

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 1 of 31

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 2- NSU "Mary Poppins"
- 3- Farm and Ranch land sales increase
- 3- Blackmun 50th Wedding Anniversary
- 4- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Local Weather Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 7- Today's Weather Climate
- 7- National Weather map
- 8 - Daily Devotional
- 9 - News from the Associated Press

Sunday, April 23

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with Milestones at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

United Methodist: Conde Worship at 9 a.m., Coffee and fellowship at 10 a.m., Groton Worship at 11 a.m., Sunday School begins after children's sermon.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont: Worship at 10 a.m.

Monday, April 24

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on wheat bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, crunchy cranberry salad.

School Lunch: Submarines, sweet potato tots, fruit.

School Breakfast: Cheese omelette, muffin, fruit, juice, milk.

10 a.m.: Girls Golf at Milbank

4 p.m.: 7th/8th grade track at Aberdeen Central.

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Cub Scouts at 7 p.m., Evening Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.



Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 2 of 31



Kari Hanson (middle) was one of the performers at the Northern State University theatre production of "Mary Poppins." The Kosel girls had their picture taken with Kari after the event Saturday night. Jeslyn is on the left and Julianna is on the right.



Farm & Ranch Land Sales Increase Farmers National Sees Jump In Transactions

OMAHA, Neb. –Farmers National Company reports that real estate sales volume is up 21 percent during the first half of its fiscal year compared to last year and up 38 percent from a year earlier with an increase in both individual sales transactions and acres sold.

Acres sold by the company increased 10 percent from last year and 27 percent compared to two years ago. Transaction volume has also been on the increase, up 47 percent in the past two years. For the first half of its fiscal year, which runs from October through March, there were 470 transactions involving 63,925 acres.

Randy Dickhut, senior vice president, noted that the sales activity is being driven primarily by non-operating landowners.

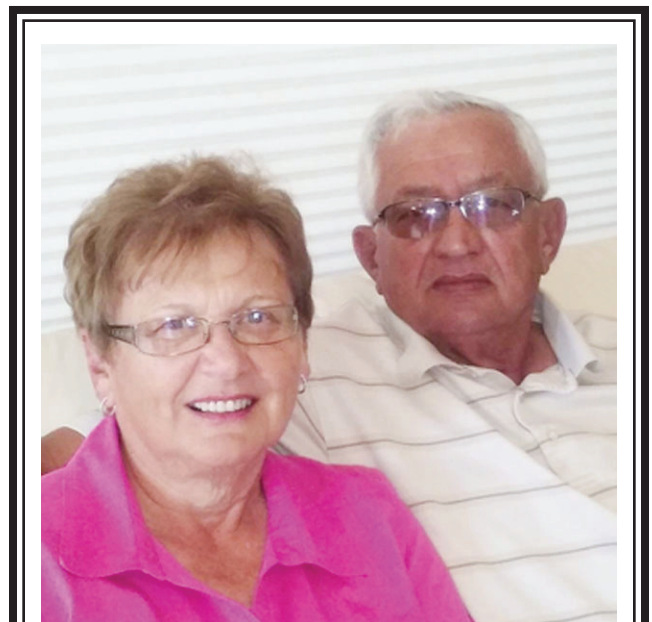
“So far, few farm operators are selling land and investors continue to be in the market looking for opportunities to add acres to their holdings. The slow decline in the land market is part of the reason some are selling,” he said.

Some landowners have decided that now is the time to sell and capture some of the land appreciation seen in the last few years. Dickhut said that there is still good demand for land in most of the company’s 28-state service area.

“The number of buyers and sellers for good land in most markets is in equilibrium and that seems to be helping our land sales. As long as the seller is realistic about today’s market price for land in their area, there are buyers looking to buy. I credit our increases in the face of a slowing land market to our large network of agents educating their clients on the current market prospects,” Dickhut said.

Farmers National also reports continued strong land auction activity with a 12 percent increase in the number of auctions sales over last year at this time. The volume of listings for sale is also strong.

“Having the ability to either sell land by auction or through a private treaty listing gives our sellers the most options to achieve a successful sale,” Dickhut said.



50th Anniversary

Dave and Mary Blackmun are celebrating 50 years of marriage. Please join family and friends for an open house Saturday, April 29th, at Olive Grove golf course in Groton, SD from 2-4 pm. No gifts please.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 4 of 31

Protecting Life By Rep. Kristi Noem

I still remember the first time Bryon and I heard our oldest daughter Cassidy's heartbeat. There was no baby bump – yet. No baby clothes in the closet. No name picked out. I'm not even sure how many people in our family knew we were expecting at that point, but with the rapid, muffled thuds of our baby's heartbeat in the background, we knew our lives were already changed.

I believe every life, including an unborn baby's life, has dignity and value. But more than 40 years ago, the Supreme Court handed down a decision in direct contradiction to those principles. In the decades since, I – along with many in South Dakota – have been fighting to undo the damage. While there's still a long way to go, we've recently taken some meaningful steps forward.

President Trump came into office with a promise to nominate a Supreme Court Justice who would protect the constitutional rights of the unborn. I'm hopeful the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch fulfilled that promise and I was glad to see him take the Oath of Office this April.

Days later, the president signed H.J.Res.43, which empowered states to defund abortion facilities, like Planned Parenthood. Now, states can instead choose to use this money to support non-abortion-providing clinics that offer greater accessibility and a broader range of preventive health care services to women.

In South Dakota, there are more than 100 federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics that could benefit from these funds, but only one Planned Parenthood center. To say that we must fund Planned Parenthood or deny thousands of women care is a false choice. We can support women's health – and specifically, health care for low-income women – without supporting abortion providers. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which notably doesn't take a penny from women's health initiatives, and was thrilled to see it earn the president's signature.

But more must be done. Time and again, Congress has opposed taxpayer-funded abortions with bipartisan support. Annual provisions, including the Hyde Amendment, have been passed repeatedly, saving an estimated 2 million innocent lives. Even with this provision in place, however, Obamacare has allowed your tax dollars to flow to over 1,000 abortion-covering health plans. That's unacceptable. We need to make the Hyde Amendment permanent and government-wide. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which I cosponsored and the House passed, would accomplish that.

Additionally, I'm working to protect doctors, nurses and others who don't want to participate in abortions. In some cases, these individuals have faced discrimination and retribution for sticking to their principles. That shouldn't happen. I've cosponsored legislation to protect these individuals and I'm fighting to see it pass the House and hopefully be signed into law soon.

Bryon and I knew our lives had changed when we heard Cassidy's heartbeat for the first time and I hope she knows just how proud we are of the generous, compassionate person she's become. She's grown up quickly and I love to think back on those days when I was still taller than her. We read a lot together back then. One of our favorites was Dr. Seuss's "Horton Hears a Who," which reads, in part: "A person is a person no matter how small." Each time we read that line, I'd think back to those first muffled thuds. "A person is a person, no matter how small."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 5 of 31

Today in Weather History April 23, 2002:

April 23, 2002: High winds of 35 to 50 mph gusting to over 70 mph occurred across much of central and northeast South Dakota. The high winds caused some spotty damage to property and trees. With the dry conditions, dust was stirred up by the winds and caused reduced visibilities at many locations. The highest wind gust was 72 mph at Onida.

1885 - The city of Denver, CO, was in the midst of a storm which produced 23 inches of snow in 24 hours, and at Idaho Springs CO produced 32 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1910 - The temperature at the Civic Center in Los Angeles, CA, hit 100 degrees to establish an April record for the city. (The Weather Channel)

1948: A three block long section was devastated at the edge of Ionia, Iowa in Chickasaw County by an estimated F4 tornado. Six homes and a church were leveled, and nine other homes were severely damaged. Two deaths occurred in the collapse of the Huffman Implement Store. Overall, the tornado killed five people, injured 25, and caused \$250,000 in damages. An F2 tornado touched down initially 5 miles northeast of Rochester. Barns, silos, windmills, and machinery were destroyed on four farms as this tornado tracked north.

1961: Severe weather struck the south suburbs of Chicago, IL. Joliet, IL reported an inch of hail with some hailstones the size of golf balls. Heavy rain from these storms also resulted in some flooding. A tornado struck the town of Peotone resulting in damage to nearly every building with damage also reported in Lorenzo and Wilton Center, IL. Damage was estimated at \$9 million dollars with about 30,000 structures affected.

1983 - A mini-blizzard produced sixteen inches of snow at Laramie, WY, including a foot of snow in just eight hours during the night. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Atlantic Coast Region produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 67 mph at Anderson SC. The high winds destroyed two planes at the airport, and the large hail damaged fifty other planes, and severely damaged twenty-three greenhouses. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - An intense winter-like storm brought thunderstorms to southern California, and produced snow in some of the higher elevations. Nine girls at Tustin CA were injured when lightning struck the tree under which their softball team had taken shelter from the rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Salina, KS, was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 105 degrees. The high of 105 degrees established an April record for the state of Kansas. A total of eighteen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

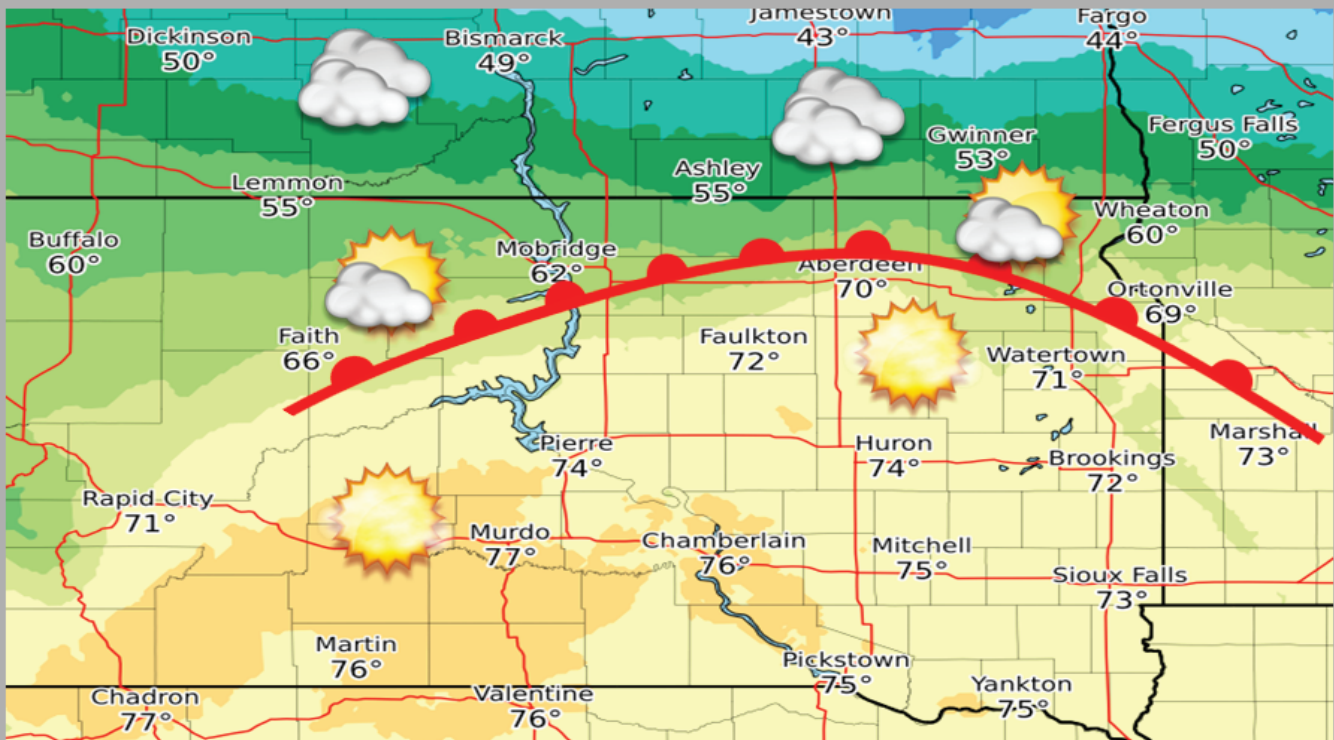
1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in West Texas and western Oklahoma. Thunderstorms produced tennis ball size hail at Lake McKenzie TX and at Garden City TX, and produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Gage OK. Thunderstorms drenched southeast Minnesota with heavy rain, with 6.6 inches reported northwest of Browndale. High temperatures were mostly in the 80s across the central U.S. The morning low of 67 degrees at Fargo ND and afternoon high of 91 degrees were both records for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 6 of 31

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain/Snow	Partly Sunny
High: 69 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 58 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 44 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 47 °F

Mild To The South – Colder Air To The North Chance For Moisture Monday



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 4/23/2017 4:06 AM Central

Published on: 04/23/2017 at 4:15AM

A cold front has pushed into central and eastern South Dakota this morning, however this is expected to lift back northwards through the course of the afternoon to the northern tier of South Dakota. Locations to the south of the front will see highs in the 60s and low 70s. Locations to the north will struggle to warm out of the 50s. A low pressure system forming along the front will bring some light amounts of moisture to the region Monday, but will also draw the colder air back across the region. This colder air is expected to persist for the upcoming work week and possibly into next weekend.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 7 of 31

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 69.0 F at 5:49 PM

Low Outside Temp: 33.9 F at 5:32 AM

High Gust: 24.0 Mph at 4:30 PM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 2009

Record Low: 14° in 1956

Average High: 61°F

Average Low: 35°F

Average Precip in April.: 1.18

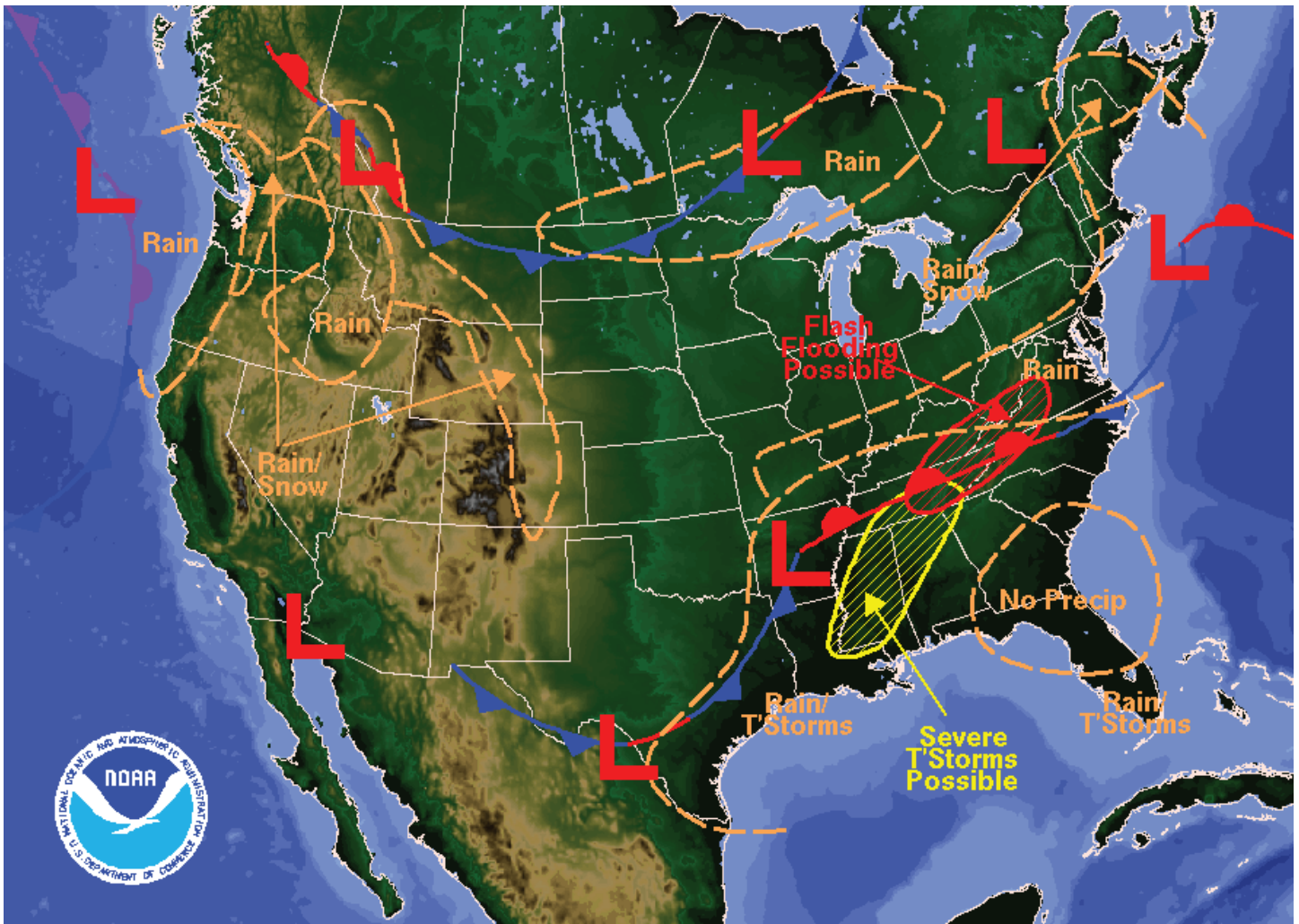
Precip to date in April.: 1.09

Average Precip to date: 3.36

Precip Year to Date: 1.68

Sunset Tonight: 8:30 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:32 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Apr 22, 2017, issued 5:51 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 8 of 31



LUNCH BOX RELIGION

In a "Peanuts" comic strip, Linus carefully listened to Lucy as she boasted about her religious zeal. She wanted him to think that she was all about witnessing to others.

"You know, Linus," she bragged, "I could be a terrific evangelist. Do you know the kid that sits behind me in school? I convinced him that my religion was better than his religion!"

"How did you do that?" he asked.

"I hit him with my lunch box until he gave in," she replied.

Jesus said, "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." Jesus knew that love would work better than a lunch box!

Biblical love must never be confused with warm, fuzzy feelings or emotional ups and downs. Biblical love is a love that would open ones lunch box to someone who is hungry and in need of food even though the lunch box owner would have to do without food. It is a love that may cause us to give until we ourselves have to do without. It is a love that will, at times, drain us of energy and finances to help those who are victims of wrongdoing through no fault of their own. It is a love that absorbs the hurts of others without complaining or holding back when we think that we are being taken advantage of. It is a kind of love that is hard to do. But it is the kind of love we see revealed in the life of Jesus.

Prayer: We see in Your Son, Father, the ultimate definition of love – a love that had or has no limits or draws no lines. Fill our hearts with a love like Your Son. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 9 of 31

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

03-11-21-30-31

(three, eleven, twenty-one, thirty, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$93,000

Hot Lotto

13-14-24-44-46, Hot Ball: 10

(thirteen, fourteen, twenty-four, forty-four, forty-six; Hot Ball: ten)

Estimated jackpot: \$5.79 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$52 million

Powerball

21-39-41-48-63, Powerball: 6, Power Play: 3

(twenty-one, thirty-nine, forty-one, forty-eight, sixty-three; Powerball: six; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

15,000 turkeys die in barn fire in SE South Dakota

MONTROSE, S.D. (AP) — Some 15,000 turkeys died when a fire destroyed their barn in southeastern South Dakota.

The Montrose Fire Department was called to the Orland Hutterite Colony near Montrose just after 11 p.m. Friday in McCook County. The roof of the barn had already collapsed by the time crews arrived.

KELO-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/2p3YZJp>) the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Montrose is about 30 miles west of Sioux Falls.

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

Authorities drop 33 cases against Dakota Access protesters

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Authorities dropped nearly three dozen cases last month that stemmed from arrests of protesters against the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline, court records show.

The Bismarck Tribune reported Saturday (<http://bit.ly/2ofXsTp>) that prosecutors and judges dropped the 33 misdemeanor cases while another 14 were resolved by guilty pleas. Most of the cases dropped last month related to criminal trespass charges from the late summer and fall.

Prosecutors struggled to prove those charges before Judge Allan Schmalenberger, who ruled in multiple cases that the Morton County State's Attorney office had failed to meet its burden of proving that protesters were given proper notice that they were on private land, either with signs or verbal warnings.

Demonstrators staged months of protests near the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to try to stop the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline, saying it will pollute water and damage Native American sacred sites. Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, which built the line, says it's safe. According to the joint information center, 761 arrests were made during the protests.

Protesters who got their charges dropped last month included Rebecca Kemble, a Madison, Wisconsin, City Council member, who was acting as a legal observer on Oct. 10, according to her defense attorney's brief. She was charged with criminal trespass, engaging in a riot, resisting arrest and tampering with evidence, but her attorney argued she was arrested while trying to leave and was simply turning off her camera, not deleting evidence.

Those pleading guilty included actress Shailene Woodley, star of the "Divergent" films, who livestreamed her arrest on Facebook. Her plea deal on a disorderly conduct charge called for no jail time.

Assistant State's Attorney Brian Grosinger said some of those dismissed cases would be re-charged.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

2 men plead guilty to manslaughter in Rapid City stabbing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two men who had been charged with murder in the stabbing death of a Rapid City man have pleaded guilty to reduced charges of manslaughter.

Nineteen-year-old Ranon Bissonette and 20-year-old Hunter High Pipe admitted in court Friday to stabbing 56-year-old Edward Lowry in September 2015 so they could steal his wallet.

Bissonette revealed little emotion, whereas High Pipe wiped at tears, the Rapid City Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2pQ0haY>). A third suspect died by suicide shortly before two others were charged last May.

Prosecutors will recommend prison terms of up to 75 years for Bissonette and up to 40 years for High Pipe when they're sentenced June 2.

Police Chief Karl Jegeris said investigators started out with "absolutely no suspects, no leads and no information" after Lowry's body was found in a parking lot, but cracked the case with surveillance video from local businesses.

"We were able to put together a timeline in a puzzle, and we were able to show the tracking of movement of both the victim and the suspects," he said.

Lowry worked in the newspaper's printing plant.

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

South Dakota trooper back on duty after severe assault

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper who was severely beaten and left for dead during a drug bust traffic stop 1 ½ years ago helped in a recent bust that netted found 2 pounds of heroin and about \$27,000 in cash and checks.

The Pierre Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2pB7Gh9>) reported that trooper Zac Bader and his service dog Karma pursued a man who ran from a vehicle with packages during a March 31 traffic stop.

The man, 59-year-old LeRoy Edwards Jr., was found at a farmstead without the packages. Highway Patrol spokesman Tony Mangan said Bader recovered 1.7 pounds of heroin in three vacuumed-sealed packages along Edwards' path. A bag of marijuana and money were found in the van.

Edwards and the vehicle's driver, 59-year-old Randi Edwards, were arrested and face drug-related

charges.

Bader was severely beaten and left for dead during a drug bust traffic stop October 26, 2015. Donald Willingham, who was 33 at the time, assaulted Bader, before fleeing in a vehicle with two other men and one woman, prosecutors say.

Bader sustained serious fractures in his face and head requiring a lengthy hospitalization and surgeries.

Willingham is in jail and faces charges of attempted murder, aggravated assault on a law officer and possession of marijuana with intent to deal. No trial has been scheduled, a court official said. The other three in the vehicle were also arrested and made deals with the prosecutor in 2015. They pleaded guilty to dealing marijuana and being accessories to a crime and agreed to testify against Willingham.

Bader returned to work October 1.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

South Dakota nonprofit to build housing for ex-convicts

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Nonprofit Glory House has a tentative deal with the city of Sioux Falls to acquire park property to build housing for ex-convicts.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2pKBcNO>) reported that under a deal reached this month, the city would raze the existing building on the land and divide the property, which was appraised at \$675,000, into three pieces. A 43,000-square-foot portion would be donated to the nonprofit while a 9,000-square-foot section would be sold to them for \$50,000 because the city wanted something in return for the land.

Mayor Mike Huether and his administrators have resisted the deal, saying it's not in taxpayers' interest to give away city assets.

The deal also states that Glory House can't deviate from its plan to build up a 100-unit apartment complex with neighboring support and counseling services and the city can't hold the deal against them if Glory House ever pursues affordable housing grants from the community development office.

Glory House Executive Director Dave Johnson said the deal allows the organization to fulfill its immediate expansion plans while also providing room for further expansion.

"We worked pretty long and hard to try and come up with ways to bring everything together - including taxpayers and our clients," he said. "All of us walk away, I think, winners in this."

The deal has yet to be finalized.

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

France begins presidential vote in test for populism

By THOMAS ADAMSON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Amid heightened security, French voters began casting ballots for their next president Sunday in a first-round poll that's seen as a litmus test for the spread of populism around the world and a vote on the future of Europe.

More than 50,000 police and gendarmes were deployed to the 66,000 polling stations for Sunday's election, which comes after Thursday's deadly attack on the Champs-Elysees in which a police officer and a gunman were slain. The presidential poll is the first ever to be held during a state of emergency, put in place since the Paris attacks of November 2015.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 12 of 31

Voters are choosing between 11 candidates in the most unpredictable contest in decades.

The vote "is really important, mainly because we really need a change in this country with all the difficulties we are facing and terrorism," said Paris resident Alain Richaud, who was waiting to cast his vote.

Opinion polls point to a tight race among the four leading contenders vying to advance to the May 7 presidential runoff, when the top two candidates will go head to head.

Polls suggest far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen and Emmanuel Macron, an independent centrist and former economy minister, were in the lead. But conservative Francois Fillon, a former prime minister, who was embroiled in a scandal over alleged fake jobs appeared to be closing the gap, as was far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon.

France's 10 percent unemployment, its lackluster economy and security were issues that top concerns for the 47 million eligible voters.

The election is widely seen as a vote on the future of the European Union — with most of the candidates railing against its institutions.

Both Le Pen and Melenchon — two candidates from opposite extremes of the political spectrum — could pull France out of the 28-nation bloc and its shared euro currency in a so-called "Frexit."

A French exit could spell the end of the EU.

If either candidate wins a spot in the runoff, it will be seen as a victory for the rising wave of populism reflected by the votes for Donald Trump in the U.S. and Brexit in Britain.

"It's definitely risky, but I have faith in the result even if an extreme candidate qualifies for the second round," said Beatrice Schopflin, who was queuing to vote in Paris.

Macron and Fillon are committed to European unity and would reform labor rules.

The candidates are voting throughout the day.

Meters from the polling station where Le Pen was heading to vote, several feminist activists from the Femen group were arrested after staging a topless protest against the far-right leader, who is the only major female contender in the race. Police intervened and stopped the commotion minutes before the 48-year-old arrived to cast her ballot in the northern town of Henin-Beaumont. No one was hurt.

Macron, meanwhile, was the image of serenity as he posed for selfies with voters after casting his ballot in the coastal town of Le Touquet in northern France alongside his wife, Brigitte Macron.

Fillon voted in Paris, but his wife — who's been handed preliminary charges for her role in the fake jobs scandal that rocked her husband's campaign — voted 250 kilometers (155 miles) away from him near their 14th century manor house in Sarthe.

This year's roller-coaster campaign has seen much controversy, but some voters appear to have become blasé or turned off from politics.

"There have been surprises, there have always been scandals," said Le Touquet resident Pierre-Antoine Guilluy.

Voter Marie-Christine Colrat said: "Listen, too many candidates. And candidates that caused us a lot of problems, I think that's not a good thing for France."

Unpopular incumbent President Francois Hollande, who pledged last year not to stand for re-election, voted in his political fiefdom of Tulle in Correze, southwestern France.

This year's Socialist party presidential candidate Benoit Hamon cast his ballot in Trappes, a Paris suburb. Melenchon also voted in Paris.

Political campaigning was banned from midnight Friday hours ahead of polls opening in France's far-flung overseas territories such as Guadeloupe, French Polynesia and French Guiana, which all voted a day early Saturday.

Associated Press writers Nadine Achoui-Lesage in Paris, Chris den Hond in Le Touquet and Alex Turn-

bull in Henin-Beaumont contributed to this report.

Global finance leaders dodge conflict with Trump White House

By PAUL WISEMAN and MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global finance leaders sought to avoid conflict with the Trump administration over trade and environmental policy and welcomed signs the world economy is pulling out of the doldrums.

The International Monetary Fund dropped a sharp condemnation of trade protectionism and references to climate change from a statement at the close of its spring meetings with the World Bank. Gone was a call for nations to “resist all forms of protectionism” that had been in an October communique.

During the presidential campaign, Donald Trump threatened to impose tariffs on China and Mexico and called global warming a hoax. Since taking office, Trump has slashed environmental regulations, and his administration has planned big cutbacks at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The meetings of the 189-nation IMF and World Bank, which wrapped up Saturday, were dominated by concerns over the rising anti-globalization tide that carried Trump to the White House and set the stage for Britain to leave the European Union.

Skepticism over the benefits of free trade persists despite signs of economic improvement. The global economy is finally recovering from a long period of economic languor that IMF managing director Christine Lagarde labeled “the New Mediocre.” The IMF expects the world economy to expand 3.5 percent this year, up from 3.1 percent in 2016, helped by rising commodity prices and the surprising resilience of China’s economy.

But Lagarde and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said world governments needed to do a better job helping those being left behind economically. Otherwise, a backlash against globalization could pressure governments into adopting protectionist policies that would harm world trade and growth.

In its communique Saturday, the IMF urged nations to avoid “inward-looking policies,” but did not include the stronger language of the October communique.

At a closing news conference, Lagarde and Agustin Carstens, head of the Bank of Mexico and chair of the IMF’s policy committee, sought to downplay the changes. Lagarde noted that a separate document setting out the IMF’s policy agenda did retain strong language condemning protectionism and promoting efforts to combat climate change.

Carstens said that it was important to recognize the viewpoints of different countries. “We all want free and fair trade and that is what is reflected in the communique,” he told reporters when asked why the language on protectionism had been dropped.

A similar change on the issue of protectionism was made in a communique that the Group of 20 major economies issued last month in Baden-Baden, Germany. Steven Mnuchin, attending his first international gathering as Trump’s Treasury secretary, had defended the change in the G-20 communique at the German meeting by saying, “The historical language was not really relevant.”

Eswar Prasad, a trade economist at Cornell University, said the changes in the IMF and G-20 communiqués reflect the Trump administration’s determination to undo decades of American policy in favor of ever-freer trade. “The G-20 consensus on issues such as free trade and combating climate change is crumbling in the face of the Trump administration’s hostility to those positions,” Prasad said. “The notion of allowing for freer trade has run up against the Trump administration’s conviction that its major trading partners are manipulating trade and currency policies to their own benefit.”

At a joint appearance with Lagarde on Saturday, Mnuchin said that the internal debate over the wording of the IMF communique had taken much less time than the debate over the wording of the G-20

communiqué last month. He said that the administration's goal was to make trade fairer and was not aimed at erecting protectionist barriers.

"The United States is probably the most open trading market there is," Mnuchin said.

Associated Press writer Matthew Pennington contributed to this report.

Erin Moran, Joanie Cunningham in "Happy Days," dies at 56

BY HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Erin Moran, the former child star who played Joanie Cunningham in the sitcoms "Happy Days" and "Joanie Loves Chachi," died Saturday at age 56.

A statement from the sheriff's department in Harrison County, Indiana, said the dispatcher "received a 911 call about an unresponsive female. Upon arrival of first responders, it was determined that Erin Moran Fleischmann was deceased. An autopsy is pending."

The dispatcher confirmed to The Associated Press that the woman was the actress, who had been married to Steven Fleischmann.

"Such sad sad news. RIP Erin," "Happy Days" star Ron Howard tweeted Saturday. "I'll always choose to remember you on our show making scenes better, getting laughs and lighting up TV screens."

A Burbank, California, native, Moran began acting in TV and movies before she was 10 years old. She had several years of experience when she was cast in 1974 in "Happy Days" as Joanie Cunningham, the kid sister to high school student Richie Cunningham, played by Howard. Other cast members included Tom Bosley and Marion Ross as Joanie's parents and Henry Winkler as the loveable tough guy Arthur "The Fonz" Fonzarelli.

"What happened with all of us was like we were this family," she told Xfinity in 2009. "It was so surreal with all the cast members. ... They were my family, get it?"

Debuting at a time of nostalgia for the seemingly innocent 1950s, the sitcom was set in Milwaukee and became a long-running hit. Howard and Winkler were the show's biggest stars, but the smiling, freckle-faced Moran also became popular. In 1982, she was paired off with fellow "Happy Days" performer Scott Baio in the short-lived "Joanie Loves Chachi." Moran returned to "Happy Days" in 1984, the show's final season.

"I would love to do a feature (film), I'd love to do a play," she told CNN in 1981 when asked what she'd like to do after "Happy Days."

Her more recent credits included "The Love Boat" and "Murder, She Wrote," but she never approached the success of "Happy Days" and was more often in the news for her numerous personal and financial struggles and was reportedly homeless at times.

In 2011, she and Ross and former "Happy Days" actors Anson Williams and Donnie Most sued CBS, saying they were owed money for merchandising related to the show. The lawsuit was settled the following year.

Moran told Xfinity that she had been working on a memoir, called "Happy Days, Depressing Nights."

"OH Erin... now you will finally have the peace you wanted so badly here on earth," Winkler tweeted Saturday. "Rest In It serenely now.. too soon."

Security tight as France prepares for presidential vote

By THOMAS ADAMSON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Early voting began overseas Saturday in France's most nail-biting election in generations, and the 11 candidates seeking to become the country's next president silenced their campaigns as required to give voters a period of reflection.

Opinion polls pointed to a tight race among the four top contenders vying to get into the May 7 presidential runoff that will decide who becomes France's next head of state. But the polls also said that decision was largely in the hands of the one-in-three French voters who were still undecided.

Polls opened in France's far-flung overseas territories but voting wouldn't start until Sunday on the French mainland. France's 10 percent unemployment, its lackluster economy and security issues topped voters' concerns.

Political campaigning was banned from midnight Friday until the polls close at 8 p.m. Sunday.

Polls suggested that far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen and Emmanuel Macron, an independent centrist and former economy minister, were in the lead.

However, conservative Francois Fillon, a former prime minister whose campaign was initially derailed by corruption allegations that his wife was paid for no-show work as his aide, appeared to be closing the gap, as was far-leftist candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon.

Security was tight — the government mobilized more than 50,000 police and gendarmes to protect 70,000 polling stations, with an additional 7,000 soldiers on patrol.

Security was a prominent issue after a wave of extremist attacks on French soil, including a gunman who killed a Paris police officer Thursday night before being shot dead by security forces. The gunman carried a note praising the Islamic State group.

Voters made their choices in the Atlantic Ocean territories of Saint Pierre and Miquelon as well as in French Guiana in South America, the Caribbean's Guadeloupe and elsewhere. Voters abroad could also cast ballots in French embassies Saturday.

The mad-dash campaigning of the last few weeks came to an abrupt halt after the Champs-Elysees gun attack by 39-year-old Karim Cheurfi. Three suspects close to the attacker remain in custody, Agnes Thibault-Lecuivre of the Paris prosecutor's office said Saturday.

Le Pen and Fillon canceled their last campaign events Friday over security concerns. Macron did too, but also accused his rivals of trying to capitalize on the attack with their anti-immigration, tough-on-security messages.

In a sign of how tense the country is, a man holding a knife caused widespread panic Saturday at Paris' Gare du Nord train station. He was arrested and no one was hurt.

Well-wishers paid their respects Saturday at the site of the shooting, which was adorned with flowers, candles and messages of solidarity for the slain police officer, Xavier Jugele. Across from the Eiffel Tower, women from the group Angry Wives of Law Enforcement demonstrated against violence aimed at police.

Some believed French stoicism would prevent a lurch to the right in the presidential vote, even though the attack dominated French headlines.

"These 48 hours are not going to change everything ... terrorism is now an everyday occurrence. It's permanent, 24 hours a day. So we're not afraid. If we're believers in freedom, we must live with it," said Marise Moron, a retired doctor.

"I'm not going to let myself be influenced by people who are trying to frighten us," Paris resident Anne-Marie Redouin said near the heavily-guarded Eiffel Tower.

Others, fearful that Le Pen has been strengthened by the instability, said they would shift their votes

from fringe candidates to make sure to keep the far-right out of power.

"With an attack such as this one, I think the National Front will get a good result. Therefore I'll change my intention and cast a useful vote — either Melenchon or Macron," said physics teacher Omar Ilys, 44.

The French presidential choice will resonate far beyond France's borders, from Syrian battlefields to Hong Kong trading floors and the halls of the U.N. Security Council.

The election is also widely being viewed as a ballot on the future of the 28-nation European Union. The far-right Le Pen and the far-left Melenchon could pull France out of the bloc and its shared euro currency — a so-called "Frexit."

A French exit could ignite a death spiral for the EU, the euro and the whole idea of European unity that was borne out of the bloodshed of World War II. France is a founding member of the EU and its main driver, along with former rival Germany.

Financial markets are already jittery over a possible Frexit, fearing capital flight, defaults or lawsuits on bonds and contracts. Le Pen's team is downplaying possible apocalyptic scenarios and arguing that the euro — which is now used by 19 nations — is headed for a breakup eventually anyway.

If Le Pen or Melenchon win a spot in the runoff, it will be seen as a victory for the populist wave reflected by the votes for Donald Trump and Brexit — the British departure from the EU. Many French workers who have lost out by globalization are similarly fed up with establishment parties and attracted by promises of ditching the status quo.

Alternatively, if neither candidate makes it past Sunday's first round into the runoff, that's a clear message that populist nationalism is receding.

Macron and Fillon are committed to European unity and would reform labor rules. Macron has framed himself as a bulwark against Trump's protectionism.

Le Pen and Melenchon blame free trade pacts for killing French jobs and want to renegotiate them.

Associated Press writers David Keyton, Nadine Achoui-Lesage, Raphael Satter and Angela Charlton contributed to this report.

Advocates fan out in global show of support for science

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world saw brain power take a different form Saturday.

From the Washington Monument to Germany's Brandenburg Gate and even to Greenland, scientists, students and research advocates rallied on an often soggy Earth Day, conveying a global message about scientific freedom without political interference, the need for adequate spending for future breakthroughs and just the general value of scientific pursuits.

They came in numbers that were mammoth if not quite astronomical.

"We didn't choose to be in this battle, but it has come to the point where we have to fight because the stakes are too great," said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann, who regularly clashes with politicians.

President Donald Trump, in an Earth Day statement hours after the marches kicked off, said that "rigorous science depends not on ideology, but on a spirit of honest inquiry and robust debate."

Denis Hayes, who co-organized the first Earth Day 47 years ago, said the crowd he saw from the speaker's platform down the street from the White House was energized and "magical" in a rare way, similar to what he saw in the first Earth Day.

"For this kind of weather, this is an amazing crowd. You're not out there today unless you really care. This is not a walk in the park event," Hayes said of the event in the park.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 17 of 31

Mann said that like other scientists, he would rather be in his lab, the field or teaching students. But driving his advocacy are officials who deny his research that shows rising global temperatures. When he went on stage, he got the biggest applause for his simple opening: "I am a climate scientist."

In Los Angeles, Danny Leserman, the 26-year-old director of digital media for the county's Democratic party, said "We used to look up to intelligence and aspire to learn more and do more with that intellectual curiosity. And we've gone from there to a society where ... our officials and representatives belittle science and they belittle intelligence. And we really need a culture change."

The rallies in more than 600 cities put scientists, who generally shy away from advocacy and whose work depends on objective experimentation, into a more public position.

Scientists said they were anxious about political and public rejection of established science such as climate change and the safety of vaccine immunizations.

"Scientists find it appalling that evidence has been crowded out by ideological assertions," said Rush Holt, a former physicist and Democratic congressman who runs the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "It is not just about Donald Trump, but there is also no question that marchers are saying 'when the shoe fits.'"

Despite saying the march was not partisan, Holt acknowledged it was only dreamed up at the Women's March on Washington, a day after Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration.

But the rallies were also about what science does for the world.

"Most people don't know how much funding for the sciences supports them in their lives every day. Every medical breakthrough, their food, clothing, our cellphones, our computers, all that is science-based," said Pati Vitt, a plant scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden. "So if we stop funding scientific discoveries now, in 10 years, whatever we might have had won't be; we just won't have it."

In Washington, the sign that 9-year-old Sam Klimas of Parkersburg, West Virginia, held was red, handmade and personal: "Science saved my life." He had a form of brain cancer and has been healthy for eight years now.

Signs around the globe ranged from political ones — "Make America think again," — to the somewhat nerdy "What Do Want? Evidence. When do want it? After peer review" to the downright obscure Star Trek and Star Wars references.

In Washington there was also a science fair feel, where lectures were given in tents and hands-on science tables for kids. University of Minnesota physicist James Kakalios explained the science behind Superman, Spider-man, the Fantastic Four and other superheroes.

In London, physicists, astronomers, biologists and celebrities gathered for a march past the city's most celebrated research institutions. In Spain, hundreds assembled in Madrid, Barcelona and Seville.

In Santa Fe, New Mexico, Kathryn Oakes Hall pinned a sign to the back of her T-shirt as she made her way to the march in Santa Fe: "Nine months pregnant, so mad I'm here."

But she marched anyway because she worried about her baby's future in a world that seems to consider science disposable. Her husband is an engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory, she studied anthropology, she even has a dog named Rocket.

Organizers portrayed the march as political but not partisan, promoting the understanding of science as well as defending it from various attacks, including proposed U.S. government budget cuts under Trump, such as a 20 percent slice of the National Institute of Health.

"It's not about the current administration. The truth is we should have been marching for science 30 years ago, 20 years, 10 years ago," said co-organizer and public health researcher Caroline Weinberg. "The current (political) situation took us from kind of ignoring science to blatantly attacking it. And that seems to be galvanizing people in a way it never has before. ... It's just sort of relentless attacks on

science.”

Ice photographer and filmmaker James Balog, who says he has watched trillions of tons of ice melt, told the Washington crowd: “We shall never, ever surrender.”

Associated Press writers Claire Galofaro in Louisville, Kentucky, Amanda Myers in Los Angeles and Markus Schreiber in Berlin contributed to this report.

Global finance leaders grapple with globalization fears

By PAUL WISEMAN and MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global finance leaders on Saturday dropped a sharp condemnation of trade protectionism and references to climate change from a closing statement that wrapped up the spring meetings of the 189-nation International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

This year’s meetings were dominated by a debate over how to respond to a rising tide of anti-globalization sentiment evidenced in the United States by the election of President Donald Trump, who pledged during last year’s campaign that he would reduce America’s huge trade deficits which he blamed for the loss of millions of good-paying factory jobs.

In its communique, the IMF urged nations to avoid “inward-looking policies,” but it did not include tougher language the IMF had used in an October statement in which it had called on all countries to “resist all forms of protectionism.” The new statement also dropped any mention of the threat of climate change.

Trump has threatened to impose punitive tariffs of up to 45 percent against Mexico, China and other nations he believes are competing unfairly with American workers. During his presidential campaign he called climate change a hoax.

At a closing news conference, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Agustin Carstens, head of the Bank of Mexico and chair of the IMF’s policy committee, sought to downplay the changes. Lagarde noted that strong language condemning protectionism and promoting efforts to combat climate change, while taken out of the communique, remained in a separate document setting out the IMF’s policy agenda.

Carstens said that it was important on the issue of trade to recognize the viewpoints of different countries.

“We all want free and fair trade and that is what is reflected in the communique,” he told reporters when asked why the language on protectionism had been dropped.

A similar change on the issue of protectionism was made in a communique that the Group of 20 major economies issued last month in Baden-Baden, Germany. Steven Mnuchin, attending his first international gathering as Trump’s Treasury secretary, had defended the change in the G-20 communique by saying, “The historical language was not really relevant.”

Eswar Prasad, a trade economist at Cornell University, said the changes in the IMF and G-20 communiqués showed the Trump administration’s desire to signal that U.S. policy will be different under a new president.

“The G-20 consensus on issues such as free trade and combating climate change is crumbling in the face of the Trump administration’s hostility to those positions,” Prasad said. “The notion of allowing for freer trade has run up against the Trump administration’s conviction that its major trading partners are manipulating trade and currency policies to their own benefit.”

At a joint appearance with Lagarde on Saturday, Mnuchin said that the internal debate over the wording of the IMF communique had taken much less time than the debate over the wording of the G-20

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 19 of 31

communiqué last month. He said that the administration's goal was to make trade more fair and was not aimed at erecting protectionist barriers.

"The United States is probably the most open trading market there is," Mnuchin said.

Mnuchin was also asked about the administration's tax plan, which Trump said Friday would be unveiled next Wednesday. Mnuchin said the administration's goal was to simplify the tax system for both individuals and businesses.

"We want to create a system where the average American can do their taxes on a postcard, not a book," Mnuchin said. "Maybe a big postcard, but you can still stick it in the mail."

Mnuchin did not provide details of the tax plan, which Trump has said would provide a "massive" tax cut for Americans.

Throughout the presidential campaign last year, Trump pointed to closed factories around America and said they represented a failure of past presidents to be tough enough in negotiating trade agreements to protect U.S. jobs. Since taking office, Trump has pulled the United States out of a 12-nation Pacific trade agreement negotiated by the Obama administration and just this week ordered the Commerce Department to speed up an investigation into whether steel imports posed a national security threat. His action could lead to higher tariffs on steel imports.

The spring IMF and World Bank meetings took place against the backdrop of an improving global economy, helped by better performances in the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies, and in a rise in commodity prices which has helped many developing nations. The IMF's latest economic forecast projects global growth of 3.5 percent this year, which would be the fastest pace in five years and up from 3.1 percent last year.

Despite the brighter outlook, the IMF's closing communiqué warned of a number of risks ranging from weak productivity growth to high debt levels and "heightened political and policy uncertainties."

The world economy has struggled to regain millions of jobs lost after a devastating financial crisis hit in 2008 and the finance leaders acknowledged the adverse effects the deep-downturn, playing a major role in the rising pressures against free trade and immigration.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said that if more was not done to deal with growing income inequality "we will see more protectionism and countries retreating from globalization."

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso sought to downplay concerns about rising protectionism, saying that he believed free trade, which has fueled global growth since the end of World War II, would be upheld but perhaps with some changes.

In his remarks to the IMF's policy committee, Mnuchin repeated a call for the IMF to police the currency markets and call out countries that undervalue their currencies to gain an unfair price advantage for their exporters.

Associated Press writer Matthew Pennington contributed to this report.

Possible shutdown, health care quagmire awaiting Congress

By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers returning to Washington this coming week will find a familiar quagmire on health care legislation and a budget deadline dramatized by the prospect of a protracted battle between President Donald Trump and Democrats over his border wall.

Trump's GOP allies control Congress, but they've been unable to send him a single major bill as his presidency faces the symbolic 100-day mark on April 29 — the very day when the government, in a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 20 of 31

worst-case scenario, could shut down.

Feeling pressure to deliver results, Trump wants to revive a troubled health care measure from House Republicans to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. Trump also hopes to use a \$1 trillion catchall spending bill to salvage victories on his promised U.S.-Mexico border wall, a multibillion-dollar down payment on a Pentagon buildup, and perhaps a crackdown on cities that refuse to cooperate with immigration enforcement by federal authorities.

Congress faces a midnight Friday deadline to avert a government shutdown. But negotiations on the spending measure, a huge pile of leftover business from last year that includes the budgets of almost every federal agency, have hit a rough patch.

Rank-and-file Republicans received few answers on a Saturday conference call by top House GOP leaders, who offered little detail and said deals remained elusive on both health care and the catchall spending measure, with no votes scheduled yet.

It's looking like a one- or two-week temporary measure will be needed to prevent a shutdown and buy time for more talks. Negotiations have faltered because of disputes over the border wall and health law subsidies to help low-income people afford health insurance.

Trump's Capitol Hill allies had been tempering expectations that the president will win much in the budget talks. Democratic support will be needed to pass the spending measure and Republicans fear taking the blame if the government shuts down on their watch.

"We have the leverage and they have the exposure," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California told fellow Democrats on a conference call Thursday, according to a senior Democratic aide. Pelosi wants the spending bill to give the cash-strapped government of Puerto Rico help with its Medicaid obligations, and Democrats are pressing for money for overseas famine relief, treatment for opioid abuse, and the extension of health benefits for 22,000 retired Appalachian coal miners and their families.

An additional Democratic demand is for cost-sharing payments to insurance companies that help low-income people afford health policies under Obama's health law. The payments are a critical subsidy and the subject of a lawsuit by House Republicans. Trump has threatened to withhold the money to force Democrats to negotiate on health legislation.

Trump's presidential victory makes it "completely reasonable to ask and to insist that some of his priorities are funded," White House budget director Mick Mulvaney said in an interview. "We are more than happy to talk to the Democrats about some of their priorities but we encourage them to recognize that they are a minority party."

Both the White House and Democrats have adopted hard-line positions on Trump's \$1 billion request for a down payment on construction of the border wall, a central plank of last year's campaign. Talk of forcing Mexico to pay for it has largely been abandoned. But in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, Trump stopped short of demanding that money for the project be included in the must-pass spending bill.

Health care is on a separate track and facing trouble, too. The White House is pressing House Republicans to rally behind a revised bill so GOP leaders can schedule a vote this coming week that could let Trump fulfill a 100-days promise.

A quick vote, let alone approval, seems unlikely.

GOP leaders have shown no desire to revisit the issue until they're assured they have enough votes to succeed, a point House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., reiterated to lawmakers Saturday, according to participants in the call. An initial attempt in March ended in a legislative train wreck, stinging Trump and Ryan. The measure would have repealed much of Obama's 2010 overhaul and replaced it with fewer

coverage requirements and less generous federal subsidies for many people.

As part of the White House drive to resuscitate the bill, members of Trump's team including Vice President Mike Pence and chief of staff Reince Priebus have made multiple calls to Republicans.

Two leaders of the House GOP's warring moderate and conservative factions devised a compromise during Congress' recess to let states get federal waivers to ignore some requirements of the health law. Those include one that now obligates insurers to cover specified services such as for mental health, and one that bars them from raising premiums on seriously ill patients.

But there are widespread doubts that the new attempt has achieved the support it needs.

Rep. Dan Donovan, R-N.Y., an opponent of the bill, said last week that "it doesn't cure the issues that I had concerns" about. The moderate said his objections included changes to Obama's law that would still leave people with excessive out-of-pocket costs.

The potential amendment was brokered by Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who heads the conservative House Freedom Caucus and Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-N.J., a leader of the moderate House Tuesday Group.

Ryan called off a March 24 House vote on the measure after realizing that objections by conservative and moderate Republicans would have assured its defeat. Democrats were uniformly against the legislation.

American tries to learn from United's mistakes in incident

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Another day, another cellphone video of a conflict on an airplane.

American Airlines said it grounded a flight attendant who got into a verbal confrontation with a passenger on a Friday flight from San Francisco to Dallas-Fort Worth.

Spokeswoman Leslie Scott says the airline is looking into whether the male flight attendant violently took away a stroller from the female passenger just before she boarded a Friday flight from San Francisco to Dallas. He has been removed from duty in the meantime.

In an age of cellphone videos and social media, airlines are learning the hard way that it is essential to deescalate tense situations that occur during air travel, even as there are more passengers, less room and fewer flight attendants than ever before.

The incident comes less than two weeks after video of a man being violently dragged off a United Express flight sparked widespread outrage .

United initially blamed its passenger, Dr. David Dao, before finally apologizing days after the incident, fanning the public's fury. American, by contrast, seems to have learned from United's mistakes: it immediately said it was sorry, that it had grounded the flight attendant while it investigates the incident, and that it had upgraded the passenger involved and her family to first class.

"American doesn't want to become the next United, but then, United didn't want to become the next United," said Henry Hartevelt, travel industry analyst at Atmosphere Research Group. "No airline wants to be seen as being anti-consumer or anti-passenger."

Smartphone cameras and social media are shifting power to consumers who can share customer relations gaffes with the world. They're increasingly making confrontations with customer-facing staff headline news, making it harder for companies to sweep complaints under the rug. The faster companies own up to mistakes, the quicker they can start to do damage control.

American's fast reaction to the incident could be helpful, said brand consultant Allen Adamson, CEO of BrandSimple.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 22 of 31

"The quick reaction will prevent it from escalating further, but it won't mitigate the perception among flyers that flying is becoming a less enjoyable experience every day," he said.

Overall, airlines must start to put more of an emphasis on customer service, he said.

"It's another example of airlines struggling to treat their passengers with the traditional 'customer is always right' attitude," he said. "Good customer service is finding a way to deescalate a situation and he (the flight attendant) was throwing gasoline on it."

Days after Dao was dragged off the United Express flight from Chicago to Kentucky to make room for airline crew, his lawyer spent a good part of a news conference railing against what he said was the industry-wide shabby treatment of airline passengers. Dao lost teeth, suffered a broken nose and received a concussion in the incident, which also was captured on video.

In the case of the American flight on Friday, a video that passenger Surain Adyanthaya posted on Facebook shows the sobbing woman holding a small child and saying, "You can't use violence with baby."

Later, an unidentified male passenger confronts the flight attendant, telling him, "You do that to me and I'll knock you flat." The flight attendant responds with, "Hit me. Bring it on."

Another passenger on the flight, Olivia Morgan, told the New York Times that the flight attendant nearly hit the baby with the stroller when he jerked it away from the woman. Morgan, an executive with an education-related nonprofit, said when she complained about the woman's treatment, the flight attendant pointed his finger in her face and yelled, "You stay out of it."

Traveling is stressful under any circumstance, and conflict resolution training is an essential part of being a flight attendant, Hartevelde said.

"If airlines aren't going to improve staffing or restore leg room for customers, they should at least provide flight attendants with better, more relevant training about how to handle these types of situations," he said.

At the same time, passengers should also be respectful of flight attendants — who often work long hours on multiple flights — as well, he said.

A union that represents American Airlines flight attendants said in a statement that not all of the facts are known about the incident so there shouldn't be a rush to judgment. If a passenger threatened a flight attendant, that would be a violation of federal law, said Bob Ross, president of The Association of Professional Flight Attendants.

"Air rage has become a serious issue on our flights," he said in a statement. "We must obtain the full facts surrounding these incidents. Our passengers and the flight attendants deserve nothing less."

Associated Press writer Juan Lozano in Houston contributed to this report.

Follow Mae Anderson on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/maetron> and follow Juan Lozano at <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70> .

Social media timeout as French election reaches final stage

By RAPHAEL SATTER, AP Cybersecurity Writer

PARIS (AP) — The final hours of many electoral campaigns are frantic affairs, dominated by last-minute pitches, late-breaking polls and massive social media campaigns aimed at drumming up turnout. Not so in France.

Rules dating back more than half a century impose a 44-hour timeout ahead of the polls' closure Sun-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 23 of 31

day, meaning that politicians, journalists — and even ordinary citizens — are supposed to refrain from broadcasting any form of “electoral propaganda.”

The Twitter feeds of France’s 11 presidential candidates went quiet after midnight Friday. French television coverage was subdued. And if you’re a journalist who has just received a newsworthy tip about one candidate or the other, you’re just too late.

“The press can’t publish such a story,” said Pascal Jan, a professor of constitutional law at Sciences Po Bordeaux. “If there were a scandal, it should have been exposed Friday.”

The national timeout lasts from midnight Friday to 8 p.m. on Sunday in France and is intended to give voters time to reflect on their choice free from the distraction of surveys, radio commentary, and televised rallies.

The rules apply online as well, meaning that candidates and their campaigns can’t do so much as post updates to Facebook or Instagram. The rules even apply to French voters — meaning that someone posting a pro-Socialist or pro-Republican message online could fall afoul of the law, at least in theory.

“It applies to all of us. It’s totally forbidden,” said Jan, although he acknowledged that, in practice, a single person posting wouldn’t be sanctioned for expressing themselves online. “But if it became massive ... it would unbalance the contest and thus might influence the votes of those who were exposed to social media.”

Amid chatter about foreign propaganda and so-called “fake news” possibly affecting the vote, French authorities seem to be keeping a close eye on potential violations of the law. Journalists have been sent repeated instructions about what is and isn’t allowed in the last few days.

The various candidates’ Twitter feeds, meanwhile, are frozen in time.

“Sunday, let’s vote Francois Fillon!” says the last tweet from the right-wing candidate’s campaign.

Far-right candidate Marine Le Pen’s last tweet rebroadcasted a message by her niece, National Front lawmaker Marion Marechal-Le Pen, who said, “This Sunday, the only real question that matters: Who will have the courage to protect France and the French?”

Socialist candidate Benoit Hamon retweeted a message from Paris’ mayor, Anne Hidalgo, “Sunday, I’m voting Benoit Hamon. Come vote, participate!” she said. “That’s the power of being a citizen.”

Left-wing firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon simply urged French citizens to “choose.”

Centrist Emmanuel Macron, one of the top contenders, signed off late Friday with a picture of a handwritten note saying, “Now, everything is in your hands.”

The top two vote-getters on Sunday move into a presidential runoff on May 7 — which comes with yet another 44-hour timeout.

Online:

Raphael Satter can be reached on: <http://raphaelsatter.com>

North Carolina’s long summer vacations are being challenged

By GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Some folks can’t get enough of summer. Others see it as a problem that needs fixing.

For more than a dozen years, North Carolina has mandated the beginning and end of summer vacation for public schools. The law was designed to support tourism at the state’s beaches and mountain getaways, and appease parents who were unhappy as some districts kept moving up the first day of school.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 24 of 31

But as studies show flexible school calendars could improve student performance, the law faces its strongest challenge yet. Close to 60 bills have been filed in the General Assembly this year that would exempt local districts, move up the first day of school, or do away with state mandates altogether.

"We know that summer learning loss is one of the biggest issues," said Leanne Winner with the North Carolina School Boards Association. "The easiest way to deal with that would be to not have as long as break — you wouldn't have as much loss."

Lining up in favor of a longer summer are the same associations representing hotels, restaurants and real estate agents that joined many parents in supporting the original 2004 law. They say a traditional summer break helps schools, with tourism generating almost \$1.8 billion in revenues in 2015, according to the state's economic development organization.

Lawmakers in the nation's ninth-largest state are juggling these competing demands, trying to improve student test scores and keep parents happy while avoiding moves that could turn tourists away from barrier islands on the Outer Banks and Blue Ridge mountain villages.

Earlier start dates cut out prime vacation weeks for businesses and make it more difficult for teenagers to earn money by waiting tables, cleaning beach houses or lifeguarding, said Trisha Howarth, chairwoman of the North Carolina Vacation Rental Managers Association.

"We have such a short window of time to entertain families," said Howarth, who works on Bald Head Island, a barrier island south of Wilmington where vacation home rentals often include membership to clubs staffed by teens working at golf courses or summer camps.

Fourteen states have some kind of school calendar law, according to a General Assembly report, but Maryland is the only other state that mandates both the beginning and end of summer.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's executive order requires the coming school year to start no earlier than the day after Labor Day and end by June 15, which he said would result in \$74 million in direct economic activity and \$7.7 million in state and local taxes. Starting school earlier — as Maryland schools were doing — "imperiled" the tradition of the Labor Day weekend as the end of summer, Hogan's order said.

The directive vexed some state education board members. Its vice president resigned, saying the governor's decision could hurt students academically.

North Carolina's law was approved and preserved for years because the Senate leader lived in Dare County, home to Nags Head and Kitty Hawk beaches frequented by East Coast vacationers. Current Republican Senate leader Phil Berger lives 200 miles inland and supports it.

The law "is working well for the economy as a whole. It is working well for families. I see no reason to change it," Berger said in an interview, casting doubt on the two measures that passed the House and need Senate approval.

Louise Lee, a Raleigh parent and founder of Save Our Summers-North Carolina, says parents were crying out for the original law because some districts were scheduling classes to begin in early August and even late July. "They had no other recourse but to come here for help when local schools boards were totally ignoring the pleas of teachers and parents and other concerned citizens," she said.

The current law requires that schools start no earlier than the Monday closest to Aug. 26 and end no later than the Friday closest to June 11, although there are exceptions for districts in about a dozen of the state's 100 counties where weather-related school closings have been frequent.

Some charter schools and year-round schools already can spread breaks throughout the year. These shorter vacations, along with "targeted intervention" during those breaks, could benefit low-income students, the legislature's nonpartisan watchdog agency said in a February report, citing peer-reviewed academic studies it examined.

Proponents of change say the current calendar's limits force students to take first-semester exams after winter break, making it harder to retain knowledge over the holidays. It also creates scheduling

problems for students taking advanced classes at community colleges.

GOP Rep. Jonathan Jordan is from Ashe County, which relies heavily on mountain tourism. But he co-sponsored one of the approved bills, which would allow an Aug. 15 start to match community-college schedules. The other bill would enable districts in 20 counties to experiment with flexible schedules for three years.

"We've got to remember that the education of our kids is pretty important, too, and we've got to balance interests — that's what we do here at the General Assembly," Jordan said.

Trump tells 'dreamers' to rest easy, targets criminals

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children and now in the country illegally can "rest easy," President Donald Trump says, telling the "dreamers" they will not be targets for deportation under his immigration policies.

Trump, in an interview Friday with The Associated Press, said his administration is "not after the dreamers, we are after the criminals."

The president, who took a hard line on immigration as a candidate, vowed anew to fulfill his promise to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. But he stopped short of demanding that funding for the project be included in a spending bill Congress must pass by the end of next week in order to keep the government running.

"I want the border wall. My base definitely wants the border wall," Trump said in the Oval Office interview. Asked whether he would sign legislation that does not include money for the project, he said, "I just don't know yet." Throughout the campaign, he had firmly and repeatedly guaranteed that Mexico, not U.S. taxpayers, would pay for the wall.

Eager to start making progress on other campaign promises, Trump said he would unveil a tax overhaul package next week — "Wednesday or shortly thereafter" — that would include a "massive" tax cut for both individuals and corporations. He would not provide details of rate proposals or how he planned to pay for the package but asserted the cuts for Americans will be "bigger, I believe, than any tax cut ever."

Congressional Republicans seemed caught off guard by Trump's announcement and did not appear to have been briefed on the details of the White House's forthcoming plan.

Trump spoke with the AP ahead of his 100th day in office.

He panned that marker as "artificial." Still, the White House is eager to tout progress on the litany of agenda items he promised to fulfill in his first 100 days, despite setbacks including court bans on his proposed immigration limits and a high-profile failure in repealing and replacing the current health care law.

The president said Friday he spent his first 100 days laying the "foundation" for progress later in his administration, including by building relationships with foreign leaders. He cited German Chancellor Angela Merkel as a leader he was surprised to have developed strong chemistry with, given that he has been critical of her handling of immigration policies.

As a candidate, Trump strongly criticized President Barack Obama for "illegal executive amnesties," including actions to spare from deportation young people who were brought to the country as children and now are here illegally. But after the election, Trump started speaking more favorably about these immigrants, popularly dubbed "dreamers."

On Friday, he said that when it comes to them, "This is a case of heart."

This week, attorneys for Juan Manuel Montes said the 23-year-old was recently deported to Mexico

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 26 of 31

despite having qualified for deferred deportation. Trump said Montes' case is "a little different than the dreamer case," though he did not specify why.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was launched in 2012 as a stopgap to protect some young immigrants from deportation while the administration continued to push for a broader immigration overhaul in Congress.

Obama's administrative program offered a reprieve from deportation to those immigrants in the country illegally who could prove they arrived before they were 16, had been in the United States for several years and had not committed a crime since being here. It mimicked versions of the so-called DREAM Act, which would have provided legal status for young immigrants but was never passed by Congress.

DACA also provides work permits for the immigrants and is renewable every two years. As of December, about 770,000 young immigrants had been approved for the program.

On foreign policy, Trump said it was "possible" the U.S. will withdraw from the nuclear accord with Iran forged by Obama and five other world leaders. He said he believes Iran's destabilizing actions "all over the Middle East and beyond" are violating the spirit of the accord, though the State Department this week certified that Tehran is complying with the tenets of the deal aimed at curbing its nuclear program.

The president also appeared to side with his advisers' increasingly harder line on Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Assange's arrest was a priority for the Justice Department as it steps up efforts to prosecute people who leak classified information to the media.

The president said that he was not involved in the decision-making process regarding charging Assange but that the move would be "OK with me."

During the campaign, Trump and his allies publicly delighted in WikiLeaks' release of stolen emails from a top adviser to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

AP writers Alicia A. Caldwell and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Afghan officials: 100 casualties in Afghanistan attack

By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Authorities on Saturday raised the casualty toll to 100 in an attack on a military compound in northern Afghanistan a day earlier by gunmen and suicide bombers wearing army uniforms.

Gen. Daulat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghanistan Ministry of Defense, said the attack Friday on a compound of the 209th Corps of the Afghan National Army left dozens of soldiers and other personnel dead or wounded.

Reports conflicted on the death toll, but at least two sources within the army corps and a provincial security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak with the media, confirmed that more than 130 people were killed and at least 80 others were wounded.

The defense ministry had said Friday night that eight soldiers were killed and 11 others were wounded in its initial reports.

Gen. Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman for the Defense Ministry, said the militants entered the base in Balkh province using two military vehicles and attacked army personnel inside the compound's mosque.

"Two suicide bombers detonated their vests full of explosive inside the mosque of the army corps

while everyone was busy with Friday prayers," he said.

Waziri said there were 10 attackers, including the two who carried out the suicide attacks. Eight others were killed in a gun battle with soldiers.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the assault in an email sent to media.

President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday traveled to the base and strongly condemned the attack, according to a tweet from the official Twitter account of the presidential palace.

"The attackers are infidels," Ghani was quoted as saying in the tweet.

Ghani announced that Sunday would be a day of national mourning, with memorial services across the country's mosques and the Afghan flag flying at half-mast, in a statement issued by the Presidential Palace.

Afzel Hadid, head of provincial council in Balkh told The Associated Press that more than 100 people, both army personnel and others present at the time inside the army crops, were killed in the attack.

"The exact number is still not verified, but for sure we know more than 100 were killed in the attack," said Hadid.

One of the attack survivors, an Afghan army soldier, Mohammad Hussain who was wounded and transported to a hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif said "Three people in an Afghan National Army vehicle started shooting at us when we finished Friday prayers, they are the enemies of the country."

"I don't know maybe they had someone inside to help them to bring the vehicle inside. There are seven to eight checkpoints from the main gate and without inside help this vehicle cannot enter the compound and get to the mosque."

In the Taliban's detailed statement on the attack posted on its official website, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that four of the 10 attackers were disguised as soldiers at the time of the attack.

The Taliban statement said the attack was retaliation for the killing of the Taliban governor of Kunduz province, Mullah Abdul Salam Akhund, and threatened more violence against the army and police, saying "this year's operations will be painful."

Local TV footage showed hundreds of people gathered outside the army crops waiting to find out if their relatives had been killed or wounded.

In March, an attack on a military hospital in the capital Kabul killed 50 people. Responsibility for that attack was claimed by the Islamic State group. According to officials, five attackers were involved, including one suicide bomber who detonated an explosives belt and four gunmen who stormed the building.

The 209th corps is located in the Dihdadi district of Balkh. It is one of seven corps of the country's Ministry of Defense, which is responsible for providing security for Afghanistan's northern and north-eastern provinces.

Supply ship named for John Glenn arrives at space station

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A supply ship bearing John Glenn's name arrived at the International Space Station on Saturday.

Astronauts used the station's big robot arm to grab the capsule, as the craft flew 250 miles (400 kilometers) above Germany.

NASA's commercial shipper, Orbital ATK, named the spacecraft the S.S. John Glenn in honor of the first American to orbit Earth. It rocketed from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Tuesday with nearly 7,700 pounds of food, experiments and other goods.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 28 of 31

Glenn died in December at age 95 and was buried earlier this month at Arlington National Cemetery. His widow, Annie, granted permission for Orbital ATK to use his name for the Cygnus spacecraft. The company, in fact, sent up some memorabilia for the Glenn family.

Glenn made history in 1962 when he soared into orbit aboard Friendship 7, his one-man Mercury capsule. He returned to space in 1998 aboard shuttle Discovery, at age 77, right before station construction began in orbit.

Space station commander Peggy Whitson — who on Monday will set a U.S. record for most accumulated time in orbit — notified Mission Control when S.S. John Glenn was captured.

“We’re very proud to welcome on board the S.S. John Glenn,” said French astronaut Thomas Pesquet, who took part in the operation. The contents “will be put to good use to continue our mission of research, exploration and discovery.”

Whitson and Pesquet have been living on the space station since November, along with a Russian. They were joined by another American and Russian on Thursday.

Whitson is making her third space station flight. Early Monday, she will surpass the 534-day, two-hour-and-change mark set by astronaut Jeffrey Williams last year. President Donald Trump will call her from the Oval Office to offer congratulations.

The S.S. John Glenn, meanwhile, will remain at the orbiting outpost until July, when it is let go to burn up in the atmosphere.

Online:

NASA: https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

Orbital ATK: <https://www.orbitalatk.com/>

Chinese jihadis’ rise in Syria raises concerns at home

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **GERRY SHIH**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Many don’t speak Arabic and their role in Syria is little known to the outside world, but the Chinese fighters of the Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria are organized, battled-hardened and have been instrumental in ground offensives against President Bashar Assad’s forces in the country’s northern regions.

Thousands of Chinese jihadis have come to Syria since the country’s civil war began in March 2011 to fight against government forces and their allies. Some have joined the al-Qaida’s branch in the country previously known as Nusra Front. Others paid allegiance to the Islamic State group and a smaller number joined factions such as the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham.

But the majority of Chinese jihadis are with the Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria, whose vast majority are Chinese Muslims, particularly those from the Turkic-speaking Uighur majority native to Xinjiang in China. Their growing role in Syria has resulted in increased cooperation between Syrian and Chinese intelligence agencies who fear those same jihadis could one day return home and cause trouble there.

The Turkistan Islamic Party is the other name for the East Turkistan Islamic Movement that considers China’s Xinjiang to be East Turkistan.

Like most jihadi groups in Syria, their aim is to remove Assad’s secular government from power and replace it with strict Islamic rule. Their participation in the war, which has left nearly 400,000 people dead, comes at a time when the Chinese government is one of Assad’s strongest international backers. Along with Russia, China has used its veto power at the U.N. Security Council on several occasions to prevent the imposition of international sanctions against its Arab ally.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 29 of 31

Beijing has blamed violence back at home and against Chinese targets around the world on Islamic militants with foreign connections seeking an independent state in Xinjiang. The government says some of them are fleeing the country to join the Jihad, although critics say the Uighurs are discriminated against and economically marginalized in their homeland and are merely seeking to escape repressive rule by the majority Han Chinese.

Abu Dardaa al-Shami, a member of the now-defunct extremist Jund al-Aqsa group, said the TIP has the best "Inghemasiyoun," Arabic for "those who immerse themselves." The Inghemasiyoun have been used by extremist groups such as IS and al-Qaida's affiliate now known as Fatah al-Sham Front. Their role is to infiltrate their targets, unleash mayhem and fight to the death before a major ground offensive begins.

"They are the lions of ground offensives," said al-Shami, who fought on several occasions alongside TIP fighters in northern Syria.

Xie Xiaoyuan, China's envoy to Syria, told reporters in November that the two countries have had normal military exchanges focused on humanitarian issues, although Chinese officials have repeatedly rejected the possibility of sending troops or weapons.

In the last year, however, Chinese and Syrian officials have begun holding regular, once-a-month high-level meetings to share intelligence on militant movements in Syria, according to a person familiar with the matter. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to reveal military secrets.

"These people not only fight alongside international terrorist forces in Syria, but also they will possibly return to China posing threat to China's national security," said Li Wei, terrorism expert at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations and Director of the CICIR Institute of Security and Arms Control Studies.

Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said there are about 5,000 Chinese fighters in Syria, most of them with the TIP fighters in northern Syria who along with their families make about 20,000. Li, the terrorism expert, said Abdurrahman's numbers are way too high, adding that he believes the number are about 300 Chinese fighters in Syria who brought with them about 700 family members.

"As the control of the passage along the borders between Turkey and Syria is being tightened, it is becoming more difficult for them to smuggle into Syria," Li said.

Syrian opposition activists and pro-government media outlets say dozens of TIP fighters have carried out suicide attacks against government forces and their allies and for the past two years have led battles mostly in the north of the country.

The suicide attackers include one known as Shahid Allah al-Turkistani. He was shown in a video released by TIP taken from a drone of an attack in which he blew himself up in the vehicle he was driving near Aleppo late last year, allegedly killing dozens of pro-government gunmen.

In 2015, members of the group spearheaded an attack on the northwestern province of Idlib and captured the strategic town of Jisr al-Shughour on the edge of Assad's stronghold of Latakia region. They reportedly damaged a church in the town and raised their black flag on top of it.

In late 2016, TIP was a main force to briefly break a government siege on the then rebel-held eastern parts of the northern city of Aleppo.

The role of the Chinese jihadis in Syria was a topic that Assad spoke about last month in an interview with Chinese PHOENIX TV, saying "they know your country more than the others, so they can do more harm in your country than others."

Unlike other rebel groups, TIP is a very secretive organization and they live among themselves, according to activists in northern Syria. They are active in parts of Idlib and in the strategic town of Jisr

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 30 of 31

al-Shughour, as well as the Kurdish Mountains in the western province of Latakia.

Abdul-Hakim Ramadan, a doctor who was active in Idlib province, said one of his teams was trying to enter a northwestern village to vaccinate children when TIP fighters prevented them from entering, saying only Chinese can go into the area.

Ramadan said unlike other fighters who have come to Syria, the Chinese have not merged into local communities and the language has been a major barrier.

Shih reported from Beijing.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 23, the 113th day of 2017. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 23, 1789, President-elect George Washington and his wife, Martha, moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

On this date:

In 1016, Aethelred II "The Unready," King of the English, died in London after 38 years on the throne.

In 1616 (Old Style calendar), English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1791, the 15th president of the United States, James Buchanan, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

In 1910, former President Theodore Roosevelt delivered his "Man in the Arena" speech at the Sorbonne in Paris.

In 1935, Poland adopted a constitution which gave new powers to the presidency.

In 1940, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Mississippi.

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1971, hundreds of Vietnam War veterans opposed to the conflict protested by tossing their medals and ribbons over a wire fence in front of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1987, 28 construction workers were killed when an apartment complex being built in Bridgeport, Connecticut, suddenly collapsed.

In 1992, McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in the Chinese capital of Beijing.

In 2005, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

Ten years ago: Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first freely elected president, died in Moscow at age 76. Congressional Democratic leaders agreed on legislation requiring the first U.S. combat troops to be withdrawn from Iraq by Oct. 1, 2007, with a goal of a complete pullout six months later; President George W. Bush pledged to veto such a measure. Classes at Virginia Tech resumed one week after the killings of 32 victims by a suicidal gunman. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author David Halberstam died in a car crash in Menlo Park, California, at age 73.

Five years ago: Oscar-winner Jennifer Hudson broke down in tears while testifying at the Chicago trial

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 23, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 283 ~ 31 of 31

of William Balfour, the man accused of killing her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in a jealous rage in 2008. (Balfour was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.) The government reported that Social Security was rushing even faster toward insolvency, with its trust funds expected to run dry in 2033, three years earlier than previously projected.

One year ago: A confident Donald Trump told supporters in Bridgeport, Connecticut, that he was not changing his pitch to voters, a day after his chief adviser assured Republican officials their party's front-runner would show more restraint while campaigning. Britain marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare with parades, church services and stage performances; President Barack Obama took a break from political talks in London to tour the Globe Theatre, a re-creation of the venue where many of the Bard's plays were first performed.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 87. Actor David Birney is 78. Actor Lee Majors is 78. Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito is 74. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 70. Actress Blair Brown is 70. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 68. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 68. Actor James Russo is 64. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 63. Actress Judy Davis is 62. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 57. Actor Craig Sheffer is 57. Actor-comedian-talk show host George Lopez is 56. Rock musician Gen is 53. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 52. Actress Melina Kanakaredes (kah-nah-KAH'-ree-deez) is 50. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 49. Country musician Tim Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 49. Actor Scott Bairstow (BEHR'-stow) is 47. Actor-writer John Lutz is 44. Actor Barry Watson is 43. Rock musician Aaron Dessner (The National) is 41. Rock musician Bryce Dessner (The National) is 41. Professional wrestler/actor John Cena is 40. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 40. Actor Kal Penn is 40. MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 40. Actress Jaime King is 38. Pop singer Taio (TY'-oh) Cruz is 34. Actor Aaron Hill is 34. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 33. Actress Rachel Skarsten is 32. Singer-songwriter John Fullbright is 29. Tennis player Nicole Pietrangeli is 28. Actor Dev Patel (puh-TEHL') is 27. Actor Matthew Underwood is 27. Actor Camryn Walling is 27. Model Gigi Hadid is 22.

Thought for Today: "The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool." — From "As You Like It," by William Shakespeare (1564-1616).