

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 1 of 35

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 1- Fr. Kelly to celebrate 40 years
- 2- Groton Pool Ad
- 3- LATI students graduating
- 3- Service Notice: Linda Stearns
- 4- SD History & Heritage Column
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 6- Golden Living Center ad
- 6- Cutting Edge Lawn Care Ad
- 7- Local Weather Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Climate
- 8- National Weather map
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10 - AP News

Fr. Kelly celebrates 40 years

Celebrating 40 years of priesthood in honor of Fr. Mike Kelly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 803 North 1st Street, Groton. Please join us for an Open House on June 12th from 2-4 pm with a short program at 3pm. Hors d'oeuvres and cupcakes will be served.

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Friday, May 27

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

State Track Meet at Madison

Birthdays: • Dean Kramer • Susan Knudsen • Shirley Meister

Saturday, May 28

State Track Meet in Sioux Falls

Birthdays: • Kim Zerr • Darliss Larson • Lora McMahon • Marty Sippel • Jim Stearns • Joyce Grenz • Steven Jones • Braeden Flihs

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

Sunday, May 29

Birthdays: Clare Brotherton • DeLoris Knoll • Howard Gengerke • Jerry Ray Johnson • Jeff Ringgenberg • Michelle Osterman

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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

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

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

Birthdays: • Hazel McKittrick • Kami Lipp • Kellie Townsend • Teresa Krueger

Tuesday, May 31

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, mixed vegetables, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Harry Implement
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Ferney

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 2 of 35

Groton Pool Summer 2016

★ **Pool opens for the season: May 30** ★

Season Passes: Family Pass (must be immediate family only - max 10) = \$100.00 (Immediate Family = Mother, Father, Biological Children, Adopted Children, and Step Children living in one household)

Special Vacation Family Pass (up to 5 persons for 1 week) = \$30.00

Senior Pass (62 & Over) = \$30.00

Adult Pass (18-61yrs) = \$60.00

Youth Pass (6-17 yrs) = \$40.00

Youth Pass (0-5yrs) = \$20.00

Lap Swim Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Aerobics Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Lap AND Aerobic Pass - \$50.00 per summer

*Any child under 6yrs must have an adult (at least 18yrs of age) with them when they are in attendance. See Managers for more information.

***ALL PATRONS HAVE TO PAY TO GO INSIDE THE POOL AREA. THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN GOING TO ANY OTHER FACILITY OR EVENT TO WATCH THE ACTIVITY/EVENT.**

Daily Admission Per Session: Seniors (62 and Over) = \$3.00 Adults (18-61) = \$5.00

Youth (6-17 yrs) = \$3.00 Youth (0-5yrs) = \$1.00

HOURS

Open Swim Daily: 1:00 - 4:50pm & 6:40 - 8:50pm

Family Swim is every Saturday and Sunday from 5:45 - 6:30 (each child must have a family member/parent with them who is 18 yrs or older - This is a great family time!

FUN Night is every Friday from 6:40-8:50pm - ALL pool toys are allowed at this time!

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday thru Thursday - 8:00am - 8:45am AND 5:45pm - 6:30pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday thru Thursday - 7am - 8am & 5pm - 5:45pm - Friday 7am-8am & 5pm-6:30pm Saturday and Sunday - 5pm - 5:45pm

*Hours are subject to change

Pool Rental for Private Parties: - \$150.00 - 2 hours which includes 2 lifeguards

Swimming Lessons: \$20.00 per two-week session - due on first day or prior to first day of lessons, payable at the pool

Mon - Thurs with Friday being a rain/make-up day

Session 1- June 6 - 16

Session 2 - June 20 - June 30

Session 3 - July 11 - July 21

Private Lessons - \$10.00 per 30 minutes with a minimum of 5 lessons and a maximum of 10 consecutive lessons during non-open swim times.

*All parents must provide an accurate phone number to call in case of inclement weather for possible cancellations



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 3 of 35

LATI Students graduating

WATERTOWN, SD...The 49th Annual Lake Area Technical Institute graduation ceremony was held Friday, May 13, 2016, with seven hundred fifty graduates receiving their diplomas.

The following students were presented their diplomas by Mike Cartney, President of Lake Area Tech.

Name	Hometown	Major
Parker J Kroll	Groton SD	Agriculture
Tyler N Wagner	Groton SD	Agriculture
Braden B Miller	Houghton SD	Building Trades Technology
Bailee R Thompson	Groton SD	Dental Assisting
Skyler D Bonn	Conde SD	Occupational Therapy Assistant
Quenton L Severson	Groton SD	Welding Technology



Service Notice: Linda Stearns

Funeral services for Linda Jean Stearns, 60, Groton, SD will be 11:00am, Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, Pastor Craig Grams officiating. Burial at Hecla Cemetery, Hecla, SD. Linda fell asleep Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, surrounded by the love of her family, after battling pulmonary fibrosis for five years.

Visitation: 5:00-7:00pm, Monday, with a prayer service at 7:00, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 4 of 35

SOUTH DAKOTA

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Remembering the first U.S.S. South Dakota

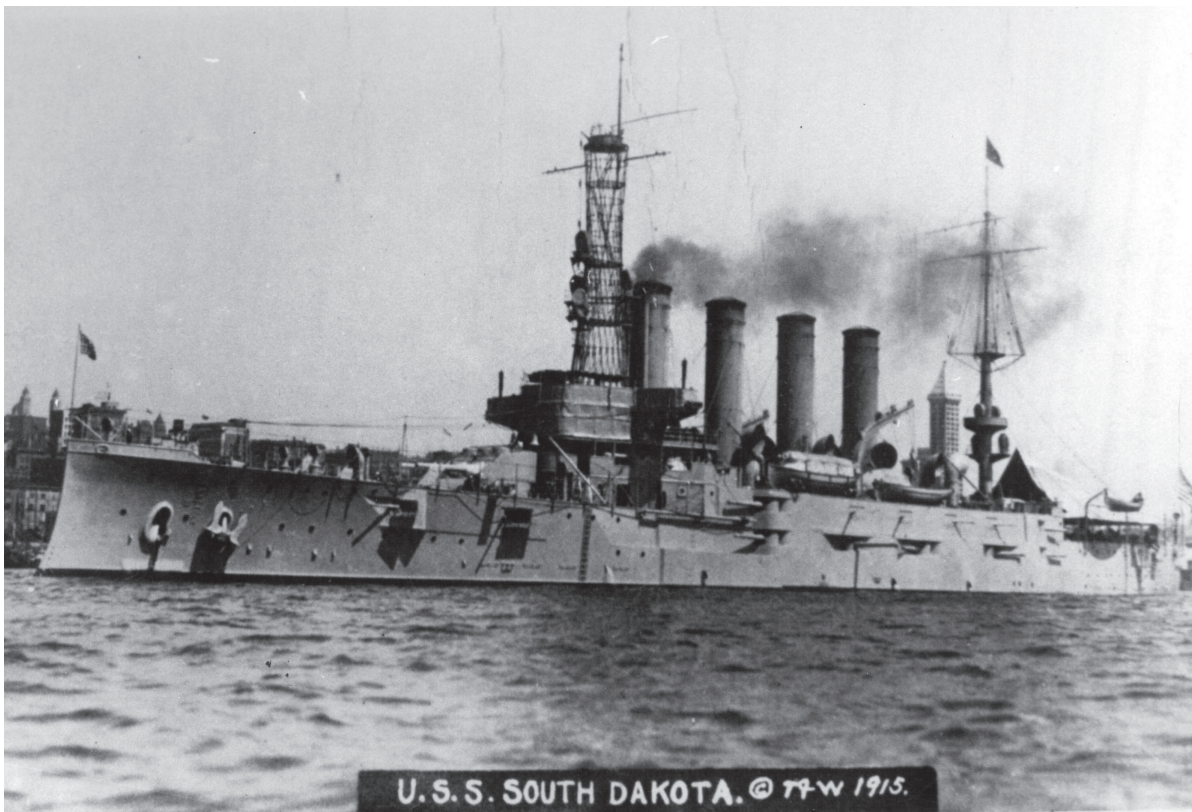


Photo of the U.S.S. South Dakota is courtesy of the State Archives. (South Dakota State Historical Society – Archives.)

The official keel-laying ceremony took place recently for the new U.S.S. South Dakota attack submarine. This milestone for the third such vessel named in honor of our state signified the start of the vessel's construction.

A significant milestone occurred in the life of the first U.S.S. South Dakota in 1904. On July 21, South Dakota Gov. Charles Herreid, his daughter Grace, and a party of 10 were in San Francisco to christen and launch the armored cruiser. Launching is the day the ship's hull is put in the water.

Congress had authorized the building of the armored cruiser by Union Iron Works of San Francisco in 1900. Grace Herreid was the ship's sponsor. In the Navy, a sponsor is the title given to a citizen chosen to christen a naval vessel. During the launching ceremony, the bishop of the Episcopal diocese of California gave a short prayer and Grace pressed a button that released the cruiser from its blocks. As the cruiser slid down the ways, Grace swung a bottle of champagne against the hull and bestowed the name U.S.S. South Dakota on the ship. Part of the figurehead, which is an ornament on the bow of a ship, was the South Dakota state seal in brass.

Commissioning is the day the captain assumes command on board. The U.S.S. South Dakota was commissioned in 1908. The time difference between launching and commissioning has to do with completing the outfitting of the ship and training the crew.

The first U.S.S. South Dakota was attached to the Pacific Fleet.

The South Dakota Legislature appropriated \$5,000 for the purchase of a silver service to be part of the furnishings of the U.S.S. South Dakota. Gorham Silver Company of Providence, R.I., manufactured the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 5 of 35

silver service, which consisted of 32 sterling pieces, some with gold lining. The designs engraved on the silver service pieces are from photographs of South Dakota scenes symbolic of the varied resources and industries of the state. Nautical representations are also included on the silver service.

In 1914 Mexico was in the midst of civil war. President Woodrow Wilson sent American warships to waters off Mexico to protect American interests and property. The U.S.S. South Dakota with Marines on board kept the Mexican coast under surveillance by cruising up and down the shoreline.

After the United States entered World War I, the U.S.S. South Dakota joined the Atlantic Fleet. It patrolled the South Atlantic, operating from Brazilian ports, searching for German vessels. In 1918, the cruiser escorted troop convoys from the East Coast to the mid-Atlantic rendezvous point where British cruisers joined the convoy. Following the signing of the armistice, the U.S.S. South Dakota made two voyages from France to New York to return troops to the United States. The wartime crew consisted of 700 regular Navy men and 500 naval reservists.

In the summer of 1919, the U.S.S. South Dakota was ordered back to the Pacific to serve as flagship of the Asiatic fleet, which consisted of 26 vessels including eight destroyers. The flagship is the ship carrying the flag officer or commander of a fleet, and displaying the officer's flag.

The U.S.S. South Dakota was stationed off Vladivostok, Russia, during the winter of 1920 to aid and defend in the withdrawal of American troops. Four companies of Marines landed in Vladivostok from the U.S.S. South Dakota.

The cruiser was renamed the U.S.S. Huron in 1920 as a new ship was to bear the state's name. The new U.S. S. South Dakota would become a famed battleship during World War II.

The U.S.S. Huron served in the Asiatic Fleet for seven years. When Japan was hit by a devastating earthquake in 1923, the U.S.S. Huron helped bring clothing, food, medical supplies and other items to Japan.

The U.S.S. Huron was decommissioned in 1927 and sold for scrap in 1930.

People can still see part of the first U.S. S. South Dakota. The silver service is displayed in the museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, and the brass state seal that was part of the ship's figurehead is displayed in the building's lobby.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 6 of 35

Today in Weather History

1896 - A massive tornado struck Saint Louis, MO, killing 306 persons and causing thirteen million dollars damage. The tornado path was short, but cut across a densely populated area. It touched down six miles west of Eads Bridge in Saint Louis and widened to a mile as it crossed into East Saint Louis. The tornado was the most destructive of record in the U.S. up until that time. It pierced a five-eighths inch thick iron sheet with a two by four inch pine plank. A brilliant display of lightning accompanied the storm. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in West Texas produced baseball size hail at Crane, hail up to three and a half inches in diameter at Post, and grapefruit size hail south of Midland. Five days of flooding commenced in Oklahoma. Thunderstorms produced 7 to 9 inches of rain in central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City reported 4.33 inches of rain in six hours. Up to six inches of rain caused flooding in north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sunny and warm weather prevailed across much of the nation to kick off the Memorial Day weekend. Afternoon thunderstorms in southern Florida caused the mercury at Miami to dip to a record low reading of 69 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 90s. Lakeland, FL, reported a record high of 99 degrees, and Biloxi, MS, reported a temperature of 90 degrees along with a relative humidity of 75 percent. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Texas to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were eighty-one reports of large hail or damaging winds. Late afternoon thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana produced high winds which injured twenty-seven persons at an outdoor music concert in Baton Rouge, and high winds which gusted to 78 mph at the Lake Ponchartrain Causeway. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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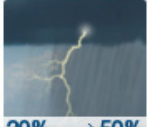









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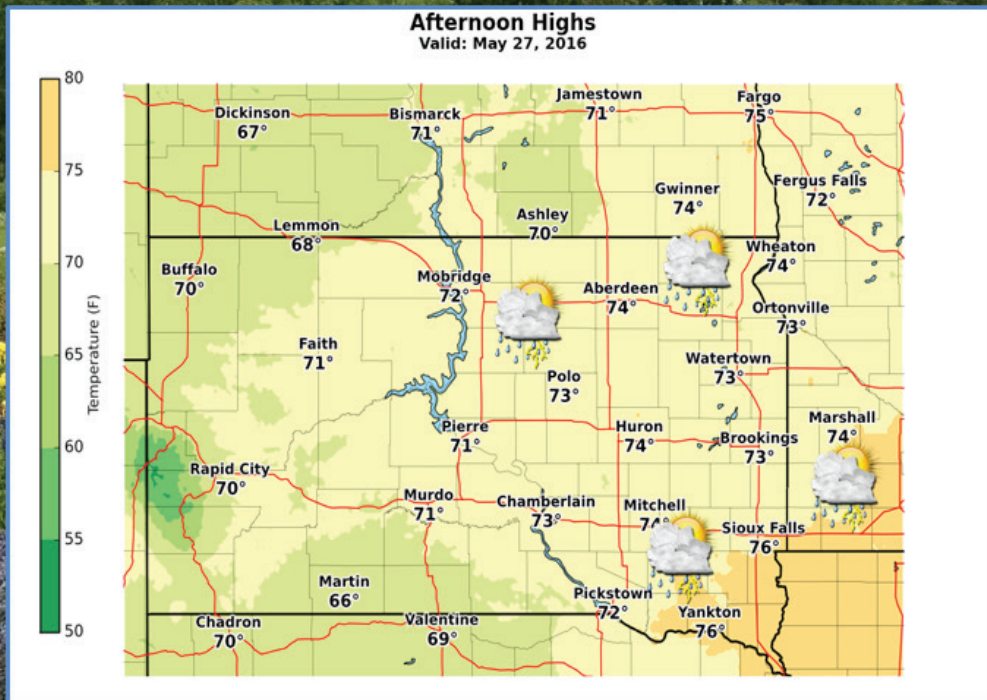
for out patient therapy.
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Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 7 of 35

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Memorial Day
 20% → 50%	 30%	 50%	 20%	 20%		 20%
Slight Chance T-storms then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 74 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 80 °F

Mild With a Chance of Showers & Thunderstorms



Showers and Storms to Continue Through the Weekend.

Highest Chances occurring in the afternoon and evening.

Risk of Severe Weather is low Through Sunday.



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 05/27/2016 at 4:07AM

A weak frontal boundary situated across the region will continue to support showers and storms today, especially this afternoon and evening. Meanwhile temperatures will be mild with highs mainly in the 70s. Chances for severe weather are low.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 8 of 35

Yesterday's Weather

High: 78.1 at 5:29 PM

Low: 47.4 at 5:25 AM

High Gust: 42 at 9:24 PM

Precip: 0.48

Today's Info

Record High: 98° in 1934

Record Low: 28 in 1907

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May: 2.71

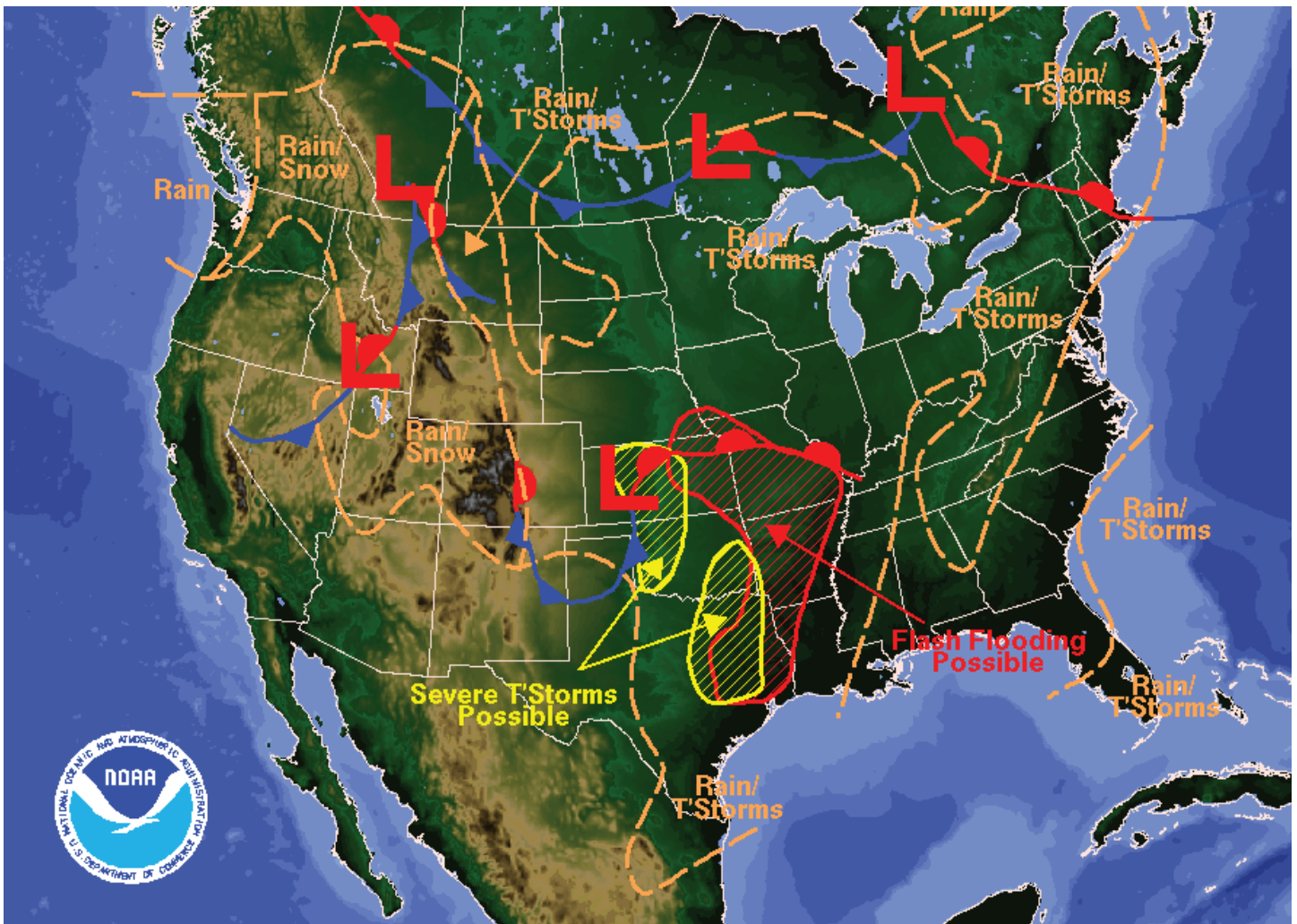
Precip to date in May: 1.23

Average Precip to date: 6.74

Precip Year to Date: 4.52

Sunset Tonight: 9:10 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, May 27, 2016, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



THE DANGER OF HESITATION

A world famous aerial acrobat was making his way carefully across a wire high above the crowd below. Suddenly, he lost his footing and fell from his high wire to the earth below. Sitting at his bedside in the hospital, a reporter wondered what he was going to do when he recovered from his injuries.

Assuming that he would never return to his previous occupation he said, "I'm sure that you will no longer do what you did before this horrible accident. You must be afraid of falling again."

"You don't understand," came the response. "I did not fall because I was afraid. I fell because I hesitated. Hesitation is the number one killer in our business."

And it is the number one reason why people do not accept Christ. No one plans to perish. Many perish because they think there will be a better time or another opportunity. So, they hesitate and never decide to give their lives to Christ.

But there is also another "hesitation" we Christians must always keep in mind. Some whom we know and love may perish, not because they hesitated, but because we "hesitated" to witness to them and extend God's love and plan of salvation.

As Christ's messengers we must seize the moment.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to seize every moment as though it were the last moment we have to reach out and bring others to Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

News from the Associated Press

Rapid City man pleads not guilty in fatal April crash

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man charged with vehicular homicide in a fatal crash on a Pennington County road has pleaded not guilty.

Nineteen-year-old Jacobi Branich is accused of driving drunk on April 12 and losing control of his pickup truck, which rolled in a ditch south of Rapid City. Authorities say the crash killed 19-year-old passenger Dara Reynolds.

Branich faces up to 16 years in prison if he's convicted of vehicular homicide and driving under revocation.

Pierre honoring war hero Waldron with memorial dedication

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Fort Pierre war hero who served in World War II is being honored next week on the anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

John C. Waldron is being recognized with a memorial dedication at the Pierre Municipal Airport at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3.

Waldron led 15 aircraft to an attack of the Japanese carrier fleet during the Battle of Midway. Although 29 of the 30 American crew members lost their lives during the attack, Waldron's squadron played a crucial role in finding the Japanese fleet. That helped U.S. Naval forces to eventually claim victory in the Pacific.

The ceremony will feature the dedication of "Dakota Warrior," an original print of the Douglas TBD-1 Devastator flown by Waldron.

Waldron is a Naval Academy graduate of Oglala-Lakota heritage.

'Cow to Cup' 5K fun run set to be held in Brookings

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The Department of Agriculture says the "Cow to Cup" 5K is being held in conjunction with Dairy Fest in Brookings.

The agency said Thursday that the race will be held June 4 at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$30, or \$35 for same-day registrants.

Proceeds will go to South Dakota Ag in the Classroom and the South Dakota State University Dairy Club.

People of all ages can take part, and a free shirt and chocolate milk after the fun run come with registration.

Niagara University provost named Northern State president

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Niagara University Provost Timothy Downs has been named the next president of Northern State University.

The South Dakota Board of Regents made the announcement Thursday in Aberdeen. Downs will begin his new job on June 27.

Regent Harvey Jewett says Downs has been at the forefront of initiatives to improve the student learning experience, providing leadership and supervision for academic affairs work at Niagara University since 2011. The private university in the Western New York community of Lewiston has about 4,200 students.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 11 of 35

Downs succeeds James Smith, who is leaving Northern State after seven years to become president of Eastern Michigan University.

The other two finalists were Jacksonville University College of Business Dean Don Capener and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow.

Democrat Hillary Clinton opens field office in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former Texas state Sen. Wendy Davis is plugging Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton to South Dakotans as the candidate who would look out for women to the benefit of the nation's economy.

Davis spoke to roughly 50 people Thursday at the opening of Clinton's first South Dakota office. She urged voters at the gathering to back the Democratic front-runner in the June 7 primary.

She praised Clinton for her support for increasing the minimum wage, affordable childcare and equal pay for women. Davis is known for a more than 12-hour filibuster to temporarily stall new abortion restrictions in Texas.

Democratic hopeful Bernie Sanders opened a Sioux Falls office last week.

Sanders and Clinton are competing for the Democratic nomination. The victor will likely run against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Longtime Sioux Falls chamber president Nolte to retire

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The head of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is retiring after 37 years.

Evan Nolte says he'll step down as the chamber's president and CEO at the end of 2016. He made the announcement at a board of directors meeting on Thursday.

Nolte has served in this leadership position since 1992. He also serves as co-president of the Forward Sioux Falls 2021 economic development joint venture partnership between the chamber and the Sioux Falls Development Foundation.

Board Chairman Paul Brufat says Nolte has been at the forefront of many large and small initiatives that have built Sioux Falls into the best place to live, work and play.

The chamber plans to conduct a search for Nolte's replacement using a professional recruiting firm with expertise in chamber searches.

4 people face charges in meth lab bust in Huron home

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have charged four people in connection with a meth lab discovered in a Huron home.

Officers were executing a search warrant on May 17 when they came across chemicals used to make the illegal drug. They were evacuated from the home, and a state crime bureau lab team was called in to clean up the chemicals.

The suspects all are in their 20s. They all face charges of manufacturing and possessing drugs and keeping a place for the sale or use of drugs.

Ticket sold in Canton wins \$25K Dakota Cash lottery jackpot

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — A ticket sold in Canton has won the \$25,146 Dakota Cash jackpot.

South Dakota lottery officials say the ticket matched all five numbers in the Wednesday drawing to win the top prize, against odds of 1 in about 325,000.

The winning numbers are 4, 19, 21, 27 and 33.

Dakota Cash is played only in South Dakota. The jackpot starts again at \$20,000 for the next drawing, on Saturday.

Jamestown applies to Great Plains Athletic Conference

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (AP) — The University of Jamestown in North Dakota has applied to become part of the Great Plains Athletic Conference in 2017.

Jamestown has been competing in the North Star Athletic Association since its inception in 2013. Before that the Jimmies were part of the now-defunct Dakota Athletic Conference.

Existing schools in the GPAC are in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. Jamestown President Bob Badal says it would be a "solid fit" for Jamestown because it has other faith-based private schools.

KQDJ radio reports that the GPAC isn't expected to make a decision until sometime in July.

Obama's hug of Hiroshima survivor epitomizes historic visit

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — President Barack Obama may have faced the legacy of Hiroshima most directly with his embrace of a man who survived the devastating atomic blast.

He spoke briefly with two survivors in the audience for his remarks Friday at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park: Sunao Tsuboi, the 91-year-old head of a survivors group, and Shigeaki Mori, 79, a historian who was just 8 when the bomb detonated on Aug. 6, 1945.

Obama spoke to Tsuboi first. They laughed at one point, the president throwing back his head and smiling broadly. Obama mostly listened, though, holding the elderly man's hand in his own, an interpreter standing nearby. Tsuboi stamped his cane emphatically while speaking.

Obama then stepped to Mori and shook his hand. He bowed his head briefly and nodded as the man spoke. He patted Mori on the back and hugged him as the survivor shed a few tears.

The president's interaction with survivors was highly anticipated ahead of his historic visit. Obama did not apologize for the decision to bomb, but paid tribute to the victims and decried the horrors of war.

Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe then walked along a tree-lined path, past an eternal flame, toward a river that flows by the domed building that many associate with Hiroshima.

Obama at Hiroshima: 'Death fell from the sky'

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Barack Obama on Friday paid tribute to the "silent cry" of the 140,000 people killed by the world's first atomic bomb attack and sought to renew attention in his unfulfilled vision of a world without nuclear weapons, as he became the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima.

"Death fell from the sky and the world was changed," Obama said, after laying a wreath, closing his eyes and briefly bowing his head before an arched monument in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park that honors those killed on Aug. 6, 1945, when U.S. forces dropped the bomb that ushered in the nuclear age. The bombing, Obama said, "demonstrated that mankind possessed the means to destroy itself."

Obama did not apologize, instead offering, in a carefully choreographed display, a reflection on the horrors of war and his hope that Hiroshima would be remembered as the beginning of a "moral awakening." As he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stood near an iconic bombed-out domed building, Obama acknowledged the devastating toll of war and urged the world to do better.

"We stand here in the middle of this city and force ourselves to imagine the moment the bomb fell ...

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 13 of 35

we listen to a silent cry," Obama said.

A second atomic bomb, dropped on Nagasaki three days after Hiroshima, killed 70,000 more.

Obama also sought to look forward to the day when there was less danger of nuclear war. He received a Nobel Peace Prize early on in his presidency for his anti-nuclear agenda but has since seen uneven progress.

"We must have the courage to escape the logic of fear and pursue a world without them," Obama said of nuclear weapons.

Following the remarks, Abe called Obama's visit courageous and long-awaited. He said it would help the suffering of survivors and echoed the anti-nuclear sentiments.

"At any place in world, this tragedy must not be repeated again," Abe said.

The visit presented a diplomatic tightrope for a U.S. president trying to make history without ripping open old wounds.

Critics believe Obama's mere presence in Hiroshima will be viewed as an apology for what they see as a justified attack. But he has also drawn praise from those who see it as a long overdue gesture for two allies ready to bury a troubled past.

Obama's remarks showed a careful awareness of the sensitivities. He included both South Koreans and American prisoners of war in recounting the death toll at Hiroshima — a nod to advocates for both groups that publicly warned the president not to forget their dead.

Obama spoke broadly of the brutality of the war that begat the bombing, but did not assign blame.

After his remarks, he met with two survivors, but his remarks to the aging men were out of ear shot of reporters.

At one point, Obama could be seen laughing and smiling with 91-year-old Sunao Tsuboi, and he embraced Shigeaki Mori, 79, in a hug. But mostly, Obama just listened the men as they spoke through an interpreter.

The visit was meant to demonstrate the strength of the U.S.-Japanese alliance, and Obama and Abe took each step together. The men walked along a tree-lined path, past an eternal flame, toward a river that flows by the domed building that many associate with Hiroshima.

They went to the lobby of the peace museum to sign the guest book: "We have known the agony of war. Let us now find the courage, together, to spread peace, and pursue a world without nuclear weapons," Obama wrote, according to the White House.

The president's call for a nuclear-free world was a far cry from the optimistic rallying cry he delivered as young, newly elected president. Obama did not employ his campaign slogan — "Yes, we can" — as he did in a speech in Prague in 2009. Instead, the president hoped for the "courage to escape the logic of fear" and spoke of diligent, incremental steps.

"We may not realize this goal in my lifetime but persistent effort can roll back the possibility of catastrophe," he said. "We can chart a course that leads to the destruction of these stockpiles."

Obama touched down in Hiroshima after completing talks with world leaders at an international summit in Shima, Japan.

Those who come to ground zero at Hiroshima speak of its emotional impact, of the searing imagery of the exposed steel beams on the iconic A-bomb dome. The skeletal remains of the exhibition hall have become an international symbol of peace and a place for prayer.

Bomb survivor Kinuyo Ikegami, 82, paid her own respects at the cenotaph on Friday morning, well before Obama arrived, lighting incense and chanting a prayer.

Tears ran down her face as she described the immediate aftermath of the bomb.

"I could hear schoolchildren screaming: 'Help me! Help me!'" she said. "It was too pitiful, too horrible.

Even now it fills me with emotion.”

Han Jeong-soon, the 58-year-old daughter of a Korean survivor, was also at the park Friday.

“The suffering, such as illness, gets carried on over the generations — that is what I want President Obama to know,” she said. “I want him to understand our sufferings.”

Obama’s visit is a moment 71 years in the making. Other American presidents considered coming, but the politics were still too sensitive, the emotions too raw. Jimmy Carter visited as a former president in 1984.

How Alibaba won _ and lost _ a friend in Washington

ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press

DESMOND BUTLER, Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — In 2011, a respected anti-counterfeiting coalition in Washington escalated its fight against the Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, saying that its websites served as a 24-hour market “for counterfeiters and pirates” and should be blacklisted.

Fast forward to 2016. That lobbying group, the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition, called Alibaba “one of our strongest partners,” welcomed it as a member and invited its founder, Jack Ma, to speak at its spring conference.

Alibaba won — and ultimately lost— a friend in Washington using legal methods long deployed by corporate America: money and influence. A month after it became the first e-commerce company to join the IACC, Alibaba got kicked out.

An Associated Press analysis of public filings shows that as personal and financial ties between Alibaba and the coalition deepened, the group’s public comments shifted from criticism to praise, even as others — including the U.S. and Chinese governments — took a harder line.

Those who believe Alibaba intentionally profits from the sale of fakes fear the company could lobby its way out of having to make meaningful changes. That, critics say, would benefit the multibillion-dollar counterfeiting industry, which costs U.S. companies money, can imperil consumers’ safety and feeds an underground money-laundering industry. Alibaba is at the forefront of China’s rise on the global stage, and the anxiety and suspicion that have greeted the company abroad are, to some extent, anxiety and suspicion about China itself.

Alibaba was among the first Chinese companies to play politics seriously inside the beltway, and may not have realized how even the smallest misstep can backfire, said Sean Miner, China program manager for the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

“Their reputation has preceded them,” he said. “Some Americans might think, ‘Why don’t you go home and fix the problems first?’”

When Robert Barchiesi, a gruff-talking former New York cop, took over the IACC, the coalition singled out Alibaba and its Taobao platform for facilitating the large-scale sale of fakes. The U.S. Trade Representative placed Taobao on a blacklist in 2008.

Alibaba responded by ramping up its game in Washington. In 2012, Alibaba’s lobbying expenditures shot up from \$100,000 a year to \$461,000, and has remained fairly steady since, according to Opensecrets.org. It has hired several well-connected people, including a former general counsel for the U.S. Trade Representative and a former White House senior director for intellectual property enforcement coordination.

By the end of 2012, Alibaba was off the notorious markets list. The U.S. Trade Representative commended Taobao for its “notable efforts” to work with rights-holders.

The next year, the coalition signed an agreement with Alibaba to expedite removal of counterfeit

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 15 of 35

goods through a program called MarketSafe. The coalition charged its members \$12,500 last year to participate.

The coalition had found a way to monetize brands' frustration with Alibaba's take-down procedures. Barchiesi's daughter-in-law, Kathryn Barchiesi, provided "investigative support" for MarketSafe. The coalition says the program is not profitable, but those fees helped the IACC more than double revenues, to \$2.6 million, during Robert Barchiesi's tenure.

Five weeks before Alibaba's 2014 public offering on the New York Stock Exchange, Barchiesi went on CNBC and deflected attention from Alibaba, saying counterfeiting on Alibaba's sites was a "microcosm of a bigger problem." He praised the company for working "in good faith" with the coalition.

What Barchiesi didn't say is that he too would buy shares in Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

He bought shares on that first wild day of trading, at \$91 each, according to the coalition, which says his holdings represent a "small percentage" of his portfolio. Alibaba's shares shot up 38 percent in one day. It was the largest IPO in history, catapulting Ma to near-mythic status.

By 2015, the coalition had stopped complaining about Alibaba to U.S. officials, focusing instead on the "true cooperation and partnership" they enjoyed through MarketSafe. But neither the U.S. nor China was convinced the company had turned a corner.

In January 2015, Chinese regulators published a report stating that just 37 percent of the goods purchased on Taobao were genuine. Alibaba disputed the accuracy of the report, which disappeared from the Chinese internet.

Meanwhile, the American Apparel & Footwear Association, which represents over 1,000 brands, urged U.S. authorities to put Taobao back on the counterfeiting blacklist. "The slow pace has convinced us that Alibaba is either not capable of or interested in addressing the problem," the group told U.S. authorities.

In December, the U.S. Trade Representative reported that Alibaba's platforms had been "widely criticized" for selling large quantities of counterfeit goods. It urged Alibaba to "enhance cooperation."

The next month, Matthew Bassiur, a longtime friend of Barchiesi's with deep ties to the coalition, started work as Alibaba's chief of global intellectual property enforcement.

The coalition continued to praise Alibaba to U.S. officials and in April welcomed the company as its first e-commerce member.

Members revolted. Michael Kors and Gucci America quit in noisy protest. Tiffany left soon after, citing governance issues.

The coalition suspended Alibaba's membership category the same day the AP published an investigation revealing Barchiesi's Alibaba stock ownership. The coalition's board vowed to commission an independent review.

Ma's keynote speech at the coalition's conference was called off; Alibaba's president spoke instead.

But Ma came to America anyway, and left no doubt that despite its public relations debacle, Alibaba has succeeded in making inroads with Washington.

Reporters spotted him leaving the White House in a crush of black umbrellas last week after a quiet lunch with President Barack Obama.

He pronounced the meeting "very good," ducked in a waiting car and was gone.

In police cases, black activists push reforms outside court

JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Black activists in Baltimore and beyond say they are disappointed but not discouraged after neither of the first two police officers to stand trial in the death of a man who was injured in the back of a police van was convicted.

A number of black leaders said that they had low expectations of seeing anyone found guilty in the death of Freddie Gray. And they say bringing about real and lasting change in the criminal justice system will require action both inside and outside the courtroom, including pushing for new laws and reforms in police procedures.

"You don't judge a war by winning or losing battles," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, a longtime civil rights leader. "We're not prosecutors; we're activists. If you gauge (the 1960s) by one case, it's depressing. If you look at the bills that came out of it, you understand the big picture."

Gray died just over a year ago after suffering a broken neck in the back of a police van while he was handcuffed and shackled but not buckled in. His death triggered the worst riots in decades in Baltimore and added his name to the list of unarmed black people in the U.S. who have died in confrontations with police.

Baltimore's top prosecutor swiftly filed charges against six officers, two of whom have gone to trial. One case ended with the jury deadlocked; that officer will be retried in the fall. The other case ended Monday with a judge acquitting an officer of assault and other charges.

"The policies related to policing almost guarantee that police officers will never be held criminally responsible for their actions," said Baltimore activist DeRay Mckesson, who launched his activism in the wake of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. "Most of these verdicts merely confirm that understanding."

At the same time, he and other civil rights activists noted that there are still five trials ahead, including that of the van driver, who faces the most serious charge of all, second-degree murder. And some said seeing police officers put on trial is itself a sign of progress, regardless of the outcome.

Across the country, demands for accountability in the deaths of unarmed blacks in recent years have met with mixed results.

Prosecutors declined to indict the officers involved in the Ferguson case, the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland or the chokehold death of Eric Garner in New York. On the other side of the ledger, Michael Slager, a former police officer in North Charleston, South Carolina, will face trial in the killing of Walter Scott, who was gunned down as he ran away.

"No trial is going to bring back a stolen life," said Ashley Green, an organizer in Tampa, Florida, with the Dream Defenders. "But don't insult us by not even taking the step to ask the question of whether this person deserved to die. That's what we're really asking for when we demand a trial."

Adam Jackson, founder of the Baltimore group Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, said the outcome of the Baltimore trials so far reveals fundamental and systemic flaws in the criminal justice system.

"We weren't expecting much," he said. "I think people are going to keep being frustrated and being angry about the results, but our argument the whole time is that the system is designed to protect law enforcement officials."

Activists point out that they managed to change the system in other ways, outside the courtroom, in some of the cities roiled by killings.

They mobilized to defeat prosecutors at the ballot box in Cleveland and Chicago, while in Ferguson the police chief and a judge resigned, organizers worked to register more black voters, and more blacks

got elected to the City Council. The unrest in Baltimore resulted in the firing of the police commissioner, Anthony Batts.

Additionally, the U.S. Justice Department has launched investigations into several police departments, including Ferguson and Baltimore. And police reform has become part of the conversation in the 2016 presidential election, something that was not on the radar in recent cycles.

Activists are also pushing to attack what they see as some of the root causes of violence, including inadequate housing, education and job opportunities.

"We know that accountability will require a change in laws and it will require pressure from the courts, just as it has required pressure from the streets," said Mckesson, who co-founded Campaign Zero, an advocacy group aimed at police reform. "It's all of these things working in concert, never just one."

Abe claims success as G-7 leaders back action on economies

MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

ELAINE KURTENBACH, Associated Press

SHIMA, Japan (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe claimed success Friday in winning support for his approach to fighting off a possible economic crisis from fellow leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations, despite mounting evidence the formula is failing to yield promised results in Japan.

In meetings at an isolated seaside resort renowned for its crayfish and pearls, Abe appealed for more action to stave off a downturn, insisting that an earlier lack of urgency contributed to the financial crisis of 2008-2009.

Wrapping up the gathering with a sweeping declaration and several additional "action plans," the leaders acknowledged increasing risks for the global economic outlook, including terrorism, legions of displaced people, and conflicts that "pose a serious threat to the existing rule-based international order."

But they said their countries had strengthened policies to avoid relapsing into crisis.

Attention swiftly shifted from the G-7 finale as Abe and U.S. President Barack Obama traveled to Hiroshima, where Obama became the first sitting American president to visit the city devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb in 1945 in the closing days of World War II.

Abe said the commitment by the leaders to "use all policy tools — monetary, fiscal and structural" was an endorsement of his own "Abenomics" three-pronged strategy for reviving Japan's sluggish growth.

"We agreed to mobilize all our resources and launch three 'arrows' of monetary, fiscal and structural reform measures," Abe said. "We will be launching Abenomics to the world."

"In order to avoid risks of the world economy falling into crisis, Japan will also do its utmost to cooperate and take leadership, mobilizing all possible resources, and boost the engine of Abenomics," he said.

More than three years after Abe took office vowing to "Bring Japan Back!" from more than two decades of economic doldrums, his formula has yet to deliver the desired results: rising wages, business investment and a sustained recovery that places the world's third-largest economy into a "virtuous cycle."

After a slight uptick in growth earlier this year, economists say conditions in Japan have deteriorated, partly due to the slowdown in China and other emerging economies.

But backing from his G-7 counterparts may give Abe a boost as his ruling Liberal Democratic Party heads into a July parliamentary election. It also could embolden him to put off an unpopular increase in the national sales tax, to 10 percent from 8 percent.

"Abenomics is not a failure at all," Abe told reporters, declaring he would "rev up the engine of Abenomics to the highest level possible."

While they did not formally concur with Abe that the world is poised on the brink of crisis, the G-7

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 18 of 35

leaders did claim a special responsibility for beefing up their own economic policies.

Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, also said the world was "no longer in a 2008 moment."

"We are out of the crisis but we are suffering the legacy of the crisis," Lagarde said, pointing to bad loans on the books of companies and banks as one of the biggest causes of concern.

But she said, "Many countries can do quite a lot and some more than they are currently doing."

The G-7 summit brought together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. Leaders of major international organizations and a select group of developing countries attended "outreach" sessions held after the G-7 summit meetings ended.

The group's discussions addressed a wide range of issues, including terrorism and other risks to peace and global growth, the massive flows of refugees and migrants to Europe to escape conflict and poverty at home, global threats to public health, cybercrime, corruption and efforts to help girls and women.

The leaders also expressed unease over territorial tensions in the East and South China seas. The declaration does not specifically mention China and its expansion into disputed areas, but calls for respect for freedom of navigation and overflights and for resolving conflicts peacefully through law.

But the main focus was on economic challenges.

In their statement, the leaders denounced protectionism and trade barriers and noted the negative impact of overcapacity in some industries. One of the biggest headaches, Abe said, was a glut in China's steel industry.

"It's a root cause distorting the market, and unless it's fundamentally resolved, the problem persists," he said.

The group said Britain's possible exit from the European Union, depending on the outcome of a June 23 vote, is one of many potential shocks for the global economy.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said staying in the EU is "all about Britain's national interest."

"The EU makes us better off. Better off in terms of jobs, better off in terms of growth. Better off in terms of investment by other countries into our economy that creates the growth and the jobs and the livelihoods that we need," Cameron said.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. OBAMA MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO HIROSHIMA

"Death fell from the sky and the world was changed," the president says in a somber speech in the city where the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb.

2. SIGNAL DETECTED FROM DOOMED EGYPTAIR JETLINER

The beacon narrows the search for the aircraft to a 5-kilometer (3-mile) radius in the Mediterranean, where it crashed with 66 passengers and crew on board, an Egyptian official says.

3. WHO'S GETTING SERIOUS LOOK FROM YOUNG US VOTERS BESIDES SANDERS

Twenty-five percent of people under 30 in a Harvard poll say they would vote for Trump if he faced off against Hillary Clinton in the fall.

4. ALIBABA USES MONEY, INFLUENCE TO SWAY CRITICS, AP INVESTIGATION FINDS

In one instance, an anti-counterfeiting group went from calling for the world's biggest e-commerce platform to be blacklisted to counting it among its "strongest partners" in a few short years.

5. WHAT G-7 LEADERS SEE AS MAJOR RISK TO GLOBAL ECONOMY

The leaders, gathered at a summit in Japan, cite the possible departure of Britain from the European Union as one of a number of potential shocks to the world's financial system.

6. FATE OF SETTLER OUTPOST IS KEY TEST FOR NETANYAHU

A court order requires the Amona outpost in the West Bank be torn down by the end of the year — a move that's expected to face staunch opposition from within the prime minister's newly expanded hard-line government.

7. BAYLOR DEMOTES PRESIDENT, FIRES FOOTBALL COACH

The university is looking to rebuild its reputation and perhaps its football program after an outside review found its administrators mishandled allegations that football players sexually assaulted women.

8. US ISSUING PREDICTION FOR ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

The government forecast comes as experts urge coastal residents not to be complacent about their storm risks after 10 years without a major hurricane making a U.S. landfall.

9. DEADLOCK — YET AGAIN — AT SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

The competition ends in a tie for the third consecutive year, with Jairam Hathwar and Nihar Janga declared co-champs after a roller-coaster finish.

10. WHICH TEAMS WILL VIE FOR LORD STANLEY'S CUP

Pittsburgh downs Tampa Bay 2-1 in a Game 7 to win the Eastern Conference crown and advance to the finals against San Jose.

GM recalls 2.2 million cars in China

BEIJING (AP) — General Motors Co.'s main Chinese joint venture is recalling 2.2 million cars to deal with insufficient corrosion resistance on crankcase valves.

The recall was ordered after Shanghai-GM received complaints about engine damage, according to the country's product quality regulator. The automaker is a joint venture between GM and state-owned Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp.

The recall applies to Buick Excelle sedans and Chevrolet Cruzes, Epicas and Aveos. The product quality agency said GM will replace affected valves for free.

Sales by GM and its Chinese partners of GM-brand vehicles rose 5.2 percent last year to 3.6 million units.

US government set to release hurricane season outlook

JENNIFER KAY, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The U.S. government will release its forecast Friday for how many hurricanes and tropical storms are expected to form over Atlantic and Caribbean waters in the next six months.

It's an annual reminder from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that coastal living comes with significant risks.

The Atlantic hurricane season officially starts June 1, but tropical weather got a head-start this year: Hurricane Alex made an unseasonable debut in January over the far eastern Atlantic, and the National Hurricane Center says an area of low pressure between Bermuda and the Bahamas could be brewing into something bigger Friday or Saturday.

The long-term season averages are 12 named storms, with six hurricanes and three "major" ones with winds topping 110 mph.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 20 of 35

The 2015 season was slightly below average with 11 named storms, including two tropical storms that made landfall and caused flooding in South Carolina and Texas. Hurricane Joaquin, one of two storms to reach major hurricane strength, killed all 33 mariners aboard a cargo ship that sank off the Bahamas in October.

A U.S. Coast Guard panel is investigating the sinking of the El Faro, which was sailing from Jacksonville, Florida, to Puerto Rico when it got caught in Joaquin. Testimony since mid-May has shown the ship's captain received outdated storm information the day before the ship sank. Initial forecasts for Joaquin also were wildly inaccurate.

COASTAL RISKS

The last major hurricane to strike the U.S. mainland was Hurricane Wilma, which cut across Florida in 2005. Since then, the population in the 185 coastline counties most threatened by hurricanes has grown 8.7 percent to 59.2 million people, according to U.S. Census estimates.

Overall, 143.6 million people — 44.7 percent of the U.S. population — from Maine to Texas could be living in harm's way. Other Census figures hint at the potential financial risks throughout those states: 60.1 million housing units and 3.3 million business establishments with 52.3 million paid workers.

Storm winds can reach frightening speeds, but they aren't the deadliest threat. According to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, storm surge and rainfall flooding combine for three-quarters of all U.S. deaths from hurricanes, tropical storms or tropical depressions.

MAJOR DAMAGE

In the Bahamas, Joaquin caused over \$60 million in damage, according to the hurricane center. The islands reported widespread flooding that contaminated drinking water, cut off an airport and swamped a local fishing fleet.

Even "minor" storms can leave misery behind. After Tropical Storm Erika swept through the Caribbean last year, damage estimates on the island of Dominica ranged up to \$500 million for homes, roads, bridges and infrastructure, and Puerto Rico reported \$17.4 million in agricultural losses for plantains, bananas and coffee.

These lessons have hit home in the Northeast, wracked by catastrophic flooding first from Hurricane Irene in 2011 and again from Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Damage estimates tallied in the tens of billions of dollars.

Due to the financial hardships left in Sandy's wake, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said Monday that it's overhauling its appeals process for flood insurance claims with more transparency and oversight. Homeowners will be able to take disputes directly to FEMA instead of first going through the insurance companies they're fighting.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Rising sea levels are expected to increase the vulnerability of coastal communities to flooding from tropical systems. While some aspects of hurricane development still aren't fully understood, recent research indicates climate change is likely to make hurricanes more intense in the future.

Improved computer models show that warming atmospheric conditions may hinder tropical cyclone development worldwide, says David Nolan, a University of Miami professor of atmospheric sciences.

But the hurricanes that do form could grow more intense because ocean temperatures will be higher, Nolan says. Warm ocean waters feed hurricanes like fuel in an engine.

"The ones that do occur could be a little bit stronger," Nolan says, "but the changes over the next 10,

20, 30 years would be very small, almost undetectable.”

West Bank outpost’s impending evacuation a test for Israel

TIA GOLDENBERG, Associated Press

AMONA OUTPOST, West Bank (AP) — The fate of 50 white caravans perched atop a West Bank hill in the Amona settler outpost is emerging as a key test for Benjamin Netanyahu’s newly-expanded hard-line government.

Under a Supreme Court order, the government must tear down the outpost by the end of the year — a move expected to face staunch opposition from within the coalition and pit security forces against the wishes of leading members of the Cabinet.

Amona is the largest of about 100 unauthorized outposts — built without permission but generally tolerated by the government — that dot the West Bank. The outpost became a symbol of settler defiance after a partial evacuation a decade ago sparked violent clashes between residents and security forces. The impending evacuation, ordered in 2014, could lead to another showdown.

In a surprise move last week, Netanyahu sacked Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon to make way for Avigdor Lieberman, the hawkish leader of the Yisrael Beiteinu party — and a settler himself — to take the post, which oversees the settlements. The addition of Yisrael Beiteinu buttresses the nationalist, pro-settler camp in Netanyahu’s government and could increase the pressure on the Israeli leader to find a way to wriggle out of the Amona evacuation.

“The goal is to keep the settlement in its place,” said Bezalel Smotrich, a lawmaker with the pro-settler Jewish Home party, a coalition member. “We are in a right-wing coalition that wants to develop the settlements, really doesn’t want to demolish Amona and is ready to make an effort (to keep it).”

Critics say that Netanyahu’s support for settlements, regardless of who makes up his Cabinet, means Amona’s evacuation may not proceed smoothly.

“I think that the prime minister would do all he can to prevent an evacuation one way or another,” said Hagit Ofran, from the settlement watchdog group Peace Now. She said Israel must comply with the court order but that the government typically “looks for ways to delay it, to change it, to devise new schemes that can stop the evacuation.”

In a statement, the Defense Ministry said it “operates in accordance with the law and with court decisions.” Netanyahu’s office declined comment.

Aside from the rogue outposts, the West Bank is home to another 120 settlements that Israel considers legal. The Palestinians and the international community consider both settlements and outposts illegal or illegitimate and an obstacle to the creation of a Palestinian state. In a position that is widely backed internationally, the Palestinians want the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, for their hoped-for state.

Amona was established in the mid-1990s, when a small group of settlers, quietly beckoned by government-funded infrastructure, erected caravans on the rugged knoll that has since blossomed to house some 50 families, or about 250 people.

In 2008, a group of Palestinians, represented by the Israeli rights group Yesh Din, petitioned Israel’s Supreme Court, claiming Amona settlers had encroached on their land and demanded the entire outpost be dismantled. The court petition set off a protracted legal battle that saw a number of proposed evacuation dates missed and repeatedly delayed until a final ruling in 2014 ordered the state to demolish the outpost by Dec. 25, 2016. The state also agreed to compensate the landowners with about \$75,000.

While the state legally must comply with the court order, the constant delays mean the Palestinian landowners remain deeply skeptical.

"We don't believe that Netanyahu will remove this settlement. We won't believe it until we see it happen with our own eyes," said Issa Zayed, who used to cultivate olives, almonds and figs when he last had access to his land nearly 20 years ago. He stares longingly at his 40-acre (16-hectare) plot from a nearby hilltop.

Amona residents and their supporters in government vow not to bow down easily and are pushing to have the government find a loophole that would allow the settlers to stay put and legalize the outpost.

"You don't uproot someone from his home," said Avichay Buaron, who heads the campaign to keep Amona intact. "There are many politicians and many Israeli leaders who want to solve the problem and that is the big question. Will they succeed in the next half a year to solve it or not? We are hoping and praying that the answer is yes."

Asked if Amona could descend into the kind of violence seen in 2006, Buaron said he hopes not, but that he won't hesitate to round up supporters to protest any evacuation.

Signs of permanence flourish in Amona, which has paved roads, rows of vineyards and a basketball court. Prominent banners at West Bank intersections read: "Recognize Amona, save the settlements."

The government has proposed building a new settlement to house the Amona evacuees, according to the Israeli daily Haaretz, a step that has settled previous disputes. Buaron said Amona residents refuse to accept the offer, determined to stay in their homes, where they say they have planted roots and raised their children.

While the court ruling to evacuate Amona was welcomed as a great success for the Palestinian landowners, the resettlement proposal has struck Palestinians and rights groups as counterproductive because it does not decrease the ballooning number of settlers in the West Bank, which now stands at around 400,000 people.

Shlomy Zachary, a lawyer with Yesh Din, said the Amona case shows that the Supreme Court is "nearly the only defense" for Palestinians with claims against the settlements. He said that since the 2006 evacuation, Amona continues to symbolize a lack of law enforcement in the West Bank.

"I don't know what the government is planning. I know that there is a final judgment and everyone is bound to this judgment, including the government," he said.

Origin of key Clinton emails from report are a mystery

CHAD DAY, Associated Press

STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

JACK GILLUM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Since her use of a private email server was made public last year, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has insisted she turned over all work-related emails to the State Department to be released to the public.

But after 14 months of public scrutiny and the release of tens of thousands of emails, an agency watchdog's discovery of at least three previously undisclosed emails has renewed concerns that Clinton was not completely forthcoming when she turned over a trove of 55,000 pages of emails. And the revelation has spawned fresh criticism from presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

The three messages — which appear to have been found among electronic files of four former top Clinton State Department aides — included Clinton's own explanation of why she wanted her emails kept private. In a November 2010, email, Clinton worried that her personal messages could become

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 23 of 35

accessible to outsiders.

Two other messages a year later divulged possible security weaknesses in the home email system she used while secretary of state. The Clinton campaign has previously denied that her home server was compromised.

On Thursday, Clinton, who has called her use of a private email server "a mistake," said she had been forthcoming with her personal emails and said she believed her use of a private email account was allowed.

"I have provided all of my work-related emails, and I've asked that they be made public, and I think that demonstrates that I wanted to make sure that this information was part of the official records," Clinton said, according to an interview transcript provided by ABC News.

Most of Clinton's emails have been made public by the State Department over the past year due to both a court order and Clinton's willingness to turn them over. But hundreds were censored for national security reasons and 22 emails were completely withheld because the agency said they contained top secret material — a matter now under investigation by the FBI.

Clinton said in March 2015 that she would turn over all work-related emails to the State Department after removing private messages that contained personal and family material. "No one wants their personal emails made public and I think most people understand that and respect their privacy," she said after her exclusive use of private emails to conduct State Department business was confirmed by media reports.

Senate investigators have asked for numerous emails about Clinton's server as part of their own inquiry into Clinton's email practices in recent months, but they didn't get copies of key messages made public by the State Department's own watchdog this week, a senior Republican senator said Thursday.

"It is disturbing that the State Department knew it had emails like this and turned them over to the inspector general, but not to Congress," said Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley, the chair of the Senate judiciary committee that's been probing Clinton's use of a private server.

The emails appear to contain work-related passages, raising questions about why they were not turned over to the State Department last year. The inspector general noted that Clinton's production of work-related emails was "incomplete," missing not only the three emails but numerous others covering Clinton's first four months in office.

The inspector general also found Clinton's email set up violated agency policies and could have left sensitive government information vulnerable. It also complicated federal archiving of her emails, in turn making it more difficult to obtain them under the Freedom of Information Act.

On Thursday, Clinton told ABC News her use of the personal email was "allowed," saying that "the rules have been clarified since I left." In a later interview Thursday with CNN, Clinton said she "believed it was allowed."

A spokesman for the Clinton campaign did not respond to emailed questions Thursday. An inspector general's spokesman declined to discuss the report.

The report said the inspector general was able to reconstruct some of Clinton's missing emails by searching the email files of four former Clinton aides who had turned over thousands of pages of communications in 2015 at the request of the State Department, which is defending itself in multiple public records lawsuits, including one filed by The Associated Press. The four aides who turned over those files, according to the report, were Clinton's former chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, and top aides Huma Abedin, Jake Sullivan and Philippe Reines.

Abedin was the aide who authored the key email in November 2010 that provoked Clinton's concerns about outsiders obtaining her personal emails. After the State Department's computer spam filters

apparently prevented Clinton from sending a message to all department employees from her private server, Abedin suggested that she either open an official agency email or make her private address available to the agency.

Clinton told Abedin she was open to getting a separate email address but didn't want "any risk of the personal being accessible." Clinton never used an official State Department address, only using several private addresses to communicate. Abedin, Mills, Sullivan and Reines all also used private email addresses to conduct business, along with their government accounts.

Two other emails sent to Abedin were cited in the inspector general's report, but also did not turn up among the emails released by Clinton. Those messages to Abedin contained warnings in January 2011 from an unidentified aide to former President Bill Clinton who said he had to shut down Hillary Clinton's New York-based server because of suspected hacking attacks.

In response, Abedin warned Mills and Sullivan not to email Clinton "anything sensitive" and said she would "explain more in person."

Dump Trump? Some millennials aren't so sure

GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Brendan De Regla drove three hours and waited in line for half a day to see Donald Trump speak at a rally in Southern California.

Dozens of college-aged protesters shouted on the other side of a police line, but De Regla, 22, stood unwaveringly in support of Trump.

"I just fell in love with him immediately," he said, sporting a "Make America Great Again" T-shirt. "Since day one, I've loved him. But I knew it would take some time for people to figure out what he was about and what he was going to do and it's finally happening."

While most polls show Bernie Sanders is the overwhelming favorite of millennials — voters between the ages of 18 and 35 — some young voters are taking a serious look at Trump as the primary season rolls on. In a Harvard Institute of Politics poll out this spring, 25 percent of people under 30 said they would vote for Trump if he faced off against Hillary Clinton in the fall.

Sanders still has the clear advantage among millennials, and the same Harvard poll shows 80 percent of young people with a very favorable opinion of Sanders would vote for Clinton if he drops out.

But young voters are united in their anger and disillusionment, having come of age during the Great Recession. Trump has tapped into that subset of those voters in the same way as Sanders, despite their radically different policy proposals, said Morley Winograd, a senior fellow at the University of Southern California who has authored books on millennials.

Young voters think: "The system is rigged, I need somebody to totally overthrow the system' and that's what Trump says he's going to do and that's what Sanders says he's going to do," he said. "You can understand where there might be those commonalities."

Millennials are also deeply suspicious of corporate power and bureaucracy, in part because many watched their own families suffer during the economic meltdown. That leads to a greater distrust of Clinton, who is seen as part of the establishment; 53 percent of those under 30 say they dislike Clinton, according to the Harvard IOP poll.

"Right now, their disapproval of her is kind of hard to watch in some ways," said Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University, which has studied millennial voting patterns in this election. What seems to be missing is party loyalty among young people who are voting, Kawashima-Ginsberg said. "It seems to be a mistake to assume that because there's a Democratic Party nominee that they will vote for that person."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 25 of 35

That's already been the case for 28-year-old Newport Beach voter Kevin Morton.

Morton, who is black, voted for Barack Obama in 2008, but then he lost his house to foreclosure during the recession and was unemployed for a year.

Now a self-employed small business owner, Morton said he began to follow politics more closely and studied up on what caused the economic collapse and world politics.

He briefly considered Sanders for his honesty, but ultimately settled on Trump because Sanders is "too hippyish."

"I'm going to vote Republican this election but that doesn't mean I'm Republican. ... This is a choice we're making for the next four years."

Even some of the youngest millennials who didn't suffer the brunt of the recession see promise in Trump.

Jeremy Wiggins, 20, is a junior at the University of Missouri and a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

He plans to vote for Trump at the convention although he, too, respects Sanders for his message, he said.

"You have an honesty (with) Sanders or Trump, an honesty with your candidate," he said. "But for why you'd choose Trump over Sanders, for somebody my age you're going to be in the job market very soon, starting your first job, getting health insurance and ... we want the jobs to be there."

Trump is still a long way from cementing the support of these voters, who "grew up with this cultural norm of not bullying, being inclusive and with diversity being seen as a strength, not a weakness," said Thad Kousser, a professor of political science at the University of California, San Diego.

"Donald Trump has to talk in a different way if he's going to get these voters. He can't just be that bully who says we need these jobs back," he said. "He needs a message for people who are still looking for good jobs and who are more comfortable with the new face of America."

Ian Smith, a 24-year-old who works with adolescents in drug and mental health rehab, showed up at the same Trump rally in suburban Southern California.

He grew up with a Democratic activist mother but was torn between Trump and Sanders before he was turned off on Trump by what he called the hatefulness of the crowd.

Now, he prefers Sanders, but says Trump might come back into consideration in a potential race with Clinton, who he thinks is an opportunist and a liar.

"To be perfectly honest, I'd flip a coin," Smith said of a choice between Trump and Clinton. "I don't like either, but I'm going to vote, no matter what."

National Spelling Bee ends in its unlikeliest tie to date

BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — If not for his high-pitched voice, there would be no way to peg Nihar Janga as the youngest-ever winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The 11-year-old breezed up to the microphone with confidence, and most of his words, he knew right away. He looked like the strongest speller onstage, stronger even than his eventual co-champion, 13-year-old Jairam Hathwar, a blue-chip speller whose older brother hoisted the trophy two years ago.

At his best, Nihar turned the tables on bee pronouncer Jacques Bailly by shouting out the definitions of his words as soon as they were announced.

"Biniou," Bailly said.

"Is this the Breton bagpipe?" Nihar said.

After the crowd quieted, Bailly asked Nihar if he wanted the word used in a sentence. Nihar just shook

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 26 of 35

his head.

But Nihar wasn't perfect, and he stumbled at just the wrong time — or perhaps the right time. Twice, Jairam missed a word, giving Nihar a chance to seal the title. Both times, Nihar followed up with his own flub. After each nailed his final two words, Nihar, from Austin, Texas, and Jairam, from Painted Post, New York, were declared co-champions. It was the third year in a row that the bee ended in a tie.

Bee organizers insisted they'd be OK with another tie, but they changed the rules to make it less likely. Instead of a pre-determined list of 25 "championship words" for the final three spellers, the bee instead forced the top three to go through up to 25 rounds. And the difficulty of the words could be adjusted as necessary.

Third-place finisher Snehaa Kumar of Folsom, California, bowed out in the first championship round. Nihar and Jairam had to spell 24 words apiece before it was over.

Nihar and Jairam have grown close over the past year, communicating mostly online. They chatted while others were spelling, high-fived after their words and embraced after they won. The timing of Nihar's misses was almost too perfect to believe, and Nihar denied afterward that he misspelled on purpose. He said he just didn't know the words.

"I wanted to win, but at the same time, I felt really bad for Jairam," he said.

Both were inspired by their favorite athletes. As the confetti fell, Nihar crossed his arms in homage to Dez Bryant's touchdown celebrations. The Dallas Cowboys receiver responded with a congratulatory tweet.

Jairam, whose dad takes him to play golf when he's had enough spelling practice, channeled his favorite player, Jordan Spieth.

"When he hits a bad shot, he always bounces back, on the next shot or the next hole," Jairam said. "When I missed those two words, I didn't let them get to my head, and I just focused on the next word."

It was the second straight year that a sibling of a past champion won the bee. Jairam's brother, Sriram, was a 2014 co-champion. Sriram, too, got a reprieve when his co-champion Ansun Sujoe missed a chance at the solo title.

"Deja vu," Sriram said. "I thought it was over, because Nihar is so strong, such a great speller."

The words were as tricked-up as ever. Because the best spellers become fluent in Latin and Greek roots, the bee went to words from languages with less infiltration into English, including Afrikaans, Danish, Irish Gaelic, Maori and Mayan.

Jairam's winning word was Feldenkrais, which is derived from a trademark and means a system of body movements intended to ease tension. Niram won with gesellschaft, which means a mechanistic type of social relationship.

Among the words they got right: Kjeldahl, Hohenzollern, juamave, groenedael, zindiq and euchologion.

Each receives \$45,000 in cash and prizes. Snehaa takes home \$20,000 for finishing third, and Sylvie Lamontagne of Lakewood, Colorado, got \$10,000 for fourth place. Snehaa and Sylvie are 13-year-old eighth-graders who have exhausted their bee eligibility.

Nihar was in his first bee and would have had three more years of eligibility, but he can't compete again since he won. This was the 89th bee, and while Scripps' records from early years are incomplete, the youngest known champion was Wendy Guey, who won 20 years ago at age 12. The last to win in his first attempt was Pratyush Buddiga in 2002.

Nihar said he didn't feel pressure to become the youngest winner for two reasons. First, he never

expected to win. Second, most of the crowd's attention was on an even younger speller: 6-year-old Akash Vukoti.

"He did pretty good for a first-grader," Nihar said. "He's going to go places."

Nihar and Jairam's parents are immigrants from south India, continuing a remarkable run of success for Indian-American spellers that began in 1999 with Nupur Lala's victory, which was later featured in the documentary "Spellbound." The bee has produced Indian-American champions for nine straight years and 14 out of the last 19.

Both, too, want to be doctors: Jairam hopes to study medicine at Harvard, and Nihar aspires to be a neurosurgeon.

In the meantime, Sriram will have to find a new way to one-up his baby brother.

"We do definitely have our verbal fights, not physical," Sriram said. "Now, I don't have that edge over him to say, 'Oh, at least I've won the spelling bee.'"

Group escapes Kentucky cave through neck-deep water

CLAIRE GALOFARO, Associated Press

BRUCE SCHREINER, Associated Press

HORSE CAVE, Ky. (AP) — Gary Russell was a mile deep in a Kentucky cave Thursday afternoon, leading a group of geology students on a five-hour tour, when he turned a corner and saw water rushing by where water wasn't supposed to be.

He had no way to communicate with the outside world. He had no idea that a flash flood was pouring through the cave's passages toward them, or that dozens of rescuers were already gathering at the entrance to begin a perilous hourslong journey to rescue them.

All he knew was that water wasn't supposed to be this deep in the cave, and that meant trouble.

Russell and his group were among 19 people who escaped the flooded Hidden River Cave on Thursday afternoon. They navigated neck-deep water, rushing currents and mud so thick it sucked off the police chief's boot. It was pitch black.

"It was shooting waterfalls out of the ceiling. The walls were thundering, there was so much water moving through it," said David Foster, the executive director of the American Cave Museum at Horse Cave and a guide for 30 years, who rushed into the darkness to help with the rescue. "You just don't know what Mother Nature is capable of. There's only so much cave, and there's way more water."

The group that spent more than six hours inside the cave included Clemson University students, four tour guides and two police officers who got trapped when they tried to rescue the group, Kentucky State Police Trooper B.J. Eaton said.

There was no communication between the stranded cavers and the more than 150 emergency personnel at the scene. Authorities didn't know exactly where the missing cavers were underground, and the only light the group had came from headlamps they wore.

Heavy rains began pouring down hours after the group ventured inside, Foster said. The storm hit earlier and harder than expected, and Foster grew so worried that he decided to call authorities and trek inside to get them.

The cavers were a group of college students from Clemson University in South Carolina on a field trip to explore the water system in the cave. Russell led four of them on what was supposed to be a five-hour trip beginning at 10 a.m., and another guide had a dozen. Until Russell noticed the water, they were unaware of the rising waters threatening to block the cave's entrance, which is the lowest point and first to flood.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 28 of 35

Hidden River Cave begins at a sinkhole, 150-feet deep, in the center of downtown Horse Cave. It has two subterranean rivers that flow more than 100 feet below ground.

As Russell tried to lead his group out, the mist grew so thick it kept fogging up one student's glasses. He could barely see and kept stumbling.

"Just imagine going hiking in the mountains at night during a rainstorm and a mudslide," Russell said. "That's what this feels like. The water was so loud, it was like a jetliner; it was roaring."

Russell and his group were surprised to find the rescuers at the cave's mouth. But the other guide's group was still unaccounted for.

Foster and Police Chief Sean Henry began working their way deeper into the cave. The water was waist high in places and rising. There's only one way out, and they knew they'd have to come back out the way they came in. At one point, Henry said he saw the water closing in behind him and wondered if he'd ever leave. He held his flashlight in one hand and radio in the other, though his radio stopped picking up a signal shortly after they entered.

They could hear nothing over the roar of the water. Foster started to doubt he'd come down the right passage. He said anxiety built like a rock in his stomach. Then they heard it: "We're here. We're OK!" The students had shouted after seeing their flashlights.

The way out was the most precarious, when they had to wade and swim through high water, Foster said. But they all made it through. They emerged about 4:30 p.m. Everyone lost was accounted for and uninjured.

"When they came out of the cave, they were neck-deep in water," Hart County Emergency Management Director Kerry McDaniel said.

"I've never been more happy to see the sunlight," Foster said. "It's such a good feeling when you get around the corner and you see the light, and you know you're going to make it out. What a relief."

Rapper facing charges in T.I. concert shooting

JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

STEPHANIE SIEK, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Fists were flying and then bullets inside a crowded New York City concert venue where four people were shot, one fatally, and now a rapper who police say was seen on surveillance footage firing a gun is facing attempted murder and weapons charges.

Roland Collins, who goes by the stage name Troy Ave, was arrested Thursday, a day after the deadly shooting at Irving Plaza, where hip-hop artist T.I. was set to perform. Police said a fistfight had broken out in a performers' lounge at the venue.

The man who died, 33-year-old Ronald McPhatter, was a member of Collins' entourage and had been there to provide security, according to his family. Collins, 30, suffered a gunshot wound to the leg, police said.

An 8-second video clip released by police shows the gunman bursting through the door of a VIP room in apparent pursuit of another man, who flees off-screen.

As concertgoers huddle under a counter and clutch each other, the gunman, who appears to be limping, stops and scans the room for a moment with his eyes. Then, he spots something, raises his gun and fires.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene.

"Everyone was hysterical, I was having a panic attack during the shooting, and the woman next to me was covering my mouth with her hand to try to get me to stop screaming," said Liv Hoffman, 19.

There were nearly 1,000 people in the venue when the shooting began. One of the victims, Christopher Vinson, 34, was shot in the chest on the venue's ground level after a bullet traveled through the floor, Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said. Another bystander, Maggie Heckstall, 26, was shot in the leg, authorities said.

The exact circumstances of what prompted the fight were still under investigation.

In an interview with WCBS radio, Police Commissioner William Bratton blamed the shootings on "the crazy world of the so-called rap artists who are basically thugs that basically celebrate the violence that they live all their lives."

That prompted an angry response from McPhatter's relatives and a city lawmaker, who derided the comments as insensitive and divisive.

"When white people are doing this violence, I don't hear the same language being used," said City Councilman Jumaane Williams, a Brooklyn Democrat who said he had worked on anti-violence initiatives with McPhatter and his older brother, Shanduke McPhatter, a former gang member.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said afterward he believed Bratton was "talking out of frustration."

Collins was in custody and couldn't be reached for comment Thursday. It was unclear if he had an attorney. A message left at a phone number listed for him wasn't immediately returned.

Shanduke McPhatter said his brother "got too much into" the glamour of the hip-hop scene, and it landed him Wednesday night in an environment where alcohol flowed freely and trouble broke out.

Trump agrees to debate Sanders but sets stiff price

Laurie Kellman, Associated Press

David Bauder, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump has provisionally accepted Bernie Sanders' proposal to debate, but the billionaire is setting a high price for participating. His condition: The hosting TV network would have to put up millions of dollars for charity.

Representatives for Fox News, ABC News and CBS News say the networks are interested in hosting such a showdown but would not comment on whether they'd be willing to put up the \$10 million Trump is demanding for women's health causes. "We're always interested in more opportunities to hear from the candidates," said ABC spokeswoman Julie Townsend.

Trump said Thursday a host network would make millions from sky-high ratings and should agree to turn over at least \$10 million to women's health causes.

Overlooking the impediment of Trump's price tag on his acceptance, Sanders tweeted that he was delighted that Trump accepted, adding: "Let's do it in the biggest stadium possible."

Trump and Sanders see potential benefits for pursuing a prime-time event that would be unprecedented, pitting the presumptive Republican nominee against the clear Democratic underdog — and excluding likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

But it's far from clear any such showdown will happen. In September, Trump proposed that CNN donate profits from the second GOP debate to charity. CNN never responded to the request, and the idea was dropped.

Clinton told reporters Thursday that she understood the proposal for a Sanders-Trump debate was "a joke" and she's looking forward to debating Trump in the general election campaign. Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs said the idea was no joke. "We're serious and hope Mr. Trump is, too," Briggs said.

He said Clinton declined to join Sanders in another Democratic debate.

Appearing on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," Sanders said of Clinton's refusal to debate in California: "I think it's kind of insulting to the people of the largest state in the United States of America." He said he

is genuinely interested in a faceoff with Trump, saying the pair sees the world in vastly different ways, adding that “the goal would be to have it in some big stadium.”

Leaving out Clinton could have the effect of belittling her, despite her commanding position on the verge of the Democratic nomination, and could give both men free shots at her decades in public service as part of the establishment they both deride.

For the publicity-loving Trump, such an event would allow him to make a pitch for Sanders supporters who are watching, along the lines of the populism that both men profess. Lately, Trump has been saying that Sanders is right on some issues, although they are fundamentally far apart on many.

For Sanders, appearing onstage with fellow native New Yorker Donald Trump would draw attention beyond his larger-than-expected base of young supporters.

Kelly McBride, a journalistic ethics expert and vice president at the Poynter Institute, said the idea of a charitable donation as a requirement “creates the perception of a conflict of interest but I don’t think it creates a real conflict of interest.” She said networks already compromise themselves by negotiating with campaigns over the moderators and formats for debates.

The back and forth came the same day an Associated Press count of GOP delegates found that Trump has enough support to exceed the 1,237 delegates required to win the GOP nomination. Sanders, in contrast, is far behind Clinton, who is 75 delegates short of the 2,383 needed to win the Democratic nomination. Clinton has commitments of support from 2,308 delegates to Sanders’ 1,539.

Moments from Trump’s rise in chaotic GOP race, now settled

LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nicknames. The outrage. The rallies — and the protests.

The moments history will probably remember from the fight for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination are a procession of rule-breaking clashes, followed by a slow-motion victory assured Thursday by a candidate no one — including himself — was sure would succeed.

In the AP’s delegate count, Donald Trump surpassed the number needed to give him the nomination. That essentially closed out a raucous race on a quiet note, as a small number of unbound delegates put him over the top by telling AP they had decided to support him.

Trump dominated the GOP race from the moment a gilded escalator delivered the tycoon into the mosh pit of 2016 presidential politics. That there were ever 16 other candidates seems like a footnote now; only four or so lasted long enough to become real threats, individually and collectively, to Trump’s march to the nomination. The rest were casualties from a seemingly bygone political era when candidates tried to “act presidential,” avoided insulting groups of voters and pretended they were men and women of the people.

Here’s a look back at memorable turns in the contest:

THE ESCALATOR RIDE

Trump’s descent from his penthouse into the basement of Trump Tower to announce his candidacy on June 16 was a spectacle that foreshadowed the many ways he would break the political rules.

For example: Play down your wealth so average Americans can relate to you. Mitt Romney stumbled over this one in 2012. Trump, who’s spent a lifetime branding himself as an American ideal of wealth, didn’t bother. He’s spent the year bragging about how rich he is and not pretending to have ever identified with the struggling Americans he wants to lead. This was the moment Trump framed himself not as a candidate people can relate to over a kitchen table, but as an aspirational figure who will “make

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 31 of 35

America great again.”

THE WALL AND MUSLIMS

Trump hasn't mentioned many specifics about his policy proposals or how he'd pay for them, but he's been clear about how he'd solve a pair of American "problems" involving people not from the U.S.

On illegal immigration: Trump says he'd build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico — and make Mexico pay for it. Good luck with that, Mexican leaders have responded (in less polite terms). Trump says he'll also throw out all 11 million people in the U.S. illegally.

His solution to the threat of attacks by Islamic radicals? Ban Muslims from entering the United States for an indefinite period.

THE RALLIES, THE PROTESTS

They're big, exciting and sometimes scary spectacles. Most important, Trump notes, they're not boring. "Are we having fun?" he asks. The crowd roars, every time.

But what Trump calls "lovefests" have been marred by fights, injuries and arrests. Inside the hall, the former reality star fuels the energy by dividing the crowd into good and bad — supporters, good; protesters and journalists, bad. Or as he puts it, "baaaaad."

He scans the hall for trouble — appearing eager to find it — and sometimes he gets it, in the form of protesters who sneak into the venue and interrupt him. He said at one point that he'd like to punch a protester in the face. Then it really happened — a white Trump supporter in North Carolina punched a black protester in the face.

Outside venues, there's been something other than love in the air. Fistfights broke out among protesters who filled a Trump rally in Chicago, prompting him to cancel the event. And this week in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a riot broke out at a Trump event among supporters and people protesting the candidate's position on immigration.

THE NICKNAMES

Trump displayed a gift for identifying supposed weaknesses of his rivals and turning them into nicknames that stuck. The mild-mannered Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida, never could shake Trump's characterization of him as "low energy" and "weak." Sen. Ted Cruz became "Lyn' Ted," which didn't make the widely disliked senator any more palatable. Trump's branding of Sen. Marco Rubio, the eager young Latino star of the GOP, particularly stung. The Florida senator became "Little Marco" and went on to lose his home state's GOP primary.

Now, with those rivals gone, Trump is talking about "Crooked Hillary" Clinton and "Crazy Bernie" Sanders.

THE GOP'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Ignore him. Talk about your own public policy plans. Take him out.

And finally, talk to him.

The Republican Party that emerged from Romney's 2012 loss to President Barack Obama vowed to appeal to Latinos and women as a matter of survival. They had no idea how to rid the presidential field of Trump, who was alienating these groups anew by proposing to deport people here illegally and remarking on the physical appearance of women.

The fact that he was spending his own money — at least \$43 million of it in the end — meant the party had zero leverage over the billionaire who refused, then promised, then wavered on whether to

support the eventual Republican presidential nominee if that person was not him.

As the late-night shows bubbled that the Trump jokes were virtually writing themselves, Republicans fretted. GOP leaders widely denounced him. In the hallways of Congress, Republicans went to elaborate lengths to avoid commenting. And still Trump surged. Only now, with Trump's hold on the nomination inevitable, is he reaching out to the very Washington establishment he's panned.

Republicans are increasingly giving Trump a chance — even if that's because they view almost anyone as preferable to Hillary Clinton. Also, there is no other choice — a desperate and late effort to derail Trump from the nomination fizzled.

For many — including House Speaker Paul Ryan, who has yet to endorse Trump — it's a close call.

THE SLO-MO VICTORY

"As far as I'm concerned, it's over."

That was Trump's reaction to his sweep April 26 of five state contests that he said rendered his only remaining opponents, Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, irrelevant. But it wasn't quite over.

In practical terms, Trump effectively won control of the race on May 3, when he defeated his rivals with 53 percent of the vote in Indiana — inspiring Cruz and Kasich to quit. That's what made clear that an extraordinary fight over delegates at the July convention — once seen as almost certain to happen — would be avoided.

After Trump's win in an empty field Tuesday in Washington state, he still was 28 delegates short of the 1,237 needed to secure the prize. The AP's count of GOP delegates Thursday found he had reached the magic number, 1,237.

Technically, it still isn't over until the delegates vote at the GOP convention in Cleveland this summer. But it's settled, and sooner than almost anyone could have imagined only weeks ago.

Over the top: Trump sews up delegates to seal GOP nomination

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Triumphantly armed with a majority of his party's delegates, Republican Donald Trump unleashed a broadside attack Thursday on Hillary Clinton's prescriptions for energy, guns, the economy and international affairs, shifting abruptly toward the general election with his likely Democratic opponent locked in a divisive primary contest.

The New York billionaire shrugged off signs of discord in his party hours after sewing up the number of delegates needed to clinch the GOP nomination, a feat that completed an unlikely rise that has upended the political landscape and set the stage for a bitter fall campaign.

"Here I am watching Hillary fight, and she can't close the deal," Trump crowed during an appearance in North Dakota. "We've had tremendous support from almost everybody."

Trump's good news was tempered by ongoing internal problems. Those include the sudden departure of his political director and continuing resistance by many Republican leaders, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, to declaring their support for his outsider candidacy.

At the same time, Clinton faced fresh questions about her use of a private email server while secretary of state, even as she fought to pivot toward Trump, who she warned would take the country "backward on every issue and value we care about."

The State Department's inspector general released a report a day earlier concluding that Clinton did

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 33 of 35

not seek legal approval for her private email server, guaranteeing the issue will continue nagging her campaign for a second summer. She insisted Thursday that she had done nothing wrong.

"It was allowed. And the rules have been clarified since I left about the practice. Having said that, I have said many times, it was a mistake. And, if I could go back, I would do it differently," Clinton said, according to an interview transcript provided by ABC News.

Campaigning before union workers in Las Vegas, she decried Trump's anti-union comments and his proposal to deport millions of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally. She said he is an "unqualified loose cannon" who should never be president.

Complicating her election challenge, Clinton's Democratic rival Bernie Sanders embraced the possibility of a one-on-one debate with Trump. The Republican said he'd "love to debate Bernie," but would want the debate to raise at least \$10 million for charity.

"The problem with debating Bernie," Trump noted, "he's going to lose."

Sanders, appearing on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," kept alive the notion of a debate, saying that he and Trump have "very different" views of the world. Sanders said "the goal would be to have it in some big stadium here in California."

Just 75 delegates short of her own delegate majority, Clinton remains on a path to clinch the Democratic presidential nomination, according to an Associated Press count. But Trump got there first.

The New York businessman sealed the majority by claiming a small number of the party's unbound delegates who told the AP they would support him at the national convention in July. Among them was Oklahoma GOP chairwoman Pam Pollard.

"I think he has touched a part of our electorate that doesn't like where our country is," Pollard said. "I have no problem supporting Mr. Trump."

It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination. Trump has reached 1,239 and will easily pad his total in primary elections on June 7.

Many on the right have been slow to warm to Trump, wary of his conservative bona fides. Others worry about his crass personality and the lewd comments he's made about women.

Trump said during a press conference Thursday that he would "absolutely" end his habit of attacking fellow Republicans now that the nomination is effectively his. But that truce appeared to be short-lived.

Speaking later at a rally in Billings, Montana, Trump said 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney, who has refused to endorse him, had "failed so badly." His campaign also released a celebratory Instagram video that features a montage of former rivals, including Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz, saying he would never be the party's nominee.

Still, millions of grass-roots activists, many of them outsiders to the political process, have embraced Trump as a plain-speaking populist.

Steve House, chairman of the Colorado Republican Party and an unbound delegate who confirmed his support of Trump to the AP, said he likes the billionaire's background as a businessman.

"Leadership is leadership," House said. "If he can surround himself with the political talent, I think he will be fine."

Still, Trump's pivotal moment comes amid a new sign of internal problems.

Hours before clinching the nomination, he announced the departure of political director Rick Wiley, who was leading the campaign's push to hire staff in key battleground states. In a statement, Trump's campaign said Wiley had been hired only until the candidate's organization "was running full steam."

His hiring about six weeks ago was seen as a sign that party veterans were embracing Trump's campaign. The White House contender ignored questions about internal problems on Thursday and instead took aim at Clinton.

He told a Bismarck audience that Clinton has “declared war on the American worker,” that she’s “going to abolish your right to own guns,” and that she created a foreign policy legacy “of total chaos.”

He said, “The choice in November is a choice between a Clinton agenda that puts donors first or an agenda that puts America first: my agenda.”

Trump also entered a new phase on the fundraising front. Having bashed donors for much of the past year, he hosted his first major campaign fundraiser the night before: a \$25,000-per-ticket dinner in Los Angeles.

At the Billings rally, Trump offered new specifics on his general election strategy.

“What I’m going to do is I want to focus on 15-or-so states,” he said, that could go “either way.”

Among those he mentioned: the Democratic bastions of California and New York, which he insists he can put into play.

Asian stocks mostly higher ahead of Yellen talk, US data

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets were mostly higher Friday as investors maintained a cautiously optimistic outlook while they waited for U.S. economic data and remarks by the Fed chief.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent to 16,843.73 and South Korea’s Kospi gained 0.2 percent to 1,961.15. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng slipped 0.3 percent to 20,329.79 and the Shanghai Composite Index dipped 0.2 percent to 2,815.72, but Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.5 percent to 5,415.90. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also rose.

FED RATE: Investors will be watching to see what Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen has to say about monetary policy. She’s scheduled to hold a “conversation” about interest rates with a professor at an event at Harvard University. The Fed has signaled that it will raise rates again at its next meeting in June if economic conditions continue to improve, another step in dialing back loose the loose monetary policy that has supported global stock markets.

MARKET INSIGHT: “Yellen’s public comments tonight could give markets good reason to remain cautious,” said Margaret Yang, an analyst at CMC Markets in Singapore. With a number of Fed governors signaling recently that they’re leaning toward favoring a rate hike, “her words will be closely watched by the market for a clearer picture of the market outlook.”

GROWTH OUTLOOK: Markets are also awaiting the latest U.S. quarterly growth figures to get a read on the health of the world’s biggest economy. Analysts expect the second of three estimates of gross domestic product, due out after Asian markets close, will be revised up to an annual 0.8 percent rate in the January-March quarter. That’s higher than the initial 0.5 percent estimate last month. Economists expect growth to rebound to about 2 percent in the current quarter and get stronger as the year progresses.

CHINA CHALLENGE: Stocks in Hong Kong and mainland China struggled after disappointing data from the world’s second-biggest economy. Industrial profits rose 4.2 percent last month compared with the year-ago period, slower than the 11.1 percent increase in March, official data showed. It’s the latest sign of economic weakness in China, where growth slowed last year to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent and is expected to decelerate further this year.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks barely budged, with the Dow Jones industrial average dipping 0.1 percent to 17,828.29. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index was nearly unchanged at 2,090.10. The Nasdaq composite index added 0.1 percent to 4,901.77.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil slipped lost 31 cents to \$49.17 a barrel in electronic trading on the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 27, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 301 ♦ 35 of 35

New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract slipped 8 cents to settle at \$49.48 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, fell 41 cents to \$49.76 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 109.95 yen from 109.70 yen. The euro dipped to \$1.1185 from \$1.1195.