

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 1 of 42

- 1- Robotics Greenhouse Raffle Ad
- 2- Time to Trap
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 3- Crude Oil Driving Pump Prices Higher
- 4- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 4- Groton Lions Easter Egg Hunt Ad
- 5- Groton City-Wide Rummage Info ad
- 5- Groton Care & Rehab ad
- 5- Kindergarten Roundup ad
- 5- Community Events
- 6- City Council Agenda
- 7- School Board Cracker Barrel
- 9- Are You 'Intexticated?'
- 11- Does Communication Really Have to be So Hard in Small Towns?
- 12- Today in Weather History
- 13- Weather Pages
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16- 2019 Groton Events
- 17- News from the Associated Press

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

*"The more you think and talk about your goals, the more positive and enthusiastic you become."*

Billy Cox

**Click on Ad to sign up!**

## **OPEN:** Re-cycling Trailer in Groton

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



## Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:

Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)  
Hunting Blind (Hexigon with 6 shooting windows)

Free delivery within 20 miles

2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

**Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation**

**Drawing to be held April 15th**

**Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 2 of 42

## Time to Trap

Our outdoor resources in South Dakota are second to none. Governor Noem is committed to continue our state's proud outdoor heritage and as part of her Second Century Initiative, she has created the Nest Predator Bounty Program to help nesting birds such as pheasants and ducks increase nesting success.

Trapping is an important game management tool and an even better way to get family and friends outdoors.

## Program Highlights

Raccoon, striped skunk, badger, opossum, and red fox are the eligible species for this program.

The nest predator bounty program begins April 1, 2019, and will conclude August 31, 2019 - unless the \$500,000 cap is reached first. Animals must be trapped during this timeframe to be eligible for the bounty.

Participants will receive \$10 per tail for the species outlined above.

This is a South Dakota resident-only program.

All animals submitted for this program must have been TRAPPED in South Dakota.

Participants may submit up to \$590 worth of tails per household.

Participants must submit the tail bone and entire tail of these species to receive payment.

Road kill animals are not eligible.

Tails can be submitted to wildlife regional offices, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

For bounty submissions outside of these office locations and times, contact your local wildlife conservation officer or wildlife damage specialist. This contact information can be found online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/contactus/>. Local wildlife conservation officer numbers are also listed in the current version of the hunting and trapping handbook.

License requirements and additional information can all be found on our website at <https://gfp.sd.gov/bounty-program/>.

# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts &  
Class A CDL Drivers

New Starting Competitive Wages  
Overtime Available

## BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 3 of 42

## Crude Oil Driving Pump Prices Higher

April 1, 2019 - The national gas price average has increased 44-cents since New Year's Day, landing to-day's average at \$2.69. While that is seven-cents more expensive than last week and 27-cents more than last month, it is only four cents more expensive than last year.

"Three months ago motorists could find gas for less than \$2.50 at 78 percent of gas stations. Today, you can only find gas for that price at one-third of stations, which is likely giving sticker shock to motorists across the country," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Gasoline stocks have been steadily decreasing since early February causing spikes at the pump that are likely to continue for the coming weeks."

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.60    Yesterday Avg. \$2.61    Week Ago Avg. \$2.55    Month Ago Avg. \$2.32  
Year Ago Avg. \$2.58

On the week, 26 states saw gas prices increase a nickel or more with states in the West Coast, Great Lakes and Central region seeing the largest jumps. Despite the latest weekly increases, nearly two dozen states still have cheaper year-over-year averages.

### Quick stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases are: Florida (+13 cents), California (+12 cents), Indiana (+11 cents), Georgia (+11 cents), Idaho (+9 cents), Kentucky (+9 cents), Washington (+9 cents), Oregon (+8 cents), Nevada (+8 cents) and Ohio (+8 cents).

The nation's top 10 most expensive markets are: California (\$3.61), Hawaii (\$3.45), Washington (\$3.16), Oregon (\$3.05), Nevada (\$2.98), Alaska (\$2.89), Washington, D.C. (\$2.83), Illinois (\$2.82), Pennsylvania (\$2.80) and Michigan (\$2.76).

### Central States

On the week, Indiana (+11 cents) was the only state in the region to see double-digit increases, with Kentucky (+9 cents), Ohio (+8 cents) and Illinois (+8 cents) just a few pennies away from that mark. Missouri (\$2.47) was the only state in the region to see gas prices hold steady while Iowa (+2 cents) saw the smallest increase.

With this week's pump jumps, the Great Lakes and Central region is the only region where all states have more expensive year-over-year gas prices. Wisconsin (+15 cents) and Illinois (+11 cents) carry the largest differences in gas prices in the region compared to a year ago.

Regional gasoline stocks continue to tighten with a 919,000 bbl draw, dropping totals for the region to a new low for the year: 54.8 million bbl. According to EIA data, stocks have not measured this low since the end of 2018. While levels are in line with the five-year average they are below the year-ago level of 58 million bbl.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI increased 84 cents to settle at \$60.14 – the highest closing price seen this year. Oil prices increased last week, helping to establish solid price gains for the first quarter of 2019, as the market expects further tightening in global crude availability as a result of OPEC's 1.2 million b/d production cut and the U.S. imposing sanctions on Iranian and Venezuelan crude exports. Moving into this week, prices will likely continue their ascent, with the combined effect of the tightening in the global crude oil market overshadowing concerns that the global economy is slowing.



 **HARR**  
Motors

**4255 6th Ave**

**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!!!**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 4 of 42

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We are almost through the annual roster breakdown, where we evaluate each position to determine how those players did last season, as well as what their cap hit will be going into the 2019 season. We have already looked at the offense, as well as the defensive line and linebackers, so today we look at the Minnesota Vikings' cornerback position.

The Vikings, under head coach Mike Zimmer, have developed one of the best cornerback units in the NFL. Zimmer started out his career in the NFL as a defensive backs coach, so it's no surprise he is able to evaluate talent at cornerback and get the most of those players once they are on the roster. Entering 2019, the Vikings have a wealth of talent in their defensive backfield.

The star among the cornerbacks on the roster is Xavier Rhodes, and while he may have had a down year, I have no doubt he can return to the level of play that earned him 1st team All-Pro in 2017. Mike Zimmer has been quoted recently as saying "Xavier needs to play better. I'm going to make sure that he plays better. It's partly my job to make sure that he plays better and I'm going to do it. I just don't think he played as well as he can play. He needs to play up to his ability level and I need to make sure that he does that. We're paying him a lot of money. He needs to play up to that contract." Rhodes is in the middle of a contract that runs through the 2022 season, and he has a cap hit of \$13.34 million this year.

With Rhodes struggling a little bit last year, Trae Waynes stepped up and had the best season of his young career. Waynes' pass coverage has improved every year, but it's his run defense that really stood out to me in 2018. He is entering the last year of his rookie contract, which will count a little over \$9 million towards the cap in 2019, but it wouldn't surprise me to see the Vikings extend him this summer.

Mackensie Alexander, who is entering his fourth year in the NFL, was perhaps the Vikings' best cornerback last year. It took him a couple years to really see the field, but he ended up playing a lot last season as the team's slot cornerback (which is basically another starter in today's NFL). Pro Football Focus ranked Alexander as the 17th best corner in the league for 2018, and at only 25 years old, he should continue to ascend. Entering the last year of his rookie contract, he will have a cap hit of less than \$1.4 million in 2019.

Mike Hughes, the Vikings' first-round pick in 2018, was playing very well until a knee injury in week six sidelined him for the rest of the season. Zimmer generally doesn't trust young, inexperienced players, so the fact that Hughes played in all six games – and started two of them – is very telling. All signs point to him being ready to go this offseason, and he will have a cap hit of just over \$2 million in 2019.

Most teams feel lucky if they have one or two good cornerbacks, but with undrafted rookie Holton Hill playing so well, the Vikings have five currently on the roster. Hill only allowed a passer rating of 67.0 when he was in coverage, which was the sixth best mark in the entire league. He also ranked second in the NFL by forcing an incompleteness 25.8% of the time. Hill is entering the second year of a three-year rookie contract, which will have a cap hit of only \$575k in 2019.

The Vikings go five deep at cornerback, which doesn't leave a lot of playing time for the other cornerbacks on the roster (Craig James and Jalen Myrick). Unless the Vikings end up trading one of the corners listed above, there won't be much room on the roster for James and Myrick, and as such I can see them both on the Vikings' practice squad this upcoming season.

Make sure to check back next week, as we break down both the safeties and special teams. As always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!



### Groton Lions Club

**Saturday,  
April 13,  
2019  
10 a.m.  
Sharp**



**Groton City Park  
(Weather Permitting)**

Your local Lions Club members have filled and will be hiding nearly 1,200 Easter eggs for the annual event. Children from ages infant to 10 are welcome.

The Groton City Park will be divided into 3 age groups (Under 4, 4-6 and 7-10) for the Egg Hunt. We ask that all parents/children meet at the picnic shelter to begin.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 5 of 42

## Community Events

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

**Cancelled:** Varsity Track Meet @ Ipswich High School  
7:00 pm: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

Pops Concert at Groton Area High School  
2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

## Silver Skates Annual Meeting

Does your child enjoy ice skating?  
Do you like to see community traditions continue?  
Do you have creative or organizational talents waiting to be shared with others?

Please join us for the Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the warming house.

## Groton City-Wide RUMMAGE

Sponsored by  
the Groton  
Lions Club



# SALE

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

All listings are due by 5 p.m. on April 24 to City Hall or email your listing to [city.april@nvc.net](mailto:city.april@nvc.net). \$15 per listing.

Listings will be available on Groton, SD Lions Club Facebook Page and [www.city.grotonsd.gov](http://www.city.grotonsd.gov)

## Hiring High Schoolers!

If you are 16 or older and need a summer job, the Groton Rehabilitation Center has the job for you!

During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

## 2019 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on/or before Sept. 1, 2019

**Friday, April 12**

Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2019, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

\*Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.

Packets will be sent home this week with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 6 of 42**

## Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

April 2, 2019 – 7:00pm

Groton Community Center

1. Open Sealed Garbage Bids
2. Groton Fireman - Special Event Retail On Sale Liquor License April 27, 2019
3. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1  
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
4. Minutes
5. Bills
6. Department reports
  - a. Clean up week
  - b. Drinking water facilities funding application financial analysis summary
7. Date and time for second meeting in April
8. Groton to host district 6 meeting in 2020
9. HR & FO School in Pierre, June 11-14
10. Municipal Debit/Credit Workshop in Pierre, June 26
11. Budget Training in Pierre, June 25
12. Heartland Annual Meeting in Madison, May 9
13. Heartland Summer Conference in Sioux Falls, July 17
14. SDRS Meeting in Aberdeen, September 11
15. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
16. Hire summer employees
17. Adjournment



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 7 of 42



**Pictured left to right are the government class students who put on the event as well as the four school board candidates: Alexis Simon, Clare Davidson, Kylie Kassube, (Tigh Flihs, TJ Harder, Deb Gengerke, Clint Fjelstad), Emerald Sturdevant, Alexa Hickenbotham, Cassandra Townsend, Trenton Diegel, Sam Geffre, Jennie Doeden.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The GHS Government Class, being taught by Scott Thorson, put on a school board cracker barrel Monday evening at the GHS Arena. Each of the four school board candidates had a chance to answer seven questions presented by the government class and the audience.

The event was carried live on GDILIVE.COM and GDI Subscribers can see the archived video at 397news.com, it is filed under 2018-19, then Other Events.

This is the second time that a cracker barrel for school board candidates was held. Thorson said that the first one was about five years ago. There are four candidates running for the three open positions. The incumbents are Deb Gengerke and Clint Fjelstad. Incumbent Merle Harder did not take out a petition. The other two candidates are TJ Harder and Tigh Flihs.

Thorson said that this was a good exercise for the government class. "They can understand that they can make a difference and to be involved in real government," he said.

Each of the candidates was given an opportunity to explain why they were running for school board. Then the first question was about if the district can afford to do any major renovations to the high school building. Fjelstad said that the question should be more, "Can we afford not too?" He said the Groton Area district needs to be a model for the area. "The high school structure is not good. It is not heated right and the classrooms are too small." Gengerke said the outside envelope is in good shape, but that's because a lot of work has gone into keeping it up. "What you don't see is the electrical and plumbing issues." Flihs said the board members should be given a tour of the school to see the issues and said that his wife has worked in the building for several years so he has an insight to some of the issues. Harder said the district needs a new building, but the timing is not good right now. He said he also realizes that the longer it takes, the more it will cost.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 8 of 42

As far as major problems facing the district, Fjelstad said the state funding is a big issue. "The state is taking money away from our special income and giving it to other districts." He also said that getting and keeping good teachers is a challenge. Drugs, alcohol and vaping are issues that the district has to deal with. "We have to show that our school cares for the students." Harder said that he is not aware of any major issues facing the district. Flihs said that the district is constantly facing funding issues and the district needs to try and entice new teachers to apply in Groton. Gengerke said that it is tough to make long term plans when the legislature dictates the state aid. "The district gets less than \$40,000 a year in state aid. Other problems she said were that more students are enrolling with behavior issues and that getting a good pool of teachers is good at the elementary school, but not at the middle/high school level.

The next question dealt with how to fix any of the problems in the school. Flihs said he would like to see the school become even more efficient and that he would be supportive of the teachers who have new ideas. "I would let the teachers know that I have their back," he said. Harder said he did not have enough information to form an opinion at this point. Fjelstad said that he, along with other people, need to contact the legislators and get our voices and concerns heard. "We need to increase our school pride. It is awesome, but we can do better," he said. Gengerke said that school funding done at the state level is hurting the Groton district. "Our superintendent has lobbied in Pierre in front of the legislature this year. We have to compete with those districts getting more money," she said. She went to say that the nurses in South Dakota have campaigned on getting more students to take up nursing. "What better way to promote your industry than with the professionals in the field."

The next question had to do with curriculum of what should be added or taken away. Basically everyone was in agreement that Groton has a good offering of classes and would hate to see any of them go. Fjelstad did add that more in-depth technology classes would be good.

The question was asked if the district should advertise more on TV and billboards to increase the enrollment. Everyone said that spending money on TV and billboards was not necessary. Fjelstad said, "We should be promoting our school. Promote the greatness we have and the rest will take care of itself." Gengerke said that things like Robotics, MathCounts, sporting events and more will promote the school. "All of you are walking advertisements," she said. Flihs said the use of social media would be a good tool to use. Harder added that it is best to advertise by being great.

The next question was on what is the hardest area to facilitate a change. Harder said funding. Fjelstad said, "Our thinking. It's hard to change people's mind," he said. "Sometimes it's not what's best for the upcoming generation. We can always listed and come up with mediation that can compromise." Gengerke said that funding is a moving target and it is tough to change. It's a different issue to talk about money and to talk about children." Flihs said that parent involvement is necessary. "Getting involved in PAC, making a positive involvement is what we need," he said. "Let the teachers teach and the coaches coach."

The final question was, "Why should people vote for you?" Flihs said, he has the ability to put himself in other people's shoes, to work hard and see that the student's needs are a priority." Harder said that he has lived here all his life. "I have a lot vested in the community and I want to give back," he said. Fjelstad said that he has the ability to see both sides of an issue and to rational it out in his head. "I'm very hard working and I'm dedicated to improvement and advancement." Gengerke said it was all about commitment. "If I'm in, I'm in all the way," she said. "I like finding out the facts and bringing different ideas to the table. I have the experience as a board member for the past three years and as a college educator for several years."

## Are You 'Intexticated?'

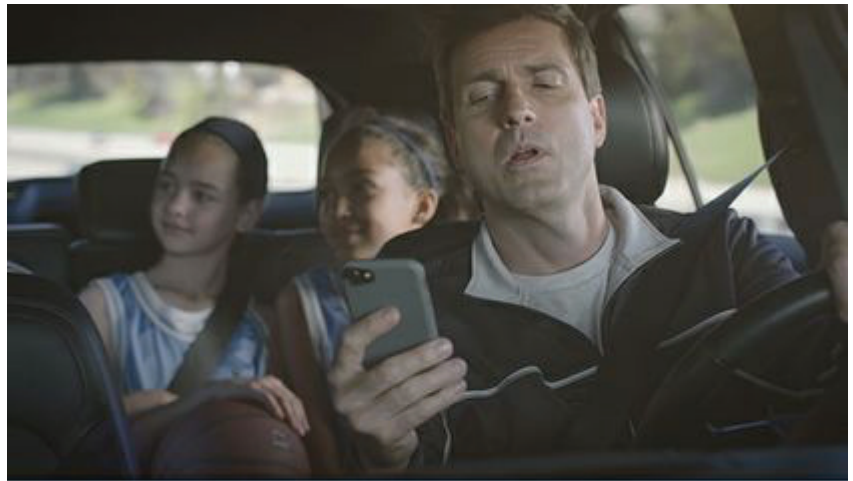
### AAA Launches Initiative to Reduce Deadly Distracted Driving

**Distracted driving kills an average of nine people and injures 1,000 each day.**

April 2, 2019 – As National Distracted Driving Awareness Month begins, AAA South Dakota is launching a new, multi-year initiative that aims to reduce deaths and injuries as a result of cell phone use by drivers.

"Don't Drive Intoxicated – Don't Drive Intexticated" is the theme of AAA's multimedia traffic safety education campaign created to make distracted driving socially unacceptable.

New public service announcements (PSAs) are designed to help audiences understand that the consequences of using a smartphone while driving are the same as drinking and driving. The campaign targets drivers who would never consider drinking a beer behind the wheel, and yet, regularly engage with mobile devices that dangerously take their eyes, hands and minds off the road.



Distracted driving kills an average of **9 PEOPLE** and injures over **1,000** every day in America.



Don't drive intoxicated.  
Don't drive intexticated.

A sobering message from AAA

For more information visit:  
[AAA.com/DontDriveDistracted](http://AAA.com/DontDriveDistracted)

AAA South Dakota recognizes the impact that more than 50 years of public education efforts against alcohol-impaired driving have had across the country. Those campaigns helped to achieve changes to alcohol-impaired driving laws, increased enforcement, and, critically, a shift in public attitudes and behaviors toward drinking and driving. Although much more still needs to be done, anti-drunk driving campaigns and related efforts have helped cut the number of alcohol-impaired crash fatalities in half since the 1980s, according to the National Institutes of Health.

"AAA has made traffic safety a priority since 1921, working to make roads, vehicles and drivers safer," said Marilyn Buskohl, Public and Government Affairs Manager for AAA South Dakota. "Through this latest initiative, AAA South Dakota is committed to changing attitudes and behaviors surrounding the deadly problem of distracted driving, and we will continue this effort for years to come."

New research released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety finds that even though 97 percent of drivers say texting/emailing while driving is a serious or very serious threat to their safety, 45 percent admit to having read a text or email while driving in the past month, and 35 percent admit to having typed one. AAA's sobering new message makes it clear that the consequences of both alcohol-impaired driving and texting while driving are the same – deaths and injuries.

A AAA survey last month (March 2019) of more than 600 South Dakota drivers revealed the following

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 10 of 42

thoughts and opinions on distracted driving:

- 68 percent said they notice more drivers distracted by electronic devices now than two years ago.
- 90 percent said they are "concerned" or "very concerned" about their safety on the road due to other drivers being distracted by electronic devices.
- 78 percent "think that it's never okay" to use a smart phone for texting, emailing or social media while driving.
- When asked how often they look at their phones to read or send a text while driving, 3 percent responded "regularly, 4 percent said "fairly often," 42 replied "rarely" and 51 percent said they "never" did so.
- 50 percent said they "always" or "often" put their smart phone away where it cannot be accessed while driving.
- 89 percent "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree" that the dangers of using a smart phone for texting, emailing and social media can be as serious as drinking and driving.
- 57 percent of respondents "rarely" or "never" use hands-free technology such as Bluetooth or voice-activated calling.
- When asked about the existing South Dakota law banning texting while driving and whether survey participants would support or oppose a law in South Dakota banning hand-held cell phone use while driving:
  - 64 percent said they would support
  - 19 percent said they would oppose
  - 17 percent said they are not sure

Campaign messages will appear as public service announcements, on social media (using the hashtag #DontDriveIntoxicated), at special events, in the AAA member magazine, and in AAA South Dakota retail store branches in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Spearfish and Yankton. The messages will also be incorporated into continuing AAA traffic safety programs offered in local communities.

**Distracted driving kills an average of nine people and injures 1,000 each day, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.** It is the third leading driver-related cause of crash fatalities behind speeding and driving under the influence.\* And these numbers likely underestimate the problem because most drivers do not admit to distracting cell phone use after a crash. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has conducted numerous studies regarding distracted driving that demonstrate:

- Drivers interacting with cell phones to perform tasks like texting or surfing the Internet are two to eight times more likely to be involved in a crash.
- Taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of being involved in a crash.
- 59 percent of all teen crashes involve some form of driver inattention, and 12 percent of teen crashes involve cell phone use.

AAA encourages all motorists to eliminate distracted driving by following these tips:

- **Put it away.** Place your mobile device out of sight to prevent temptation.
- **Know where you're going.** If using a navigation system, program the destination before driving.
- **Pull over.** If you have to call or text while on the road, pull off the road safely and stop first.
- **Ask passengers for help.** If riding with someone, seek their help to navigate, make a call or send a message.
- **Be a good passenger.** Speak out if the driver of your vehicle is distracted.
- **Don't be a distraction.** Avoid calling or texting others when you know they are driving.
- **Everyone should prevent being intoxicated.** Just as drivers need to pay attention, so do pedestrians and bicyclists. Never call, text or play games while walking or cycling.

The public is invited to take the Don't Drive Intoxicated pledge. Visit [www.aaa.com/dontdrivedistracted](http://www.aaa.com/dontdrivedistracted) to join this lifesaving effort.

\*Source: NHTSA



## Does Communication Really Have to be So Hard in Small Towns?

by Paula Jensen, Vice President of Advancement, Dakota Resources / Dakotas America

One-by-one, sixteen local leaders from multiple neighboring rural communities, courageously, yet with some hesitancy, walked through the door of the community room. They did not know what to expect from this gathering. They didn't even all know each other. The group, representing city councils, county commission, and economic development corporation, had been personally invited by the county-wide economic development director to hear from a special guest on the topic of how they could work better together to make their region stronger.

As each leader entered the room the smell of pizza greeted them, making them feel welcome. After some small talk while they ate their pizza, the local leaders were asked to sit down at the tables that had purposely been positioned into a large rectangle, so they could see each other. The meeting began with introductions and each of them shared why they chose to be a leader. The group was off to a great start, and after two swift hours of conversations in small groups and the large group, one of the local leaders said, "It seems to me that in a world of more communication tools than ever, we are so much worse at communicating with each other in our community. How can we improve this?"

This group of leaders is not the first to ask that question. But, what is holding them back from healthy, productive communication that has the potential to move them forward and make them stronger together? A few of the barriers that make communication hard, include: 1) Differing expectations, assumptions and perceptions; 2) Tendency to pick and choose what information is retained when a message is received; 3) Distractions; 4) Not asking for clarity; and 5) Failing to listen with curiosity.

Taking that first leap toward great communication in a community takes trust, determination, engagement, and accountability from everyone. Here are some ways to get started:

- Start small. With a core group of local leaders, agree to make communication a priority. Start by naming the old habits. Commit to listening to others, asking questions, building relationships, and then meeting regularly to report what has been learned.
- Build the capacity and confidence of local leaders by hosting generational leadership workshops for youth and adults together. There are many leadership books that can be a catalyst for these gatherings. At your first meeting consider asking: What does it mean to be a leader? How can you learn to lead? What do I need to do differently to become a better leader?
- Through a survey or focus group, monitor how people best receive communication in today's environment. Then be willing to make some adjustments and try communication tools that support inclusive communication.
- Encourage participation from residents by asking them to share innovative ideas for the community in a dropbox that is placed at the gas station or bank. Then host community events where residents can pull an idea out of the box and have small group conversations to brainstorm what might be possible.
- Create one collaborative Media Strategy for the entire community. This might include a web-based community calendar with the churches, school, city, and community events or a common community brand and logo for the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, City, School.

At the end of the 2-hour gathering, the group of sixteen leaders from multiple communities agreed to begin meeting quarterly for communication check-ins and expand the group to include more elected officials and school leadership. Communication doesn't have to be so hard in a small town, you just have to start by sitting around the table to listen, ask questions, learn and talk to each other. When this new habit is put into place, the discovery of how to work better together to make their region strong will happen.

Having a passion for community leadership and development is what drives Paula Jensen's personal and professional life. Paula resides in her hometown of Langford, South Dakota, population 318+. She serves as a grant writer and community coach with Dakota Resources based in Renner, South Dakota. Dakota Resources is a mission-driven 501c3 Community Development Financial Institution working to connect capital and capacity to empower rural communities. Contact her at [paula@dakotaresources.org](mailto:paula@dakotaresources.org).

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 12 of 42

## Today in Weather History

April 2, 1998: The James River began to flood in early April from Columbia to Stratford. The James rose to around 1.5 feet above flood stage at Columbia and Stratford through April into May. The James River mainly flooded farmland, pastureland, and a few roads in the vicinity of the channel.

April 2, 2010: In South Dakota, a band of heavy snow set up across Corson and Dewey counties during the early morning hours of April 2nd. Along with heavy wet snow, northwest winds gusting up to 40 mph developed. By the time the storm ended in the late morning hours, 6 to 8 inches of snow had fallen. The heavy snow, combined with the strong winds, downed many power poles across the region along with making travel treacherous. Some snowfall amounts included; 4 inches at Eagle Butte; 6 inches at Timber Lake, McLaughlin, and 14 miles north of Isabel; 7 inches at Isabel and 6 miles southeast of McIntosh; 8 inches southwest of Keldron. More than 400 poles were lost to the heavy snow leaving approximately 800 people without power. Eighty linemen worked through the Easter weekend in the snow and mud. McLaughlin and Keldron were the hardest hit. Several hundred people were still without power on April 5th.

1936: An estimated F4 tornado cut a 15-mile path through Crisp County, GA. The hardest hit area was the town of Cordele, where 276 homes were destroyed in a five-block swath through the town. The storm was on a course that would have missed the center of town, but it made a left turn towards the end of its path. 23 people were killed and 500 injured. Total damage was \$3 million.

1957: An F3 tornado tore through Dallas, TX. 10 people were killed, and 216 were injured. Total damage was \$1.5 million. This tornado was among the most photographed and studied in history.

1975 - The northeastern U.S. was in the grips of a severe storm which produced hurricane force winds along the coast, and two to three feet of snow in Maine and New Hampshire. Winds atop Mount Washington NH gusted to 140 mph. (David Ludlum)

1975 - The biggest snowstorm of record for so late in the season paralyzed Chicago, IL. Up to 20 inches of snow fell in extreme northeastern Illinois, and 10.9 inches of snow closed Chicago's O'Hare Airport. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Severe thunderstorms spawned fifty-six tornadoes in the central U.S., including seventeen in the Red River Region of Texas and Oklahoma. The tornadoes claimed thirty lives, and injured 383 other persons. A violent tornado near Messer OK left only the carpet tack strips on the slab of a house it destroyed, and carried a motel sign thirty miles. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Eleven cities in Florida reported record low temperatures for the date, including Tallahassee with a reading of 31 degrees. The low of 48 degrees at Key West smashed their previous record for the date by 13 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced up to nine inches of rain around New Orleans LA causing 18 million dollars damage. A tornado caused three million dollars damage at Slidell LA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed from California to Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 50 mph at Lancaster CA, and reached 85 mph at Berthoud Pass CO. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in the Colorado Rockies. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in North Carolina and Virginia during the afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail, and spawned a tornado near Chester VA which caused half a million dollars damage. A storm system produced snow and gale force winds across northern Michigan, with 8.3 inches of snow reported at Marquette. Temperatures in the north central U.S. soared from morning lows in the 20s and 30s to afternoon highs in the 60s and 70s. Eight cities reported record highs for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 77 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Heavy rainfall in the Northeast produced flooding in parts of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Severe flooding along the Delaware River forced the evacuation of 6,000 residents in New Jersey and over 5,700 in Pennsylvania during the weekend of the 2nd-3rd. Around 3,200 homes in New Jersey were damaged, while one fatality was reported in New York (Associated Press).

# Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 13 of 42

Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 46 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 23 °F

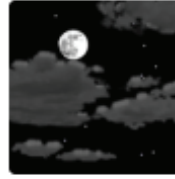
Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 44 °F

Wednesday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 26 °F

Thursday

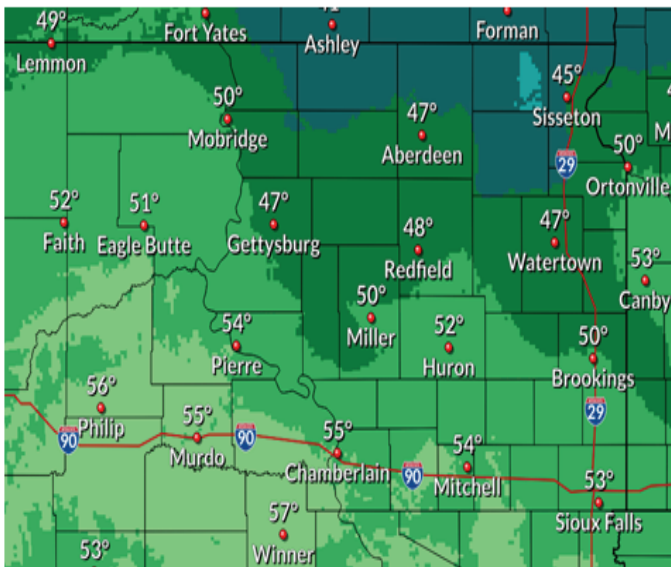


Mostly Cloudy

High: 47 °F

## Warmer Weekend Ahead!

### FORECAST HIGHS TODAY



Today: 45-55° slight chance of afternoon rain showers over E SD

Wednesday: 44-50° rain over SW SD

Thursday: 45-56° rain over mainly SE SD

Friday: 60-72° chance of rain & a few rumbles of thunder over E SD Friday night

Saturday: 65-73°

Sunday: 60-65° chance of over E SD

### Overland and River/Stream Flooding

Continue to monitor water levels. Listen to the advice of local officials, and never go around flood barricades. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**

see current and forecast river levels at <https://water.weather.gov>

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 4/2/2019 3:58 AM Central

Published on: 04/02/2019 at 5:06AM

Warmer air will return for the end of the week and start of the weekend. Areas that still have snow on the ground will see rapid snowmelt. While we do have small chances of precipitation most days in some portion of the region, accumulations across our area should remain light. Continue to avoid flooded roadways - Turn Around, Don't Drown! Current and forecast river flood stages at <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=ABR>



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 14 of 42

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 38 °F at 1:48 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 30 °F at 9:00 AM**

**High Gust: 19 mph at 4:26 PM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 84° in 1921**

**Record Low: 3° in 1899, 1975**

**Average High: 49°F**

**Average Low: 26°F**

**Average Precip in Mar.: 1.20**

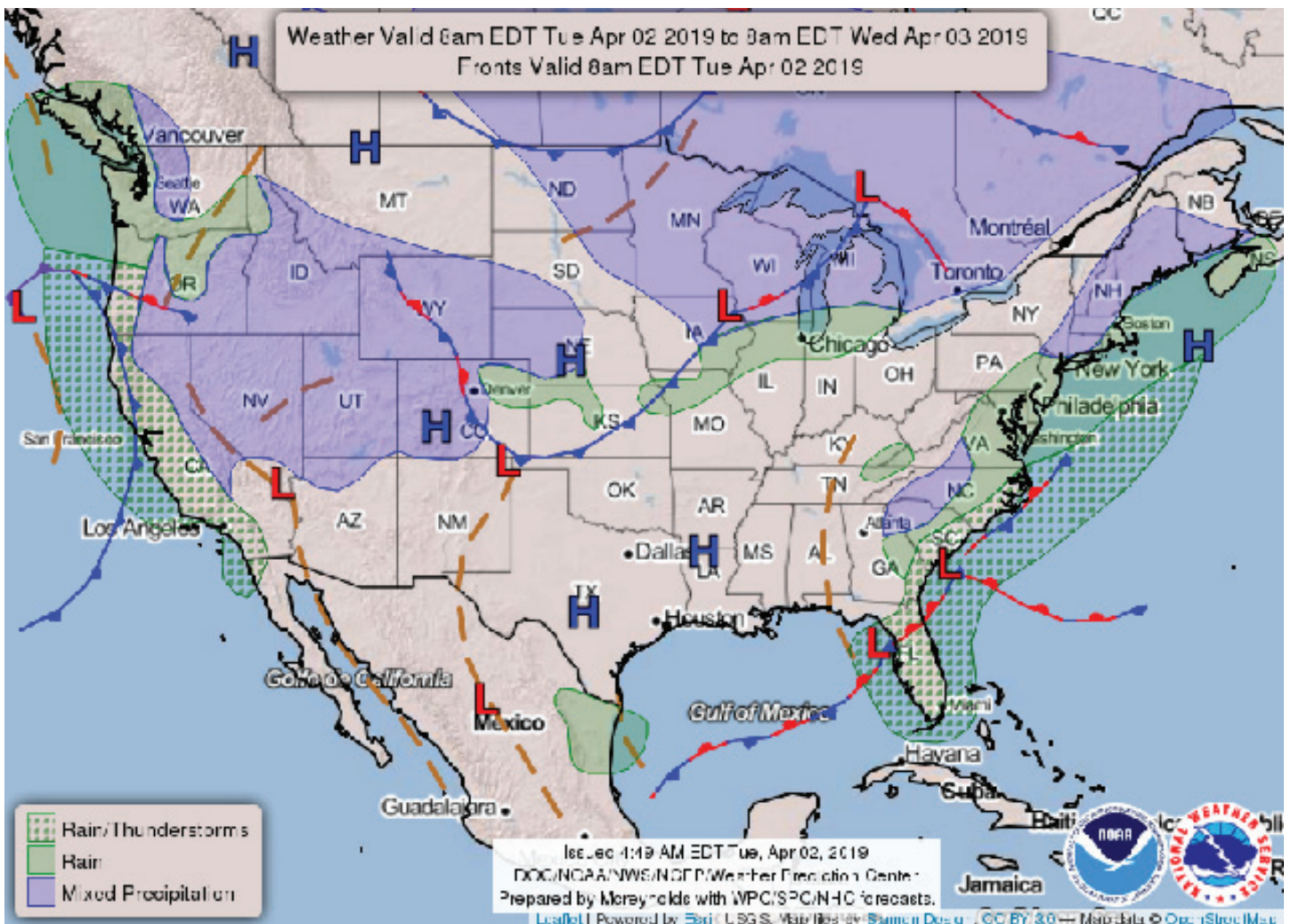
**Precip to date in Mar.: 0.87**

**Average Precip to date: 2.22**

**Precip Year to Date: 3.06**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:03 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:11 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 15 of 42



## ITS ALL IN THE FAMILY

The nice thing about friends is that you get to choose them. But, when it comes to family members, you're stuck with what you get. And boy, did I ever get stuck, said the comedian.

No doubt that many of us feel this way about our Moms and Dads or brothers and sisters. And, even though names and addresses vary, all families have some things in common and some things that are vastly different. But, there are two primary truths that cannot be denied: One is that God intended parents to be the primary teachers and influencers of their children. And the other is that family ties are never completely severed no matter where parents or children eventually complete their lives. An invisible bond remains.

The contrast between a wise son bringing joy to his father and a foolish son bringing grief to his mother implies that this family is divided or dysfunctional. It emphasizes the fact that the behavior of one member of the family affects the behavior of all of the other family members. This tragedy is seen throughout the Bible.

The joy infused into the family by the wise son does not eliminate the grief that invades a family from a son who is foolish. The foolish son is the one who, by his behavior, brings hardships to the parents as well as others in the family.

However, the hardships need not remain. Again and again, Solomon reminds us that gaining wisdom from God is a choice that will change. This is the result of being born again.

Prayer: Because You love us, Father, no parent or child is beyond Your mercy and grace. Your Son offers us hope! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:1 A wise son brings joy to his father and a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 16 of 42

## 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 **AP** Associated Press

### **Girl who died in cliff fall was from Pierre**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified the young girl who died after falling from a cliff near Rapid City.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says 6-year-old Sadie Whitetwin, of Pierre, was killed Sunday at Falling Rock, a popular scenic area off Highway 44.

The cliff towers several hundred feet above Rapid Creek. Officials have not provided additional details about the circumstances surrounding the girl's death.

### **Senate kills resolution to nullify Equal Rights support**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Republican-led Senate has killed a House resolution that seeks to rescind the state's 1975 support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The resolution sponsored by seven male GOP House members says Congress' deadline for ratification of the gender-equality amendment came and went 40 years ago and is no longer valid.

Opponents call the resolution a response to offset revived efforts to enshrine the near half-century-old gender-equality measure in the U.S. Constitution.

The Senate defeated the resolution 24-23 on Monday. The resolution sailed through the House earlier this month by a vote of 67-21.

Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Tennessee and South Dakota ratified the amendment and later withdrew their support

But North Dakota is believed to be the first state to seek to withdraw its ratification since the 1970s.

### **More rain causes new flood worries along the Mississippi**

By **JIM SALTER** Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A wall of rocks and sandbags on Monday protected scenic Clarksville, Missouri, from the surging Mississippi River as spring flooding swamped fields, threatened homes and temporarily shut down a bridge connecting Missouri and Illinois.

Heavy rain over much of the Midwest on Saturday caused another spike in water levels along the river and its tributaries, especially in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois.

So far, Mississippi River flood damage is far less severe than March flooding along the Missouri River in Nebraska, southwest Iowa and northwest Missouri, where hundreds of homes were damaged. Still, several Mississippi River communities were battling to stay dry.

Clarksville, a 440-resident com-



**The playground in Clarksville Riverfront Park is flooded in downtown Clarksville, Mo., Saturday, March 30, 2019. The Mississippi River reached 32.8 feet Saturday afternoon, entering major flood stage for the first time this spring. It is expected to crest late Sunday at 34.2 feet, more than three feet below the 37.7 foot record of 1993.** (Robert Cohen/St. Louis Post-Dispatch via AP)



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 18 of 42

munity 90 miles (145 kilometers) north of St. Louis is known for its antique shops and artist galleries operating out of 19th century brick storefronts. The town sits square along the Mississippi, unprotected by a levee largely because town leadership doesn't want to obstruct the view of the river, and has been through many floods.

As they've done so many times before, Clarksville residents and other volunteers built a makeshift wall around downtown, though this time, they started with a 6-foot layer of rocks as the base, with sandbags on top of the rocks. The river was expected to crest Monday about 9 feet (2.7 meters) above flood stage, making it the seventh-worst recorded flood in Clarksville. A downtown park on the other side of the makeshift levee was under water, and several homes beyond the rock and sandbag protection also were threatened.

In nearby Louisiana, Missouri, the flood briefly forced closure of the Champ Clark Bridge that connects Missouri and Illinois because water was lapping near the Illinois entrance to the bridge Sunday night. The closure created a hardship for commuters because the next nearest river crossing is at Hannibal, Missouri, 27 miles (43 kilometers) to the north.

But by Monday morning the river had crested, the bridge deck was clear, and the Louisiana bridge was reopened, Illinois Department of Transportation spokeswoman Jessie Decker said.

Precautionary sandbags were added to the top of a levee at Foley, a tiny town about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of St. Louis. Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Jim Sharp said the river was expected to get close to the top of the levee and volunteers have been walking the levee to make sure it's holding.

"We haven't had anything over the top," Sharp said. "We haven't had a breach. We haven't had a failure anywhere."

The river was causing other problems, too. In St. Louis, the route for the upcoming Go St. Louis marathon and half-marathon had to be changed. The two runs combined are expected to draw about 15,000 participants on Sunday, and the original finish line was along the Mississippi near the Gateway Arch. That road is underwater, so the run will end elsewhere in downtown.

The severe flooding from last month in northwest Missouri may have claimed a life. The Platte County Sheriff's Department is investigating after a 61-year-old man's body was found Friday near an overturned boat in a flooded area not far from Bean Lake. The victim's name has not been released.

Authorities in several flooded areas where water was receding warned that danger still exists. In Sioux Falls, South Dakota, an intoxicated man was rescued from the Big Sioux River late Friday after police heard him yelling for help. Rescue crews used a ladder to get down a 12-foot retaining wall and a rope to pull the man to safety. He was treated for exposure.

## Landowners face \$1M in liens over Keystone XL road dispute

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Some South Dakota landowners are outraged over liens hitting their property related to the Keystone XL crude-oil pipeline.

Iowa-based Brandenburg Drainage filed 23 liens totaling more than \$1 million against Meade County landowners last month, the Rapid City Journal reported. The lien amounts ranged from about \$3,600 to nearly \$244,000.

Brandenburg Drainage is a subcontractor of a company that developer TransCanada hired to improve county roads during the construction phase of the Keystone XL pipeline project.

The long-stalled pipeline would move crude oil from tar sands in Canada, through western South Dakota, and eventually to the U.S. Gulf Coast. President Donald Trump issued a new presidential permit last week to speed up development of the pipeline. The move comes after a federal judge in November blocked the project, saying the Trump administration hadn't fully considered potential oil spills and other environmental impacts.

Brandenburg Drainage completed some road improvement work last fall before a dispute arose with contractor Diamond Willow Energy. Brandenburg Drainage filed mechanic's liens against the landowners to recover money the company claims they're owed by Diamond Willow.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 19 of 42

Mechanic's liens are a product of state laws that date back to the 1870s and are usually placed on property owned by the person who ordered the work. The liens are unusual because the affected landowners aren't involved in the projects.

If legitimate, they'll remain in place until someone pays the subcontractor to release it, which could complicate an owner's attempts to sell their property or use it as collateral for a loan.

Lyle Weiss owns one of the largest stretches of land near the vicinity of a planned Keystone XL pump station, workforce camp and pipe yards. He received the biggest lien for nearly \$244,000 and he's growing worried about its potential impact on the operating note for his ranch.

"They're messing with our livelihood," Weiss said.

Several of the affected landowners said they've been assured by TransCanada that the issue will be resolved soon.

Diamond Willow official JC Johnson said he's working to get the liens released. Johnson claims that Brandenburg Drainage underbid, overspent and underperformed on the job.

"It's not by our doing that they're trying this," Johnson said. "They didn't bid the job right and they're losing money. It's plain and simple."

Brandenburg Drainage declined to comment.

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

## Midwest economy: March state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for March:

Arkansas: The overall index for Arkansas rose to 61.6 from February's 56.6. Index components were new orders at 61.8, production or sales at 65.5, delivery lead time at 66.5, inventories at 55.3 and employment at 59.1. "In 2018, Arkansas exported \$451.6 million in agriculture commodities, which represented a growth of 21.8% over 2017 levels," Goss said. In 2018, the export of agriculture commodities produced \$1.3 billion in overall economic activity, supporting a total of 6,300 jobs in the state.

Iowa: Iowa's overall index climbed to 57.8 last month from 56.9 in February. Index components were new orders at 61.2, production or sales at 58.6, delivery lead time at 59.5, employment at 53.3 and inventories at 51.6. "In 2018, Iowa exported \$2 billion in agriculture commodities, which represented a growth of 31.9% over 2017 levels," Goss said. In 2018, the export of agriculture commodities produced \$5.9 billion in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 28,400 jobs.

Kansas: The state's overall index hit 55.2 in March, compared with 53.3 in January. Index components were new orders at 56.8, production or sales at 60.5, delivery lead time at 58.6, employment at 56.2 and inventories at 55.2. In 2018, Kansas exported \$1.4 billion in agriculture commodities, which represented a 12% decline from 2017. "In 2018, the export of agriculture commodities produced \$4.1 billion in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 19,500 jobs," said Goss.

Minnesota: Minnesota's overall index declined slightly to 53.0 in March from 53.4 in February. Index components were new orders at 55.7, production or sales at 54.6, delivery lead time at 56.5, inventories at 50.9 and employment at 51.3. Minnesota exported \$540.1 million in agriculture commodities last year — a 17% decline from 2017 levels. "In 2018, the export of agriculture commodities produced \$1.6 billion in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 7,500 jobs," he said.

Missouri: The March overall index for Missouri inched up to 57.3 from February's 57.0. Index components

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 20 of 42

were new orders at 58.2, production or sales at 60.5, delivery lead time at 61.4, inventories at 51.1 and employment at 55.1. "In 2018, Missouri exported \$521.5 million in agriculture commodities, which represented a growth of 2.7% over 2017 levels," Goss said. The export of agriculture commodities last year produced \$1.5 billion in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 7,300 jobs.

Nebraska: Nebraska's overall index jumped to 57.1 in March from 52.4 in February. Index components were new orders at 58.0, production or sales at 60.4, delivery lead time at 61.2, inventories at 50.9 and employment at 55.0. "In 2018, Nebraska exported \$1 billion in agriculture commodities, which represented a growth of 8.4% over 2017 levels," Goss said. The export of agriculture commodities produced \$2.9 billion in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 14,000 jobs.

North Dakota: The state's overall index hit 55.0 in March, compared with 51.6 in February. Index components were new orders at 56.3, production or sales at 58.8, delivery lead time at 58.0, employment at 53.1 and inventories at 48.9. "In 2018, North Dakota exported \$516.4 million in agriculture commodities, which represented a growth of 8.6 percent over 2017 levels," he said. The export of agriculture commodities last year produced \$1.5 billion in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 7,200 jobs.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma's overall index plummeted in March to a still solid 53.9 from 58.1 in February. Index components were new orders at 56.7, production or sales at 55.4, delivery lead time at 57.6, inventories at 57.6 and employment at 52.1. "In 2018, Oklahoma exported \$311.7 million in agriculture commodities, which represented a growth of 39.5 percent over 2017 levels," Goss said. The 2018 export of agriculture commodities produced \$910 million in overall economic activity in the state, supporting a total of 4,300 jobs.

South Dakota: The overall index rose to a regional high of 70.8 last month for South Dakota from February's 68.7, also a regional high. Index components were new orders at 69.4, production or sales at 75.9, delivery lead time at 64.0, inventories at 77.0 and employment at 67.5. "In 2018, South Dakota exported \$64.8 million in agriculture commodities, which represented a whopping growth of 50% over 2017 levels," Goss said. In 2018, the export of agriculture commodities produced \$189.1 million in overall economic activity, supporting a total of 900 jobs in the state.

## Survey suggests more economic growth for Midwest, Plains

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A March survey of business supply managers is signaling solid economic growth over the next three to six months for nine Midwest and Plains states, although the survey report released Monday said Midwest flooding has harmed some companies.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index hit its highest level since August, 58.2, compared with 57.9 in February. The January figure was 56.0.

"As in recent months, international trade tension/tariffs and the global economic slowdown remain obstacles to even stronger growth," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

Also, about 22% of the supply managers who responded reported that their companies were "experiencing negative impacts from recent floods," Goss said. Flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries has caused at least \$3 billion in damage and contributed to at least three deaths.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The employment picture remained positive despite a lower March figure: 56.4, compared with 59.0 in February.

"Overall manufacturing employment growth in the region over the past 12 months has been very healthy and exceeded that of the nation," Goss said. "However, overall employment growth for the region over the past 12 months at 0.5% is well below national job growth of 1.5%."

About 10% of businesses reported layoffs in March while 64% reported new hiring.

Economic optimism slipped to a still solid 57.2 in March from February's 58.8, the report said.

"However, I expect business confidence to depend heavily on trade talks with China, as well as U.S. economic growth in the weeks and months ahead," Goss said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 21 of 42

## South Dakota farmers to plant more corn, less soybeans

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers this spring are expected to plant more corn than they did last year but less soybeans.

The Agriculture Department projects South Dakota's corn crop at 6 million acres, up 13 percent from 2018. The soybean crop is forecast at 5.2 million acres, down 8 percent.

Other crops with expected increases are oil sunflowers, barley and dry peas.

Other crops with projected decreases are spring wheat, hay, oats and sorghum.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

### Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, March 26

#### After a tragedy: The faces left behind

When it comes to waging political battles over issues such as gun control, we all know the tactics to use, chief among them being the last one: moving on to the next flashpoint when another outburst of violence draws our collective national attention.

But we sometimes forget what's being left behind — and that there are those who cannot move on.

In the past month, two young survivors of last year's school massacre in Parkland, Florida, have reportedly committed suicide. One of the victims was a former student; the other a current student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The apparent reason behind both tragic acts was the kids' inability to cope with the momentous grief of last year's carnage, in which they saw friends and peers gunned down. There is also a factor called survivor's guilt, which is not uncommon with those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Then, on Monday, it was reported that a father of one of the young victims of the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting in Connecticut took his life.

For those left behind after such harrowing episodes as mass shootings, the reality can become unlivable.

"Without a doubt, it has an indelible effect on the community," criminologist Scott Bonn, who blogs for Psychology Today, told USA Today. "There's just this lingering collective sense of grief and pain."

According to the National Center for PTSD, 28 percent of people who have witnessed a mass shooting develop PTSD, and a third develop acute stress disorder, CNN reported.

This is not a new phenomenon. The same USA Today story also focused on Zach Cartaya, a survivor of the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado. Fifteen people died on the day of the shooting, but others have committed suicide in the years since.

"These things ripple out. A stone drops in a pond and it all ripples out. And I understand that better now than when I was younger," said Cartaya, who said he also struggled with suicidal thoughts. "We've lost so many people along the way: that isolation, that grief, that anger manifests in the worst possible ways. It's awful, it's devastating, but unfortunately it's not shocking."

It's become a harrowingly indiscriminate fact of life, one that may be faced by soldiers in combat as well as students (and parents and educators) impacted by a school massacre. It can be the pain of seeing the dying, and it can be the pain of still being among the living.

"That survivors guilt can be a very, very slippery slope," Cartaya explained. "You think, 'I have these invisible wounds that really shouldn't hurt: Who am I to have these feelings?'"

This isn't confined solely to gun violence. It's about mass trauma and the inability to cope; it's about the rising rate of suicide and the stress that feeds it. It's about action and reaction. It's about life and death, and not "thoughts and prayers."

It's about the faces that are left behind in a tragedy once our attentions turn to the next flashpoint. The wounds of those who were there remain, and they're forced to live with the pain and emptiness every day. And sometimes, some of them can't.

One key, experts say, is a support system that those who have been exposed to such events can turn

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 22 of 42

to for help. It can include family, friends, professionals — people who can be there and let the hurting person know that he or she is not alone in the struggle.

Alas, there's no simple answer here. There is only tragedy and the aftermath, and how each person tries to deal with it. Even after the nation's attention moves elsewhere, there are those who are left to face the aftermath. They cannot be forgotten.

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## Rapid City Journal, March 24 Ulmer shrugged: Lessons of Atlas

Tuesday will mark the passage of 2,000 days since an annoying early October rain grew into Winter Storm Atlas, felling trees, cattle and emergency services.

For those who weren't here on Oct. 4, 2013, Atlas emerged unexpectedly from 60-degree autumn splendor to claim 43,000 head of livestock, consume \$38 million in public and private property across the state, knock out power to tens of thousands, and bring a small forest of trees crashing to earth. Rapid City — which was slated to get less than 6 inches of snow — froze in place. Nearly 5 feet of heavy, wet snow buried one spot in the Northern Hills.

Those who suffered through it need no reminder, which explains the region's careful preparation and quick response to last week's Winter Storm Ulmer. The polar opposite of Atlas, Ulmer was loudly heralded as a bomb cyclone — a veritable sharknado — with predictions of 15 inches of snow in Rapid City whipped by 60 mph gusts. Ulmer's bite, although troublesome, turned out to be somewhat less. A few great white drifts swallowed cars, but only 5 inches of snow fell in Rapid City.

Kudos to all — city, school, county, private contractors, neighbors — who further lessened the pain. People prepared themselves and then stayed home. Snowplows and emergency crews got after it. By midafternoon Thursday, the place was fit for a parental homecoming inspection after a big teenage party.

In the Black Hills, we have learned to take storm forecasts — especially those falling on winter's shoulders — as educated best guesses. When they talk about infinite variety here, they also mean the weather. Geography turns it into our box of chocolates — we never know what we're going to get. Weathermen look straight into the camera and predict snowfall ranges of between 2 to 12 inches. Of course they can't simply shrug and admit: We have no idea.

Atlas caught us flatfooted, and its big brother will someday come, in 20 days or 2,000.

Each storm finds us weighing risks on insufficient information. Some among us have come to resemble those crazy Floridians who are determined to stand their ground in a beach tent pitched in the bulls-eye of a Cat. 5 hurricane. Others drain local supermarket shelves on every snowfall prediction of greater than 2 inches.

This time, Black Hills residents heeded the dire warnings, but Armageddon didn't come. It's human nature to say, well, see, we — or they — always overreact. Unfortunately, it's not true. Sometimes we underreact, and we pay dearly for it. Atlas proved it.

The tendency to grow complacent over time is probably the second biggest threat we face. This time we remembered Atlas. Will it still be on our minds come Sept. 12, 2024 — 2,000 days from now?

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## Madison Daily Leader, Madison, March 26 B-21 Training Unit good for South Dakota

United States Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, a former president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, announced that Ellsworth Air Force Base will be home to the B-21 Formal Training Unit and be the first base to receive an operational squadron of B-21 Raider bombers.

We're excited to hear the announcement and eager to see progress on its implementation.

The announcement caught us somewhat off guard, as it seems defense planning like this takes forever to come to fruition. Our congressional delegation has been working toward this day for many years.

We believe the announcement helps assure a bright future for Ellsworth, which 14 years ago faced a possible closure. Since then, many people have worked to establish the base as an essential part of our

national defense.

We aren't skeptical of the implementation, but when it comes to national defense plans, things can change. Other bases wanted to be the first, and powerful members of Congress may try to change the plan. Secretary Wilson will leave her post on May 31 to become president of the University of Texas at El Paso. The planes aren't yet built and are scheduled to be delivered in the mid-2020s.

Even so, we have confidence the program will be implemented as planned. The B-21s are part of the Air Force's Long Range Strike Bomber program and will be capable of delivering conventional or thermonuclear weapons. More than 100 B-21 bombers could be added to the force at Ellsworth and other Air Force bases.

Ellsworth Air Force Base has not only an important role in the nation's defense but also an important place in the economy of Rapid City, and therefore in South Dakota.

More than 4,000 people live at the Ellsworth "census designated place" (as defined by the Census Bureau), requiring substantial purchases of goods and services and other economic activity from local companies. The base was established in 1941.

We're excited about the announcement and are enthused about Ellsworth's long-term future.

## Man accused in polygamists attempted burglary pleads guilty

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — One of two men accused of trying to steal from a polygamous compound in southwest South Dakota has pleaded guilty to possessing methamphetamine in a plea agreement with prosecutors.

Twenty-nine-year-old Wade Bird and a co-defendant were accused of trying to steal trailers and other items from the compound in rural Custer County in January 2018. In exchange for his guilty plea to the drug charge, charges of attempted grand theft and others will be dismissed.

The compound is run by members of a Mormon splinter group known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or FLDS.

The Sugar City, Colorado, man entered his plea last week in Custer. Authorities say a second defendant is in Colorado facing prosecution for violating a protection order and being a fugitive from justice.

## White House official cites problems in security clearances

By CHAD DAY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A career official in the White House security office says dozens of people in President Donald Trump's administration were granted security clearances despite "disqualifying issues" in their backgrounds, including concerns about foreign influence, drug use and criminal conduct.

Tricia Newbold, an 18-year government employee who oversaw the issuance of clearances for some senior White House aides, says she compiled a list of at least 25 officials who were initially denied security clearances last year but then had those denials overruled by senior administration officials.

The allegations were detailed in a letter and memo released Monday by Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. The documents, which are based on Newbold's March 23 private committee interview, don't identify the officials on the list but say they include "two current senior White House officials, as well as contractors and individuals" in different parts of the Executive Office of the President.

"According to Ms. Newbold, these individuals had a wide range of serious disqualifying issues involving foreign influence, conflicts of interest, concerning personal conduct, financial problems, drug use and criminal conduct," the memo says.

The release of the documents sets the stage for another fight between the White House and the Democratic-controlled House, and immediately drew criticism from House Republicans who called the allegations overblown and "cherry-picked."

Cummings' panel has been investigating security clearances issued to senior officials including Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former White House aide



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 24 of 42

Rob Porter. That probe has picked up steam after The New York Times reported that Trump ordered officials to grant Kushner a clearance over the objections of national security officials, and after Newbold spoke out to NBC News and other news outlets about her concerns.

On Monday, Cummings said he will move this week to authorize his first subpoena in the probe. The subpoena will be for the deposition of Carl Kline, who served as the White House personnel security director and supervised Newbold. He has since left the White House for the Defense Department.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

Rep. Jim Jordan, the committee's ranking Republican, said in a statement that Cummings' probe is a "partisan attack" and an "excuse to go fishing" through personnel files. He also said that one person on Newbold's list is a GSA custodian.

Also, in a response memo circulated to Republican members, Jordan's staff cast Newbold as a disgruntled employee who had only limited knowledge of the reasons security clearances were granted. The Republican document also suggests Newbold's concerns were "overblown," saying that four or five of the clearance denials for "very serious reasons" were a small fraction of about 5,000 employees who work in the Executive Office of the President.

According to Democrat Cummings' memo, though, Newbold considered the decisions to be part of a "systematic" problem within her office where the decisions of security clearance reviewers were "continuously" overridden.

Newbold said she raised her concerns up the chain of command in the White House to no avail. Instead, she said, the White House retaliated, suspending her in January for 14 days without pay for not following a new policy requiring that documents be scanned as separate PDF files rather than one single PDF file.

Newbold said that when she returned to work in February, she was cut out of the security clearance process. The office also announced a plan to "restructure" that would remove her from a supervisory role, she said.

In response to Newbold's interview, Cummings is asking the White House to turn over the list she created as well as documents related to the handling of security clearances for several senior officials including Flynn, Kushner and Porter.

Flynn maintained his clearance even after the White House learned that he lied to the FBI about his conversations with Russia's ambassador and that he was under investigation by the Justice Department for his previous foreign work.

Kushner failed to initially disclose numerous foreign meetings on security clearance forms, and, according to the Times, career officials recommended against granting him a clearance before Trump personally overruled them.



**In this March 24, 2019 photo, The White House is seen behind security barriers in Washington. A White House official turned whistleblower says dozens of people in President Donald Trump's administration were granted access to classified information despite "disqualifying issues" in their backgrounds including concerns about foreign influence, drug use and criminal conduct.** (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Porter had high-level access with an interim security clearance even though the FBI repeatedly told the White House of past allegations of domestic violence lodged against him by two ex-wives.

Porter resigned after the allegations becoming public.

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

Read the documents: <http://apne.ws/NuF4iSJ>

## Warnings of chaotic 'no-deal' grow amid UK Brexit deadlock

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The alarms are flashing, the cliff-edge is coming closer — but can Britain avoid tumbling out of the European Union?

After lawmakers rejected the government's Brexit deal on three occasions, and twice failed to agree on any other option, the U.K. has just 10 days to come up with a new plan or crash out of the EU.

A look at what might happen next:  
NO DEAL

Michel Barnier, who has been the chief Brexit negotiator for the other 27 EU countries, has warned that a 'no-deal' Brexit is "likely" because of Britain's political impasse.

Earlier this month, the EU agreed to postpone the original Brexit date of March 29, but gave Britain only until April 12 to come up with a new plan and seek a further extension, or leave without an agreement or a transition period to smooth the way.

Most politicians, economists and business groups think leaving the world's largest trading bloc without an agreement would be damaging for the EU and disastrous for the U.K. It would lead to tariffs imposed on trade between Britain and the EU, customs checks that could cause gridlock at ports and which could spark shortages of essential goods.

A hard core of Brexiteer legislators in May's Conservative Party dismiss this as "Project Fear" and argue for what they call a "clean Brexit." But most lawmakers are opposed to leaving without a deal. Parliament has voted repeatedly to rule out a 'no-deal' Brexit — but it remains the default position unless a deal is approved, Brexit is canceled or the EU grants Britain another extension.

May says the only way to guarantee Britain does not leave the EU without a deal is for Parliament to back her deal, which lawmakers have already rejected three times.

Barring that, Parliament could try to take drastic action such as toppling the government or legislating to force it to avoid 'no-deal' — though these are risky and tricky options.



**Anti-Brexit demonstrators with an effigy of British Prime Minister Theresa May near College Green at the Houses of Parliament in London, Monday, April 1, 2019. Britain's Parliament gets another chance Monday to offer a way forward on Britain's stalled divorce from the European Union, holding a series of votes on Brexit alternatives in an attempt to find the elusive idea that can command a majority.** (Jonathan Brady/PA via AP)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 26 of 42

## MAY'S UNDEAD DEAL

After almost two years of negotiations, Britain and the EU struck a divorce deal in November, laying out the terms of the departure from the bloc and giving a rough outline of future relations.

But it has been roundly rejected by lawmakers on both sides of the Brexit divide. Pro-Brexit lawmakers think it keeps Britain too closely tied to EU rules. Pro-EU legislators argue it is worse than the U.K.'s current status as an EU member.

Parliament has thrown it out three times, although the latest defeat, by 58 votes, was the narrowest yet. It was rejected even after May won over some pro-Brexit lawmakers by promising to quit if it was approved.

May is considering one last push this week, arguing that Parliament's failure to back any other deal means her agreement is the best option available. But the odds of success look long.

## SOFT BREXIT

On Monday, Parliament voted on four alternative proposals to May's rejected deal after lawmakers seized control of the schedule from the government.

None got a majority, but the votes revealed a solid block of support for a "soft Brexit" that would maintain close economic ties between Britain and the EU. A plan to keep the U.K. in an EU customs union, ensuring seamless trade in goods, was defeated by just three votes.

May has ruled those options out, because sticking to EU trade rules would limit Britain's ability to forge new trade deals around the world.

But tweaking her deal to adopt a customs union could gain May valuable votes in Parliament. It also would likely be welcomed by the EU and would allow Britain to leave the bloc in an orderly fashion in the next few months.

However, it would also cause a schism in the Conservative Party, sparking the potential resignation of pro-Brexit government ministers.

## NEW BREXIT REFERENDUM

Parliament also narrowly rejected a proposal for a new referendum on whether to leave the EU or remain.

The proposal for any Brexit deal to be put to public vote in a "confirmatory referendum" was defeated by 12 votes. It was backed by opposition parties, plus some of May's Conservatives — mainly those who want to stay in the bloc.

Her government has ruled out holding another referendum on Britain's EU membership, saying voters in 2016 made their decision to leave.

But with divisions in both Parliament and in May's Cabinet, handing the decision back to the people in a new plebiscite could be seen as the only way forward.

## BREXIT DELAYED

The alternative to a "no-deal" departure is to delay Brexit for at least several months, and possibly more than a year, to sort out the mess. The EU is frustrated with the impasse and has said it will only grant another postponement if Britain comes up with a whole new Brexit plan.

The bloc is reluctant to have a departing Britain participate in the May 23-26 European parliament elections, but that would have to be done if Brexit is delayed. Still, EU Council President Donald Tusk has urged the bloc to give Britain a Brexit extension if it plans to change course.

A long delay raises the chances of an early British election, which could rearrange Parliament and break the deadlock.

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



## US officials worry paralyzing illness may grow more common

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — One morning last fall, 4-year-old Joey Wilcox woke up with the left side of his face drooping.

It was the first sign of an unfolding nightmare.

Three days later, Joey was in a hospital intensive care unit, unable to move his arms or legs or sit up. Spinal taps and other tests failed to find a cause. Doctors worried he was about to lose the ability to breathe.

"It's devastating," said his father, Jeremy Wilcox, of Herndon, Virginia. "Your healthy child can catch a cold — and then become paralyzed."

Joey, who survived but still suffers some of the effects, was one of 228 confirmed victims in the U.S. last year of acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, a rare, mysterious and sometimes deadly paralyzing illness that seems to ebb and flow on an every-other-year cycle and is beginning to alarm public health officials because it is striking more and more children.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said it may bear similarities to polio, which simmered among humans for centuries before it exploded into fearsome epidemics in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Fauci, who published a report about the disease Tuesday in the journal *mBio*, said it is unlikely AFM will become as bad as polio, which struck tens of thousands of U.S. children annually before a vaccine became available in the 1950s.

But he warned: "Don't assume that it's going to stay at a couple of hundred cases every other year."

Other countries have reported cases, including Canada, France, Britain and Norway. But the size and pattern of the U.S. outbreaks have been more pronounced. More than 550 Americans have been struck this decade. The oldest was 32. More than 90 percent were children, most around 4, 5 or 6 years old.

Most had a cold-like illness and fever, seemed to get over it, then descended into paralysis. In some cases it started in small ways — for example, a thumb that suddenly wouldn't move. Some went on to lose the ability to eat or draw breath.

Many families say their children have regained at least some movement in affected limbs, but stories of complete recovery are unusual. Health officials cannot say how many recovered completely, partly or not at all, or how many have died, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says deaths are rare.

Scientists suspect the illness is being caused chiefly by a certain virus that was identified more than 55 years ago and may have mutated to become more dangerous. But they have yet to prove that.

And while doctors have deployed a number of treatments singly or in combination — steroids, antiviral medications, antibiotics, a blood-cleansing process — the CDC says there is no clear evidence they work.

Many parents say that when they first brought their child to the emergency room, they quickly realized to their horror that the doctors were at sea, too.

"Everyone is desperate for some magical thing," said Rachel Scott, a Tomball, Texas, woman whose son Braden developed AFM in 2016 and has recovered somewhat after intensive physical therapy but still cannot move his right arm and has trouble swallowing and moving his neck.

A growing number of experts agree that physical therapy makes a difference.

"These kids can continue to recover very slowly, year over year. ... It's driven by how much therapy they do," said Dr. Benjamin Greenberg of UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, one of the nation's foremost experts on the condition.

Wilcox, Joey's father, said his son made huge improvements that way. Joey can run and use his arms. Still, muscle tone is weak in his right leg and shoulder, and he still has left-side facial paralysis. "He can't completely smile," his dad said.

Other stories are more tragic.

Katie Bustamante's son Alex developed AFM in 2016. The suburban Sacramento, California, mother realized something was wrong when she asked the boy, then 5, why he wasn't eating his yogurt. Alex replied that his thumb had stopped working and he couldn't hold his spoon.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 28 of 42

That morning was the start of 17 months of hospital stays, surgeries, therapy, and struggles with doctors and insurers to find a way to restore his ability to breathe. It ended one morning last May, when the Bustamantes woke up to find Alex had died.

Government officials need to step up, Bustamante said.

"I want them to research it and find the cause, and I want them to find a way to prevent it," she said. "This is growing. This shouldn't be happening."

More and more experts feel certain the main culprit is an enterovirus called EV-D68, based on the way waves of AFM have coincided with spikes of respiratory illnesses caused by EVD-68. Enteroviruses are a large family of viruses, some of which, such as polio, can damage the central nervous system, while many others cause mild symptoms or none at all.

In the U.S., doctors began reporting respiratory illnesses tied to EV-D68 in 1987, though usually no more than a dozen in any given year.

Then, in what may have been one of the first signs of the AFM waves to come, a 5-year-old boy in New Hampshire died in 2008 after developing neck tenderness and fever, then weakened arms and deadened legs. The boy had EVD-68, and in a report published in an obscure medical journal, researchers attributed his death to the virus.

The first real burst of AFM cases hit in 2014, when 120 were confirmed, with the largest concentrations in California and Colorado.

What ensued was an even-year, odd-year pattern: Cases dropped to 22 in 2015, jumped to 149 in 2016, and fell again, to 35 in 2017. Last year they reached 228, a number that may grow because scores of illnesses are still being investigated.

In keeping with the cyclical pattern, just four cases have been confirmed this year so far.

CDC officials consider an illness AFM based on scans and other evidence showing a certain kind of damage to the spinal cord. Proof of an enterovirus infection is not required for a case to be counted, mainly because such evidence has been hard to come by. So far, CDC investigators have been able to find evidence of enteroviruses in the spinal fluid of only four of 558 confirmed cases.

Scientists are using more sensitive spinal-fluid tests in hopes of establishing the connection between AFM and EV-D68 more firmly. That, in turn, could spur more focused work on treatments and maybe even a vaccine.

Meanwhile, Fauci's agency has put out a call for researchers to apply for federal funds, and is tapping a University of Alabama-anchored network of pediatric research centers to work on the illness.

The CDC is pledging a greater focus, too. Parents have accused the agency of doing little more than counting cases and have complained that when they tried to contact CDC, they encountered only auto-



**Braden Scott gives a thumbs up as he pauses while practicing on the piano in Tomball, Texas on Friday, March 29, 2019. Braden was diagnosed with the mysterious syndrome called acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, in 2016 and was paralyzed almost completely. But since then he has recovered much of his muscle function. His parents believe a lot of it has to do with thousands of hours of physical therapy.** (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 29 of 42

mated phone trees and form responses.

CDC officials have begun holding meetings and calls with families, set up a scientific task force and working to monitor cases more closely.

Fauci suggested it would be a mistake to assume that surges will take place every other year forever. The next one "may be in 2019, for all we know," he said.

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## 2020 by the numbers: Democrats posting big campaign stats

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — How many ways can you measure the first quarter of the year? For Democratic presidential candidates, it's 300-plus events, 24 states and hundreds of voter questions.

The Iowa caucus is still 10 months away, but the Democratic primary campaign is already an all-out sprint — passing eye-popping markers for campaign activity and voter engagement. Voters in Florida and Ohio may not see it, but weekends in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina — not to mention a handful of select states — are a blitz of candidate rallies and local meet-and-greets.

For some candidates the frenetic pace is the message, a way of casting themselves as tireless and willing to take every last question. Elizabeth Warren and Beto O'Rourke are trying to make an ambitious schedule and accessibility part of their brands, but Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand have done their parts to keep up with several dozen events each, most in early-voting states.

It's far from clear that the candidate who holds the most events, whether leaping onto tables or addressing big rallies, will emerge as the candidate with the most votes. Still, Democrats watching the display from a distance say the engagement, the activity and the enthusiasm bode well.

"Broad picture: This is incredibly good for the Democratic Party," said Jim Messina, who managed President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

The Democrats' contested 2008 primary and the GOP's packed 2016 field showed "that enthusiasm in primaries becomes very important in a general election," Messina said. That's because engaged backers are "more likely to do two things you need them to do" in order to win, he said: donate money and help persuade their social networks to vote.

For all the recent upheaval in politics, the 2020 campaign so far shows some things haven't changed. Retail campaign stops are still essential to breaking through in early-voting states that will play a central role in choosing the nominee. They are, perhaps, even more important in the social media era. One live-streamed rally that goes viral on social media can reach more voters than dozens of smaller events.

Even though no one metric can predict success, a look at the campaigns' tallies of on-the-ground engagement shows how the some busiest road warriors are faring at the end of the first quarter.

Warren and O'Rourke are logging mileage in areas their party hasn't always traveled to early on and underscoring their appetite for grassroots interaction, a style Pete Buttigieg is also cultivating. Warren took more than 200 questions from voters and O'Rourke answered more than 350, according to their campaigns' first-quarter estimates.

That's a notable feat for O'Rourke, who only entered the race last month. The former Texas congressman has logged 55 first-quarter events in nine states where he publicly took voter questions, according to his campaign. Gillibrand held 59 public events in eight states since launching an exploratory committee in January, according to the New York senator's campaign. Buttigieg has held 35 events in 11 states since the South Bend, Indiana, mayor started an exploratory committee that same month.

California Sen. Kamala Harris has emerged as a top-tier contender despite fewer public events than some opponents, clocking in with 26 public first-quarter events in eight states since launching her campaign in January, according to an AP estimate. Harris' campaign said Monday night that she took more than 100 voter questions during first-quarter events, where total estimated turnout has topped 37,000.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 30 of 42

Warren, a former law professor whose campaign is keeping detailed statistics, took questions at 48 events in 12 states over all three months, according to the Massachusetts senator's campaign. Her aides measure her commitment to voter engagement partly in selfies — estimating that she's taken more than 12,000 with voters so far. The tally of extra time after events is itself a strategic move, an argument that availability can win the day while other candidates spend time on the high-dollar fundraisers she's sworn off.

Other Democrats are consciously mixing up their number and types of public events. Booker is holding a bigger kickoff of a national tour soon after holding smaller events. The New Jersey senator's campaign estimates that he has held more than 50 public events in seven states since he jumped into the race in February.

A handful of other candidates have lagged behind in their total number of first-quarter events. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar logged 18 events in nine states since forming her campaign in February, according to an AP tally, with former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee each holding 12 events. Former housing secretary Julian Castro has held more than a dozen of his own over the first quarter.

All of these candidates tend to fall behind Bernie Sanders in early polling of the Democratic field. Sanders, the runner-up in 2016, has held 17 major events in eight states and Washington, D.C., since declaring his candidacy in early March.

Not all of Sanders' events — nor those of other candidates — feature the sort of real-time voter questions that are a fixture of Warren's and O'Rourke's appearances. But Sanders' crowds illustrate his formidable ability to engage voters on his own terms: The Vermont senator's campaign projects a total turnout of 74,000 people for all of his events so far.

President Donald Trump famously upended the traditional calculus of campaigning in 2016 by making fewer retail visits as he powered past more than a dozen GOP rivals. Whether anyone in the Democratic field can repeat that model remains to be seen.

"We want to fall in love like we did with Barack Obama," Messina said of Democratic voters, "and to do that, you need to do the retail part of this."

Several candidates have made a point of veering off the beaten track, hoping a stop outside the early states will earn them some extra media attention and voter good will.

O'Rourke crossed six states in one week on his post-announcement road trip. Warren has made unexpected trips to Puerto Rico and the Deep South, eager to find a way to set herself apart from the pack.

When the Massachusetts senator touted her "not traditional" choice to visit Alabama during a rally there last month, a voice from the audience chimed in to note that "Obama did it."

\_\_\_ Associated Press writers Juana Summers in Washington; Will Weissert and Paul Weber in Austin, Texas; Sara Burnett in Chicago; Hunter Woodall in Berlin, New Hampshire; Nicholas Riccardi in Denver; and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.



**FILE - In this Feb. 17, 2019, file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., speaks at an organizing event in Las Vegas. The Iowa caucus is still 10 months away, but the Democratic primary campaign is already an all-out sprint \_ passing eye-popping markers for campaign activity and voter engagement.** (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

## 2 black women vying in runoff to become Chicago's next mayor

By HERBERT G. McCANN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A former federal prosecutor who has never held elected office was vying for Chicago mayor on Tuesday against a powerful official whose political career spans decades, providing voters a clear contrast in a historic runoff already assured of elevating a black woman to lead the nation's third-largest city.

Lori Lightfoot, 56, who had served as an assistant U.S. attorney before entering private practice as an attorney, emerged as the surprising leader in the first round of voting in February when 14 candidates were on the ballot. She is matched up this time against Toni Preckwinkle, a former schoolteacher who served on the Chicago City Council for 19 years before becoming Cook County Board president in 2011.

The winner will join seven other black women currently serving as mayors in major U.S. cities, including Atlanta and New Orleans.

Lightfoot, who is openly gay, seized on outrage over a white police officer's fatal shooting of a black teenager to launch her reformer campaign. That was even before Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced he wouldn't seek a third term amid criticism for initially resisting calls to release video of the shooting.

"I'm not a person who decided I would climb the ladder of a corrupt political party," Lightfoot said during a debate last month. "I don't hold the title of committeeman, central committeeman, boss of the party."

It's a not-so-veiled reference to Preckwinkle, who also leads the county's Democratic Party and has countered that her opponent lacks the necessary experience for the job.

"This is not an entry-level job," Preckwinkle has said repeatedly during the campaign. "It's easy to talk about change. It's hard to actually do it. And that's been my experience — being a change maker, a change agent, transforming institutions and communities."

The campaign between the two women got off to a contentious start, with Preckwinkle's advertising focusing on Lightfoot's work as a partner at Mayer Brown, one of the nation's largest law firms, and tagging her as a "wealthy corporate lawyer."

Preckwinkle also tried to cast Lightfoot as an insider for working in police oversight posts under Emanuel and police oversight, procurement and emergency communications posts under Mayor Richard M. Daley.

In one ad, Preckwinkle criticizes Lightfoot's oversight of the emergency communications in 2004 when a fire killed four children. A judge ordered Lightfoot to preserve 911 tapes after questions were raised how the emergency call was handled. The ad notes some of the tapes were destroyed, prompting the judge to rebuke Lightfoot. The ad sparked a backlash from the family of three of the children killed, with their sister accusing Preckwinkle of trying to take advantage of her family's tragedy.

Lightfoot also responded by scolding her opponent for being negative while also airing ads pointing out



**In this March 24, 2019 photo, Chicago mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot, right, participates in a candidate forum in Chicago. Lightfoot and Toni Preckwinkle, left, are competing to make history by becoming the city's first black, female mayor. On issues their positions are similar. But their resumes are not, and that may make all the difference when voters pick a new mayor on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.** (AP Photo/Teresa Crawford)

Preckwinkle's connection to powerful local Democrats, including one under federal indictment.

Preckwinkle spent much of her time during the campaign answering for her ties to Chicago's political establishment. She and her supporters asserted her rise to Democratic Party leadership did not hinder her ability to oppose policies promoted by the city's ever-powerful mayors.

"My whole career has been about change, and change is action and results, not simply words," said Preckwinkle, who asserts her experience makes her better positioned to lead a city with financial problems and poorer neighborhoods that are racked by gun violence.

Despite the barbs on the campaign trail, the two advanced similar ideas to boost the city's finances.

Both candidates expressed support for a casino in Chicago and changing the state's income tax system to a graduated tax, in which higher earners are taxed at a higher rate.

Preckwinkle said that while downtown development should remain a priority, it should not be at the cost of neighborhood growth. She promoted additional investments in neighborhood schools, affordable housing and criminal justice reform.

Lightfoot said that as mayor, she would focus on investing in neighborhoods on the West and South Sides and bring transparency and accountability to City Hall. She added she also wants to end City Hall corruption and restore people's faith in government.

"The machine's been in decline for a while, but it still has a grip on certain things," Lightfoot said. "This is our opportunity to send it to its grave, once and for all."

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. HOW MANY WAYS YOU CAN MEASURE 1ST QUARTER OF YEAR

For Democratic presidential candidates, it is 300-plus events, 24 states and hundreds of voter questions — and that's 10 months out from the Iowa caucus.

### 2. LAPD IDENTIFIES SUSPECT IN NIPSEY HUSSLE SLAYING

Police are searching for 29-year-old Eric Holder, who they believe shot and killed the rapper outside his clothing store where he was trying to remake his South Los Angeles community.

### 3. EU CHIEF NEGOTIATOR PESSIMISTIC OF DEAL

Michel Barnier says that Britain's disorderly exit from the bloc without a deal is becoming more likely by the day, though he still hopes to avoid it.

### 4. CHICAGO ABOUT TO MAKE MAYORAL HISTORY

When they meet in a runoff election, either Lori Lightfoot or Toni Preckwinkle will be the first African American woman to lead the nation's third largest city.



**Fans of rapper Nipsey Hussle appear at a makeshift memorial in the parking lot of Hussle's Marathon Clothing store in Los Angeles, Monday, April 1, 2019. Hussle was killed in a shooting outside his clothing store on Sunday.**

(AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)



## 5. WHAT MAY NEVER BE SOLVED

The real masterminds behind the murder of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half brother may never be brought to justice.

## 6. POPE: WOMEN HAVE 'LEGITIMATE CLAIMS' FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY

But Francis stops short of endorsing more sweeping calls from his own bishops to give women decision-making roles in the Catholic Church.

## 7. AMSTERDAM SEX WORKERS SEE RED OVER TOUR BAN

The sex workers' union questions whether banning red light district tours will reduce tourists and argues that guides educate visitors and teach respect.

## 8. NEW ZEALAND PASSES NEW GUN CONTROL MEASURE

Lawmakers overwhelmingly back a bill that would ban the types of weapons a gunman used last month to kill 50 people at two mosques.

## 9. WHO'S RUNNING FOR OFFICE

Michael Brown's mother could soon have oversight over the police department connected to her son's death, if voters in Ferguson, Missouri, elect her to the City Council.

## 10. 'COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER' TURNING 87

Loretta Lynn is honored like country music royalty by country and rock stars alike with gifts of flowers and songs during a concert celebrating her upcoming birthday.

## Los Angeles police identify suspect in Nipsey Hussle slaying

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles police are seeking a 29-year-old man who they believe shot and killed Nipsey Hussle outside the rapper's clothing store where he was trying to remake his community.

Los Angeles police Chief Michel Moore has scheduled a briefing Tuesday morning in which he will discuss how detectives came to identify Eric Holder as the man suspected of killing Hussle Sunday afternoon and wounding two others. No additional details, other than that Holder is suspected of fleeing in a 2016 Chevy Cruze with the license plate 7RJD742, have been released.

Moore also plans to discuss a wider upsurge of violent crime in the city Tuesday morning. The press conference was scheduled before Holder was identified as a suspect. It will be held hours after a disturbance at a memorial for Hussle Monday night left at least 19 people injured, including two people taken to local hospitals in critical condition.

Dozens of police officers cleared the memorial site after a fight apparently broke out and a stampede ensued.



**Fans of rapper Nipsey Hussle appear at a makeshift memorial in the parking lot of Hussle's Marathon Clothing store in Los Angeles, Monday, April 1, 2019. Hussle was killed in a shooting outside the clothing store on Sunday.**

(AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 34 of 42

At least one of the critically-injured persons was struck by a car and the other one had a "penetrating injury," although it's unclear whether that person was stabbed or cut by broken glass, a fire department spokeswoman said. Two other injuries were serious and 15 were considered non-life threatening.

The incident occurred after hundreds of people gathered for a candlelight vigil outside Hussle's The Marathon clothing store.

Hussle, who joined the gang Rollin 60's Neighborhood Crips as a teenager, had planned to meet with Moore and the city's police commission president on Monday to discuss preventing gang violence.

An autopsy completed Monday showed that Hussle, 33, died after being shot in the head and torso. The rapper, whose real name was Ermias Asghedom, had recently purchased the strip mall where the shop is located and planned to redevelop it into a mixed-use commercial and residential complex.

The plan was part of Hussle's broader ambitions to remake the neighborhood where he grew up and attempt to break the cycle of gang life that lured him in when he was younger.

The Marathon store on Monday was a gathering point for those grieving Hussle, with mourners leaving candles, flowers, balloons and other items to pay their respects.

Some passersby blared Hussle's music, which included hits "The Weather," "Double Up" and "Hussle & Motivate."

Dontae Coleman, 28, who lives in the neighborhood, fell to his knees and cried and called Hussle "a legend."

"Someone changed history yesterday," he said, referring to the gunman.

Coleman commended the rapper for trying to uplift his own community first instead of simply going elsewhere.

"A lot of people who get rich don't come back here," he said. "He's rare. A lot of people like him don't come around often."

Denise Francis Woods, a neighborhood resident who is running for City Council, remembered when Hussle used to sell his demo tapes on street corners in the neighborhood for \$5.

"People would tease him," she said. "They didn't think that this would work out and look what happened. He persevered, he stayed in, he never gave up." The effort took him to a whole other level "where he ended up owning property on the same corner."

AP Entertainment Writer Jonathan Landrum Jr. contributed to this report.

## Barnier says chaotic Brexit becomes ever more likely

By RAF CASERT and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier warned Tuesday that Britain's disorderly exit from the European Union is becoming more likely by the day unless the U.K. drastically changes its spiraling course toward a no-deal Brexit.

"As things stand now, the no-deal option looks likely, I have to tell you the truth," Barnier told European legislators.

Despite the downbeat assessment, Barnier said "we can still hope to avoid it" through intensive work in London ahead of an April 10 EU summit. A no-deal Brexit could come as soon two days after that.

"We still have a little bit of patience," Barnier said, but urged British legislators and the government to take a more realistic approach as soon as possible.

Exiting without a deal in place would jeopardize trade and travel overnight, with new checks on borders and new regulations on dealings between Britain and the 27 remaining EU nations.

He warned that though the EU is prepared for a chaotic exit, challenges remain. "Being prepared for no deal does not mean that there will be no disruption," he said.

"Not everything will be smooth, there will be problems. Being prepared means that all unforeseen problems should be manageable on the EU side," Barnier said.

The EU had negotiated a long transition period with British Prime Minister Theresa May, but it was linked

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 35 of 42

to the overall agreement that the U.K. parliament has rejected up to now.

"There is no transition if there is no deal," Barnier warned.

Barnier insisted the EU would not renegotiate the 585-page withdrawal agreement but said he was willing to open up the political declaration that came with the legal text.

"If the U.K. so wishes, we are ready to rework the political declaration as long as the fundamental principles of the EU are respected," he said.

In Britain, political chaos continued to reign.

With just 11 days until the U.K. must come up with a new plan or crash out of the bloc in chaos, the House of Commons on Monday threw out four options designed to replace May's thrice-rejected Brexit deal — though in some cases it was close.

That vote result left May's Conservative government facing difficult and risky choices. It can gamble on a fourth attempt to push the deal through Parliament, let Britain tumble out of the bloc without a deal, or roll the dice by seeking a snap election to shake up Parliament.

May has summoned her Cabinet for a marathon session as the government tries to find a way out of the crisis. The Cabinet is scheduled to meet for five hours Tuesday amid calls for compromise to prevent a potentially devastating no-deal exit.

The government is pushing for a fourth vote on May's deal, with Education Secretary Damian Hinds saying the agreement already represents a compromise in the Brexit debate.

"The deal is a deal which can appeal both to people who voted leave and to people who voted remain," he told the BBC.

The alternative plan that got the most support in Parliament on Monday was a proposal for a customs union, which failed by just three votes. That rejection may be seen positively by May's camp, which will discuss bringing the matter back to Parliament in the Cabinet session, said Anand Menon, a political analyst.

"The mood will be relatively upbeat at that because the government will still think it's in with a chance of winning it's meaningful vote," Menon told The Associated Press. "Now I think they might be able to hold it together because actually Parliament isn't threatening them with something that might divide them."



**European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier arrives for a session at European Parliament in Brussels, Tuesday, April 2, 2019. EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said on Tuesday that a no-deal exit of Britain becomes day after day more likely after the UK parliament again rejected alternatives to the government's unpopular European Union divorce deal.** (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Kirka reported from London.



## Trump considering naming an 'immigration czar'

By JILL COLVIN and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As he threatens to shut down the southern border, President Donald Trump is considering bringing on a "border" or "immigration czar" to coordinate immigration policy across various federal agencies, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Trump is weighing at least two potential candidates for the post: former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, according to the people, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the conversations publicly.

Kobach and Cuccinelli are far-right conservatives with strong views on immigration. Cuccinelli was seen at the White House on Monday.

The planning comes as Trump is threatening anew to close the U.S.-Mexico border as soon as this week if Mexico does not completely halt illegal immigration into the U.S. And it serves as the latest sign that the president plans to continue to hammer his hardline immigration rhetoric and policies as he moves past the special counsel's Russia investigation and works to rally his base heading into his 2020 re-election campaign.

Aides hope the potential appointment, which they caution is still in the planning stages, would serve as the "face" of the administration on immigration issues and would placate both the president and his supporters, showing he is serious and taking action.

White House press aides, Kobach and Cuccinelli did not immediately respond Monday to requests for comment. Kobach previously served as vice chair of the president's short-lived election fraud commission, which was disbanded after finding little evidence of widespread abuse.

A Department of Homeland Security official noted that White House czars have been appointed in the past when there has been an "urgent need" for sustained, inter-agency policy coordination. While Homeland Security often plays a leading role when it comes to immigration policy and enforcement, the department is not in charge of officials at the departments of Health and Human Services, State, Defense and Justice, which often play key roles.

Trump has often complained, both publicly and privately, about how he has not been able to do more to stop the tide of illegal immigration, which he has likened to an "invasion" and described as a national security crisis. Arrests along the southern border have skyrocketed in recent months and border agents were on track to make 100,000 arrests or denials of entry in March. More than half of those are families with children.

Still, Trump has been pushing. He has deployed National Guard troops to the border, forced a government shutdown to try to pressure Congress to provide more money for his long-promised border wall, and eventually signed an emergency declaration to circumvent lawmakers. He also moved Saturday to cut direct aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, where citizens are fleeing north and overwhelming U.S. resources at the southern border.

Those moves have involved a swath of government agencies. The Justice Department manages the immigration courts that decide whether a migrant is deported; Health and Human Services manages the care of migrant children apprehended at the border; agencies within Homeland Security manage the allocation of legal status, immigration enforcement and asylum requests; and the Pentagon and the Army Corps of Engineers manage facets of border wall construction.

But not all are always on the same page.

Earlier this year, for example, Health and Human Services closed down a temporary facility being used to house migrant children in Tornillo, Texas, creating a problem for border agents who ran out of bed space when the number of unaccompanied children crossing the border spiked. Homeland Security is not allowed to hold children in detention facilities for longer than 20 days.

And last year, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions instituted a "zero tolerance" policy at the border without consulting others, causing a spike in the number of migrant children separated from their families.

The separated children were placed in HHS custody, but there was no tracking system in place to link

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 37 of 42

parents with their children until a federal judge ordered one, causing widespread fear and concern about whether families would ever see each other again.

It has yet to be decided whether the czar position would be housed within Homeland Security or within the White House, which would not require Senate confirmation.

A person positioned within the White House could coordinate immigration policy across various agencies, working closely with aides who are deeply involved in the issue, including senior advisers Stephen Miller and Jared Kushner, national security adviser John Bolton and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who supports the idea.

Appointing a person based within Homeland Security could be trickier because the department's agency heads are all Senate-confirmed positions and, in the case of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, are longtime immigration officials with decades of experience dealing with the border.

While immigration officials would welcome an adviser focused specifically on policy across the varying agencies, the names being floated are likely to spark backlash and criticism.

Kobach, an immigration hardliner, ran a failed bid for governor promising to drive immigrants living in the U.S. illegally out of the country. He has recently been working for a nonprofit corporation, WeBuildtheWall Inc., which has been raising private money to build Trump's wall.

Cuccinelli has advocated for denying citizenship to American-born children of parents living in the U.S. illegally, limiting in-state tuition at public universities only to those who are citizens or legal residents, and allowing workers to file lawsuits when an employer knowingly hires someone living in the country illegally for taking a job from a "law abiding competitor."

Thomas Homan, the former acting ICE director, has also been mentioned as a potential pick, according to one of the people familiar with the talks.



**President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump walk along the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, March 31, 2019, as they return from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla.** (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Follow Colvin and Long on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/ctlong1>

## 2nd woman recounts unwanted touching by Biden

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and STEPHEN BRAUN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aides to Joe Biden are striking a more aggressive tone as the former vice president faces scrutiny over his past behavior toward women.

In a statement Monday, Biden spokesman Bill Russo blasted "right wing trolls" from "the dark recesses of the internet" for conflating images of Biden embracing acquaintances, colleagues and friends in his official capacity during swearing-in ceremonies with uninvited touching.

The move came on a day in which a second woman said Biden had acted inappropriately, touching her face with both hands and rubbing noses with her in 2009. The allegation by Amy Lappos, a former

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 38 of 42

aide to Democratic Rep. Jim Hines of Connecticut, followed a magazine essay by former Nevada politician Lucy Flores, who wrote that Biden kissed her on the back of the head in 2014.

The developments underscored the challenge facing Biden should he decide to seek the White House. Following historic wins in the 2018 midterms, Democratic politics is dominated by energy from women. The allegations could leave the 76-year-old Biden, long known for his affectionate mannerisms, appearing out of touch with the party as the Democratic presidential primary begins.

Lappos told The Associated Press that she and other Himes aides were helping out at a fundraiser in a private home in Hartford, Connecticut, in October 2009 when Biden entered the kitchen to thank the group for pitching in.

"After he finished speaking, he stopped to talk to us about how important a congressional staff is, which I thought was awesome," Lappos said.

She said she was stunned as Biden moved toward her.

"He wrapped both his hands around my face and pulled me in," said Lappos, who is now 43. "I thought, 'Oh, God, he's going to kiss me.' Instead, he rubbed noses with me." Biden said nothing, she said, then moved off. She said the experience left her feeling "weird and uncomfortable" and was "absolutely disrespectful of my personal boundaries."

The Hartford Courant first reported Lappos' assertion.

Russo didn't directly respond to Lappos, instead referring to a Sunday statement in which Biden said he doesn't believe he has acted inappropriately during his long public life. The former vice president said in that statement: "We have arrived at an important time when women feel they can and should relate their experiences, and men should pay attention. And I will."

Biden hasn't made a final decision on whether to run for the White House. But aides who weren't authorized to discuss internal conversations and spoke on condition of anonymity said there were no signs that his team was slowing its preparations for a campaign.

Asked by the AP about the accusations against Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "I don't think that this disqualifies him from running for president, not at all." She declined to elaborate.

Biden's potential Democratic rivals haven't rushed to back him up. Over the weekend, presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Kirsten Gillibrand came closest to calling out the former vice president. Warren said Biden "needs to give an answer" about what occurred. Gillibrand said, "If Vice President Biden becomes a candidate, this is a topic he'll have to engage on further."

Ultraviolet, a women's advocacy group, tweeted: "Joe Biden cannot paint himself as a champion of women and then refuse to listen and learn from a woman who says his actions demeaned her. Good intentions don't matter if the actions are inappropriate. Do better, Joe. And thank you @LucyFlores for coming forward."

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace contributed to this report.



**Former Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the Biden Courage Awards Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in New York.**

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)



## Rare glimpse into Saudi Aramco shows \$111 billion net profit

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Aramco's net profits reached \$111 billion last year, according to an assessment published Monday by Moody's Investors Services that offered a rare glimpse into the state-owned oil firm's finances before it issues its first bonds in international markets.

That places Aramco ahead of some of the world's most profitable firms. By contrast, Apple booked a net profit of about \$60 billion in its last full year, Royal Dutch Shell had net income of \$23 billion and Exxon Mobil \$21 billion.

Moody's said the oil giant's revenue hit \$355.9 billion last year and that it produced 10.3 million barrels per day of crude oil in 2018.

The figures provide the first look in recent memory at Aramco's revenue and earnings. The company, which began as a U.S. venture with a concession for oil rights in Saudi Arabia, was fully acquired by the Saudi government in 1980.

"I would say that this tells us that Aramco is worth at least one trillion dollars," said Ellen Wald, president of Transversal Consulting and the author of "Saudi Inc," a book about Aramco's corporate history.

In another assessment issued Monday, Fitch Ratings said Aramco posted profits of \$224 billion before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization.

Moody's said Aramco paid \$58.2 billion in dividends in 2018 and \$50.4 billion in 2017. It remains unclear exactly how these dividends are distributed within the Saudi monarchy and its ruling family.

Fitch said Aramco accounted for around 70% of the Saudi government's budget revenue between 2015-2017, but it wasn't immediately clear if that figure included the dividends mentioned by Moody's.

In anticipation of a partial listing of Aramco on an international exchange, the Saudi government in 2017 reduced Aramco's tax rate from 85% to 50%. Such moves are part of an effort by Saudi Arabia to create new income streams and lessen the government's dependence on oil for revenue.

In their first-ever grade assessment for Aramco, Fitch issued the firm an A+ rating, while Moody's gave the company its A1 rating.

The ratings are considered investment-grade level and indicate low credit risk, but the agencies held off on issuing their top grades to Aramco due to strong links between the Saudi state and the company. Specifically, Fitch noted "the influence the state has on the company through regulating the level of production, taxation and dividends."



**FILE - In this Feb. 26, 1997 file photo, Khaled al-Otaiby, an official of the Saudi oil company Aramco, watches progress at a rig at the al-Howta oil field near Howta, Saudi Arabia. According to an assessment published Monday, April 1, 2019, by Moody's Investors Services, the net profits of Saudi Aramco reached \$111 billion last year. That places Aramco ahead of some of the world's most profitable firms. In their first-ever grade assessment for Aramco, Fitch Ratings issued the firm an A+ rating, while Moody's gave it its A1 rating ahead of its upcoming bonds sale.** (AP Photo/

John Moore, File)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 40 of 42

Wald said that five years ago, under the late King Abdullah, the government's links to Aramco would not have been a significant concern because the company had "essentially complete independence."

That's now changed under King Salman and his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who have taken a much more active role in controlling various power centers in the kingdom, including Aramco, Wald said.

"There's no telling... what kind of demands this king and his son might make on the company in the future that might have impact on its core profitability," she added.

The ratings agencies issued their reports on the same day that Aramco said it will start to meet with investors about selling its bonds which, if issued, would be priced in dollars and traded on the London Stock Exchange. The bonds are expected to help pay for Aramco's \$69 billion acquisition of majority shares in Saudi petrochemical firm SABIC from the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund.

Fitch said its conservative forecasts show Saudi Aramco's net debt rising to around \$35 billion by 2021, after incorporating the SABIC transaction.

The \$69 billion deal with SABIC pumps capital into the Public Investment Fund, which is overseen by the crown prince.

Prince Mohammed has transformed the fund in order to back major development projects throughout the kingdom amid delays to an initial public offering of Aramco, which he'd touted as a way to raise capital for the PIF's projects.

The deal was struck after the crown prince's early efforts at attracting Western investors for his social and economic transformation plans suffered a setback following the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents inside the country's consulate in Istanbul last year.

Associated Press business editor Carlo Piovano contributed to this report from London.

## Asian stocks follow Wall Street higher on upbeat data

By **JOE McDONALD AP Business Writers**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock prices followed Wall Street higher on Tuesday on encouraging global economic data.

Benchmarks in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul all advanced. Oil prices advanced again, adding to Monday's big gains.

Investors were encouraged by manufacturing indicators that showed activity in China and the United States improving. A separate report showed U.S. construction spending increased in February.

In another hopeful sign, long-term bond yields rose above their recent lows, following a sharp drop last month that flashed a possible recession warning, rattling Wall Street.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.2% to 3,177.60 points while Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 0.2% to 21,555.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was 0.2% higher at 29,626.04 and Seoul's Kospi advanced 0.2% to 2,173.65.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.8% to 6,264.10. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also rose.

"It does appear that the cylinders are firing up once again, or at least in China and the U.S., sustaining risk-on mood for Asia markets," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report.

Unexpectedly strong U.S. and Chinese factory data "affirmed the improving manufacturing picture," said Pan.

On Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index rose Monday for a third day, advancing 1.2% to 2,867.19.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 1.3% to 26,258.42. The Nasdaq composite climbed 1.3% to 7,828.91.

Financial and technology companies powered the latest rally. Investors tend to favor those sectors when

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 41 of 42

they're confident the economy will continue growing. Bank of America gained 3.4% and Intel rose 1.5%.

Consumer product makers and utility companies, which are considered safe-play investments, lagged the market. Clorox fell 1.2% and NRG Energy slid 1.7%.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose sharply, to 2.47% from 2.41% late Friday. It also rose back above the yield on the three-month Treasury bill.

That reverses an inversion in yields that alarmed investors last month. Such a change has preceded recessions in the past.

**BREXIT:** Legislators rejected four proposed alternatives to Britain's separation from the European Union that would have softened or halted the departure. With 12 days until the

U.K. must come up with a new plan or crash out of the trade bloc in chaos, the House of Commons threw out options designed to replace Prime Minister Theresa May's thrice-rejected deal. The result leaves May facing difficult choices including calling a possible snap election to shake up Parliament.

**KEEBLER SALE:** Kellogg Co. agreed to sell brands including Keebler and Famous Amos cookies to Italian confectioner Ferrero SpA, best known for making Nutella. The price of \$1.3 billion is about \$2.6 billion less than Kellogg paid for Keebler 17 years ago. The value of household names like Keebler has deteriorated as families turn to food and snack alternatives that are thought to be healthier. The sale includes Kellogg's fruit-flavored snack, pie crust and ice cream cone businesses.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude gained 32 cents to \$61.91 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract surged \$1.45 on Monday to close at \$61.59. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 34 cents to \$69.35 per barrel in London. It jumped \$1.43 to \$69.01 the previous session.

**CURRENCY:** The dollar edged higher to 111.36 yen from Monday's 111.35 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1201 from \$1.1213.



**People are reflected on the electronic board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Tuesday, April 2, 2019. Asian stock prices followed Wall Street higher on Tuesday on encouraging global economic data.**(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

## Today in History

**By the Associated Press undefined**

Today is Tuesday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2019. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

On this date:

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1863, during the Civil War, the Richmond Bread Riot erupted in the Confederate capital as a mob outraged over food shortages and rising prices attacked and looted stores.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces.

In 1912, the just-completed RMS Titanic left Belfast to begin its sea trials eight days before the start of



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 266 ~ 42 of 42

its ill-fated maiden voyage.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1956, the soap operas "As the World Turns" and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1958, the term "beatnik" was coined by San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen to refer to members of the pre-hippie counterculture; the term was inspired by the "Beat Generation" and by the Soviet launch of its second Sputnik spacecraft.

In 1968, "2001: A Space Odyssey," the groundbreaking science-fiction film epic produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1992, mob boss John Gotti was convicted in New York of murder and racketeering; he was later sentenced to life, and died in prison.

In 2003, during the Iraq War, American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline.

Ten years ago: Leaders of the world's rich and major developing countries met at an emergency G-20 economic summit in London; afterward, President Barack Obama hailed agreements they had reached as a "turning point in our pursuit of global economic recovery," but cautioned, "there are no guarantees." The House and Senate passed companion budget plans, giving President Obama and his allies on Capitol Hill a key victory. A 19-count federal racketeering indictment was returned against former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich); the ousted Democrat denied doing anything illegal.

Five years ago: The Supreme Court's conservative majority voted 5-4 to free wealthy individuals to donate to as many political candidates and campaigns as they wanted, further loosening the reins on giving by big contributors. At Fort Hood in Texas, three soldiers were killed and 16 others were wounded in a shooting rampage by another soldier, Army Spc. Ivan A. Lopez, who then killed himself.

One year ago: Anti-apartheid activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, who'd been married for nearly 38 years to Nelson Mandela, died in a Johannesburg hospital at the age of 81. Thousands of Oklahoma teachers began two weeks of walkouts and descended on the state Capitol to demand more education funding. Thousands of Kentucky teachers marched to the state Capitol to protest changes to their pension system; some districts that were not on spring break had to cancel classes. China raised import duties on \$3 billion in U.S. products in an escalating dispute over trade and industrial policy. Ethan Couch, who as a 16-year-old driver drunkenly struck and killed four pedestrians but dodged prison after suggesting at his trial that his irresponsibility was a result of an entitled upbringing, went free after serving almost two years in a Texas jail on a probation violation. Villanova beat Michigan 79-62 to capture its second NCAA college basketball championship in three years.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sharon Acker is 84. Actress Dame Penelope Keith is 79. Actress Linda Hunt is 74. Singer Emmylou Harris is 72. Actor Sam Anderson is 72. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 72. Actress Pamela Reed is 70. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 70. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 58. Actor Christopher Meloni is 58. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 58. Country singer Billy Dean is 57. Actor Clark Gregg is 57. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 55. Rock musician Greg Camp is 52. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 50. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 46. Country singer Jill King is 44. Actor Pedro Pascal is 44. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 44. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 43. Actor Michael Fassbender is 42. Actress Jaime Ray Newman is 41. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 40. Actress Bethany Joy Galeotti is 38. Singer Lee Dewyze (TV: "American Idol") is 33. Country singer Chris Janson is 33. Actor Drew Van Acker is 33. Actress Briga Heelan (TV: "Great News") is 32. Actor Jesse Plemons is 31. Singer Aaron Kelly (TV: "American Idol") is 26.

Thought for Today: "Never think you've seen the last of anything." — Eudora Welty, American author (1909-2001).