

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 1 of 37

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Hanlon Brothers Ad
- 1- Manager Wanted
- 1- Apts. for Rent
- 2- Obit: Helen Walter
- 2- Larson Thank You
- 2- Hoops Family Reunion
- 3- Building Improvement Measures
- 3- Kindergarten Paras hired
- 4- PAC raises \$20,000 for playground
- 5- Cutting Edge Lawn Care Ad
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 5- Golden Living Center ad
- 6- Local Weather Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 7- Today's Weather Climate
- 7- National Weather map
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9 - AP News

President Orders Flags At Half-Staff For Orlando Victims

PIERRE, S.D. – President Obama has called for flags at half-staff, effective immediately, out of respect for the victims whose lives were taken by the violence in Orlando Florida, on Sunday, June 12.

Flags are to remain at half-mast until sunset on June 16.

Manager Wanted

Part Time Apartment Manager wanted. Responsible for showing apartments, handing out applications, overseeing maintenance and other duties as needed. Up to \$25 per hour. Previous sale experience a plus. Send email of interest to Grotnmnger@gmail.com

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**

© 2016 Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Gene & Ruby Luce, Jesse & Jaymie Overacker.

Birthdays: Seth Sims, Jonathan Fliehs, Janice Herman.

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

6:00pm: NESDU8 in Groton (Groton Red vs. Groton Blue in double header)

Thursday, June 16

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Pat & Lora McMahon.

Birthdays: Gavin Voss, Harry Pharis Jr., Virginia Abeln, Steve McKiver, Amy Brown, Marlys Torguson, Dustin Hendrickson, Maryn Howard, Paul Winther.

6:00pm: Legion hosts Webster (2)

6:00pm: NESDU10 in Britton (Groton Blue vs. Britton in double header)

6:00pm: NESDU10 in Groton (Groton Red vs. Aberdeen in double header)

6:00pm: NESDU12 in Groton (Groton Blue vs. Aberdeen in double header)

6:00pm: NESDU12 in Milbank West (Groton Red vs. Milbank Blue in double header)

Friday, June 17

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674



Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

The Life of Helen Walter



Helen Kay Walter, 76, died January 6, 2016 at their home with her husband Jack in Harlingen, Texas from complications of a 2014 stroke. Mass will be held in Groton, SD at Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Church at 10:30 July 9th, Burial will follow at the Groton Cemetery. She was born February 22, 1939 to Clair and Marcella (Reinert) Steenson in Aberdeen, SD. She attended school at Sacred Heart Elementary and graduated in 1957 from Aberdeen Central High School. She was united in marriage to Jack Walter on October 25th, 1958 and moved to Groton where they farmed and raised Angus cattle for over 50 years.

Helen enjoyed cooking, sewing, playing bridge and raising the couple's five children. She was active in Groton Jayceets, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Weight Watchers, Brown County 4-H, and SD Junior Angus Assn. Jack and Helen loved to camp and in later years traveled the winter months in their fifth wheel, visiting all 48 contiguous states. They settled in Harlingen, Texas as their winter home for more than 25 years. In 2012 Helen and Jack retired to Mina Lake where Helen took joy in watching the water and listening to the waves.

Grateful for sharing her life are her husband Jack of 57 years, five children; Kim Hill and fiancé Mike, Marietta, GA; Mark and wife Barb of Centerville, SD; Scott and wife Vicki of Tyler, TX; Pam Geppert and husband Kent of Kimball; and Dani Bolte of Sioux Falls; twelve grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and one brother, Jim Steenson and wife Ruth of Kalispell, MT. She is preceded in death by her parents, four siblings, Marion, Dick, Betty and Marilyn and son-in-law Kurt Hill.

Larson Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the shower gift from Loris pharmacy. I received many wonderful gifts that will help Tom and I as we begin our marriage. We feel blessed by all the wonderful people in the Groton community.

Thank you, Emily Larson

Hoops Family Reunion

John and Mary Hoops family reunion will be held on June 26th at the Groton Community Center. The pot luck dinner is at 12:30pm with Chicken and drinks provided.

Updated during meeting to exclude new classroom addition & relocate main office. Revised budget will be provided.

ADDED LEVY REVENUE:

- Scenario A: \$16.0M @ \$0.671/\$1,000
- Scenario B: \$18.9M @ \$0.793/\$1,000
- Scenario C: \$20.9M @ \$0.915/\$1,000
- Scenario D: \$23.8M @ \$1.098/\$1,000

**Group Exercise -
Discuss Project Options**

In case you have not heard, the Groton Area School District has been considering facility changes to keep up with the needs of education in both the middle/high school building and the elementary building. There are many things being considered, including replacing the 1934 addition, which is about \$2 million more than remodeling it, or 12 percent of the total cost. There are many, many Building Improvement Measures that are being proposed by Foster, Jacobs and Johnson. Theater type bleachers one one side and regular bleachers for the other side of the the gym as the current bleachers have reached the end of their useful life. Many classrooms will be enlarged and changed in both buildings. Much more information will be forthcoming.

Kindergarten Paras hired

Alexa Schuring was hired as a professional for Renee Swisher's kindergarten class and Teresa Foertsch was hired as a kindergarten paraprofessional for Ann Gibbs side. Deb Tollifson was reassigned from a kindergarten paraprofessional to an RtI paraprofessional.

During the principal's reports, Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that the half day for track and field went really well and they plan to do the same again next year. He also reported that the OST students went to ballfield where Pat Krause gave a baseball seminar. They are averaging 25-30 students a day during the summer OST program.

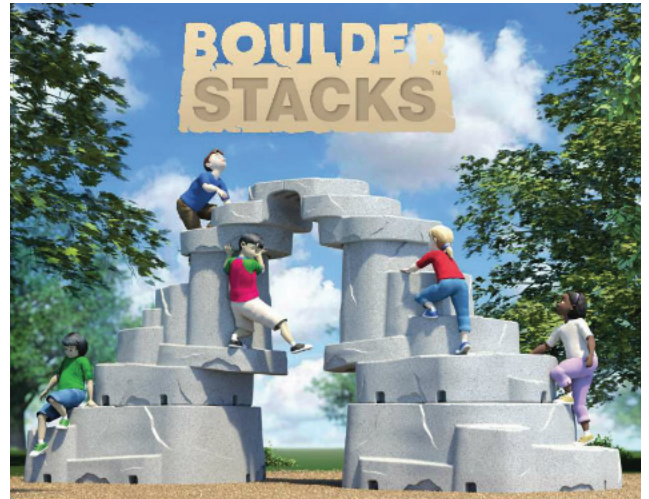
Dr. Ann Schwan, middle/high school principal, reported that the advisory time as been eliminated and that the class periods will now be 53 minutes instead of 49 minutes. She also reported that she is trying to get a new class, Music Appreciation, to be offered as another choice to earn a Fine Arts credit. Dr. Schwan reported that Brenda Madsen has done a great job overseeing the dual credit program. Five students are enrolled for the summer college classes and 11 have applied for this fall. The tuition has increased from \$40 a credit hour to \$48.33 a credit hour effective the fall of 2016.

Groton PAC raises \$20,000 for playground equipment

The Groton Area Elementary Parent Advisory Council has raised \$20,000 with those funds to be used for new playground equipment. A presentation was made at the school board meeting Monday night. They will be buying two tire swings, Boulder Stacks, Climbing Trees and an Alagator balance beam. The board approved to help with other expenses related to the playground equipment.

The rock climber is scheduled to be removed and to be sold. The balance beam will be removed. Wood chips will be used, which was a \$20,000 bill, but it does coverage a large area. There will be voluteers who will help with the assembly of the new playground equipment. Some of the other playground equipment will need to be re-set as they have been pushed out of the ground by the frost over the years.

The playground improvements are scheduled to be completed by the start of school this fall.



Arch Tire Swing

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 5 of 37

Today in Weather History

1662 - A fast was held at Salem MA with prayers for rain, and the Lord gave a speedy answer. (David Ludlum)

1879 - McKinney ND received 7.7 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1896 - The temperature at Fort Mojave, CA, soared to 127 degrees, the hottest reading of record for June for the U.S. The low that day was 97 degrees. Morning lows of 100 degrees were reported on the 12th, 14th and 16th of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Dust devils are usually rather benign weather phenomena, however, two boys were injured by one near Prescott AZ. One of the boys suffered a black eye, and the other boy had two vertebrae fractured by wind-blown debris. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - East Saint Louis was deluged with 16.54 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state of Illinois. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the northwestern U.S. A tornado damaged five homes and destroyed a barn near Salmon ID. It lifted a metal shed 100 feet into the air, and deposited it 100 yards away. Hail an inch and a half in diameter caused ten million dollars damage to automobiles at Nampa ID. (The National Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region spawned five tornadoes around Denver, CO, in just one hour. A strong (F-3) tornado in southern Denver injured seven persons and caused ten million dollars damage. Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Portland ME was a record for June. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States. The thunderstorms spawned eight tornadoes, including strong (F-3) tornadoes which injured three persons at Mountville PA and four persons at Columbia, PA. There were 111 reports of large hail and damaging winds, including wind gusts to 80 mph at Norfolk, VA, and Hogback Mountain, SC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Now Doing Core Aeration
Mowing ~ Trimming
Edging ~ Fertilizing
Spring/Fall Cleanups
Travis Kurth, Licensed and Insured
Free Estimates ~ 605/397-7469
Cutting Edge Lawn Care
Quality Lawn Care At Affordable Prices




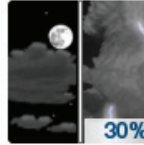






We now accept

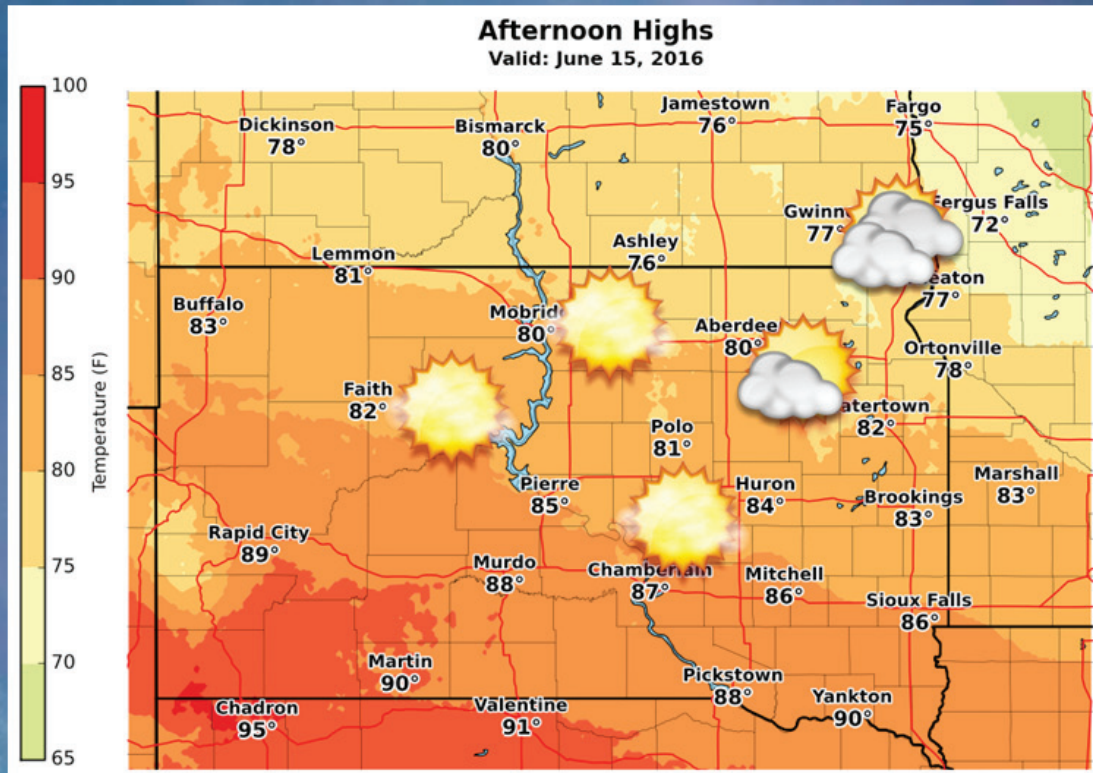
for out patient therapy.
1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 6 of 37

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Patchy Fog then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 79 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 88 °F

Sunny Today – Hot & Humid Thursday



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 6/15/2016 5:06 AM Central

Published on: 06/15/2016 at 5:10AM

The last of the light showers will depart northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota early this morning - to be followed by seasonal temperatures. Another warm up is on the way with hot and humid conditions Thursday through Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 7 of 37

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 75.4 F at 3:54 PM

Low Outside Temp: 60.3 F at 11:57 PM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 1:51 PM

Precip: 0.95

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1933

Record Low: 36 in 1968

Average High: 77°F

Average Low: 54°F

Average Precip in June: 1.81

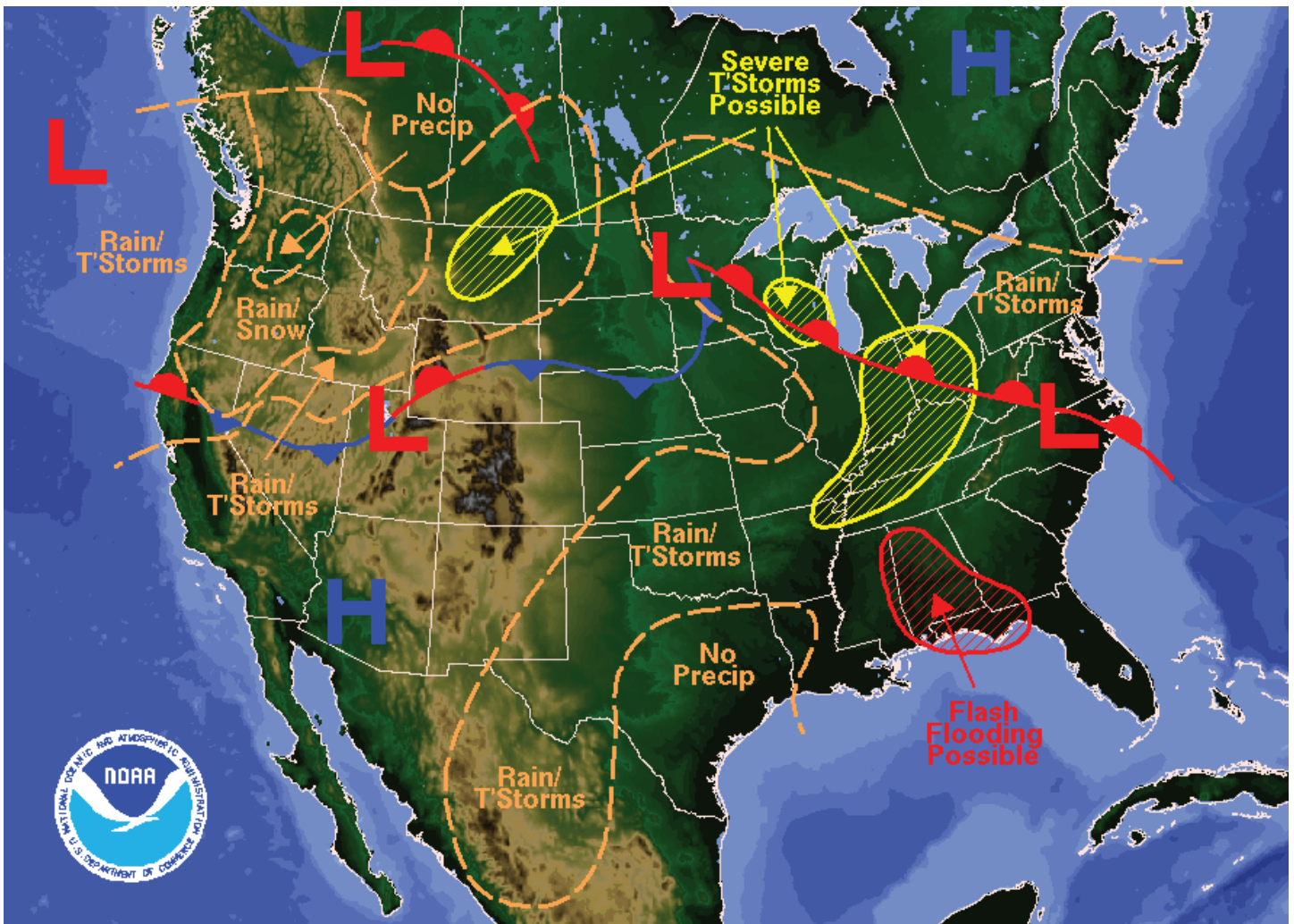
Precip to date in June: 1.67

Average Precip to date: 8.95

Precip Year to Date: 6.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Jun 15, 2016, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 8 of 37



JUDGED FOR WHAT?

It was a difficult semester in school for little Tammy. Her grades were very low and her fear of being punished very high. Thinking about a way out of her dilemma she asked her Dad, "Can you write your name with your eyes closed?"

"Yes, I think so," he replied.

"Great!" So, she had him sit at the table, got a pen and said, "Sign here!" as she guided his hand.

When he opened his eyes, he realized that he had signed her report card. Needless to say, he was not pleased and made some appropriate adjustments.

Although we may think that we are hiding things from God, Solomon reminds us that "God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad."

We are reminded by Solomon that we are to enjoy life and everything that God has given us. But this does not excuse us or exempt us from obeying God and what He has commanded us to do. We must train ourselves to recognize what is right or wrong according to God's Word and then live a life that is in agreement with His demands. He has the final say.

No excuses! No exemptions! No explanations!

Prayer: May we live our lives, Lord, with a clear understanding of the fact that one day we will stand before You in judgment for all we've done. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every

Hermosa tornado had estimated wind speeds up to 125 mph

HERMOSA, S.D. (AP) — The National Weather Service says a tornado that damaged homes near the southwestern community of Hermosa had estimated wind speeds of up to 125 mph.

The agency has rated the twister an EF2 on the enhanced Fujita scale. An EF2 or higher rating is considered a significant tornado.

No injuries were immediately reported in the Monday afternoon storm, but several homes and out-buildings in a subdivision were damaged. KEVN-TV reports that two families were displaced. The American Red Cross was helping victims.

The Argus Leader newspaper reports that four tornados touched down in northern South Dakota on Tuesday afternoon, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The American News reports that there was minor street flooding in Aberdeen.

Health Department: West Nile virus detected in Brown County

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Health says the state's first West Nile virus detection this season is a mosquito pool in Brown County.

State epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says the detection means the virus is here and being transmitted. The first detection last year was in Meade County.

People can reduce their risk by using insect repellent, limiting time outdoors, covering up with long pants and shirts and getting rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed.

Symptoms of West Nile include fever, headache, body aches and rash.

Air Force to extend training hours this week

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AP) — Officials with Ellsworth Air Force Base are warning people about noises they could potentially hear this week because of extended training hours.

The 28th Bomb Wing will extend its airfield operating hours Wednesday and again from June 21 through 24 for routine training missions. Base officials say the extended hours will include early morning flying missions.

Officials say base residents and those in surrounding communities could hear noises associated with flying aircraft and maintenance activities.

Man who left Washington work release caught in South Dakota

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Officials say a man convicted of murder at age 12 who walked away from a work release program in Washington state has been captured in South Dakota.

The Washington Department of Corrections says U.S. Marshals apprehended 25-year-old Jake Eakin without incident Tuesday at a bus stop in Rapid City.

A warrant was issued for Eakin's arrest Sunday after he failed to report to a Yakima, Washington, work release center.

Eakin will be sent to the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, and could face charges for his unauthorized leave.

Eakin was convicted of murder in 2005 and sentenced to 14 years in prison for the 2003 beating and stabbing death of a 13-year-old special education student. At the time of the killing, Eakin was 12.

He had been scheduled for release in September.

Apparent tornadoes reported in northeastern South Dakota

WEBSTER, S.D. (AP) — The National Weather Service says there have been reports of apparent tornadoes touching down in northeastern South Dakota.

Meteorologist Ryan Vipond said Tuesday afternoon that so far no damage has been reported.

The Argus Leader reports an apparent tornado touched down about 6 miles west of Webster just before 2:40 p.m.

The newspaper reports a second apparent tornado touched down south of Waubay at about 3:30 p.m.

Day County Emergency Management tells KELO-TV there have been no reports of damage.

Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office investigates phony calls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office is investigating phony telephone calls telling people they've missed jury duty and have to pay a fee to avoid an arrest warrant.

The sheriff's office said Tuesday that the claims are false and encouraged people to report all suspicious phone calls.

Authorities are investigating to determine the identity of those involved. People can find all Minnehaha County warrants listed on the internet.

Apparent tornado hits Hermosa; no injuries reported

HERMOSA, S.D. (AP) — The southwestern South Dakota town of Hermosa is cleaning up storm damage from an apparent tornado.

National Weather Service reports show the twister hit about 4:30 p.m. Monday, causing structural damage to several homes. Meteorologist Steve Trimarchi tells the Argus Leader newspaper that the damage is "substantial."

American Red Cross Regional Executive Director Richard Smith tells KELO-TV that the damage is mainly to home roofs and trailers. He's not aware of any injuries.

About 400 people live in the town south of Rapid City. The weather service was sending a survey team to the town on Tuesday.

Montana governor named new head of western governors group

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has been named the new chairman of the Western Governors' Association.

Bullock previously was the group's vice chair. He was elevated to the chairmanship Tuesday, the final day of the group's meeting in Jackson, Wyoming.

The Montana Democrat succeeds Wyoming's Republican governor, Matt Mead, in leading the association of governors from 19 Western states and three U.S. territories.

Bullock says his "chairman's initiative" will be improving forest and rangeland management. His term with the association is one year, assuming he is re-elected as governor in November.

The association is dominated by Republicans but attempts to address regional issues through bipartisanship.

That bipartisanship was on display Tuesday when some Republican governors showered Bullock with praise. Mead, for example, said Bullock "embodies the bipartisan spirit of the Western Governors' Association."

Jackley asks residents to honor elder abuse awareness day

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says people should honor World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in South Dakota, where officials have taken steps to combat such exploitation.

Jackley says elder abuse happens far too frequently to people in South Dakota and across the nation. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is Wednesday.

Jackley says the Legislature this year created two new positions, a prosecutor and an investigator, at the Attorney General's office to fight elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Combating elder abuse has also been a focus of Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson. A group of officials studied the issue ahead of the 2016 legislative session.

Donor providing money for field house at Pierre stadium

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A donor is giving money to the Pierre School District to build a new field house at Hollister Field.

The donor is choosing to remain anonymous for now, and the amount of the donation isn't clear. But Superintendent Kelly Glodt says officials are planning a nice facility, and not "a tin building at the end of the football field."

Glodt says the hope is for a facility with two locker rooms, public restrooms and concessions space, though planning and engineering work hasn't yet been done. Construction could start during the next school year.

Man gets 33 months in stabbing on Cheyenne River Reservation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man who admitted he stabbed another man last year has been sentenced to almost three years in prison.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has ordered 18-year-old Christofer Sand to follow his prison term with two years of supervised release. The Eagle Butte man earlier pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

Authorities accuse Sand of stabbing the victim three times in the chest and one time under his left arm. The attack happened Aug. 10 at Sand's home on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

Authorities say the victim had difficulty breathing after being stabbed, but was able to walk to a friend's house where he collapsed.

Oprah Winfrey cookbook scheduled for early 2017

NEW YORK (AP) — To launch her own book imprint, Oprah Winfrey is releasing her first cookbook.

Winfrey's "Food, Health and Happiness: 'On Point' Recipes for Great Meals and a Better Life" is scheduled to come out Jan. 3 of next year, Flatiron Books told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Winfrey's imprint is part of Flatiron, a division of MacMillan U.S.

In announcing the imprint last year, Winfrey had planned to start with a memoir, "The Life You Want." That book has been postponed to an undetermined date, according to Flatiron.

Authorities search for boy dragged into water by gator

JAY REEVES, Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — The search was continuing Wednesday morning for a 2-year-old boy who was dragged into the water by an alligator near Disney's upscale Grand Floridian Resort & Spa,

authorities said.

The effort was still considered a "search and rescue operation," said Jeff Williamson, a spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

"We are very hopeful," he said at a morning news conference. "Sometimes you get the worst, but we are hoping for the best."

The family of five from Nebraska was on vacation and wading in a lake around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday when the attack happened in an area where "no swimming" signs were posted, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings told a news conference earlier in the morning. The father tried to rescue his son but was unsuccessful, Demings said.

More than 50 law enforcement personnel searched the Seven Seas Lagoon along with an alligator tracker and two marine units in an effort that continued through the night. Williamson said more personnel would be brought in Wednesday morning to offer some "fresh eyes" for the search.

Nick Wiley with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation said it's rare for people to be attacked by alligators, but he added that the creatures move around.

The alligator was estimated to be 4 to 7 feet long, but its exact size was not known, Demings said.

Disney spokeswoman Jacquie Wahaler said everyone at the resort was devastated by what happened and Disney is helping the family.

When asked if Disney was aware of alligators on the property, Wahaler advised there were signs that said "no swimming."

Demings said there had been no other recent reports of similar alligator attacks on the lake.

Williamson brushed aside reporters' questions about the odds of rescuing the child at this point. "Right now, hopefully, we're searching for a little boy to bring the family some comfort," he said.

The alligator attack comes amid what was already a tragic week in the Orlando area. On Sunday, a gunman opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, leaving 49 victims dead in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Jerusalem OKs new building for Jews in Arab neighborhood

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's city hall on Wednesday said it approved the construction of a new building for Jews in the heart of an Arab neighborhood of east Jerusalem, a move that quickly drew rebuke from the Palestinians, who say encouraging settlement in the area is an obstacle to peace.

The planned three-story building will be erected in Silwan, one of the Arab areas of the city that has drawn Jewish residents in recent years who say they hope their presence will block any future division of the city.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed it, a move not recognized by the international community. Israel considers all of Jerusalem its eternal, undivided capital and sees no distinction between building in its eastern or western sectors.

In a statement, the municipality said it "will continue to build in all neighborhoods."

The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem, home to the city's Arab population as well as key Jewish, Muslim and Christian holy sites, as the capital of their hoped-for state. They see Jewish settlements there as an obstacle to peace.

"More facts on the ground mean more obstacles to peace," said Ahmad Rowadi, a Palestinian official.

Some 200,000 Jews live in Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem that the Palestinians and international community consider illegal settlements. About 300,000 Arabs also live in that part of the city.

The new building is part of a broader phenomenon in recent years that has seen Jews move into Arab areas like Silwan in a bid to make dividing the city all the more difficult. Hundreds of Jews now live in

heavily-guarded enclaves among tens of thousands of Palestinians and their presence often enflames tensions with the Palestinian residents.

911 calls released in children's suffocation by mother

MIRAMAR, Fla. (AP) — Authorities have released new details from a 911 call made last week by the cousin of a Philadelphia woman who admitted to suffocating her two children during a visit to Florida.

The Miami Herald (<http://hrlld.us/1roc5jT>) reports that in the eight-minute call released Monday by Miramar police, Neisha Nettleford made told the operator, "Honestly, I think they are dead."

Nettleford made the call last Wednesday, the same day the children were suffocated. She called police after Sophia Hines contacted her and told her to come home.

Nettleford said she was scared and would not go inside the house. Hines' lawyer said that Hines had postpartum depression and was off her medication the day of the suffocations.

Hines has been charged with two counts of premeditated murder. She remained in Broward County Jail on Tuesday.

DIVIDED AMERICA: In Montana, neighbors at odds over refugees

SHARON COHEN, AP National Writer

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — For the world, the photograph of a Syrian 3-year-old in a red T-shirt and black sneakers, his lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach, was a horrific symbol of the desperation of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

For Mary Poole, a young mother haunted by "those little shoes ... the little face," it was an inspiration.

She and members of her book club asked: Why not bring a small number of Syrian families to Missoula?

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story is part of Divided America, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

She knows now that this was a "romantic" notion. "It wasn't even a grain of sand in my brain that people wouldn't want to help starving, drowning families. I didn't do this to be controversial. I didn't do this to stir the pot."

But it did. And what started as a disagreement over whether to welcome dozens of refugees to this peaceful corner of western Montana soon erupted into something much larger, encompassing wildly divergent views of Islam, big government and whether Americans should "take care of our own" before worrying about newcomers.

Neighboring counties — and in some cases, neighbors — locked horns.

Demonstrators took to the streets: "No Jobs, No Housing, No Free Anything," proclaimed some opponents' signs. Some warned that Islamic State terrorists could infiltrate their communities; others suggested that the federal government, long accused of tyranny in its dealings with the West, was at it again.

The refugees' supporters did not back off. "Rise Above Fear, Refugees Welcome" they declared.

Missoula's mayor, John Engen, was among them. "I think that the war on terror has produced an internal war on compassion," he says. "We have been programmed to be very afraid since 9/11 and to think of people who aren't white Anglo-Saxon Americans as 'other' and we should be afraid of people who are 'other.'"

This did not occur in a vacuum. What's happened here reflects what's happening across the nation

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 14 of 37

in an election year dominated by inflammatory rhetoric over immigration, including calls for building a border wall, the mass deportation of immigrants living in the country illegally, and temporarily banning Muslims from entering the U.S.

And more generally, Montanans are like other Americans who ask: How are we to live together, as one nation, when we are so estranged?

At a time when the public is polarized over issues ranging from gay marriage to guns, the Rev. Joseph Carver, pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish, sees this as just another “incarnation of the larger divide in the country.” His congregation, which gathers in a towering 124-year-old brick structure with frescoes, ornate scroll work, is overwhelmingly in favor of refugees.

Carver, like others here, believes the spark that ignited this conflict is fear. “Refugees,” he declares, “are seen as a threat to our way of life.”

Montana is a place of great beauty, with its snow-capped mountains, Ponderosa pines, bighorn sheep, bison and elk. Fly fishermen reel in trout from shimmering streams. College kids can be spotted kayaking on the Clark Fork River on cool spring nights. And a bookstore owner can point to the park down the street where a moose is known to frequent.

It is not, however, a diverse place. Though the sparsely populated state is home to seven Indian reservations, nearly nine of 10 residents are white, according to Census figures. Only about 2 percent are foreign-born. Since 2012, the state has welcomed just 13 refugees from Cuba and Iraq, according to officials.

But Missoula, site of a World War II detention center for Japanese-Americans, Italian merchant seamen and others, has a recent history of embracing refugees. The International Rescue Committee resettled the Hmong in the late 1970s and through the 1980s; some remain as farmers. Later, another agency brought Ukrainians and Belarusians here.

With its coffee houses, murals and bike trails, Missoula has a laid-back feel. It is home to the University of Montana, as well as a peace center named for Jeannette Rankin, a pacifist who was the first woman member of Congress — and the only vote against declaring war on Japan after the Pearl Harbor attack. The center’s philosophy is captured on a wall lined with bumper stickers — “Peace is Patriotic,” “Books Not Bombs” and “Practice Nonviolence” — and a stenciled message on a front window: “Refugees Welcome.”

When Poole, a jewelry maker, and others formed a group called Soft Landing, they quickly expanded their plan to include not just Syrians but all refugees and turned to the International Rescue Committee to lead the resettlement. Their efforts were endorsed by the mayor, most council members and the three Democratic county commissioners, who sent letters to federal officials.

But Missoula is an island of progressive blue surrounded by a sea of conservative red, and often diverges politically from other communities in Montana.

Just to the south, in rural and Republican Ravalli County, a county commissioners’ hearing over the issue was moved to a middle school gym to accommodate the hundreds who showed up for what turned into a raucous meeting. Several pro-refugee speakers were jeered. The commissioners formalized their opposition in their own letter to federal officials— and Flathead County, nearly 130 miles north of Missoula, did the same weeks later.

In testimony and letters in Ravalli County, those saying “no” outlined their objections. They argued that Muslims or others from the Middle East could create the kind of chaos seen in Europe, impose an enormous tax burden and wouldn’t be able to assimilate because they don’t share American values. Many said their biggest fear was the U.S. government couldn’t conduct adequate screening. Some spoke of apocalyptic visions of terrorists posing as refugees making their way to the quiet countryside.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 15 of 37

"There's no 800 number you can call into Morocco or Libya or any one of those places ... and say, 'Can you check the identity of this person?' Without the ability to properly vet them, it's literally putting Americans' lives at risk," says Eli Anselmi, who felt compelled to write a letter even though he lives three hours away in Bozeman.

The risk may be minimal, he says, but the potential harm is great. "Let's say that you have a bowl of M&Ms ... and there are two that have cyanide. Will you eat from that bowl?"

Ray Hawk, a Ravalli County commissioner, has similar worries. "These are folks that have declared war on the United States," he says. "Their war is terrorism and that's the way they're going to do it. And I don't feel that we need to give them that chance. Now, if the government gets a handle on this thing and has a way to vet these people, I'm all for them. I love to see anybody come into America and succeed."

Supporters of the refugees weighed in with reminders of America's tradition of providing sanctuary to those who've fled war and oppression; some cited their own family history. They spoke of empathy, pointed to a lengthy screening process and noted the other refugees who resettled here successfully in recent decades.

Shawn Wathen, a bookstore owner in Ravalli County, was appalled his 18-year-old son was booed when he testified in support of the refugees and then later cursed by some opponents. Wathen wrote the commissioners, accusing them of "xenophobic grandstanding." One replied that he was "ignorant."

Wathen, who has called the sprawling Bitterroot Valley home for 20 years, sees the rejection of refugees as a blend of misinformation, economic anxiety and fear of the unknown.

"It surpasses any notion of reason ... that kind of idea that they are not us, and therefore they pose a threat," he says. "There's just that sense the horde is out there and if we don't circle the wagons ... we're going to be overrun and poor white America is going to suffer."

America has a long history of wariness of refugees.

Last November, shortly after the Paris terrorist attacks, a Gallup poll found that Americans, by 60 to 37 percent, opposed taking in refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war. In 1978, there was a 57 to 32 percent opposition to accepting Indochinese boat people, and in 1946, after World War II, the public was against welcoming displaced people from Europe, including Jews, by 72 to 16 percent.

Generally, Americans tend to favor refugees with whom they share some connection — political, religious or personal — and the public has little interaction with Muslims, says David Haines, a professor emeritus at George Mason University who has written extensively about refugees.

He says the public doesn't understand the rigorous vetting process. "The risks from refugees are really low because it's an extremely well-screened population," he says. "But it's hard for people to settle down on this issue, especially in a highly politicized context."

In Missoula, academics and religious leaders have expressed alarm about the harsh tone of the presidential campaign, especially comments aimed at Muslims by Donald Trump. In April, they sponsored "Celebrate Islam Week" at the university in hopes of countering the trend.

Among the participants was Samir Bitar, an Arabic studies professor who arrived at the University of Montana in the 1970s as a 16-year-old freshman, raised a family and has spent most of his adult life here.

Bitar has lectured for decades across the state without controversy — until this year, when about a dozen people in the nearby town of Darby objected to his planned talk at the library. The reason: They didn't want a Muslim in their town, according to the librarian. The library board voted. Bitar spoke and received a warm reception.

But the tone and atmosphere are decidedly different now, he says.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 16 of 37

"This is the first time I actually look behind me as I walk. I've been here 42 years," he says. "It's like every part of my identity is coming under attack, including my American identity."

Recently, two students accepted Bitar's challenge to walk around wearing Muslim head gear to see how people would react. One young man donned a kufi, or skull cap, and classmates wouldn't sit next to him, Bitar says. While working at a deli, the student was rebuffed by a customer's wife who said: "We're not going to have a Muslim help us."

Bitar, who is Palestinian, finds it all disheartening. People now are "motivated by pure emotion and not really thinking in logical terms," he says. "Fear turns into hatred."

Jameel Chaudhry, the campus architect, a native of Kenya and another member of the small Muslim community, says he, too, senses a new hostility.

"All of a sudden WE are the problem," he says. "We've never had this before, and I've been here 20 years. We didn't have this even after 9/11."

Chaudhry attributes this attitude to Trump, accusing the presumptive Republican nominee of stoking fears for political gain.

"He's become the champion of the anti-Muslim, anti-refugee movement," he says. While that group talks of being tired of political correctness, Chaudhry sees something else: "They don't want the other races coming in here."

But those who've publicly spoken out against refugees bristle at suggestions they're racist. They say they're trying to protect their communities.

"It doesn't make any difference if they're Muslims, Russians, whatever. You have to know who they are, what they've been doing in the past," says Jim Buterbaugh, a construction worker who organized three opposition rallies, including one at the state Capitol. "Are you going to go downtown and take five people off the streets and move them into your house without knowing who they are? Nobody in their right mind would do that."

He and others are upset they have no vote on this issue. State and local governments legally don't have authority to bar refugees, though they can refuse to directly provide local services, according to Haines. Last fall, more than half the nation's governors declared their opposition to accepting Syrian refugees, saying a pause was needed until security concerns are addressed.

That sense of being shut out of decision-making reflects a wider distrust of the government in parts of the West, where federal policies involving land, water and endangered species often clash with energy, timber and grazing interests. Though the refugee debate is different, it exposes the same raw nerves among opponents, who also question the economic and social impact.

In a letter to her commissioners, Ravalli County resident Birte Nellessen said, "to fool ourselves that we are helping 'poor folks driven out of their homeland by war' is ridiculous. They openly and blazingly state that they are coming to destroy us and our culture. ... Why we would spend any of our hard earned money on people like that?"

Nellessen, who moved to the U.S. from Germany 20 years ago, says officials should instead support local folks in need and that a smarter course would be to send supplies or money to help refugees rebuild in their homeland.

"I mean, what's a Syrian or Kenyan going to do in winter in Montana? Seriously."

The answer is coming. The International Rescue Committee has met with Missoula's mayor, police chief and others to prepare for the refugees — about 100 will come over a year's time. The agency plans to reopen a resettlement office here this fall, after a 25-year absence. Those most likely to be relocated include Congolese, Afghans and Syrians who will have no family ties, so they'll have to live within a 50-mile radius of the office.

Mary Poole is looking forward to their arrival.

About 750 people have signed up to help refugees make the transition, she says. One former Missoula resident now living in Mongolia wants to get involved when she returns.

Poole is already thinking ahead, too, about how this could change the life of her 17-month-old son, Jack.

She envisions a day, she says, when he "will be able to sit in a school next to someone of a different color, of a different language, of a different culture — and be able to learn that he lives in a global world. ... I don't think we can be insulated anymore."

Poole knows resistance remains, and still meets with those who don't want refugees here. She says she's even made friends with some vocal opponents, recently inviting them to her house for a barbecue.

"We're asking for compassion," she says, "and must be able to give that ourselves."

And there's always a chance to win some over.

"They are us," she says of the opponents. "They are part of our community, and in order for this to be as successful as it possibly can be, it's about being in it together."

Details emerge about nightclub shooter's wife

GARANACE BURKE, Associated Press

HOLBROOK MOHR, Associated Press

MITCH WEISS, Associated Press

RODEO, California (AP) — She was a sweet, pretty California girl with Palestinian roots who left an arranged marriage only to find love with a man who committed the worst mass shooting in modern U.S history.

Little by little, details have begun to emerge about 30-year-old Noor Zahi Salman, who grew up in the small suburb of Rodeo, California, tucked in the dry hills near the oil refineries 25 miles northeast of San Francisco.

Her romance with Omar Mateen — security guard, bodybuilder and devout Muslim — began online, according to a neighbor, and they were married on Sept. 29, 2011, near her hometown, according to public records. The couple has a 3-year-old son.

Early Sunday, the 29-year-old Mateen opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, leaving 49 people dead and 53 wounded.

Authorities believe Mateen's wife knew about the plot ahead of time, said an official who was briefed on the progress of the case but insisted on anonymity to discuss a continuing investigation. The official said investigators are reluctant to charge her only on the basis of possible advance knowledge of her husband's plans.

Three people identifying themselves as FBI agents visited Salman's childhood home in Rodeo on Tuesday and spoke with her mother, said Jessie Rojas, a next-door neighbor.

In Fort Pierce, Florida, where Salman and Mateen lived, Salman made a brief visit to their first-floor apartment late Monday, escorted by police and her brother-in-law. Her father-in-law said she came to retrieve clothing. She did not speak with reporters. She has otherwise been in seclusion.

According to marriage documents on file in the Contra Costa County Recorder's office, Salman was born in the United States while her parents' birthplaces were listed as "Palestine."

It's unclear when her parents, who served as witnesses for the wedding, came to the United States, but their naturalization papers allowing them to stay in the country were approved in 1984.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 18 of 37

No one answered the door at the Salman home Tuesday, but neighbors who know the 2004 graduate of John Swett High School in nearby Crockett said they find it hard to believe she had anything to do with the massacre.

Jasbinder Chahal, who has lived across the street from Salman's childhood home for the last 15 years, said Salman is "very nice...not the smartest, but she was beautiful.

"You know, some kids after high school, they open up the box and the world is theirs. She was inside the box, just pack it up and get married," said Chahal.

"They had a small wedding and took lots of pictures here at the house," said Chahal. The marriage license says the ceremony took place in Hercules, California, and that an imam officiated.

Of Mateen, Chahal said, "He was shorter than her and did not seem very friendly."

Chahal said Salman's mother, Ekbal Salman, was deeply upset when she visited her Monday night and said she feared for the safety of her daughter and grandson.

Growing up, Salman's parents tried to shelter their four girls.

"Noor never played in the street, and the girls were never allowed to drive," Chahal said.

The neighbor quoted Salman's mother as saying Mateen also kept her daughter from driving, until he recently allowed her to take a test to get her drivers' license.

Salman's marriage to Mateen was her second, said Chahal. Mateen had previously been married as well.

Her first marriage had been arranged in the Palestinian Territories by her parents, said Chahal, adding that the union did not work out.

"He was in Chicago and they were living there, but they were not married long," Chahal said. "They had cultural differences since she grew up here and was American."

Mateen had met his first wife, Sitora Yusufiy, online, too. They married in 2009 after a whirlwind romance.

Yusufiy, who immigrated to the United States from Uzbekistan, has told reporters that Mateen was mentally unstable and abusive during their brief relationship.

She said she knew quickly that the marriage had been a mistake and she left him a few months later. The couple didn't divorce, though, until June 21, 2011 — just three months before Mateen married Salman.

On one of her sister's Facebook pages — next to a family photo — there is a box with the words: "Solidarity with Gaza."

Salman rarely came home to visit after she married because Mateen would not let her, Chahal said. She quoted Salman's mother telling her that Mateen even tried to keep the daughter from traveling home to see her father when he was sick.

The younger Salman managed to scrape together the money to visit before her father died in a local hospital, Chahal said.

Hillary Clinton wins DC primary, as she meets with Sanders

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton brought a close to the presidential primary season with a win in the nation's capital and a meeting with dispatched rival Bernie Sanders, hoping to set a tone of Democratic unity heading into next month's party convention in Philadelphia.

Clinton's victory Tuesday in the District of Columbia, the final primary of 2016, had no bearing on her role as the presumptive nominee, but it nevertheless marked a transition in the lengthy primary fight

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 19 of 37

between the two rivals.

In virtually identical statements released after meeting for more than 90 minutes, the Clinton and Sanders campaigns said the two rivals discussed their primary campaign, "unifying the party and ... the dangerous threat that Donald Trump poses to our nation." Neither spoke to reporters after the session at a Washington, D.C., hotel a few blocks from the White House.

Clinton told Sanders she appreciated his commitment to stopping Trump in the general election and the two discussed issues in which they share common goals, including "raising wages for working families, eliminating undisclosed money in politics and reducing the cost of college for students and their families." Both candidates agreed to work together on the development of the platform at the upcoming Democratic National Convention.

Before polls closed in Washington, where Clinton won with nearly 80 percent of the vote, Sanders vowed again to do all he can to prevent Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, from reaching the White House — but he declined to endorse Clinton.

The Vermont senator had said the private meeting would help him determine how committed Clinton will be to the policy issues he has staked out during his 13-month campaign.

"Our goal must not be to allow politicians, Donald Trump or anyone else, to divide us," Sanders said outside his Washington headquarters, telling reporters he will continue to "fight as hard as we can" to transform the Democratic Party.

Sanders said he would push for new leadership in the Democratic National Committee — his campaign has sparred with Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the party's chair — along with a progressive platform in the summer convention and electoral changes, such as primaries that allow independents to participate and the elimination of superdelegates.

"We need major, major changes in the Democratic Party," he said.

Yet in Sanders' statement from spokesman Michael Briggs, the senator does not refer to Clinton as the presumptive nominee but instead congratulates her "on the campaign she has run."

Sanders was warmly received Tuesday by Senate Democrats at their weekly luncheon, where he offered an update about his campaign and some of the lessons he had learned during the past year. Lawmakers in attendance said Sanders did not indicate his future plans.

"He had an opportunity to talk to us about his campaign and how it has changed him and what he has learned," said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. "I think we all listened intently because we are anxious to always do better and grow as a party and be more inclusive."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., who leads the Senate Democrats' campaign arm, said Sanders "absolutely will" support fellow Senate Democrats in the fall elections. "It was productive, it was good, it was vintage Bernie," Tester said.

Sanders met last week with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, who both later endorsed Clinton, and signaled to Democrats that he hopes to play a constructive role in helping the party regain control of the Senate in the 2016 elections.

The self-described democratic socialist says he will take his campaign to the convention in July and advocate for his policy issues in the platform while urging Democrats to be more inclusive of independents, young people and working-class voters, all of whom were pivotal in his victories in 22 states. But what that will look like still remains unclear, and Sanders has been soliciting advice from supporters on how he should take his campaign forward.

The mass shooting at a nightclub in Orlando, Florida, has commanded the attention of both campaigns and prompted Democrats to point to Trump's call for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S., an issue they view as a key contrast in the general election.

Without mentioning Trump by name, Clinton warned during a speech in Cleveland on Monday that demonizing Muslims would only empower extremist groups. "We should be intensifying contacts in those communities, not scapegoating or isolating them," she said.

Sanders attended a vigil in his hometown of Burlington, Vermont, on Monday night to show solidarity with the victims. Pointing to Trump's comments about Muslims, Sanders said the shooting was conducted by "one hateful person" and not committed by the Muslim people.

Looking forward, Sanders has begun helping Democrats preparing for congressional races and the battle to regain control of the Senate.

An early test of his clout came Tuesday in Nevada, where a Sanders-backed congressional candidate, Lucy Flores, was defeated in a three-way primary.

Sanders has opened up his campaign's massive email donor list to several Democratic candidates, hauling in more than \$2.4 million for his allies. Flores has been the top recipient of those appeals, collecting about \$390,000 from an email Sanders sent in April on behalf of her and two other candidates.

'Not the America we want': Obama blasts Trump's Muslim plans

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is angrily denouncing Donald Trump's anti-Muslim rhetoric, blasting the views of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee as a threat to American security and a menacing echo of some of the most shameful moments in U.S. history.

Obama's rebuke Tuesday was his most searing yet of the man seeking to take his seat in the Oval Office. While the president has frequently dismissed Trump as a buffoon or a huckster, this time he challenged the former reality television star as a "dangerous" threat to the nation's safety, religious freedom and diversity.

"That's not the America we want. It does not reflect our democratic ideals," Obama declared in remarks that had been scheduled to simply update the public on the counter-Islamic State campaign.

Obama walked listeners through a familiar litany of battlefield successes, but then came another message. Growing more animated as he spoke, Obama said Trump's "loose talk and sloppiness" could lead to discrimination and targeting of ethnic and religious minorities.

"We've gone through moments in our history before when we acted out of fear and we came to regret it," Obama said. "We've seen our government mistreat our fellow citizens and it has been a shameful part of our history."

Trump responded by suggesting that Obama is too solicitous of enemies.

"President Obama claims to know our enemy, and yet he continues to prioritize our enemy over our allies, and for that matter, the American people," the candidate said in a statement. "When I am president, it will always be America first."

At a fiery rally hours later in Greensboro, North Carolina, Trump said the president appeared angrier at him than he was at the Orlando gunman. "That's the kind of anger he should have for the shooter and these killers that shouldn't be here," Trump told the crowd.

Sunday's mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, has set off a new round of debate over counterterrorism, gun control and immigration — one that has exposed the political parties' starkly different approaches to national security. The presumed gunman was an American-born citizen whose parents came to the U.S. from Afghanistan more than 30 years ago.

Trump has used the carnage to renew his call to temporarily ban foreign Muslims from entering the country, and added a new element: a suspension of immigration from areas of the world with a proven history of terrorism against the U.S. and its allies.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 21 of 37

The Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton, also responded to Trump on Tuesday.

"We don't need conspiracy theories and pathological self-congratulations," Clinton said in a speech that closely tracked Obama's. "We need leadership and concrete plans because we are facing a brutal enemy."

Both Clinton and Obama turned up the heat on Republicans, some of whom have squirmed with discomfort this week at the first glimpses of how their new leader handles national crises.

"Where does this stop?" Obama said. "Are we going to start treating all Muslim-Americans differently? Are we going to start subjecting them to special surveillance? Are we going to start discriminating against them because of their faith? ... Do Republican officials actually agree with this?"

For some, the answer was plainly no. House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the highest-ranking elected GOP official, said he did not think such a ban was "in our country's interest" or "reflective of our principles not just as a party, but as a country."

Republicans have instead hoped to focus on a broader criticism of the president's counter-terrorism strategy as unfocused, ineffective and too soft of Islamic institutions and governments that support terrorism.

Obama directly addressed that argument, specifically taking on the Trump charge that his policies have been hampered by his refusal to use the phrase "radical Islam" when describing the forces urging attacks like the one in Orlando. Republicans have said the careful parsing is a sign of over-caution and political correctness that demonstrates denial about the groups responsible for the extremist view.

Trump said Sunday the president should resign if he does not use the phrase.

Obama dismissed the criticism as a "political talking point" and "not a strategy," and he pointed to his success in tracking Osama bin Laden and other extremist leaders.

"There is no magic to the phrase 'radical Islam,'" he said. "Someone seriously thinks that we don't know who we are fighting? If there is anyone out there who thinks we are confused about who our enemies are — that would come as a surprise to the thousands of terrorists who we have taken off the battlefield."

Obama struck a more bipartisan tone in speaking to members of Congress and their families during a picnic Tuesday evening on the South Lawn.

"Obviously this has been a difficult week for America because all of us are still grieving for those who were lost in Orlando," he told the several hundred people in attendance.

In the end, he said, the "things that really matter in our lives, they can't be captured by a party label."

Report: New evidence of rising 'Obamacare' premiums

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Premiums for popular low-cost medical plans under the federal health care law are expected to go up an average of 11 percent next year, said a study that reinforced reports of sharp increases around the country in election season.

For consumers, the impact will depend on whether they get government subsidies for their premiums, as well as on their own willingness to switch plans to keep the increases more manageable, said the analysis released Wednesday by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

The full picture on 2017 premiums will emerge later this summer as the presidential election heads into the home stretch. The health law's next sign-up season starts a week before Election Day. Democrat Hillary Clinton wants to build on President Barack Obama's health overhaul, which has reduced the uninsured rate to a historically low 9 percent. Republican Donald Trump wants to repeal it.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 22 of 37

The Kaiser study looked at 14 metro areas for which complete data on insurer premium requests is already available. It found that premiums for a level of insurance called the "lowest-cost silver plan" will go up in 12 of the areas, while decreasing in two. The changes range from a decrease of 14 percent in Providence, Rhode Island, to an increase of 26 percent in Portland, Oregon.

Half of the cities will see increases of 10 percent or more. Last year, only two of the cities had double-digit increases.

"Premiums are going up faster in 2017 than they have in past years," said Cynthia Cox, lead author of the analysis.

Among the cities studied, the monthly premium for a 40-year-old nonsmoker in 2017 will range from \$192 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to \$482 in Burlington, Vermont.

Final rates may change if regulators push back on the requests from insurers. The foundation plans to analyze major cities in all states as more data becomes available.

Most workers and their families are covered by employers, but about 12 million people get private coverage through HealthCare.gov and online insurance markets run by states. Nearly 7 in 10 pick silver plans, a mid-tier option that allows consumers with low to modest incomes to also get financial help with out-of-pocket costs when they receive medical care.

Income-based premium subsidies designed to keep pace with costs will cushion the impact for many. But not all consumers get help. About 2 million marketplace customers make too much to qualify for the subsidies. And an estimated 3 million to 5 million people who buy their policies outside of markets like HealthCare.gov do not receive financial assistance.

For both the subsidized and the unsubsidized, willingness to switch plans and insurers may be crucial in keeping premiums more manageable next year.

The lowest-cost silver plan in a community often changes from year to year, and Cox said the estimated 11 percent increase is based on an assumption that consumers will switch.

"If they stay in their same plan they may see a higher premium increase," she said.

The premium increases come after major insurers reported significant losses on their health-care business. Enrollment was lower than hoped for, new customers were sicker than expected, and the government's system to help stabilize the markets had problems.

Medicare and Medicaid administrator Andy Slavitt, whose agency also oversees the health law, said in a speech last week that the health insurance markets are still in an early trial-and-error stage. He estimated that could go on for another couple of years, or well into the next president's term.

Beat the press: Trump's contempt for media is calculated

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's favorite nickname for the news media is the "dishonest press." He swaps in "disgusting press" from time to time.

And sometimes, he puts it all together: "disgusting, dishonest human beings."

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee has a whole menu of takedowns for individual reporters and news organizations. In recent weeks, he's used his microphone and his tweets to label them "third-rate," "not nice," "disgraceful," "phony," "low-life," "very unprofessional" and "bad people." Or, for extra emphasis in a tweet, "BAD."

He's also been quick to yank or withhold credentials from news organizations whose coverage he doesn't like — most recently, The Washington Post.

Trump seems to be perpetually mad at the press, but there's a method to his mad-ness.

He sees little downside to bashing the media — and plenty of potential benefits.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 23 of 37

"It's a truism of American politics that you don't lose an election by criticizing the media," said Robert Lichter, president of the private Center for Media and Public Affairs. "It plays well with the public, particularly with Republicans."

While Trump's language is more incendiary and he lashes out more personally at reporters than typical for past candidates, he's following a long tradition of modern politicians who shoot barbs at the messenger.

Former President Dwight Eisenhower energized the 1964 Republican convention with his complaint about "sensation-seeking columnists and commentators."

Richard Nixon's vice president, Spiro Agnew, famously threw shade at "nattering nabobs of negativism" in the press.

President George H.W. Bush, who played horseshoes with press photographers and invited reporters to White House picnics and other events, still exhorted voters during his re-election campaign to act on the bumper-sticker slogan: "Annoy the Media: Re-elect Bush." His wife, Barbara, had some biting advice for Hillary Clinton when the incoming first lady visited the White House in November 1992: "Avoid this crowd like the plague," Bush told Clinton, sweeping her hand toward the reporters and photographers on the South Lawn.

Trump is taking the beat-the-press strategy to a whole new level.

In a recent one-month period, he delivered 39 tweets skewering reporters and media organizations, mixed in with a much smaller number of positive and neutral references in his Twitter feed. Just one example: "The media is really on a witch-hunt against me. False reporting, and plenty of it - but we will prevail!"

This week, Trump revoked the Post's credentials, citing what he called the paper's "incredibly inaccurate coverage and reporting." Other news organizations he's banned, either short-term or permanently, include Politico, the Des Moines Register, BuzzFeed, the Daily Beast and the Huffington Post.

Post editor Martin Baron called Trump's latest move "nothing less than a repudiation of the role of a free and independent press."

Kathleen Carroll, executive editor of The Associated Press, said his credentialing bans do a disservice to the public.

In the race for the most powerful position on the planet, she said, "the public is interested in what the candidates do and say, and having independent coverage is part of what keeps the public informed."

Why is Trump so quick to pick a fight with the press?

For one thing, his over-the-top language can be a successful strategy for changing the subject when he wants to divert attention.

Last month, when reporters pressed Trump to document what he'd done with millions of dollars raised for veterans, he turned on them, calling one reporter "a sleaze" and sarcastically referring to another as "a real beauty." That language itself became a big part of the story, shifting some of the attention away from questions about his handling of the money for veterans.

Trump's constant criticism of the press also helps to inoculate him against future negative news stories.

Conservatives, in particular, already are wary of the mainstream media, and Trump's rhetoric reinforces the message that nothing from the media is to be believed.

"Part of what he's probably decided is that he wants to be very aggressive, to make sure that his supporters routinely discount any kind of news media attack," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Trump supporter, said in a recent interview with Fox News.

With the Republican Party in turmoil over Trump's candidacy, the billionaire's broadsides also serve as a unifying theme within the party. GOP faithful may have big differences with Trump on the issues, but

they're at one with him on contempt for the mainstream media.

While Trump's very public display of disdain is strategic, says Lichter, it's also just "part of his daily dose of pugnacity."

At the same time, though, Trump can be charming in one-on-one interviews, flattering reporters and complimenting their questions. He calls many of them by their first names. He takes questions and offers considerable access, seeming to understand that for all his complaints about the press, he can't live without them.

"You know the press is the most dishonest people ever created by God," he said at a March press conference. "So I would love to take a few questions from these dishonest people. Go ahead, press."

Virtual reality the latest new high-tech way to watch sports

RACHEL COHEN, AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sports fans who own the right devices can follow the action at a major event this week in a new, high-tech way. If that sounds vaguely familiar, networks were embarking on similar experiments in 3-D half a decade ago.

Now virtual reality is the latest craze, and Fox Sports is offering VR streams from the U.S. Open at Oakmont. Some of the technology — and some of the people working behind the scenes — in VR come from those short-lived 3-D productions, which never caught on widely among television viewers at home. For the companies betting that VR will be different, part of the pitch for now is that it's not intended to supplant that high-definition broadcast on a giant flat screen TV audiences seem quite happy with.

"It's not meant to be and we're not producing it as a replacement," said David Nathanson, Fox Sports' head of business operations.

"Complementary" is the buzzword for the time being. The idea is that fans will still mainly watch the event on their television sets, but they'll use VR for enhancements: game recaps, highlights of a particular play, features, brief forays into watching a certain portion of the action live.

As part of Fox's five-year deal with NextVR, cameras at Oakmont will be positioned at the ninth, 17th and 18th holes, with roving capability at the neighboring No. 10 and No. 12. There will also be pre-packaged video on demand, including footage of players on the practice range each morning, a narrated history of Oakmont, two-minute "golf tips" and features on each hole. The coverage is available through the NextVR app for Samsung Gear VR owners.

Virtual reality still faces some of the same challenges that hindered 3-D. Viewers need to buy special equipment to view the broadcast, and even once they do, they might decide they find the devices too inconvenient and cumbersome to wear regularly. The future of VR in general will likely depend on how much — and how quickly — both the price and the unwieldiness of the hardware decrease.

"Today the equipment is kind of like the original cellphone in a bulky briefcase," Nathanson said.

The other necessary technological advance is the quality of the picture. For now, there's a major tradeoff in the crispness of the image from HD to gain the sensation of watching from the front row.

Brad Allen, executive chairman of NextVR, said the motivation for cellphone manufacturers to invest in virtual reality will speed the process along, as they look to add functions that will lure customers to keep buying new devices.

"It's moving much faster than everybody, including ourselves, even anticipated, which is fantastic," Allen said.

The potential audience is still small for virtual reality, but for now Fox's motivations have little to do with the current number of viewers. Oculus has said that about 1 million people used the Gear VR in

April for an average of 25 minutes per day.

Fox views its present VR investment as a head start of sorts if the technology does catch on. These broadcasts offer the opportunity to start to figure out how VR might work best. Where are cameras best placed? Do viewers want a producer to cut between shots as would happen on a traditional telecast? What's the role of graphics and commentary?

"We make no bones about the fact this is a learning experience for us," said Michael Davies, Fox Sports' senior vice president of field and technical operations. "We don't say this is one of those things that's done and dusted and polished."

The other value of a head start is that Fox will own a library of archived footage that will look even better once the technology improves. One potential future advance Davies believes would eventually attract many users is the ability not to just virtually attend the game, but to virtually sit next to someone far away. Childhood friends who live in different cities could replicate the experience of watching their hometown team together.

Still, there's enough buzz around VR at the moment that Lexus is sponsoring Fox's U.S. Open offerings.

"People are so interested in VR right now," Davies said. "We've been promised VR for a long time along with flying cars and jet packs."

After 5 games of Finals, Love still seeking his rhythm

TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Numbers may not necessarily lie, though they can deceive.

On one hand, Cleveland's "Big Three" of LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love combined for 84 points in Game 5 of the NBA Finals — the triumvirate's highest such total this postseason.

Of course, Love scored two of them. Irving and James, they each had 41.

If Cleveland is to complete an NBA Finals comeback unlike any other — the Cavaliers pushed the series to Game 6 with a win at Golden State on Monday night — then getting something out of Love might be a huge help. For as great as James and Irving usually are, to expect more Game 5-type performances from them again is asking a ton.

So if Love lightens their load, as he often has in their two seasons together, Cleveland's less-than-great odds in this series figure to markedly improve.

"We still have life," Love said.

Game 6 on Thursday is the last game in Cleveland this season. It wouldn't surprise many if it was Love's last home game with the Cavaliers as well, with his name sure to come up during this rapidly approaching summer in trade rumors even if Cleveland pulls off this comeback and gets its long-elusive championship.

The Cavaliers sent Andrew Wiggins, now a star-in-waiting, to Minnesota in the deal that landed Love two summers ago that seemed one-sided toward Cleveland when it was first executed and now appears like it could be a huge boost to the Timberwolves going forward. And Love's two postseasons with the Cavaliers could be best described as snakebitten, too.

Last year his shoulder was pulled from its socket in the first round, ending his playoffs right there. This year, he avoided serious playoff trouble until the finals. The Cavs lost the first three games in which he appeared, won by 30 in the game he missed with a concussion — sparking questions about whether they were better without Love — and staved off elimination by pulling away from Golden State in the second half of Game 5 on Monday night in a game where Love was a total non-factor offensively.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 26 of 37

Out of the nearly 400 NBA games in which he's logged 30 minutes or more, Love has scored no more than two points now twice. As if that could get made to look worse, it seemed Tuesday that the most-replayed "highlight" involving Love from Game 5 was when he appeared to try to give James a high-five and got no reciprocation.

"He's an important player for them," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said earlier in the series, which his team still leads 3-2. "He's a guy who you have to account for in a lot of ways. So when he's on the floor, we'll be well aware of his presence."

For lack of a better term, Love is the third wheel in this Big Three setup.

It's a role that Chris Bosh struggled with at times in Miami when James was there with Dwyane Wade and the Heat went to four consecutive NBA Finals. To outsiders, it could have seemed like a demotion. Bosh was the star in Toronto like Love was in Minnesota, then had to accept what looked like an ego hit in order to fit alongside fellow elite players.

But throughout those four years in Miami, it was James who often referred to Bosh as the "most important player" on the Heat. And when Bosh went scoreless in Miami's Game 7 win over San Antonio in the 2013 NBA Finals, hardly anyone noticed.

"I ain't scored no points," Bosh said as he walked into the locker room champagne-spraying party that night, "but I'm still happy, though."

There's still a chance for Love to get one of those same moments.

He's had 55 games of 20 or more points in his two Cleveland seasons, and the Cavs are 40-15 in those games. They'd surely take a couple more of those efforts right about now.

"We get to go back home, and we've played well there all year," Love said. "We love playing there in front of the home fans, so this is a good opportunity for us."

A good opportunity for him, too.

Experts: Time good, but rumored fantasy deal challenging

PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — DraftKings and FanDuel are downplaying media reports this week that the two biggest daily fantasy sports companies could team up. But given their swift change of fortune this past year, industry watchers say the timing's right for a deal.

Media reports say the companies have spoken about a merger, though officials at both DraftKings and FanDuel have dismissed the reports as speculation.

Last fall, the rivals waged a costly advertising war in the run-up to the NFL season as they battled for supremacy in the rapidly growing industry. While the blitz attracted new customers, it also led to more scrutiny from viewers annoyed at ads and lawmakers learning about the new form of gambling.

Both DraftKings and FanDuel — along with other companies in the daily fantasy industry — are fighting for survival as states seek to impose greater regulations or ban their online contests, which involve players picking teams of real life athletes in order to win cash prizes based on how those athletes perform.

"I have to believe these two companies see that continuing to bang heads is wasteful," says Daniel Etna, a sports lawyer in New York. "They have to see it makes sense to have less competitive pressure and consolidate, rather than go at it alone."

A merger would allow the companies to end their marketing war, save on operational costs and consolidate mounting legal and lobbying expenses, says Kevin Cochran, a D.C.-based legal analyst at GamblingCompliance, an industry publication.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 27 of 37

Other experts say it could soften the blow if and when states begin to impose stricter regulations and fees on the industry.

Attorneys general in New York, Illinois, Texas and other states have declared the companies illegal gambling operations and ordered them to cease operations, forcing the companies to fight back in court. Most state legislatures, meanwhile, are considering a range of proposals — including some advanced by the industry and its cadre of lobbyists — that are meant to regulate the games.

DraftKings and FanDuel both said this week that rumors of a merger were speculation after Bloomberg reported investors have been pushing for a merger and company officials are discussing a deal, citing unnamed sources familiar with the situation.

“These rumors have existed for as long as both companies have been in operation,” said Femi Waserman, a vice president at DraftKings. “We don’t comment on speculation.”

Executives at Boston-based DraftKings have hinted in the past they might be open to a merger; officials at the larger, New York-based FanDuel, though, have publicly been more reluctant.

But increased regulatory scrutiny has affected each company’s ability raise money from outside investors, a critical lifeline for the privately-held companies, which still aren’t profitable, observers note. At their peak, the companies were each valued at over \$1 billion, but analysts say those assessments have dropped significantly.

“The lower that valuation, the more enticing or realistic a deal becomes,” says Adam Krejcik, managing director at Eilers & Krejcik Gaming, a California-based gambling industry research firm.

Industry leaders hope a merger makes the overall daily fantasy sports landscape stronger.

Justin Park, CEO of RotoQL, a New York company that offers software and analytical tools for fantasy sports players, suggests staff consolidations at the two firms could be a boon to other companies.

“The whole economics of the industry would shift,” he said. “You’re going to have an influx of human capital and a wealth of experience out there. Marketing opportunities could change too. Every single facet will be different.”

Paul Charchian, president of the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, suggests transitioning players to a new, merged system would be fairly straightforward since the companies offer a similar product.

“I expect it will be a drama-free merger because of the similarities in the platforms, play and users,” he said. “We’ll have one healthy company and that’s a net positive to the industry, if it ends up happening.”

An open question is how federal regulators would view such a move.

A merged company would effectively control over 90 percent of the daily fantasy sports market, creating a potential monopoly that may run afoul of federal antitrust laws, says Dustin Hecker, a Boston-based business lawyer.

Others, though, aren’t convinced there’s a problem.

“I don’t see how the consumer would be harmed,” said Jeff Ifrah, a D.C.-based lawyer who represents several smaller daily fantasy companies. “What are they losing out on? How are they going to be paying a higher price? I haven’t seen that argument made yet.”

Charchian, the trade association president, says it isn’t fair to compare a possible merger to high-profile ones in other industries.

“This isn’t like Comcast and Time Warner merging,” he said, referring to the proposed 2014 deal between the two telecommunications giants, which was ultimately scuttled after the Department of Justice threatened to challenge it in court. “This is two companies fighting for their lives.”

South China Sea: China willing to pay the price of defiance

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Even before a ruling, China may have lost by refusing to cooperate with a U.N. arbitration tribunal over its South China Sea claims. Yet Beijing seems prepared to absorb the cost to its reputation, confident that in terms of territory and resources, it won't lose a thing.

Despite pressure from Washington and elsewhere, China appears determined to avoid granting any hint of legitimacy to a process that might challenge its claim to ownership of virtually the entire South China Sea, including its islands, reefs, fish stocks and potentially rich reserves of oil and gas.

The collateral cost, analysts say: harm to global efforts to resolve similar territorial disputes through legal means. By its actions, China is demonstrating that countries can reject such measures whenever they conflict with their interests.

The case before The Hague tribunal, filed by the Philippines, centers on the applicability of China's vaguely drawn "nine-dash line" South China Sea boundary under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS. A decision is expected sometime within the next several weeks, but since there is no enforcement mechanism, its potential impact is unclear.

Along with China and the Philippines, four other governments — Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam — also claim islands and reefs falling within the nine-dash line, while Indonesia has expressed concern about the Chinese boundary overlapping with its exclusive economic zone.

For months, Chinese officials, state media outlets and high-ranking military officers have maintained a relentless stream of invective against the Philippines' pursuit of arbitration, calling it unlawful, illegitimate and a "political farce."

"The South China Sea arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines is nothing but a political scheme for one party to insult the other and will be recorded as an infamous case in the history of international law," Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin told a group of visiting reporters in Beijing earlier this month.

That the panel is headed by a former diplomat from China's old nemesis, Japan, makes it even more worthy of derision, Chinese critics say.

"The ruling can't be objective and fair, and we won't be giving up our historical rights simply to make China look good," said Wu Shicun, president of the National Institute for South China Sea Studies.

Seeking to win over global opinion, both China and chief Philippine ally the United States have been lining up friendly nations to back their positions. Yet, with the exception of Russia, which has been expelled from the G7 and is under heavy international sanctions, those whose support Beijing's claims are mostly small states from outside the region with little influence over the dispute.

Even government-backed scholars such as Wu say that the case is a no-win situation for China.

"Whatever the result, this is a definite loss for China since we've been forced to assume a passive role," Wu said.

Regardless of China's arguments denying the panel's legality, it "will damage China's reputation and image," said Yun Sun, an expert on Chinese foreign policy at the U.S. Stimson Center think tank. However, Sun said that's considered a relatively small price to pay to retain control over the "tangible real territory," far more important than any question of "face."

"Given the stakes in oil, natural resources and strategic depth, I suspect the Chinese government is willing to pay that price," agreed Michael Desch, co-director of the International Security Program at the University of Notre Dame in the U.S.

Within the context of what China perceives as a relentless U.S. campaign to contain its rise to promi-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 29 of 37

nence, Beijing's officials see an American plot behind the case.

"We don't understand why the U.S. has been so active in backing the arbitration behind the scene," said Liu, the vice foreign minister. "As time goes by, I believe the plot will eventually come to light."

Liu said Beijing remains committed to bilateral negotiations, giving no direct indication of a tougher response.

Despite its island-building efforts and military buildup in the South China Sea, China has shown some signs of restraint in not expanding its claims or vigorously seeking to eject other countries' militaries from islands it claims.

While it has barred the Philippines from disputed Scarborough Shoal ever since winning a 2013 maritime standoff, it has shown no recent signs of carrying out the sort of massive reclamation work there that it has on other coral reefs, including building ports and airstrips atop them.

That may be an attempt to retain some credibility over its repeated evocations of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea signed between China and the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

That document states that parties concerned "undertake to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force."

Its reference to the use of "friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned," underscores China's insistence that bilateral negotiations are the only way forward, something critics call a transparent attempt to divide the disputants and keep the dispute off the agenda of multilateral mechanisms.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter has warned that developing Scarborough would be seen as "destabilizing" because of its proximity to the Philippines' main islands, where the U.S. has a small military presence.

China appears to be holding out the possibility of coaxing the Philippines into bilateral talks that have so far gone nowhere. Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has shown indications of being more flexible on the issue than current President Benigno Aquino III.

Based on his remarks so far, Duterte, who takes office on June 30, is unlikely to follow Aquino's hard line stance against China, said Jay Batongbacal, who heads the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea at the state-run University of the Philippines.

Regardless of Duterte's approach, Philippine ambassador to Washington Jose Cuisia predicted a diplomatic standoff if China ignores a negative decision.

"We will be pointing out that China is not following the rule of law," he said. "I don't think they want to be pictured as a rogue nation. So they will probably sit down with us and say, 'OK, can we settle this in a diplomatic manner?'"

Whatever the outcome, China's refusal to cooperate with the tribunal could harm efforts to promote international arbitration that have already been hamstrung by the occasional refusal of the United States and others to recognize the International Court of Justice and other institutions.

China's noncompliance is also damaging to UNCLOS itself, since it could discourage compliance with other features of the convention, particularly its establishment of 200-nautical mile (370-kilometer) exclusive economic zones, said James Kraska, a professor of oceans law and policy at the U.S. Naval War College.

"The only way developing states have a stake in the system," Kraska said, "is if it is governed by the rule of law in which the law binds the strong states as well as the weak."

Police: Indiana man's car had 15 pounds of explosives

AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

TOM DAVIES, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An Indiana man who said he was headed to a gay pride event had a loaded assault rifle with magazines rigged to allow 60 shots to be fired in quick succession, along with 15 pounds of chemicals mixed and ready to explode, according to police in California.

James Wesley Howell, 20, of Charlestown, also had two other loaded rifles, ammunition, a stun gun, a buck knife and a security badge when he was arrested early Sunday in Santa Monica, authorities said Tuesday.

Howell made his initial court appearance Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to three felony weapons and ammunition charges. The judge set bail at \$2 million.

Alone, each item found in Howell's car might not indicate anything sinister, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz said. But together, they "just don't pass the common sense test."

"I cannot in good conscience think of any reasonable reason that somebody would be traveling across the country with all of these things," he said.

Howell recently drove from Indiana to Los Angeles because of pending charges against him in his home state, according to statements he made to police.

Authorities haven't disclosed any evidence that Howell intended violence at the LA Pride event in West Hollywood that attracts hundreds of thousands of people.

Friends in Indiana described Howell as a gun enthusiast with a short temper. In October, he twice was accused of pulling a gun and making threats, once against his then-boyfriend and once against a neighbor.

Howell was convicted in April of misdemeanor intimidation for the incident with his neighbor. Under the terms of his probation, Howell was not allowed to have weapons or leave Indiana.

When he was picked up in Santa Monica, there was an assault rifle in his car's passenger seat and 15 pounds of "Shoc-Shot," two chemicals that explode when mixed and shot. The assault rifle was loaded with a 30-round magazine, which had another inverted 30-round magazine taped to it, according to police.

Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney said gun enthusiasts don't mix Shoc-Shot until it's ready to be used, as federal regulations require, and the amount that Howell had "far exceeds any amount that would reasonably be used."

Howell's attorney, Pamela Jones, told the judge there was no evidence Howell planned to detonate the chemicals. She said a black hood found in his car was "just a clothing item," and nothing indicated Howell planned to use it as a mask, as police contended was a possibility.

James Wedick, a former longtime FBI agent, said the manipulation of the gun magazines would allow someone to reload 30 rounds in less than 2 seconds.

"It doubles your killing capacity by 100 percent," he said. For a civilian to have a weapon rigged as such, "it suggests his purposes are deadly."

The FBI took the lead in the investigation and its probe continues, spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

Federal agents searched Howell's Jeffersonville, Indiana, home Monday but declined to release any details.

Rebecca Lonergan, a former federal prosecutor who teaches national security law at the University of Southern California, said filing the state charges keeps Howell in custody while the FBI continues building its own possible case.

"In the atmosphere we have where there is such great concern about active shooters, about terror-

ism, about hate crimes, both the state and federal investigators are going to want to thoroughly look at this guy," she said.

On Tuesday, the sheriff's office in Clark County, Indiana, said Howell also is the subject of a sexual assault investigation. The alleged incident occurred May 31, about two weeks before Howell's arrest in California.

Gordie Howe celebration shifts to funeral in the Motor City

LARRY LAGE, AP Hockey Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Gordie Howe has drawn some of the biggest names in hockey, including Wayne Gretzky and Gary Bettman, to the Motor City to celebrate his life and legacy.

Howe's funeral was to begin at 11 a.m. Wednesday in a packed Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Thousands of people, famous and relatively anonymous, paid respects to Howe at Joe Louis Arena on Tuesday. He died Friday at the age of 88.

The home of the Detroit Red Wings, Howe's team for more than two decades and four Stanley Cup championships, was opened at 9 a.m. and was scheduled to close at 9 p.m. — for No. 9, of course — but so many people showed up that the visitation lasted longer than planned.

Paul Snapp was ready and willing to wait as long as it took to honor his hero.

The 66-year-old Snapp was one of more than 100 people waiting outside to get in Joe Louis Arena on Tuesday afternoon. Inside, a longer line snaked through the darkened arena.

"I wouldn't have missed this opportunity to see him one more time for anything in the world," said Snapp, sporting Howe's No. 9 Detroit Vipers jersey from his one-game stint as a 69-year-old forward during the 1997-98 International Hockey League season, his sixth decade of professional hockey.

Howe broke records, threw elbows and fists and became an idol to Gretzky and many others while elevating the profile the NHL had in the U.S. With strength, speed and grit, he set NHL records with 801 goals and 1,850 points — mostly with the Red Wings — that stood until Gretzky came along.

Gretzky said he was "embarrassed" to break Howe's records because he played in an incomparable era.

The Great One wore No. 99 in a tribute to Howe, a man he got to know when he was a kid.

"Not everybody gets to meet their hero or their idol," Gretzky said. "And sometimes when you meet them, it wasn't as good as you thought it would be. I got so lucky that the guy I chose happened to be so special."

Howe had bulging muscles — unlike many players in his day — on his 6-foot, 205-pound frame and had a great shot both with his fist and stick.

"He had so much power," said Scotty Bowman, who won an NHL-record ninth Stanley Cup as a coach with the Red Wings in 2002. "He was perfect. If you were going to make a mold of a player, you would want to make it of Gordie."

Price hikes in Egypt bite hard during holy month of Ramadan

SALMA SHUKRALLAH, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Shop owner Hassan Mahmoud laid out his heaps of dried fruits and nuts at a multicolored Ramadan tent in the Egyptian capital to catch shoppers' eyes for the holiday, like he does every year. Only this time, he said, "people aren't buying."

"Things get more expensive every year but this time it's even worse because the dollar is higher,"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 32 of 37

Mahmoud said as he stood on a street full of similar stands bedecked with lanterns set up for the holy month that began June 6.

Annual inflation hit 12.23 percent in May — the highest level in seven years — driven partly by dollar appreciation. The economy has yet to recover from the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak, and the man charged with fixing it — President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi — has shown little tolerance for criticism.

The price hikes are particularly painful during Ramadan, when families traditionally break the dawn-to-dusk fast with lavish feasts.

In an attempt to soften the impact on low-income families, the government has opened new, mobile markets offering basic products at discount prices, and the army has fed and distributed basic goods to the poor in highly publicized events. El-Sissi and other officials have meanwhile tried to deflect some blame about higher costs toward alleged manipulation by dishonest traders.

“Although giving out bags of basic goods is good and it helps, it cannot be a solution,” said economist Omar el-Shenety of Cairo-based investment bank Multiples Group, adding that inflation has more “chronic” causes. Egypt’s imports are more than double its exports and include essential basic goods like wheat, which must be bought in dollars.

In March, Egypt’s central bank devalued the pound by over 14 percent, setting the dollar at 8.85 pounds compared to 7.73 previously. On the black market, traders are paying up to 11 pounds per dollar.

In an attempt to shift demand inwards, the government has raised import duties on several products, especially those it labels as luxury goods — including nuts and fruits frequently sold in Ramadan markets. It has also restricted some imports, which el-Shenety says exacerbates the problem. “The resulting lack of goods raises prices even more,” he said.

Electricity and water bills are also rising, fuel is more expensive, and pharmacies are running out of some medications, fueling anger on social media. The government has severely cracked down on protests over the past two years, making it virtually impossible to air grievances in public.

El-Sissi has called on Egyptians to “be patient” and urged them to donate to a fund created in 2014 called “Long Live Egypt.” He has also defended his decision to slash energy subsidies that year — a step long urged by international lenders but which his predecessors had not dared to enact for fear of a backlash. The move was welcomed by economists, who said the funds would be better spent elsewhere, but the higher costs have contributed to inflation.

May’s inflation was also influenced by a Health Ministry decision last month to increase prices of some locally manufactured drugs by 20 percent, said economist Mohamed Abu-Basha of EFG-Hermes.

The ministry said local manufacturers had been suffering from high raw material costs since the vast majority is imported and priced in dollars, forcing some to shut down and leaving Egyptians with only imported alternatives that cost four to five times as much. Pharmacists say the drug shortages over the past two years have worsened with the pound devaluation.

With parliament set to pass a value-added tax later this year, prices are expected to rise even more.

“Egypt’s lower classes are already facing a real problem, but the purchase powers of the country’s middle class are also being eroded,” el-Shenety said.

Fed is likely to keep rates steady as investors seek hints

MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the Federal Reserve considered sure to leave interest rates alone when it ends a meeting Wednesday, Fed watchers will be seeking clues to the timing of future moves.

The central bank will release a policy statement and update its forecasts for the economy and interest rates. Afterward, Chair Janet Yellen will hold a news conference.

For weeks, the Fed had been expected to consider raising rates at its June meeting. That view was encouraged by the minutes of its most recent meeting in April. The minutes suggested that a rate hike was likely if hiring and economic growth strengthened and inflation showed signs of accelerating toward the Fed's 2 percent target rate.

But this month, the government caught the financial world off guard when it said employers added just 38,000 jobs in May—the weakest gain in five years—and that job growth averaged only 116,000 the past three months, down from 230,000 for the 12 months ending in April.

Suddenly, expectations for a rate hike this month declined. And some expressed confusion about the Fed's approach to rates.

"There is uncertainty about what the Fed might do, and that is confusing markets and adding to market instability," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors.

Fed officials contend that they have long stressed that their rate policies are not on a pre-set course but rather are "data dependent." In a speech last week, Yellen said that while the U.S. economy looks fundamentally solid, there were too many uncertainties to give a specific timetable for upcoming rate hikes.

Among the uncertainties she highlighted is the referendum next week in Britain over whether to leave the European Union. A yes vote could roil markets, and the Fed wouldn't likely want to further unnerve investors with a rate hike just a week before that vote.

Some economists say the Fed could be ready to raise rates in July, assuming that the dismal May employment report is followed by a much stronger June number and investors don't panic after the vote in Britain. Other analysts think the economic outlook will still be too cloudy for a July rate hike and are pointing to September as the most likely time for a Fed move.

In addition to the May jobs report, other economic barometers have also sowed doubts — from tepid consumer spending and business investment to a slowdown in worker productivity to stresses from China other major economies.

And inflation remains below the Fed's target.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands, foresees just one Fed rate hike this year, probably in September, with the central bank then moving to the sidelines in the closing weeks of the presidential race.

On the other hand, Diane Swonk, chief economist at DS Economics in Chicago, predicts two rate hikes, in July and December.

The Fed raised its key policy rate modestly in December from a record low near zero, where it had been since the depths of the Great Recession in 2008. And it projected that it would raise rates four more times in 2016.

But as the year began, oil prices plunged, and concerns escalated about China, the world's second-largest economy. Nervous investors sent markets sinking, and fears arose of a new recession. The Fed put any further rate hikes on hold.

Yellen and other Fed officials have said they expect to raise rates gradually after the job market shows

further signs of improvement, including higher pay increases and inflation moving closer to the Fed's target.

Fed officials keep stressing that only when the latest data shows the economy edging consistently toward full health will they resume raising rates.

Conversely, the Fed also wants to take care not to lead investors to inflate the prices of stocks and other assets out of a mistaken belief that it will keep rates ultra-low well into the future. The need to discourage such excessive risk-taking is why even analysts who think the economy still faces challenges predict that the Fed will nevertheless raise rates at least once this year.

Asian stocks uneven as Fed rate decision looms

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets were uneven Wednesday as investors awaited a Fed interest rate decision while the yuan sank after index compiler MSCI declined to include Chinese stocks in a key index.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index gained 0.7 percent to 15,973.26 while South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.1 percent to 1,973.47. Hong Kong's Hang Seng crept up 0.1 percent to 20,399.30 and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China added 1.2 percent to 2,876.55. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.2 percent to 5,192.10. Benchmark fell in Taiwan and Indonesia fell but rose in Singapore and New Zealand.

CHINA INDEX: Shanghai shares were volatile and the yuan slid after MSCI decided to delay including mainland Chinese stocks in its widely followed Emerging Markets Index. The global stock benchmark provider said China needs to do more to make its market more accessible and closer to international standards. China's domestic stocks, known as "A-shares," are open mostly to local investors. Inclusion on MSCI's index could have attracted more foreign investment as fund managers rebalanced portfolios to reflect the changes. Following the decision, Shanghai's benchmark opened about 1 percent lower before reversing those losses to advance strongly while the Chinese central bank set its daily yuan rate 210 basis points lower at 6.6001 to the dollar, the weakest since January 2011.

QUOTEWORTHY: The MSCI decision "should have no direct influence on onshore equity markets" in China, David Qu and Raymond Yeung of ANZ Bank said in a research note. While investment quotas for foreign institutions "have been increasing over the past few years, China's equity market is very domestic. Cross-border flows are expected to have little impact on the domestic market in the near term."

FED IN FOCUS: The Federal Reserve wraps up a scheduled two-day policy meeting later Wednesday, with a decision on interest rate policy expected after Asian markets close. The U.S. central bank had been expected to raise interest rates but now most analysts are expecting it to stand pat after some weak economic data, including the most recent monthly jobs report, raised some doubts about the recovery in the world's largest economy.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks ended lower. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.3 percent to 17,674.82 and the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.2 percent to 2,075.32. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.1 percent to 4,843.55.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil futures dropped 79 cents to \$47.70 a barrel in electronic trading on the new York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped 39 cents to settle at \$48.49 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 73 cents to \$49.10 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 106.25 yen from 106.02 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1204 from \$1.1214.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 35 of 37

10 Things to Know for Wednesday

The Associated Press

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

1. WHY PICTURE OF ORLANDO GUNMAN GROWS MURKIER

The FBI is investigating if Omar Mateen was a regular customer at the gay nightclub he attacked, and if he had been leading a secret gay life.

2. 'I WAS JUST BEGGING GOD TO TAKE THE SOUL OUT MY BODY'

Those are the words of Patience Carter, who was shot in the leg during the nightclub rampage and feared she would die before police rescued her.

3. WHO DENOUNCES TRUMP'S ANTI-MUSLIM RHETORIC

President Obama blasts the views of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee as a threat to American security.

4. SENATE OKS \$602B DEFENSE BILL

The legislation would bar the closing of the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, setting the stage for a showdown with President Obama.

5. WHAT COURT'S RULING ON 'NET NEUTRALITY' MEANS

An appeals court preserves regulations that force internet providers treat all online traffic equally, without favoring their own services and disadvantaging others.

6. TRIAL STARTS OVER CLAIMS ZEPPELIN STOLE 'STAIRWAY' RIFF

Jimmy Page and Robert Plant are defendants in a lawsuit that contends their blockbuster 1971 hit "Stairway to Heaven" copies music from the song "Taurus," by the band Spirit.

7. FDA APPROVES STOMACH-DRAINING OBESITY TREATMENT

A new weight loss device offers a novel approach to cutting calories: draining them from the stomach before they are digested.

8. IRAQ DETAINS MEN FLEEING ISLAMIC STATE-HELD FALLUJAH

Amnesty International estimates thousands of young men leaving the city are being jailed by Iraqi officials on suspicion that they sympathize with the militant group.

9. ROWDY FANS COULD GET RUSSIA BOUNCED FROM EURO CHAMPIONSHIP

Russia will be expelled from the tournament if its fans cause more violence at its remaining soccer matches, a disciplinary panel rules.

10. 'THE GREAT ONE' PAYS RESPECTS TO 'MR HOCKEY'

"It was one of the great honors of my life," said Wayne Gretzky, chosen as a pallbearer at Gordie Howe's funeral.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 15, the 167th day of 2016. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state.

On this date:

In 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

In 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 36 of 37

In 1849, James Polk, the 11th president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1864, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton signed an order establishing a military burial ground which became Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan (sy-PAN') during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1955, the United States and Britain signed a cooperation agreement concerning atomic information for "mutual defence purposes."

In 1966, the surfing documentary "The Endless Summer" opened in wide release.

In 1978, King Hussein (hoo-SAYN') of Jordan married 26-year-old American Lisa Halaby, who became Queen Noor.

In 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the northern Philippines exploded in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing about 800 people.

In 1996, Ella Fitzgerald, the "first lady of song," died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 79.

Ten years ago: The death toll of U.S. servicemen and women in the Iraq war reached 2,500. A divided Supreme Court made it easier for police to barge into homes and seize evidence without knocking or waiting. House Democrats voted to strip embattled Louisiana Congressman William Jefferson of his seat on the House Ways and Means Committee while a federal bribery investigation ran its course. (Jefferson was later found guilty of taking bribes, and was sentenced to 13 years in prison.) Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates said he would transition from day-to-day responsibilities at the company to concentrate on the charitable work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Five years ago: Pushing back against congressional criticism, the White House said that President Barack Obama had the authority to continue U.S. military action in Libya even without authorization from lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was released from a Houston hospital, five months after being shot in the head during a Tucson political event. The Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup for the first time since 1972, beating the Vancouver Canucks 4-0 in Game 7 of the finals; angry, drunken Vancouver fans ran wild, setting cars on fire and looting stores.

One year ago: Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush entered the 2016 presidential campaign with a rally and speech at Miami Dade College, joining 10 other Republicans already in the race for the party's nomination. Rachel Dolezal resigned as president of the NAACP's Spokane chapter just days after her parents said she was a white woman posing as black woman — a dizzyingly swift fall for an activist credited with injecting remarkable new energy into the civil rights organization. Chicago's Duncan Keith scored in the second period and directed a dominant defense that shut down Tampa Bay's high-scoring attack, and the Blackhawks beat the Lightning 2-0 in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup finals for their third NHL title in the past six seasons. American businessman Kirk Kerkorian, 95, died in Beverly Hills, California. Burlesque icon Blaze Starr, 83, died in Wilsondale, West Virginia.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Ruby Nash Garnett (Ruby and the Romantics) is 82. Rock singer-actor Johnny Hallyday is 73. Funk musician Leo Nocentelli (The Meters) is 70. Actor Simon Callow is 67. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 67. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 65. Comedian-actor Jim Belushi is 62. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 62. Actress Julie Hagerty is 61. Actress Polly Draper is 61. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 59. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Wade Boggs is 58. Actress Eileen Davidson is 57. Bluegrass musician Terry Smith is 56. Actress Helen Hunt is 53. Rock musician

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 15, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 320 ♦ 37 of 37

Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 53. Actress Courteney Cox is 52. Country musician Tony Ardoin is 52. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 50. Contemporary Christian musician Rob Mitchell is 50. Rock musician Jimmy McD is 48. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 47. Actress Leah Remini is 46. Actor Jake Busey is 45. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Johnson is 44. Rock musician T-Bone Willy (Save Ferris) is 44. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 43. Actor Greg Vaughan is 43. Actress Elizabeth Reaser is 41. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 40. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 35. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 32. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 26.

Thought for Today: "Education is a private matter between the person and the world of knowledge and experience, and has little to do with school or college." — Lillian Smith, American author (1897-1966).