantra since the Brexit referendum in 2016 has always been about "taking back control" of U.K. affairs from the EU. But leaders from the bloc showed at a Brussels summit that they too have a big say in how Brexit ends up, as the political tussle resumes in the British Parliament over how to proceed.

In a move that underlined their loss of confidence in May as she battles for her political survival, the leaders set two deadlines for Britain to leave or to take an entirely new path in considering its EU future.

At marathon late night talks in Brussels, they rejected May's request to extend the Brexit deadline from March 29 — just one week away — until June 30.

Instead, the leaders agreed to extend the date until May 22, on the eve of EU elections, if she can persuade the British parliament to endorse the Brexit deal. Failing that, May would have until April 12 to choose a new path.

"British politicians are incapable of implementing what the people asked them," French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters. "This crisis is British. In no way must we (the EU) become stuck in this situation, so that is why we have given two deadlines. We are organized."

The aim of the EU move is to ensure that Britain doesn't take part in the May 23-26 elections if it is leaving. Candidates for the Europe-wide polls, being held amid deep concern that mainstream parties could lose seats to anti-immigrant groups and populists, must be enrolled by April 12.

"The U.K. government will still have a choice of a deal, no-deal, a long extension or revoking Article 50. The 12th of April is a key date," said EU Council President Donald Tusk, who chaired the summit.

The leaders seized hold of the Brexit process when May — after repeated questioning — proved unwilling, or perhaps unable, to tell them what she planned to do next week if she fails yet again to convince a skeptical British Parliament to endorse the deal, EU officials said.

"We have to move forward. Our citizens, our companies have to be able to understand what the choice of the British Parliament is. We hope that it will be a rational choice, that it will be a choice to maintain close



**European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, center, walks with EU leaders prior to a group photo during an EU summit in Brussels, Friday, March 22, 2019. European Union leaders gathered again Friday after deciding that the political crisis in Britain over Brexit poses too great a threat and that action is needed to protect the smooth running of the world's biggest trading bloc.** (AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 30 of 51

economic and security links with the European Union," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said Friday. "We are now waiting for the British to say clearly to the European Union what they want for the future," he told reporters.

The legally-binding Brexit agreement May sealed with her EU partners last November has been twice rejected by British legislators, once by a historic margin, and she has already angered the legislators by suggesting they are responsible the impasse.

"If Parliament does not agree a deal next week, the EU Council will extend Article 50 until 12 April," May said, referring to the EU treaty article governing Brexit. "At this point we would either leave with no deal, or put forward an alternative plan."

May also moved to heal the wounds caused by her televised speech to the public Wednesday evening — which some legislators slammed as "toxic" and a "low blow," saying that she had "expressed my frustration. I know that MPs are frustrated too. They have difficult jobs to do."

"I hope we can all agree, we are now at the moment of decision," May said.

The Brexit battle now shifts back to Britain's Parliament. Pro-EU lawmakers said the bloc's decision showed that May needed to change course and consider alternatives to her rejected deal. They plan an attempt next week to force a change of direction by setting out a series of votes in Parliament on alternatives, including a plan to keep close economic ties with the EU.

"We need to open up this process because we have rejected her deal, we've rejected no-deal, the EU has decided to give us a little more time and we've really got to get on with it," said Labour Party lawmaker Hilary Benn, who chairs the House of Commons Brexit committee.

"This won't work if the prime minister is not prepared to move an inch," he said. "I'm afraid that's the story of the last two and three-quarter years."

Raf Casert and Jill Lawless in Brussels, and Danica Kirka in London, contributed to this report.

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

## Trump's Golan statement draws strong regional condemnation

By ALBERT AJI Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — From Syria to Turkey and beyond, President Donald Trump's abrupt declaration that Washington will recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights drew strong condemnation on Friday.

The Syrian government called it "irresponsible" and a threat to international peace and stability, while Iran's foreign ministry said it plunges the region into a new crisis.

The Foreign Ministry in Damascus said Trump's statement confirms "the blind bias of the United States to the Zionist entity," referring to Israel, and added that it won't change "the fact that the Golan was and will remain Arab and Syrian."

The ministry also said Damascus is now more intent on liberating the Golan, "using every possible means."

Trump's announcement the day before was a major shift in American policy and gives Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a political boost a month before what is expected to be a close election.

The administration has been considering recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the strategic highlands, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967, for some time and Netanyahu had pressed the matter with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo this week.

Israel unilaterally annexed the Golan Heights in 1981. The U.N. Security Council resolution 497, issued after the annexation, refers to Israel as "the occupying power" and says Israel's attempt to "impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect."

Damascus also said Trump's statement "clearly shows the U.S. disdain to the international legitimacy and violates its resolutions, especially Security Council resolution 497" while also threatening "international

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 31 of 51

peace and stability.”

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said Trump’s “personal and arbitrary decisions” plunge the region into a new crisis, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit also criticized the American stance, saying it “comes outside the international legitimacy and no country, no matter how important it is, can make such a decision.”

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Trump’s “unfortunate” declaration has brought the region “to the brink of a new crisis and new tensions.”

“We will never allow the legitimization of the occupation of the Golan Heights,” Erdogan added. Egypt also issued a statement, saying the Golan is occupied Arab territory and calling for respect for international resolutions.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Trump’s comments “can destabilize the already fragile situation in the Middle East.”

“The very idea is not helping the goals of the Middle East settlement, quite the other way round,” he said. “Right now, it’s merely a declaration. Let’s hope it will stay this way.”

The U.S. will be the first country to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan, which the rest of the international community regards as territory occupied by Israel whose status should be determined by negotiations between Israel and Syria. Attempts to bring Israel and Syria to the table have failed.

It was not immediately clear how a U.N. peacekeeping force that is in place in the Golan might be affected by the U.S. move. That force’s mandate expires at the end of June.

There had been signals that a U.S. decision was coming. Last week, in its annual human rights report, the State Department dropped the phrase “Israeli-occupied” from the Golan Heights section, instead calling it “Israeli-controlled.”



**FILE - In this file photo dated Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, an Israeli flag in front of the village of Majdal Shams in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights. Syria slammed President Donald Trump’s abrupt declaration that Washington will recognise Israel’s sovereignty over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, saying Friday March 22, 2019, the statement was “irresponsible” and a threat to international peace and stability.** (AP Photo/Ariel Schalit, FILE)

Associated Press writers Maggie Michael in Cairo, Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow, Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, and Bassem Mroue in Beirut contributed to this report.

## Broken-hearted but not broken: New Zealand prays together

By NICK PERRY and JULIET WILLIAMS Associated Press

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealanders observed the Muslim call to prayer Friday in reflecting on the moment one week ago when 50 worshippers at two Christchurch mosques were slain — an act that an imam told the crowd of thousands had left the country broken-hearted but not broken.

In a day without precedent, people across New Zealand listened to the call to prayer on live broadcasts while thousands, including Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, gathered in leafy Hagley Park opposite the Al

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 32 of 51

Noor mosque, where 42 people died. "New Zealand mourns with you. We are one," Ardern said.

The call to prayer was observed at 1:30 p.m. and followed by two minutes of silence. Hundreds of Muslim men at the park sat in socks or bare feet. One man in the front row was in a Christchurch Hospital wheelchair.

The Al Noor mosque's imam, Gamal Fouda, thanked New Zealanders for their support.

"This terrorist sought to tear our nation apart with an evil ideology. ... But, instead, we have shown that New Zealand is unbreakable," the imam said.

"We are broken-hearted but we are not broken. We are alive. We are together. We are determined to not let anyone divide us," he added, as the crowd the city estimated at 20,000 people erupted with applause.

Later in the day, a mass funeral was held to bury 26 of the victims at a cemetery where more than a dozen already have been laid to rest.

Family members took turns passing around shovels and wheelbarrows to bury their loved ones. Friday's burials included the youngest victim, 3-year-old Mucaad Ibrahim.

Christchurch native Fahim Imam, 33, returned to the city for Friday's service. He moved away three years ago and now lives in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

"It's just amazing to see how the country and the community have come together — blows my mind, actually," Imam said before the event.

When he got off the plane Friday morning, he saw someone holding a sign that said "jenaza," denoting Muslim funeral prayer. He said others were offering free rides to and from the prayer service.

"The moment I landed in Christchurch, I could feel the love here. I've never felt more proud to be a Muslim, or a Kiwi for that matter. It makes me really happy to be able to say that I'm a New Zealander," Imam said.

He called it surreal to see the mosque where he used to pray surrounded by flowers.

The observance comes the day after the government announced a ban on "military-style" semi-automatic firearms and high-capacity magazines like the weapons that were used in last Friday's attacks at the Al Noor and nearby Linwood mosques.

An immediate sales ban went into effect Thursday to prevent stockpiling, and new laws would be rushed through Parliament that would impose a complete ban on the weapons, Ardern said.

"Every semi-automatic weapon used in the terrorist attack on Friday will be banned," Ardern said.

The gun legislation is supported not only by Ardern's liberal Labour Party but also the conservative opposition National Party, so it's expected to pass into law. New Zealand does not have a constitutional right to bear arms.

Among those planning to attend Friday's observance was Samier Dandan, the president of the Lebanese Muslim Association in Sydney and part of a 15-strong delegation of Muslim leaders that had flown



**Zaid Mustafa, left, son and brother of victims from last week's mosque shootings is welcomed to Friday prayers at Hagley Park in Christchurch, New Zealand, Friday, March 22, 2019. People across New Zealand are observing the Muslim call to prayer as the nation reflects on the moment one week ago when 50 people were slaughtered at two mosques.** (AP Photo/Mark Baker)



to Christchurch.

"It was an ugly act of terrorism that occurred in a beautiful, peaceful city," Dandan said.

He said his pain couldn't compare with that of the families he'd been visiting who had lost loved ones. He was inspired by their resilience, he said.

"And I've got to give all my respect to the New Zealand prime minister, with her position and her actions, and it speaks loud," he said.

Ismat Fatimah, 46, said it was sad to look at the Al Noor mosque, which was still surrounded by construction barricades, armed police officers and a huge mound of flowers and messages.

"We're feeling stronger than before, and we are one," she said.

She said she prayed for the people who died.

"I'm just imagining what would be happening last Friday," she said. "People were running around so scared and helpless. It's just not right."

Erum Hafeez, 18 said she felt comforted by the overwhelming response from New Zealanders: "We are embraced by the community of New Zealand, we are not left behind and alone."

The Al Noor mosque's imam said workers have been toiling feverishly to repair the destruction, some of whom offered their services for free. Fouda expects the mosque to reopen by next week.

## Joe Biden faces a challenge winning over progressives

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden says he has "the most progressive record" of any Democrat running, or mulling a run, in 2020. But many progressive activists disagree.

As the former vice president inches closer to a third White House run, several moments in his long career loom as immediate political liabilities. From his vote for the Iraq war to his key role in passing a bill that made it harder for debt-ridden Americans to declare bankruptcy, Biden would have to reconcile his past with a party that's moved to the left.

Biden leads many early polls, but his handling of those issues will determine whether that support fades in a primary fight. He is aware of his critics, using a speech last week before friendly Delaware Democrats to declare himself a progressive while also describing some of his detractors as "the new left" and defending his record. But several progressive activists are urging him to do more to address doubts about his progressive credentials by owning up to past missteps and developing a forward-looking agenda that recognizes the Democratic base's center of gravity has shifted.

"For him to actually own the label of progressive, he needs to acknowledge and reconcile that prior harm — not just in words, but by putting forth a policy agenda that's really rooted in challenging white supremacy and economic exploitation," said Jennifer Epps-Addison, co-executive director of the activist group Center for Popular Democracy.

As for Biden deeming his record progressive, she warned that "simply labeling yourself something doesn't make it true."

Leah Greenberg, co-founder of the activist group Indivisible, described Biden's progressive self-definition as "a confusing comment" given the number of other prominent liberals in the Democratic primary.

"He's going to need to reconcile his record on policy with where he is now and what kind of policies he's proposing as a presidential contender," Greenberg said, adding that "if he's trying to understand what animates the new left. I'd recommend that he talk to grassroots leaders on the ground."

A Biden spokesman declined to comment.

The 76-year-old Democrat has expressed some regrets for past actions. He was contrite in January about supporting a 1994 crime bill whose stiffer sentences fell disproportionately on minority offenders, telling an audience that the bill's harsher punishment was "a big mistake" that has "trapped an entire generation." He has called his vote to support the Iraq War "a mistake."

And Biden is known for pushing the rest of his party leftward on some key issues. He backed same-sex marriage in 2012 before Barack Obama did, effectively nudging the then-president into his corner on

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 34 of 51

what was a politically volatile issue. He was also a lead architect of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and later used his perch as Obama's vice president to advocate for sexual assault victims, particularly on college campuses.

Sen. Chris Coons, who holds the Delaware seat Biden occupied and is a close ally, said he read Biden's "most progressive" comment as a way of championing the Obama administration's accomplishments on health care, climate change and other fronts.

"On the core issues progressives claim to care about most, Joe Biden actually has a record of leadership," Coons said in an interview. "Anybody can give a great speech on a college campus, but actually getting things done . that's something worth talking about and running on."

But progressives say he'll have more atoning to do, should he enter the 2020 race.

Karine Jean-Pierre, a senior adviser at MoveOn.org who worked with Biden during her time in Obama's administration, predicted "there are things he's going to have to answer to."

"Sometimes you're so popular, and then you jump into an election, and then you become less popular," she said. "He could avoid that by just going head-on and dealing with it from the get-go."

Even as Biden leads most early polls of the sprawling Democratic field, those surveys can't gauge how much of his advantage stems from voters' favorable views of his role as Obama's vice president — and whether that wellspring of goodwill would fade if Biden enters the presidential race to criticism from liberals.

Activists looking to push the party toward a progressive agenda aren't prepared to give Biden a pass based on Obama-era successes.

"You can only go so long on the coattails of a former president, no matter how well-liked a former president is," said Charles Chamberlain, chair of the progressive group Democracy for America.

Biden's advisers have talked for weeks about the prospect of assuaging concerns regarding his age and ideology by tapping a younger running mate early in the primary, before the Democratic nomination is secured. Those discussions, which have not coalesced into any firm decision, at one point focused on former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas and have shifted to former Georgia gubernatorial nominee Stacey Abrams, who met with Biden in Washington last week.

Allying with Abrams could bear fruit in bolstering Biden's relationships with progressives, but she's also being heavily courted by Democratic elders to challenge Republican Sen. David Perdue of Georgia in 2020 and has yet to rule out a presidential bid herself.

"There is an important dynamic to having your name considered as part of the national conversation because someone like me is not often on that list," Abrams, a 45-year-old African-American woman, said last week at a conference in Washington.

Even if Biden adds younger, more left-leaning energy to his prospective ticket, some activists won't be deterred from scrutinizing elements of his past. In addition to his votes on bankruptcy, the crime bill and



**Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the International Association of Firefighters at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 12, 2019, amid growing expectations he'll soon announce he's running for president.** (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

the Iraq War, Biden is likely to face further questions about his treatment of Anita Hill during the 1991 confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his recently resurfaced 1970s remarks against the use of busing to diversify schools in his home state.

"I don't think his choice of running mate will matter that much," said Justice Democrats communications director Waleed Shahid, whose group worked to elect Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and other rising young liberal candidates in 2018. "Biden can't trick progressives who are at the center of energy in the Democratic Party right now into rebranding himself into someone he's not."

## North Korea abruptly withdraws staff from liaison office

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **KIM TONG-HYUNG** Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea abruptly withdrew its staff from a liaison office with South Korea on Friday, a development that is likely to put a damper on ties between the countries and further complicate global diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear program.

The North Korean action came a week after its vice foreign minister threatened to pull out of nuclear negotiations with the United States, citing a lack of U.S. steps to match disarmament measures it took last year. Her warning followed a U.S.-North Korea summit in February that collapsed due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on the North.

North Korea informed South Korean officials of its decision during a meeting Friday at the liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

North Korea said it was withdrawing its staff under instructions from unspecified "higher-level authorities," according to a Unification Ministry statement. It didn't say whether the withdrawal would be temporary or permanent.

South Korea called the North's decision regrettable and urged the North to return its staff to the liaison office soon.

The withdrawal is a major setback for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has sought improved relations with North Korea alongside the nuclear negotiations between the North and the United States.

Moon's office said presidential national security adviser Chung Eui-yong convened an emergency meeting of the National Security Council to discuss the North Korean withdrawal.

Moon says inter-Korean reconciliation is crucial for achieving progress in nuclear negotiations, but the breakdown of last month's summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has created a difficult environment to push engagement with the North. North Korean state media have recently demanded that South Korea distance itself from the U.S. and resume joint economic projects that have been held back by the U.S.-led sanctions against the North.



**FILE - In this Sept. 14, 2018, file photo, South Korea's Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon, center left, and Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification, center right, attend at an opening ceremony for two Koreas' first liaison office in Kaesong, North Korea. North Korea abruptly withdrew its staff from an inter-Korean liaison office in the North on Friday, Seoul officials said on Friday, March 22, 2019.** (Korea Pool/Yonhap via AP, File)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 36 of 51

Analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at South Korea's Sejong Institute said North Korea may be trying to pressure South Korea to back its position with the United States more strongly. "It's hard to rule out the possibility that the North will soon announce a hard-line statement regarding the denuclearization negotiations," Cheong said.

Last Friday, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said her country has no intention of compromising or continuing the nuclear talks unless the United States takes steps commensurate with those the North has taken, such as its moratorium on missile launches and weapons tests, and changes its "political calculation." She said Kim would soon decide whether to continue the talks and the moratorium.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo responded that the U.S. expects Kim to honor his promise to keep missile launches and nuclear tests on hold.

The Unification Ministry statement said North Korea said it "will not mind the South remaining" in the liaison office and that it would notify the South about practical matters later. South Korean Vice Unification Minister Chun Hae-sung told reporters that the South plans to continue to staff the liaison office normally and expects the North will continue to allow the South Koreans to commute to the office.

The office opened last September as part of a flurry of reconciliation steps that also included North Korea's participation in last year's South Korean Winter Olympics, the mutual dismantling of front-line guard posts and the halting of military exercises along their border.

The liaison office is the first since the peninsula was split into a U.S.-backed capitalistic South and a Soviet-supported socialist North in 1945. The Koreans previously used telephone and fax-like communication channels that were often shut down in times of high tension.

Kaesong is also the location of a now-shuttered factory complex that was jointly run by the two Koreas. It combined South Korean capital and technology with cheap North Korean labor. Both Koreas want the U.S. to allow exemptions from the sanctions to permit the reopening of the factory park, which provided North Korea with much-needed foreign currency.

Chun said a number of North Korean officials left the liaison office carrying documents, but most of the equipment was left behind.

While the liaison office was one of the main agreements reached in three summits between Moon and Kim last year, Chun said it's too early to say whether North Korea is renegading on the deals.

"We don't think this could be called a violation of an agreement," Chun said. "We want to monitor the situation for a bit longer and respond to the developments, instead of making predictions or premature judgments."

## 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. NEW ZEALANDERS OBSERVE MUSLIM CALL TO PRAYER

New Zealanders observed the Muslim call to prayer in reflecting on the moment one week ago when 50 worshippers at two Christchurch mosques were slain.

### 2. SYRIA SLAMS TRUMP ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

Damascus said Trump's abrupt declaration that the U.S. will recognize Israel's sovereignty over the annexed territory was "irresponsible" and a threat to international peace and stability.

### 3. US FLOODS SHOW NAT SEC THREAT POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Though the headquarters of Strategic Command, which plays a central role in detecting and striking at global threats, wasn't damaged, the flooding provided a dramatic example of how climate change poses a serious national security concern.

### 4. JOE BIDEN'S CHALLENGE: WINNING OVER PROGRESSIVES

Joe Biden says he has "the most progressive record" of any Democrat running, or mulling a run, in 2020.

### 5. R KELLY DEFENSE EMERGES, INCLUDING SAYING ACCUSERS ARE LYING

A strategy seems to be slowly emerging about how R. Kelly and his legal team intend to defend him

against 10 counts of aggravated sexual assault for alleged violating three girls and an adult woman.

## 6. WHERE DEATHS COULD EXCEED 1,000 AS NEED FOR AID GROWS

Even as flood waters began to recede in parts of Mozambique, fears rose that the death toll could soar as bodies are revealed.

## 7. GUAIDO'S CITGO SNUBS US EX-ECES IN CARACAS JAIL

American families of six Citgo executives jailed in Venezuela for over a year complain they still must fend for themselves.

## 8. EU SHOWS UNITED FRONT ON BREXIT, LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN MAY

European Union leaders took back control of the Brexit process from British Prime Minister Theresa May, saying they believe the risks were too great and action was needed to protect the smooth running of the world's biggest trading bloc.

## 9. DEFENSE EXPERT: COP WENT BY THE BOOK IN TEEN'S SHOOTING

East Pittsburgh Police Officer Michael Rosfeld did everything by the book in his fatal encounter with an unarmed black teenager outside Pittsburgh last summer, a defense expert says.

## 10. MINNESOTA BEATS LOUISVILLE IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

Freshman Gabe Kalscheur scored 16 of his 24 points in the second half and 10th-seeded Gophers rolled past the Cardinals 86-76 in the East Region.



**Muslims pray during Friday prayers at Hagley Park in Christchurch, New Zealand, Friday, March 22, 2019. People across New Zealand are observing the Muslim call to prayer as the nation reflects on the moment one week ago when 50 people were slaughtered at two mosques.** (AP Photo/Mark Baker)

## Trump policy of sending asylum seekers to Mexico faces judge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. judge in San Francisco will scrutinize the Trump administration's policy of returning asylum seekers to Mexico during a court hearing Friday to help him decide whether to block the practice.

Civil rights groups have asked Judge Richard Seeborg in San Francisco to put the asylum policy on hold while their lawsuit moves forward. Seeborg was not expected to rule immediately.

The policy began in January at the San Ysidro border crossing in San Diego, marking an unprecedented change to the U.S. asylum system. Families seeking asylum are typically released in the U.S. with notices to appear in immigration court.

The administration later expanded the policy to the Calexico port of entry, about 120 miles (193 kilometers) east of the San Ysidro crossing.

The lawsuit on behalf of 11 asylum seekers from Central America and legal advocacy groups says the administration is violating U.S. law by failing to adequately evaluate the dangers that migrants face in Mexico.

It also accuses Homeland Security and immigration officials of depriving migrants of their right to apply for asylum by making it difficult or impossible to do so.

"Instead of being able to focus on preparing their cases, asylum seekers forced to return to Mexico will have to focus on trying to survive," according to the lawsuit filed in February by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies.

The Trump administration hopes that making asylum seekers wait in Mexico will discourage weak claims

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 38 of 51

and help reduce an immigration court backlog of more than 800,000 cases.

The Justice Department said in court documents that the policy “responds to a crisis of aliens, many of whom may have unmeritorious asylum claims, overwhelming the executive’s immigration-detention capacity, being released into the U.S. to live for many years without establishing an entitlement to relief, and often never appearing for immigration proceedings.”

Border Patrol arrests, the most widely used gauge of illegal crossings, have risen sharply over the last year but are relatively low in historical terms after hitting a 46-year low in 2017.

A federal law allows the Homeland Security secretary to return immigrants to Mexico at her discretion, Justice Department officials said in a court filing this month urging Seeborg not to block the policy.

The civil rights groups said that law does not apply to asylum seekers who cross the border illegally or arrive at an entry port without proper documents.

The policy followed months of delicate talks between the U.S. and Mexico. Mexicans and children traveling alone are exempt from it.



**FILE - In this Tuesday, March 19, 2019, file photo, two men, both of Honduras, gather with attorneys to pray before crossing into the United States to begin their asylum cases after being returned to Mexico in Tijuana, Mexico. A U.S. judge in San Francisco will scrutinize the Trump administration’s policy of returning asylum seekers to Mexico during a court hearing Friday, March 22, 2019, to help him decide whether to block the practice. Civil rights groups have asked Judge Richard Seeborg to put the asylum policy on hold while their lawsuit moves forward. (AP**

Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

## Mother Russia: South Florida sees a boom in ‘birth tourism’

By IULIJA STASHEVSKA Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Every year, hundreds of pregnant Russian women travel to the United States to give birth so that their child can acquire all the privileges of American citizenship.

They pay anywhere from \$20,000 to sometimes more than \$50,000 to brokers who arrange their travel documents, accommodations and hospital stays, often in Florida.

While the cost is high, their children will be rewarded with opportunities and travel advantages not available to their Russian countrymen. The parents themselves may benefit someday as well.

And the decidedly un-Russian climate in South Florida and the posh treatment they receive in the maternity wards — unlike dismal clinics back home — can ease the financial sting and make the practice seem more like an extended vacation.

The Russians are part of a wave of “birth tourists” that includes sizable numbers of women from China and Nigeria.

President Donald Trump has spoken out against the provision in the U.S. Constitution that allows “birthright citizenship” and has vowed to end it, although legal experts are divided on whether he can actually do that.

Although there have been scattered cases of authorities arresting operators of birth tourism agencies for visa fraud or tax evasion, coming to the U.S. to give birth is fundamentally legal. Russians interviewed by

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 39 of 51

The Associated Press said they were honest about their intentions when applying for visas and even showed signed contracts with doctors and hospitals.

There are no figures on how many foreign women travel to the U.S. specifically to give birth. The Center for Immigration Studies, a group that advocates for stricter immigration laws, estimated that in 2012, about 36,000 foreign-born women gave birth in the U.S., then left the country.

The Russian contingent is clearly large. Anton Yachmenev of the Miami Care company that arranges such trips, told the AP that about 150 Russian families a year use his service, and that there are about 30 such companies just in the area.

South Florida is popular among Russians not only for its tropical weather but also because of the large Russian-speaking population. Sunny Isles Beach, a city just north of Miami, is even nicknamed "Little Moscow."

"With \$30,000, we would not be able to buy an apartment for our child or do anything, really. But we could give her freedom. That's actually really cool," said Olga Zemlyanaya, who gave birth to a daughter in December and was staying in South Florida until her child got a U.S. passport.

An American passport confers many advantages. Once the child turns 21, he or she can apply for "green card" immigration status for the parents.

A U.S. passport also gives the holder more travel opportunities than a Russian one; Americans can make short-term trips to more than 180 countries without a visa, while Russians can go visa-free only to about 80.

Traveling to the U.S. on a Russian passport often requires a laborious interview process for a visa. Just getting an appointment for the interview can take months.

Some Russians fear that travel opportunities could diminish as tensions grow between Moscow and the West, or that Russia might even revert to stricter Soviet-era rules for leaving the country.

"Seeing the conflict growing makes people want to take precautions because the country might well close its borders. And if that happens, one would at least have a passport of a different country and be able to leave," said Ilya Zhegulev, a journalist for the Latvia-based Russian website Meduza that is sharply critical of the Kremlin.

Last year, Zhegulev sold two cars to finance a trip to California for him and his wife so she could give birth to their son.

Trump denounced birthright citizenship before the U.S. midterm election, amid ramped up rhetoric on his hard-line immigration policies. The president generally focuses his ire on the U.S.-Mexico border. But last fall he mentioned he was considering executive action to revoke citizenship for babies born to non-U.S. citizens on American soil. No executive action has been taken.

The American Civil Liberties Union, other legal groups and even former House Speaker Paul Ryan, typically a supporter of Trump's proposals, said the practice couldn't be ended with an order.

But others, like the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for less immigration, said the prac-



**In this photo taken on Jan. 24, 2019, Denis Wolok, the father of 1-month-old Eva's father, shows the child's U.S. passport during an interview with The Associated Press in Hollywood, Fla. Every year, hundreds of pregnant Russian women, like Wolok's wife, Olga Zemlyanaya, travel to the United States to give birth so that their child can acquire all the privileges of American citizenship.** (AP Photo/Iuliia Stashevskaja)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 40 of 51

tice is harmful.

"We should definitely do everything we can to end it, because it makes a mockery of citizenship," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, an outspoken Russian lawmaker, said the country can't forbid women from giving birth abroad, and many of them also travel to Germany and Israel.

"Trump is doing everything right, because this law is used as a ploy. People who have nothing to do with the U.S. use it to become citizens," Zhirinovskiy said.

Floridians have shown no problem with the influx of expectant mothers from Russia.

Yachmenev, the agency manager, says he believes it's good for the state because it brings in sizable revenue.

Svetlana Mokerova and her husband went all out, renting an apartment with a sweeping view. She relished the tropical vibe, filling her Instagram account with selfies backed by palm trees and ocean vistas.

"We did not have a very clear understanding about all the benefits" of a U.S. passport, she said.

"We just knew that it was something awesome," added Mokerova, who gave birth to a daughter after she was interviewed.

Zemlyanaya said that even her two nights in the hospital were a treat, like "a stay in a good hotel."

In contrast to the few amenities of a Russian clinic, she said she was impressed when an American nurse gave her choices from a menu for her meals.

"And then when she said they had chocolate cake for dessert, I realized I was in paradise," Zemlyanaya added.

She even enjoyed how nurses referred to patients as "mommies," as opposed to "rozhenitsa," or "birth-giver" — the "unpleasant words they use in Russian birth clinics."

Zemlyanaya said she was able to work remotely during her stay via the internet, as were the husbands of other women, keeping their income flowing. Yachmenev said his agency doesn't allow any of the costs to be paid by insurance.

Most of the families his agency serves have monthly incomes of about 300,000 rubles (\$4,500) — middling by U.S. standards but nearly 10 times the average Russian salary.

Yachmenev said he expects that birth tourism among Russians will only grow.

Business declined in 2015 when the ruble lost about half its value, but "now we are coming back to the good numbers of 2013-14," he said.

---

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson in Miami and Varya Kudryavtseva in Moscow contributed to this report.

## NCAA Latest: Day 1 of tournament in the books

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on the first round of the NCAA Tournament (all times Eastern):

12:25 a.m.

Time to catch your breath after the NCAA Tournament's first real day.

You have about 12 hours.

Ja Morant's triple-double for Murray State, Wofford's big late run against Seton Hall and perfect days for the Big Ten and SEC have set up what should be a big Friday featuring Zion Williamson and Duke, revenge-minded Virginia and dangerous Houston.

Iowa and Cincinnati get things going in Columbus, Ohio.

Other interesting matchups include Oregon-Kansas State, Buffalo-Texas Tech and a trendy upset pick in No. 12 seed Liberty taking on Mississippi State.

---

12:15 a.m.

Baylor solved Syracuse's vaunted zone with the long ball.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 41 of 51

Makai Mason scored 22 points and Baylor set a school NCAA Tournament record with 16 3-pointers in a 78-69 victory over Syracuse 78-69 in the West Region.

The ninth-seeded Bears (20-13) found gaps in Syracuse's 2-3 zone, mostly by getting the ball into the high post or driving and kicking out. Baylor nearly matched the school tournament record of 11 3-pointers in the first half (10) and made 16 of 34 overall.

Baylor shot 54 percent and slowed Syracuse's own 3-point barrage in the second half to earn a shot at top-seeded Gonzaga on Saturday.

Mason and Jared Butler (14 points) each hit four 3-pointers.

No. 8 seed Syracuse (20-14) matched the Bears nearly 3-for-3 in a stellar first half before bogging down in the second.

— John Marshall reporting from Salt Lake City



**Baylor guard Makai Mason, left, and guard Jared Butler (12) celebrate the team's win against Syracuse in a first-round game in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament Thursday, March 21, 2019, in Salt Lake City.** (AP Photo/

Jeff Swinger)

12 a.m.

Fletcher Magee has led Wofford to the first NCAA Tournament victory in school history.

The senior guard buried seven 3-pointers and scored 24 points to lead the Terriers to an 84-68 victory Seton Hall in the Midwest Region. Wofford trailed 54-53 with just over 10 minutes remaining but outscored the Pirates 31-14 from there.

In the process, Magee became the most prolific 3-point shooter in Division I history, going past the mark of 504 set by Oakland's Travis Bader in 2014.

Magee has now connected on 509 shots beyond the arc.

The seventh-seeded Terriers will face No. 2 seed Kentucky in the second round Saturday. The Wildcats advanced with a 79-44 blowout of Abilene Christian, but they are expected to be without their leading scorer and rebounder, PJ Washington. He was wearing a cast on his sprained left foot.

Wofford (30-4) was 0-4 in the NCAA tournament before its win over the Pirates (20-14).

— Paul Newberry reporting from Jacksonville, Florida.

11:55 p.m.

Charles Matthews had 22 points and 10 rebounds in his best performance since coming back from injury, and No. 2 seed Michigan put Montana away early in a 74-55 win in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Ignas Brazdeikis added 14 points and seven rebounds and Jon Teske had 11 points and nine rebounds for the Wolverines, who led the 15th-seeded Grizzlies by as many as 27 points in the second half.

The Wolverines made it to the round of 32 for the third straight year. They'll play Florida on Saturday.

Sayed Pridgett led Montana with 17 points.

— Eric Olson reporting from Des Moines, Iowa.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 42 of 51

11:45 p.m.

Third-seeded Purdue has blown it open against No. 14-seed Old Dominion.

Consecutive 3-pointers by 7-foot-3 Matt Haarms and leading-scorer Carsen Edwards gave the Boilermakers a 20-point lead with 15:42 remaining in the final game of the day from Hartford, Connecticut.

The Boilermakers and Michigan, which is leading Montana late in their West Region matchup, are poised to cap an unbeaten day for the Big Ten.

— Ralph D. Russo reporting from Hartford.

11:05 p.m.

The 3-point record belongs to Fletcher Magee.

The Wofford standout knocked down his third trey of the game in the opening minute of the second half against Seton Hall, giving him the NCAA Division I career mark with 505 3-pointers.

He broke the record set by Oakland's Travis Bader in 2014. Duke's J.J. Redick (457), Tennessee's Chris Lofton (431) and Davidson's Stephen Curry (414) also rank in the top 10.

Wofford lead the Pirates 43-33 in the Midwest Regional.

— Paul Newberry reporting from Jacksonville, Florida.

10:55 p.m.

If you like 3-pointers, Syracuse and Baylor have 'em.

Taking advantages of gaps in each other's zone defense, the Orange and Bears have combined to hit 19 shots from beyond the arc — of 25 total field goals — in the first half of their West Region matchup.

Baylor has hit one more and leads 38-37 at the break.

Syracuse's Elijah Hughes has made six 3s for 18 points, and Baylor's Makai Mason has knocked down four and has 16 points.

— John Marshall reporting from Salt Lake City.

10:45 p.m.

Second-seeded Michigan is having no problem in its opening game of the NCAA Tournament against 15th-seeded Montana.

The Wolverines, the national runners-up last year, have gotten 11 points and seven rebounds from Charles Matthews while getting out to a 34-21 halftime lead.

Michigan is shooting 54.5 percent from the field.

Montana missed eight of its first nine shots and was just 3-for-16 shooting midway through the first half. The Grizzlies were 9 of 33 at the break.

The start was in stark contrast to their first-round matchup last year. The Grizzlies scored the game's first 10 points before giving way and losing, 61-47.

— Eric Olson reporting from Des Moines, Iowa.

10:35 p.m.

Wofford standout Fletcher Magee has tied the Division I record for career 3-pointers with two more in the first half of the Terriers' game against Seton Hall.

Magee has now made 504 shots from behind the arc, tying the mark set by Oakland's Travis Bader in 2014. Duke's J.J. Redick (457), Tennessee's Chris Lofton (431) and Davidson's Stephen Curry (414) also rank in the top 10.

One of Magee's shots resulted in a four-point play that helped the seventh-seeded Terriers to a 40-30 halftime lead on the No. 10 seed Pirates in their first-round game in the Midwest Region.

— Mark Long reporting from Jacksonville, Florida.

9:50 p.m.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 43 of 51

The defending national champions are moving on in the NCAA Tournament.

Phil Booth scored 20 points, fellow senior Eric Paschell added 14 and No. 6 seed Villanova held off Saint Mary's 61-57 in the first round of the South Region.

Jordan Ford and Malik Fitts each had 13 points for Saint Mary's, which never trailed by more than eight but also couldn't draw even down the stretch.

The Gaels' last chance ended with a steal by Saddiq Bey in the final seconds, and the Wildcats were on to face the Purdue-Old Dominion winner for a Sweet 16 spot.

— Pat Eaton-Robb reporting from Hartford.

9:20 p.m.

Nevada's "Comeback Kids" didn't have it in them in this NCAA Tournament.

The seventh-seeded Wolfpack, who twice used double-digit rallies to reach the Sweet Sixteen a year ago, cut an 18-point Florida deficit to just two points with 2:02 left. But the Gators closed the game with an 11-2 run, beating the Wolfpack 70-61 to advance in the West Region.

Kevarrius Hayes had 16 points and Jalen Hudson scored 15 for Florida.

Andrew Nembhard, whose 3 with a second left in the SEC Tournament against LSU likely sealed Florida's at-large bid, helped the Gators pull away with a crucial layup with 1:36 left.

Cody and Caleb Martin combined to score 42 points for Nevada (29-5), but they needed 34 shots to do so.

— Luke Meredith reporting from Des Moines, Iowa.

9:15 p.m.

With injured star PJ Washington watching from the bench, Kentucky had no problem with 15th-seeded Abilene Christian in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

Keldon Johnson scored 25 points, Reid Travis added 18 and the Wildcats from the Southeastern Conference overwhelmed the overmatched Wildcats from the Southland Conference, 79-44.

Big Blue, as expected, dominated every matchup. The Cats led 39-13 at halftime and opened a 30-point lead shortly after the break. Tyler Herro chipped in 14 points for the powerhouse program from the Bluegrass State.

Kentucky advanced to the second round for the ninth time in as many NCAA appearances under John Calipari, and will face the Seton Hall-Wofford winner.

Jaren Lewis led Abilene Christian with 17 points.

The biggest mismatch came in the backcourt, where Kentucky's size and length posed problems all night. Abilene guards Payten Ricks and Damien Daniels scored a combined 10 points, with the 6-foot-2 Ricks hitting 3 of 11 shots and the 5-foot-7 Daniels missing all five of his.

— Mark Long reporting from Jacksonville, Florida.

8:35 p.m.

Nevada might go from being ranked No. 7 in November to being a one-and-done as a No. 7 seed in the NCAA Tournament in March.

Tenth-seeded Florida, which needed a win over LSU in the SEC Tournament to pop off the bubble, opened up a 51-34 lead early in the second half over the Wolfpack.

Nevada managed to score just seven points in the first eight minutes of the second half, and it doesn't appear to be up to the challenge of facing arguably its most athletic opponent of the season.

— Luke Meredith reporting from Des Moines, Iowa.

8:20 p.m.

The NCAA Tournament game between defending champion Villanova and Saint Mary's tipped to an almost empty arena, but it wasn't because nobody had bought tickets.

Fans of the Wildcats, many of whom made the 4-hour drive from Philadelphia to Hartford, Connecticut,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 44 of 51

were lined up along with Gaels fans behind metal detectors as security emptied the arena from the afternoon session.

Late in the first half, the 16,000-seat XL Center was nearing capacity, but some frustrated fans were still filing in.

— Pat Eaton-Robb reporting from Hartford.

8 p.m.

Even with leading scorer and rebounder PJ Washington sidelined by an injured left foot, the second-seeded Wildcats have raced to a 39-13 lead at halftime of the Midwest Region game in Jacksonville.

Tyler Herro is pacing Kentucky with 14 points. The Wildcats shots 60 percent in the opening half, while limiting Abilene Christian to just 5-of-26 from the field.

Washington was injured during the Southeastern Conference tournament. Kentucky coach John Calipari announced on his Twitter page early Thursday that the 6-foot-8 sophomore was placed in a hard cast after seeing a foot specialist and wouldn't be able to play. He's watching the game from the bench and getting around the arena on a scooter.

The injury is still described as a sprain—not a fracture—but it's not known when Washington will be able to return. If Kentucky knocks off Abilene Christian, they will next play Saturday against the Wofford-Seton Hall winner.

— Paul Newberry reporting from Jacksonville, Florida.

8 p.m.

Here's an answer to that burning question: Who, or what, is Fairleigh Dickinson?

According to the school's website, it's a private university in New Jersey named after its early benefactor, Farleigh S. Dickinson, who co-founded a medical technology company in the late 19th century.

The school, with enrollment of 11,500, has four campuses. It offers dozens of degrees, in business, science and the arts. The basketball program lists Hackensack as its home.

Three short nights ago, the 16th-seeded Knights earned their first NCAA Tournament victory. Tonight, they're up against No. 1 Gonzaga, and trailing 30-11 midway through the first half.

— Eddie Pells reporting from Salt Lake City

7:50 p.m.

Florida has taken a somewhat surprising 37-28 halftime lead over Nevada in the West Region's No. 7 seed vs. No. 10 seed game in Des Moines, with Jalen Hudson of the Gators beating the buzzer with a soaring dunk.

Hudson has 13 points and Kevarrus Hayes has 10 for the 10th-seeded Gators, whose athleticism is giving the Wolf Pack fits.

Nevada has just four losses, but that number might soon reach five if it can't clean things up in the second half. The Wolf Pack already have nine turnovers, and Caleb Martin was 1 of 7 from the field in the opening 20 minutes.

What should also concern Nevada is that Florida is just 3 of 12 on 3s — and it's still up nine.

— Luke Meredith reporting from Des Moines, Iowa

7:10 p.m.

Murray State's Ja Morant is the star of the NCAA Tournament's first day after leading No. 12 seed Murray State to an 83-64 blowout of No. 5 seed Marquette.

Morant ended up with 17 points, 16 assists and 11 rebounds to lead four players in double figures.

Markus Howard scored 26 points for Marquette but shot 9 of 27 and didn't get enough help.

Murray State advances to a second-round matchup with Florida State.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 45 of 51

6:50 p.m.

Murray State's Ja Morant has recorded the ninth triple-double since the NCAA started measuring the statistic in 1987.

Morant has 15 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds with 3:43 remaining in the game. The 12th-seeded Racers lead No. 5 seed Marquette 75-58.

His triple-double is the first in an NCAA Tournament game since Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green had 24 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for Michigan State against LIU Brooklyn in 2012. Green had a total of two NCAA Tournament triple-doubles.

Other players to get official triple-doubles in NCAA Tournament games are Michigan's Gary Grant in 1987, LSU's Shaquille O'Neal in 1992, St. John's David Cain in 1993, Utah's Andre Miller in 1998, Marquette's Dwyane Wade in 2003 and Kansas' Cole Aldrich in 2009.

The NCAA didn't start keeping track of triple-doubles until 1987.

6:45 p.m.

Florida State forward Phil Cofer received a phone call from his family after the team's 76-69 victory over Vermont and learned that his father had died.

Florida State athletic department spokesman Chuck Walsh says Mike Cofer, a former Pro Bowl linebacker with the NFL's Detroit Lions, had been suffering from a long illness.

Mike Cofer had suffered from an uncommon disease that affects organs and tissue.

Walsh says Phil Cofer received the phone call during the open locker-room period and broke down into tears. The senior forward had missed the game with an injured foot.

Mike Cofer played for the Lions from 1983-92. The Lions drafted him in the third round out of Tennessee.

6:15 p.m.

Murray State has opened up a double-digit lead over Marquette.

The Racers scored the first seven points of the second half on a dunk by KJ Williams and layup to slowly rolled in by Shaq Buchanan. Ja Morant assisted on Buchanan's bucket and then converted a three-point play to give Murray State a 49-35 lead with 18 minutes left.

The Racers also got a dunk from Morant and are up 55-40 with 15 1/2 minutes left

— Ralph Russo reporting from Hartford, Connecticut

5:55 p.m.

No. 6 seed Maryland is moving on after surviving a tough bout with Belmont in a 79-77 win, keeping the Big Ten conference perfect through three games.

Jalen Smith threw down a thundering two-handed dunk over Dylan Windler, drawing a foul for a three-point play to give the Terrapins a 77-73 lead with 1:41 to play. The Bruins didn't fade, though. Nick Muszynski's 3-pointer cut Maryland's lead to one point with 1:01 remaining.

The Bruins had the ball after a Terrapins miss with the chance to take the lead, but they turned it over. Windler's final heave at the buzzer fell short.

Minnesota and Michigan State have already won, making the Big Ten 3-0 so far. Michigan and Purdue play later tonight. The Big Ten sent eight teams to the NCAA Tournament, the most in the field this year and the most in conference history.

5:45 p.m.

Ja Morant has lived up to every bit of the hype in the first half of Murray State's first-round game against fifth-seeded Marquette.

The 12th-seeded Racers lead 42-35 at the half, which ended with Morant making a step-back 3-pointer. Mostly, the star guard and future NBA lottery pick dominated with his passing. As the Golden Eagles' defense collapsed on Morant, he kept finding open shooters. Morant, who leads the nation with 10 assists

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 46 of 51

per game, had eight in the first half. Five set up 3-pointers.

Big East player of the year Markus Howard has 16 points for Marquette.

— Ralph Russo reporting from Hartford, Connecticut

5:25 p.m.

No. 2 seed Michigan State had a scare from Bradley but pulled away late to win 76-65 and advance to meet Minnesota in an All-Big Ten second-round game.

Big Ten Player of the Year Cassius Winston scored 26 points to lead the Spartans, who haven't made it past the first weekend of the tournament since 2015.

The Missouri Valley Conference's Braves gave Michigan State all it could handle through the first 30 minutes. Bradley led 35-34 at the half and was still up by one point with 7 minutes to go. Then a 9-0 spurt put the Spartans ahead 63-55 with 2½ minutes to play.

The Spartans made 25 of 26 free throws.

Elijah Childs scored 19 points to lead the Braves, who were just 3 of 12 on 3-pointers in the second half after starting 6 for 9.

— Eric Olson reporting from Des Moines, Iowa

5:25 p.m.

The Minnesota-Michigan State matchup in the second round will be the earliest two Big Ten teams have ever met in the NCAA Tournament. It's the eighth all-time in any round.

The only time two Big Ten teams have played before the regional finals was in 1980, when Purdue beat Indiana in the Sweet 16. There hasn't been an all-Big Ten matchup in any round since Michigan State beat Wisconsin in the Final Four in 2000. That came a few days after Wisconsin's win over Purdue in the regional finals.

The other NCAA Tournament games involving Big Ten games were Michigan's win over Ohio State in the 1992 regional finals, Michigan's win over Illinois in the 1989 Final Four, Purdue's win over Iowa in the 1980 third-place game and Indiana's win over Michigan in the 1976 national championship game.

— Dave Campbell reporting from Minneapolis.

5:11 p.m.

Kansas is giving Northeastern problems with its size inside and quickness off the dribble.

Dedric Lawson has 16 points and the fourth-seeded Jayhawks lead the No. 11 Huskies 37-25 at halftime in the Midwest Region.

Kansas went up 31-19 with an 11-0 run and has held one of the nation's best 3-point shooting team to 5 for 17 from the arc.

The Jayhawks have a 26-4 advantage in the paint.

— John Marshall reporting from Salt Lake City.

5:05 p.m.

The All-America matchup between Murray State's Ja Morant and Marquette's Markus Howard is off to a good start.

The 12th-seeded Racers are tied with the fifth-seeded Golden Eagles at 10 with 15:51 left in the first half.

Morant has a 3-pointer and a couple of assists when the defense has collapsed on him. Howard has six points, a 3-point basket and a traditional 3-point play.

— Ralph Russo reporting from Hartford, Connecticut

4:55 p.m.

Florida State has moved on to the second round on Saturday, when the fourth-seeded Seminoles hope to have starting forward Phil Cofer back.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 47 of 51

The senior sat out of Florida State's first-round victory against Vermont with a sore ankle. Coach Leonard Hamilton says Cofer's status is day to day but that he's not likely to miss any more games after experiencing some swelling after the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament.

Another advancing team, Minnesota, has an injury to a starting forward to keep an eye on. Gophers standout

Jordan Murphy's back locked up during the win over Louisville, requiring some medical attention behind the bench at times during the second half.

Murphy finished with 18 points. The senior says "there's no way" he's missing the next game.

4:45 p.m.

Stealing a few moments from work to catch March Madness? You're hardly alone.

A Seton Hall University poll released on Thursday says 22 percent of Americans who will watch the NCAA men's basketball tournament acknowledge they'll be watching from work. It's nearly one in three when just men are counted.

The poll also reflects the changing nature of television, with 38 percent of interested viewers saying they'll be watching either fully or partly online.

Seton Hall polled 606 adults on both land and cell telephones, and their findings had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

— David Bauder reporting from New York

4:35 p.m.

Michigan State has used a 10-0 run to take a 44-39 lead against 15th-seeded Bradley in the NCAA Tournament.

Elijah Childs dunked to put the Missouri Valley Conference's Braves up 39-34 early in the second half, posing for the Bradley fans as he ran downcourt.

Cassius Winston's 3-pointer broke a 39-39 tie, and Xavier Tillman's steal and layup gave the Spartans a 44-39 lead.

No. 15 seeds were 8-128 entering the tournament. Michigan State was the last No. 2 seed to fall to a 15, losing to Middle Tennessee in 2016.

— Eric Olson reporting from Des Moines, Iowa

4:25 p.m.

Florida State withstood a barrage of 3-pointers from 13th-seeded Vermont and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament with a 76-69 victory in Hartford, Connecticut.

The Catamounts went 16 for 32 from 3-point range but cooled in the second half just enough for the Seminoles to take over with their size.

Mfiondu Kabengele scored 21 points to lead fourth-seeded FSU.

The Seminoles will face the winner of Murray State and Marquette in the West Region on Saturday.

-Ralph Russo reporting from Hartford, Connecticut

4:23 p.m.

Playing its second game in less than 48 hours, Belmont is turning in another strong performance at the NCAA Tournament.

Dylan Windler scored 15 points and Kevin McClain chipped in with 12 to lead the 11th-seeded Bruins to a 40-34 halftime edge over No. 6 Maryland in the East Regional at Jacksonville, Florida.

Belmont landed an at-large bid to the tournament but was forced to play a First Four game at Dayton on Tuesday night. The Bruins defeated Temple 81-70 for the first NCAA victory in school history, leaving them with a quick turnaround against Big Ten school Maryland.

Showing no signs of fatigue, Windler knocked down four 3-pointers in the opening half. Maryland is being

paced by Jalen Smith with nine points.

— Paul Newberry reporting from Jacksonville, Florida.

4:07 p.m.

No. 15 seed Bradley is leading Michigan State 35-34 at halftime after making 6 of 9 3-pointers the first 20 minutes, including back-to-back 3s by reserve guard Nate Kennell.

Elijah Childs, the 6-foot-7 Bradley forward who gives up at least 20 pounds to Michigan State's big men, is holding his own with 11 points and four rebounds. Dwayne Lautier-Ogunleye has nine points for the Missouri Valley Conference's Braves.

Cassius Winston has scored 13 points for the Spartans, who are just 2 for 10 on 3s and 11 for 30 overall from the field.

— Eric Olson reporting from Des Moines, Iowa—

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

## China chemical plant blast kills 47, injures hundreds more

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A massive explosion at a chemical plant in eastern China with a long record of safety violations has killed at least 47 people and injured hundreds of others, 90 of them seriously.

Thursday's blast in an industrial park in the city of Yancheng, north of Shanghai, was one of China's worst industrial accidents in recent years. State-run television showed crushed cars, blown-out windows and workers leaving the factory with bloodied heads.

Schools were closed and nearly 1,000 residents were moved to safety as a precaution against leaks and additional explosions, the city government said in a statement posted to its microblog.

The blast created a crater and more than 900 firefighters were deployed to extinguish the fire that burned into the night.

Windows in buildings as far as 6 kilometers (4 miles) away were blown out by the force of the blast, which caused a magnitude 2.2 seismic shock.

A resident of the community of Chenjiagang, about 5 kilometers (about 3 miles) from the plant, said neighbors were injured by glass from windows smashed by the blast force.

"At the time of the explosion, I was almost deafened and I was terribly frightened," said the woman, who gave only her surname, Zhi.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, on a state visit to Italy, demanded "all-out efforts" to find and rescue victims, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.



**In this aerial photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, damaged buildings are seen at the site of a factory explosion in a chemical industrial park in Xiangshui County of Yancheng in eastern China's Jiangsu province, Friday, March 22, 2019. The local government reports the death toll in an explosion at a chemical plant in eastern China has risen with dozens killed and more seriously injured.** (Ji

Chunpeng/Xinhua via AP)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 49 of 51

"Relief work must be well done to maintain social stability. Meanwhile, environmental monitoring and early warning should be strengthened to prevent environmental pollution as well as secondary disasters," it quoted Xi as saying.

Xi said local officials need to learn the lessons of a recent series of industrial accidents to preserve lives and property, signaling a likely crackdown on safety violations at a time when many Chinese companies are being hit by a downturn in sales that is squeezing profit margins.

The higher death toll, raised from 44 but with no change in the number of injured, suggested rescue crews were still finding bodies at the blast site.

The Yancheng city government statement said 3,500 medical workers at 16 hospitals were mobilized to treat the injured, dozens of whom remained in critical condition.

The cause of the blast was under investigation and people responsible for operations at the plant have been placed "under control," Xinhua said. It wasn't clear whether anyone had been formally arrested.

State media said the State Council, China's Cabinet, had been ordered to oversee the investigation.

China experiences frequent industrial accidents despite orders from the central government to improve safety at factories, power plants and mines.

Among the worst accidents was a massive 2015 explosion at a chemical warehouse in the port city of Tianjin that killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers. That blast was blamed on illegal construction and unsafe storage of volatile materials.

In November, at least 22 people were killed and scores of vehicles destroyed in an explosion outside a chemical plant in the northeastern city of Zhangjiakou, which will host competitions in the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Thursday's disaster occurred at a factory run by the Jiangsu Tianjiayi Chemical Co. Located among a cluster of chemical factories in Yancheng, it has a dismal safety record: In February 2018, China's State Administration for Work Safety cited 13 types of safety hazards at the company, including mishandling of tanks of toxic benzene, the source of Thursday's explosion.

Those violations came despite the plant having racked up 1.79 million RMB (\$267,000) in fines since 2016 for violations of environmental regulations, according to a judgments issued by local county and city environmental protection bureaus. Those included improperly dealing with hazardous waste and evading air pollution supervision.

A 2017 explosion that killed 10 at a nearby plant prompted the State Administration of Work Safety to dispatch inspectors. They discovered over 200 safety hazards at chemical factories in Yancheng and four nearby cities, including 13 at the Tianjiayi plant. Safety hazards cited included leaks and drips, employees who didn't understand safety procedures, and a lack of emergency shut-off valves on tanks carrying flammable chemicals.

In 2014, the company's chairman, Zhang Qinyue, and Wu Guozhong, its former supply chief, were arrested on suspicion of dumping and burying hazardous waste byproducts near a temple and a village landfill, according to a Jiangsu court criminal judgement. They were convicted in 2017 and the company was fined 1 million (\$149,000).

---

Associated Press writers Yanan Wang and Dake Kang contributed to this report.

## Asian stocks stumble on doubts over US-China trade deal

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets were mostly lower on Friday as caution set in ahead of U.S.-China trade talks in Beijing next week.

The Shanghai Composite index gave up 0.8 percent to 3,077.56 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.5 percent to 28,913.55. The Kospi in South Korea was flat at 2,184.94.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index, reopening after a market holiday, dropped 0.2 percent to 21,453.10 after a report that inflation slowed slightly in February. The core consumer price index rose 0.7 percent from a

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 50 of 51

year earlier, compared with January's 0.8 percent gain.

A preliminary private survey, which was also released on Friday, put the country's manufacturing purchasing managers' index at 48.9 in March, unchanged from the previous month. Numbers below 50 indicate contraction on a 100-point scale.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 gained 0.6 percent to 6,201.60. Shares fell in Taiwan and most of Southeast Asia.

China's commerce ministry said Thursday that U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will visit Beijing for the next round of high-level trade talks.

Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said that the eighth round of negotiations will take place next Thursday and Friday. He said Chinese Vice Premier Liu He will meet with officials in Washington in early April.

While officials from both countries have maintained that they are positive about inking a deal, they are still seeking a middle ground on big issues like China's technology policy.

Other matters could still be up for discussion too. On Thursday, CNBC, citing two sources familiar with the matter, said President Donald Trump wants China to "double or triple" its offer to buy up to \$1.2 trillion of American products over six years.

On Wall Street, news that the Federal Reserve no longer intends to raise interest rates this year spurred a rally in technology stocks, snapping a two-day losing streak.

The broad S&P 500 index rebounded 1.1 percent to 2,854.88 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.8 percent higher to 25,962.51. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite jumped 1.4 percent to 7,838.96. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks advanced 1.2 percent to 1,562.41.

In other trading, benchmark U.S. crude oil lost 10 cents to \$59.88 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dropped 25 cents to \$59.98 per barrel on Thursday. The contract closed above \$60 per barrel on Wednesday for the first time since November.

Brent crude shed 9 cents to \$67.69 per barrel on Friday. It gave up 64 cents to \$67.77 per barrel in London. The dollar fell to 110.77 yen from 110.81 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1376 from \$1.1374.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, March 22, the 81st day of 2019. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 22, 1765, the British Parliament passed the Stamp Act to raise money from the American colonies, which fiercely resisted the tax. (The Stamp Act was repealed a year later.)

On this date:

In 1882, President Chester Alan Arthur signed a measure outlawing polygamy.

In 1894, hockey's first Stanley Cup championship game was played; home team Montreal defeated Ottawa, 3-1.

In 1933, during Prohibition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure to make wine and beer containing up to 3.2 percent alcohol legal.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee hydroelectric dam in Washington state officially went into operation.

In 1963, The Beatles' debut album, "Please Please Me," was released in the United Kingdom by Parlophone.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced that Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the commander of American forces in Vietnam, would leave that post to become the U.S. Army's new Chief of Staff. Students at the University of Nanterre in suburban Paris occupied the school's administration building in a prelude to massive protests in France that began the following May. The first Red Lobster restaurant opened in Lakeland, Florida.

In 1978, Karl Wallenda, the 73-year-old patriarch of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act, fell to his death while attempting to walk a cable strung between two hotel towers in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In 1988, both houses of Congress overrode President Ronald Reagan's veto of the Civil Rights Restora-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 22, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 255 ~ 51 of 51

tion Act.

In 1990, a jury in Anchorage, Alaska, found former tanker captain Joseph Hazelwood not guilty of three major charges in connection with the Exxon Valdez oil spill, but convicted him of a minor charge of negligent discharge of oil.

In 1991, high school instructor Pamela Smart, accused of recruiting her teenage lover and his friends to kill her husband, Gregory, was convicted in Exeter, New Hampshire, of murder-conspiracy and being an accomplice to murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 1997, Tara Lipinski, at age 14 years and ten months, became the youngest ladies' world figure skating champion in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 2004, Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin (shayk AKH'-mehd yah-SEEN') was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, enraging Palestinians. Terry Nichols went on trial for his life in the Oklahoma City bombing. (Nichols, already serving a life sentence for his conviction on federal charges, was found guilty of 161 state murder charges, but was again spared the death penalty when the jury couldn't agree on his sentence.)

Ten years ago: A single-engine turboprop plane headed to a Montana ski resort nose-dived into a cemetery short of a runway in Butte, killing all 14 aboard, including seven children. The Mount Redoubt volcano in Alaska began erupting (it took about six months to settle down). Friends and family gathered in a small Hudson Valley, N.Y., town to say a final farewell to Tony Award-winning actress Natasha Richardson, 45, who had died in a skiing accident.

Five years ago: A massive mudslide in Oso, Washington, killed 43 people and destroyed or damaged four dozen homes. A barge and cargo ship collision in the Houston Ship Channel dumped nearly 170,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil. Pope Francis named the first members of a commission to advise him on sex abuse policy. The Los Angeles Dodgers opened the Major League Baseball season with a 3-1 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks at Sydney Cricket Ground in MLB's first regular-season game in Australia.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that he would replace national security adviser H.R. McMaster with former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton; McMaster became the sixth close Trump adviser or aide to depart in a turbulent six weeks. Trump set in motion tariffs on as much as \$60 billion in Chinese imports, and China threatened retaliation; the heightening trade tensions brought a selloff on Wall Street, where the Dow industrials plunged more than 700 points. H. Wayne Huizenga, a college dropout who built a business empire that included Blockbuster Entertainment and three professional sports franchises, died at his Florida home at the age of 80.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 89. Evangelist broadcaster Pat Robertson is 89. Actor William Shatner is 88. Former Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is 85. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 84. Actor-singer Jeremy Clyde is 78. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 76. Writer James Patterson is 72. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 71. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 71. Actress Fanny Ardant is 70. Sportscaster Bob Costas is 67. Country singer James House is 64. Actress Lena Olin is 64. Singer-actress Stephanie Mills is 62. Actor Matthew Modine is 60. Country musician Tim Beeler is 51. Actor-comedian Keegan-Michael Key is 48. Actor Will Yun Lee is 48. Olympic silver medal figure skater Elvis Stojko is 47. Actor Guillermo Diaz is 44. Actress Anne Dudek is 44. Actor Cole Hauser is 44. Actress Kellie Williams is 43. Actress Reese Witherspoon is 43. Rock musician John Otto (Limp Bizkit) is 42. Actress Tiffany Dupont is 38. Rapper Mims is 38. Actress Constance Wu is 37. Actor James Wolk is 34. Rock musician Lincoln Parish (Cage the Elephant) is 29.

Thought for Today: "Better to be alone than with a bad companion." — Spanish expression.