

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 1 of 43

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Tree Ad
- 1- SD37 to close on Monday
- 2- EarthTalk Column
- 3- NEC Track Meet Results
- 4- Drought Monitor
- 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

## SD37 to be closed Monday

Residents along SD 37 and west 5th Ave need to pump their sump pumps into the sanitary sewer and not in the street during construction. SD 37 will be closed on Monday from Railroad Ave to 12th Ave. There was a question about increasing the north-south stop light by 5 seconds. The DOT will look into this. The construction schedule is catching up.

There will be 2 crossings between west and east. From what I understand it will be 2nd and 5th, but that will change as the project moves forward. There will always be 2 crossings available.

RR Ave is the detour all the way east to US 12. The road south of the golf course has been upgraded.

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

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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### Sunday, May 14

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m. with graduation reception at 10 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship with communion at 9 a.m.

**United Methodist Church:** Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Confirmation Sunday, 10 a.m.; Groton worship with communion at 11 a.m.; Sunday School starts 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.

**First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m.

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

### Monday, May 15

**Groton Schools:** NEC Girls Golf at Sisseton, 10 a.m.; 7th/8th NEC track at Sisseton, 10 a.m.

**School Lunch:** Pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, pears, cookie, whole wheat bread.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

**United Methodist:** Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m., Evening Bible Study movie at Val Baker's House at 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 16

**School Lunch:** Cook's Choice.

**Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, banana cake with icing, whole wheat bread.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE  
COMPANY**

## EarthTalk®

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: Why do rooftop solar panels have to be so big and unsightly? Are there any better-looking alternatives out there?

-- Maise Lipscomb, Helena, MT

If aesthetics is the reason you've been holding off on converting your home to solar power, 2017 just might be the year for you to take the renewables leap. For starters, several panel makers now sell "frameless" or "seamless" designs whereby photovoltaic panels appear to "float" on the roof surface, with sightlines unencumbered by big black metal framework apparatus. But getting rid of the frames hardly constitutes an aesthetic revolution.

For that, we turn to electric-car pioneer Tesla, which made a big splash recently with the launch of its new Solar Roof system, which uses attractive, integrated solar tiles made out of tempered quartz glass to replace conventional roof tiles and shingles. The Solar Roof tiles can withstand upwards of three times the storm force of other traditional roof tiles—and as such come with a warranty lasting the lifetime of the home or infinity, whichever comes first.

While the Solar Roof system still costs about a third more than a traditional photovoltaic rooftop set-up, its visual appeal could make the transition much more palatable to many potential rooftop solar wannabes. Photovoltaic installer SolarCity (co-founded by Elon Musk and then acquired by Tesla in late 2016) will roll out the new system, available for outright purchase or through a lease, in California beginning in June and plans to expand to other parts of the United States soon thereafter.

But Tesla's new Solar Roof isn't the only option when it comes to more attractive rooftop solar installations. Italian start-up Dyaqua, inspired to bring the historic retrofit industry into the 21st century, has ramped up manufacturing on its so-called "Invisible Solar" photovoltaic roof tiles that are indistinguishable from traditional terra cotta, wood or stone roofing. This replacement roofing looks opaque but is translucent to the sun's rays so light can enter and stoke the silicon solar cells inside.

Meanwhile, Boston-based Sistine Solar is developing a "solar skin" product that matches the underlying rooftop. These newfangled MIT-designed panels reflect back an image of the roof below while still letting light through to the photovoltaic cells within. Sistine's "camouflaged" solar panels cost about 10 percent more than typical photovoltaics, but the start-up is banking on homeowner willingness to spend a little more so unsightly roof panels don't stick out like sore thumbs in the neighborhood.

For that matter, the rooftop isn't the only option any more. Maryland-based Solar Window Technologies is developing invisible window coatings that house ultra-small solar cells designed to convert light from both the sun and artificial sources into electricity. And California-based Sunflare is pioneering a new generation of "thin-film" photovoltaics that are only a few micrometers thick and can be affixed to just about any surface with some double-sided tape.

Given that we could power all of humanity's electrical and industrial activities for a year with the amount of sunlight that hits the Earth's surface in just an hour, it's a shame that solar power still accounts for less than one percent of global energy production. But with the costs of solar panels coming down, maybe improving their look is just what we need to kickstart the transition away from fossil fuel home power.

CONTACTS: Tesla Solar Roof, [www.tesla.com/solarroof](http://www.tesla.com/solarroof); Dyaqua, [www.dyaqua.it](http://www.dyaqua.it); Sistine Solar, [www.sistinesolar.com](http://www.sistinesolar.com); Solar Window Technologies, [www.solarwindow.com](http://www.solarwindow.com); Sunflare, [www.sunflare.com](http://www.sunflare.com).

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# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 3 of 43

## Wanner is Quad winner; Lone is double winner at NEC

Audrey Wanner brought home four first-place medals at the Northeast Conference track meet held Friday in Clark. Wanner won the long jump and the triple jump and was also on the winning 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams. That would also make Katie Koehler and Harleigh Stange as double winners on those relay teams. Eliza Wanner and Payton Maine were the other winning runners on those relay teams.

McClaine Lone won both weight events, taking first in the discus and shot put. The boys 4x800m Relay team of Sean Schuring, Isaac Smith, Brandon Keith and Treyton Diegel were NEC champs.

### Girl's Division

**Team Scores:** 1, Aberdeen Roncalli 163; 2, Groton Area 102; 3, Milbank Area 101.5; 4, Redfield/Doland 90.5; 5, Webster Area 86; 6, Hamlin 84; 7, Deuel 41; 8, Britton-Hecla 35; 9, Sisseton 17; 10, Clark/Willow Lake 30.

**100m Hurdles:** 6, Payton Maine, 17.69.

**300m Hurdles:** 2, Payton Maine, 51.23; 10, Eliza Wanner, 57.57.

**100m Dash:** 12, Eliza Wanner, 13.80; 14, Heather Lone, 13.96; 22, Tady Glover, 14.32.

**200m Dash:** 2, Harleigh Stange, 28.01; 10, Nicole Marzahn, 29.72; 18, Tady Glover, 31.07.

**400m Dash:** 9, Kenzie McInerney, 1:08.17; 11, Regan Leicht, 1:11.07.

**800m Run:** 11, Riley Gengerke, 2:53.47; 15, Regan Leicht, 2:59.53.

**1600m Run:** 8, Emily Thompson, 6:22.80; 10, Riley Gengerke, 6:35.84.

**4x100m Relay:** 1, Groton (Audrey Wanner, Katie Koehler, Harleigh Stange, Eliza Wanner), 52.47.

**4x200m Relay:** 1, Groton (Audrey Wanner, Payton Maine, Katie Koehler, Harleigh Stange), 1:52.51.

**4x400m Relay:** 5, Groton (Eliza Wanner, Nicole Marzahn, Regan Leicht, Kenzie McInerney), 4:38.40.

**1600m Sprint Medley:** 6, Groton (Kaylin Kucker, Tady Glover, Jodi Hinman, Emily Thompson), 5:04.58.

**4x800m Relay:** 7, Groton (Emily Thompson, Jodi Hinman, Riley Gengerke, Regan Leicht), 11:39.22.

**High Jump:** 11, Katie Koehler, 4-5; 12, Nicole Marzahn, 4-3.

**Long Jump:** 1, Audrey Wanner, 16-8; 2, Harleigh Stange, 16-1; 17, Tady Glover, 13-4.

**Triple Jump:** 1, Audrey Wanner, 34-9; 9, Katie Koehler, 30-4; 16, Nicole Marzahn, 28-4.5.

**Discus:** 2, Jessica Bjerke, 112-01; 4, Taylor Holm, 106-6; 8, Nicole Fey, 90-7.

**Shot Put:** 2, Jessica Bjerke, 35-0.5; 6, Taylor Holm, 34-1.5; 9, Jennie Doeden, 31-8.5.

**Pole Vault:** 9, Emily Thompson, 6-3.

### Boy's Division

**Team Scores:** 1, Milbank Area 146; 2, Aberdeen Roncalli 133.5; 3, Webster Area 111.5; 4, Groton Area 90; 5, Redfield/Doland 57; 6, Hamlin 56; 7, Deuel 44; 8, Britton-Hecla 37; 9, Sisseton 36, Clark/Willow Lake 30.

**100m Dash:** 8, Trevor Pray, 11.66.

**200m Dash:** 9, Trevor Pray, 24.24; 16, Lucas Hinman, 25.24; 18, Jackson Oliver, 25.61.

**400m Dash:** 6, Lee Williams, 54.08; 15, Austin Jones, 58.39.

**800m Run:** 3, Treyton Diegel, 2:14.12; 6, Brandon Keith, 2:16.64; 15, Sean Schuring, 2:34.22.

**1600m Run:** 8, Isaac Smith, 5:09.71; 18, Mitchell Koens, 5:52.64.

**110m Hurdles:** 3, Jonathan Doeden, 16.74.

**300m Hurdles:** 3, Jonathan Doeden, 43.52; 9, Tylan Glover, 48.26; 10, Garret Schroeder, 49.06.

**4x100m Relay:** 6, Groton (Jonathan Doeden, Darien Shabazz, Jackson Oliver, Lee Williams), 47.23.

**4x200m Relay:** 5, Groton (Jackson Oliver, Austin Jones, Darien Shabazz, Lee Williams), 1:38.85.

**4x400m Relay:** 7, Groton (Sean Schuring, Treyton Diegel, Austin Jones, Lee Williams), 3:54.44.

**1600m Sprint Medley:** 3, Groton (Trevor Pray, Lucas Hinman, Bennett Shabazz, Sean Schuring), 3:51.99.

**4x800m Relay:** 1, Groton (Sean Schuring, Isaac Smith, Brandon Keith, Treyton Diegel), 8:56.89.

**High Jump:** 8, Bennett Shabazz, 5-5; 16, Austin Jones, 4-11.

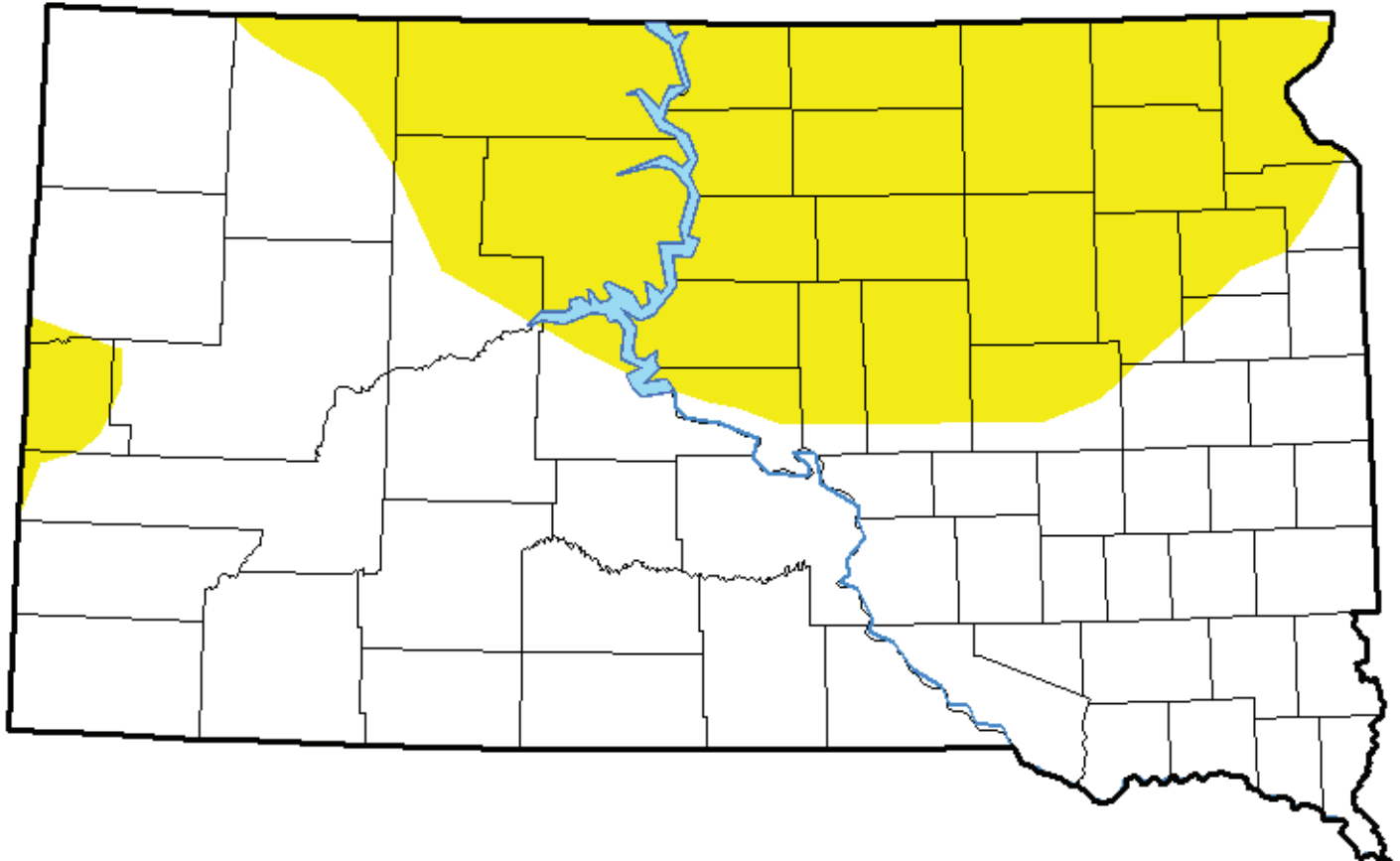
**Long Jump:** 8, Bennett Shabazz, 18-3.5; 9, Lucas Hinman, 18-3.25.

**Triple Jump:** 1, Bennett Shabazz, 38-7.5.

**Discus:** 1, McClain Lone, 139-0; 3, Luke Thorson, 137-1; 10, Grady O'Neill, 101-7.






**Shot Put:** 1, McClain Lone, 46-6.5; 8, Luke Thorson, 38-8-5; 23, Grady O'Neill, 30-1.

## Drought Monitor



Much of the region was drier than normal this week, with only portions of eastern Colorado and southern Kansas recording above-normal precipitation. Temperatures were warmer than normal over most of the region, with departures of 6-8 degrees above normal in the Dakotas. Colorado had abnormally dry conditions removed from the southeast portion of the state, and the moderate drought and abnormally dry conditions in the northern portion of the state also improved. Abnormally dry conditions were introduced over much of northern South Dakota and expanded in southern North Dakota. The short-term dryness in this region has helped to progress agricultural work, but may become an issue without some needed rains.

### Intensity:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  D0 (Abnormally Dry)   |  D2 (Severe Drought)  |  D4 (Exceptional Drought) |
|  D1 (Moderate Drought) |  D3 (Extreme Drought) |  |

## Today in Weather History

May 13, 2005: Runoff from heavy rain resulted in minor flooding along the White River from south of Belvidere to Oacoma, affecting mainly agricultural land along the river. The river rose over its banks and flooded U.S. Highway 83 south of Murdo for a short time. No property damage was reported.

1980: An F3 tornado ripped directly through the center of Kalamazoo, Michigan, killing five people, injuring 79, leaving 1,200 homeless and causing \$50 million in damage. The tornado passed directly over the American Bank, where a barograph reported a pressure drop of 0.59 inches.

1995: This outbreak produced tornadoes extending from the Mississippi River near Burlington, Iowa, to the west of Bloomington, Illinois. Two violent tornadoes, each ranked at F4 intensity, were reported. The first tornado traveled 60 miles from near Fort Madison, Iowa, to the southeast of Galesburg, Illinois producing over \$10 million dollars damage. The town of Raritan, Illinois was hit the hardest. The second violent tornado traveled 7 miles across Fulton County from Ipava to Lewistown, Illinois producing \$6 million dollars damage. Another strong tornado took a 25-mile path across parts of Fulton, Mason, and Tazewell Counties. The storms also produced softball-size hail south and northwest of Macomb in Illinois. Five men were injured in Lawrence County, Indiana when lightning struck one of them and traveled to the other four. There were 184 reports of severe weather, including over three dozen tornadoes.

1930 - A man was killed when caught in an open field during a hailstorm northwest of Lubbock TX. It was the first, and perhaps the only, authentic death by hail in U.S. weather records. (David Ludlum)

1981 - A tornado 450 yards in width destroyed ninety percent of Emberson TX. People did not see a tornado, but rather a wall of debris. Homes were leveled, a man in a bathtub was hurled a quarter of a mile, and a 1500 pound recreational vehicle was hurled 500 yards. Miraculously no deaths occurred in the tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought an end to the early season warm spell in the north central U.S., but not before the temperature at Sioux City IA soared to a record warm 95 degrees. Strong southwesterly winds ahead of the cold front gusted to 52 mph at Marais MI. Evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail at Rockford MN, and wind gusts to 75 mph at Belmond IA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong winds along a cold front ushering cold air into the northwestern U.S. gusted to 69 mph at Myton UT. Temperatures warmed into the 80s ahead of the cold front, as far north as Montana. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)







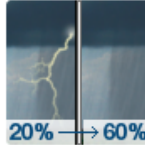
1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region during the afternoon and night. A thunderstorm at Killeen TX produced wind gusts to 95 mph damaging 200 helicopters at Fort Hood causing nearly 500 million dollars damage. Another thunderstorm produced softball size hail at Hodges TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from eastern Wyoming to northern Kansas, including seven in western Nebraska. Thunderstorms forming ahead of a cold front in the eastern U.S. spawned five tornadoes from northeastern North Carolina to southern Pennsylvania. Thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana deluged the New Orleans area with four to eight inches of rain between 7 AM and Noon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 6 of 43

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance Showers	Slight Chance T-storms then Showers Likely
High: 85 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 79 °F



## Another Warm & Dry Day



**Sunny W/  
80s For Highs**

**Isolated Weak Showers & Storms Possible  
Sunday & Monday**

**Scattered Thunderstorms For Tuesday  
Potentially Strong Storms**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 5/13/2017 5:20 AM Central

Published on: 05/13/2017 at 5:25AM

Warm and dry conditions continue today with highs in the 80s. We could see isolated weak storms move into central South Dakota overnight, and across eastern South Dakota Sunday afternoon but these will bring little if any moisture to the region. There will be an increase in the potential to see some moisture going into the work week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 7 of 43

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.3 F at 4:58 PM

Low Outside Temp: 46.7 F at 6:08 AM

High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 10:19 AM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 97° in 1932

Record Low: 24° in 1899

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 43°F

Average Precip in May: 1.33

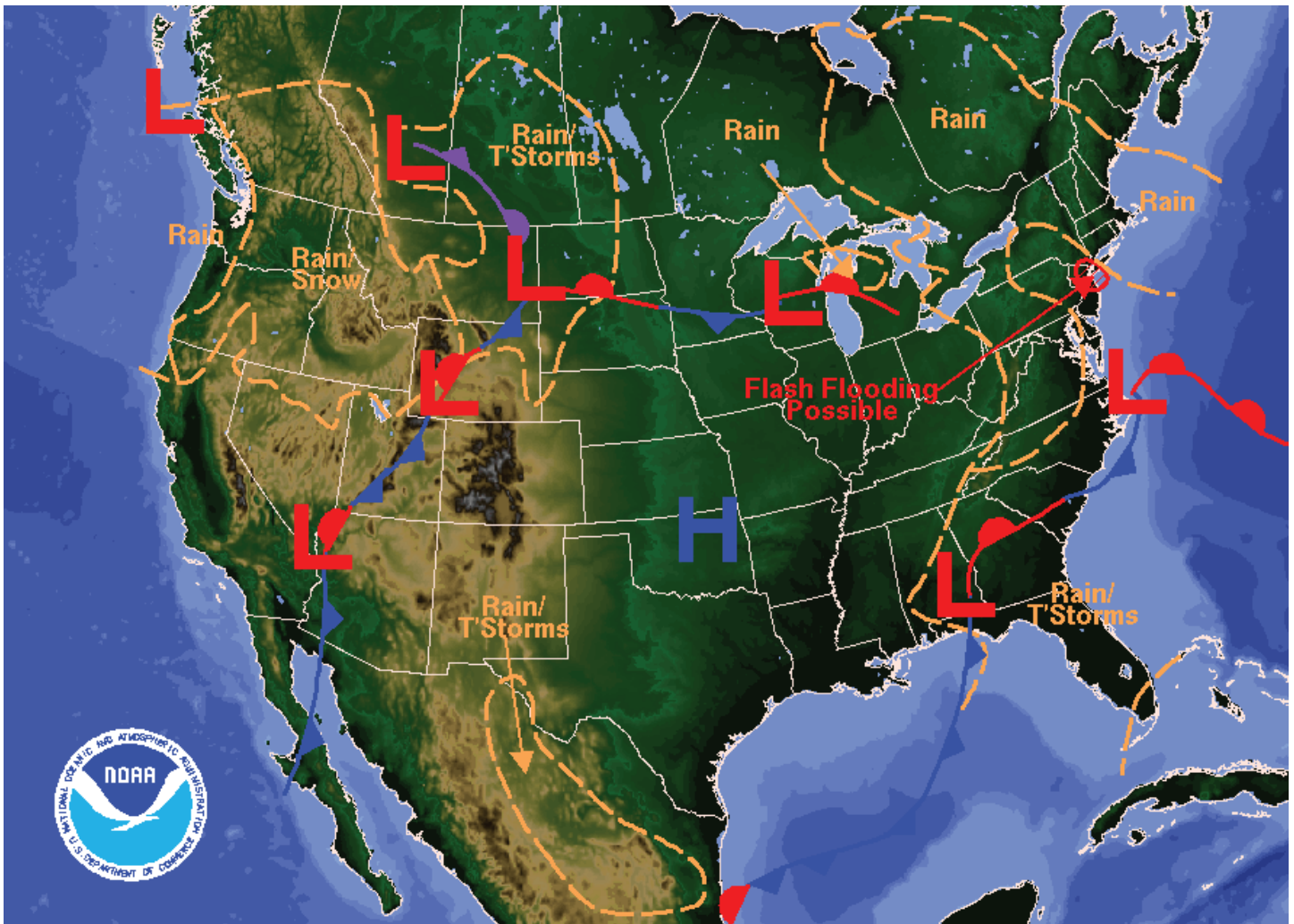
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 5.36

Precip Year to Date: 1.98

Sunset Tonight: 8:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:04 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 13, 2017, issued 4:39 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Reinhart based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## WHO CARES FOR THE LONELY?

Some time ago, the body of a man was found in a deserted building in New York. In his pocket was a note that read, "I'm nobody. Nobody cares for me. I'm like the shell of a peanut on the walkway in Yankee Stadium. So, I decided to stomp on myself once and for all."

There is no feeling that runs so deep, is so acute or more widespread than loneliness. The feeling of being abandoned or uncared for or unloved is one that grips the souls of far too many - even the Christian.

We read in the Bible of a man who had been forced to run and hide from others to save his life. Years later he wrote, "Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for me." His words are all too familiar and his feelings universal.

But notice: He looked around but he did not look up. Had he done so he could have discovered some-One who cared deeply for him, was looking for him and loved him. This One not only cares, but He did something to show us that He cares.

The Bible states that, "Since God did not even spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?"

Remember the story of Noah in the ark, Job in the pile of ashes, Moses being hid in a basket, Jonah in the belly of a fish, Daniel in the lions' den and Paul in prison?

He carefully cared for them and He will also carefully care for us!

Remember: "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Prayer: In moments of loneliness, Lord, may we look upward and find Your outstretched arms waiting for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 142:4 Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me, I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.



## News from the Associated Press

### High school students get more elaborate with prom proposals

**MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A bright pink cardboard castle greeted Bella Jensen as she walked into the house.

Her boyfriend, Blake Chesley, a senior at Roosevelt High School, was awaiting her arrival with roses, a tiara and a very important question.

“Will you be my princess at prom?”

Prom proposals, or “promposals,” have risen in popularity as a way to ensure that prom dates are “official” on social media.

Some make due with a clever pun and a poster. Others go as far as gifting concert tickets or a California vacation.

And while the promposals get more elaborate, the actual decision to be prom dates happens before the big question is popped.

“Before you ask, you kind of get the go-ahead that they’re not going with anyone else,” Jensen told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2pdodsb>).

So, if two students already know they’ll be going to prom together, why bother with an over-the-top promposal?

“It’s just kind of a tradition,” said Roosevelt senior Alex Denevan.

A relatively new tradition, that is — Denevan didn’t know promposals existed until he started as a freshman in high school. Then, he saw the seniors posting photos on social media of the different ways they secured their dates.

Those posts create a sense of competition, Denevan said.

Promposals are almost always shared on social media, inviting comparison and a public display of cleverness.

“You want to be more creative and kind of one-up the class in front of you,” Denevan said.

It’s helped the prom-season gestures get bigger and more elaborate each year.

Denevan asked his prom date with the help of some students at the daycare where she works. Five students held letters that spelled out “prom?” and Denevan held a sign that said, “Will you babysit me April 22?”

Once the question is popped and the answer is “yes,” the next step is telling the world.

Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter play a major role in fueling the promposal arms race.

“It wouldn’t happen as much if social media wasn’t as big of a factor,” Jensen said.

In fact, social media was the first thing that went through Ellie Lamberty’s mind when she realized she was getting asked to prom.

With two friends gripping speakers playing “Forever” by Chris Brown, Lamberty’s boyfriend held up a sign asking her to prom and two tickets to a Chris Brown concert in the Twin Cities.

Before she even left her bedroom to greet her boyfriend, Lamberty, a Lincoln High School junior, changed out of her puppy pajamas and into an outfit that was more social-media friendly.

“I had to quick change,” Lamberty said. “I knew there would be a picture, and I didn’t want to be in a goofy outfit.”

She was right. That picture went on to amass 624 likes on Instagram.

A photo’s reception on social media can validate a promposal’s originality.

Denevan felt good about his promposal in part because of the compliments he got both in person and online. People commented on social media about how "cute" and "clever" it was to involve kids in the invite.

Social media can also be a gold mine for promposal ideas. That's where Chesley came up with the idea to build a castle for his "prom princess."

Chesley recognizes that social media is a big part of the fun of promposals, but he said that's not necessarily a good thing.

The ubiquitous promposal posts bring an added pressure for people trying to get a "yes."

"If the date that they're trying to ask sees an amazing promposal on Instagram and then the guy's promposal isn't that good, the date might feel disappointed," Chesley said.

But for Chesley, coming up with a clever promposal was part of the fun of the event, and the hours spent building the castle definitely paid off. And Jensen?

"She said yes."

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

## Program helps autistic teen find job archiving history

PHU NGUYEN, Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Conner Ulmen, now a senior at T. F. Riggs High School, has been spending about four hours a week at the state archives helping to digitize old publications published by the South Dakota State Historical Society under the supervision of archivist Matthew Reitzel.

Ulmen recently completed the project of digitizing the *Wi-Iyohi*, a monthly bulletin published from April 1947 to Nov. 1970, Reitzel said. Currently, he is working on archiving the collection of Frank Hughes Jr., who was the businessman involved with the early planning of Mt. Rushmore, he said.

"I enjoy my work," Ulmen told the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2qiq1Ar>). "If I find something interesting I will read through it,"

The job helps satisfy his curiosity about history and computers, he said.

Reitzel said Ulmen's work helps provide valuable online resources for researchers for their studies.

"There are over 2,400 images that he has scanned for the entire run of *Wi-Iyohi*," Reitzel said.

"We're glad that Conner was able to do it for us," Reitzel said. "Otherwise, it wouldn't be done. We don't have the time for it."

Ulmen, a student diagnosed with autism, got the job with help from his mother, Cheryl Ulmen, who in turn learned about Project Skills — a paid work experience program funded by the South Dakota Department of Human Services to help high school students with disabilities — through her son's teachers.

Cheryl Ulmen said the program has helped her son a lot.

"Project Skills has given Conner an improved sense of accomplishment and confidence in his ability to perform a job outside of the school environment," she said.

Cheryl Ulmen said Conner has learned many things, too.

"He has learned to take direction in learning and improving on workplace tasks, as well as communicating with his boss in regard to scheduling conflicts when things get busy or he has appointments come up. This type of professional interaction with supervisors who are patient and understand that he does not always pick up on some of the common social intricacies of the work environment has been wonderful for him," Cheryl Ulmen said.

Cheryl Ulmen urged other parents to learn about Project Skills when the child reaches the age to work.

"It can play a key role in helping them transition into the next phase of their life. It has certainly been

a confidence-building experience for Conner," she said.

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

28-34-41-42-47, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 4

(twenty-eight, thirty-four, forty-one, forty-two, forty-seven; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$30 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$184 million

## Construction company to contest fines in building collapse

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A construction company says it intends to contest fines levied by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration after a building collapse in Sioux Falls.

Hultgren Construction was remodeling the former Copper Lounge building on Dec. 2 when it collapsed, killing a construction worker and trapping an apartment resident for hours.

OSHA cited the company, saying it willfully disregarded safety precautions. It proposed Hultgren pay fines of more than \$100,000.

KELO-AM reports (<http://bit.ly/2ptJ2ja>) that co-owner Aaron Hultgren said the company will challenge the proposed penalties. He had no further comment.

Another company that provided temporary labor for the project was also cited and fined by OSHA and previously announced it would also contest the citations.

Information from: KELO-AM, <http://www.keloam.com>

## Mount Rushmore creator honored with historical marker

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — Officials have unveiled a marker honoring the man who developed the idea for Mount Rushmore.

The bronze marker unveiled Thursday declares Doane Robinson as "The Father of Mount Rushmore," the Rapid City Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/2r9IYn1>). It was funded by a contribution from Jerry Klinger of Derwood, Maryland through the nonprofit Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation and is posted three miles south of Keystone, outside of a tunnel named for Robinson in 2015.

Jay Vogt, of the State Historical Society, said it typically costs about \$3,000 to post a historical marker. There are about 700 of them posted around South Dakota.

The Mount Rushmore Society's development director, Gary Keller, said Robinson "ignited tourism here in western South Dakota."

Mount Rushmore attracts more than 2 million visitors annually and contributes an estimated \$3.8 billion in annual visitor spending to South Dakota's tourism industry.

"We can never thank Doane Robinson enough," said Michelle Thomson, CEO of the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association.

Robinson came up with the idea while serving as South Dakota's state historian. In 1924, he wrote a letter inviting sculptor Gutzon Borglum to create a "heroic sculpture of unusual character." Robinson initially thought Western heroes should be carved into sculptures to attract tourists. Borglum proposed carving the likenesses of presidents into the large granite face.

About 30 people attended the unveiling of the marker, including some of Robinson's descendants and 95-year-old Don "Nick" Clifford, the only one of the nearly 400 workers who helped carve Mount Rushmore who is still alive.

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

## South Dakota farmers to harvest small winter wheat crop

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers this year are expected to harvest the fewest acres of winter wheat in nearly half a century.

The Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2r7EknM>) reported that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's statistics service estimates 780,000 acres of winter wheat will be harvested in July, down 29 percent from the 2016 harvest of 1.1 million acres.

"It was less than I expected," said Reid Christopherson, head of the South Dakota Wheat Commission.

Reid said many farmers didn't plant wheat this year because of low prices due to big wheat supplies worldwide. Wheat stocks in the U.S. and abroad remain at near record levels so Christopherson said the market isn't expected to change soon.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service estimated 900,000 acres of wheat were planted in the fall, but winter weather can damage some crops. Farmers then uproot or spray-kill the damaged crops in order to plant a different crop in its place.

The average per-acre yield is expected to remain high at 56 bushels per acre, only two bushels less than last summer. South Dakota farmers have seen record yields in major crops in recent years as farm management, agronomy and equipment improve.

Total harvest production of winter wheat in the state is expected to be 43.7 million bushels, down 32 percent from last year.

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

## Yankton traffic crash includes ton of spilled soybeans

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — One person was injured and another had to be dug out of a pile of soybeans after a traffic crash in Yankton.

Deputy Fire Chief Larry Nickles tells the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2qcMX0V>) that one of the vehicles involved in the crash at a city intersection Thursday afternoon was carrying 2,500 pounds of soybean seed in totes.

One of the totes broke loose and struck the other vehicle, inundating the cab of the truck with soybeans.

City street crews were called in to help clean up the mess.

Authorities say the person hurt in the crash suffered injuries that were not life-threatening.

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Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## **New evidence review prompts trial change in motel homicide**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A new trial date has been set for a Rapid City man accused in a fatal beating at a motel.

Thirty-four-year-old Clifford Gilbert is accused of killing 61-year-old Robert Smith at the Stardust Motel in Rapid City last December.

KOTA-TV (<http://bit.ly/2pFgMFI>) reports Gilbert's attorney says there's new evidence that needs to be reviewed, so the original July trial has been rescheduled to start Sept. 11.

Also Thursday, a private investigator has been approved for the defense to interview witnesses who were already questioned by police but had high alcohol breathalyzer readings at the time.

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Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

## **The Latest: Microsoft shifts policy, now makes fixes free**

LONDON (AP) — The Latest on the global cyberattack (all times local):

2:55 p.m.

The worldwide cyberextortion attack has prompted Microsoft to take the unusual step of making security fixes available for older Windows system.

Before this, Microsoft had made fixes for older systems, such as 2001's Windows XP, available only to mostly larger organizations that pay extra for extended support. But millions of individuals and smaller businesses still had such systems.

Microsoft says now it will make the fixes free for everyone.

Friday's attack was based on a Windows vulnerability that was purportedly identified by the U.S. National Security Agency and was later leaked to the internet.

Microsoft released fixes for the vulnerability in March, but computers that didn't run the update were subject to the ransom attack. Once inside an organization's network, the malware behind the attack spread rapidly using this vulnerability.

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12:40 p.m.

Union members at French carmaker Renault say the global cyberattack has forced it to halt production at sites in France in an effort to stop the malware from spreading.

The two unionists spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitiveness of the issue.

They say the factory of Renault factory at Sandouville, in northwestern France, was one of the sites affected.

The consequences for the company remained unclear. Renault officials were not immediately available for comment.

— By Sylvie Corbet

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12:00 p.m.

The European Union's police agency, Europol, says it is working with countries hit by the global ransomware cyberattack to rein in the threat and help victims.

In a statement Saturday, Europol's European Cybercrime Centre, known as EC3, said the attack "is at an unprecedented level and will require a complex international investigation to identify the culprits."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 14 of 43

EC3 says its Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce, made up of experts in high-tech crime, "is specially designed to assist in such investigations and will play an important role in supporting the investigation."

The attack, which locked up computers and held users' files for ransom, was believed the biggest of its kind ever recorded.

11:00 a.m.

Germany's national railway says that it was among the organizations affected by the global cyberattack but there was no impact on train services.

Deutsche Bahn says that departure and arrival display screens at its stations were hit Friday night by the attack. The company said it deployed extra staff to busy stations to provide customer information, and recommended that passengers check its website or app for information on their connections.

The railway said that there was no impact on actual train services.

10:50 a.m.

The head of Turkey's Information and Communication Technologies Authority or BTK says the nation was among those affected by the ransomware attack. Omer Fatih Sayan said the country's cyber security center is continuing operations against the malicious software.

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Turkey tweeted that the "wannacry ransomware" is spread over Server Message Block flaws. The team asked users to update antivirus applications and not open suspicious phishing emails.

The effects of the attack on Turkey are unclear.

Citing a written statement by BTK, Turkey's official Anadolu news agency said the cyberattack affected 74 countries, "including Turkey in a small way."

10:45 a.m.

Britain's National Cyber Security Center says teams are working "round the clock" to restore hospital computer systems after a global cyberattack that hit dozens of countries forced British hospitals to cancel and delay treatment for patients.

The attack, which locked up computers and held users' files for ransom, was believed the biggest of its kind ever recorded. Several cybersecurity firms said they had identified the malicious software behind the attack, which has apparently hit Russia the hardest.

British Home Secretary Amber Rudd said Saturday that 45 public health organizations were hit, but she stressed that no patient data had been stolen.

Germany's national railway says departure and arrival display screens at its stations were affected Friday night, but there was no impact on train services.

## Trump say it's possible he could pick FBI head by next week

By **SADIE GURMAN** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that he could announce his pick for FBI director by late next week, before he leaves on his first foreign trip since taking office.

"Even that is possible," he told reporters when asked whether he could announce his nominee by Friday, when he is scheduled to leave for the Mideast and Europe. The president spoke while flying to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he was giving the commencement address at Liberty University.

Four candidates to be the bureau's director were in line Saturday for the first interviews with Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his deputy, Rod Rosenstein, at Justice Department headquarters.

The Trump administration is looking to fill the job, which requires Senate confirmation, after Trump abruptly fired Director James Comey on Tuesday.

The first candidate to arrive was Alice Fisher, a high-ranking Justice Department official in the George W. Bush administration. She left after about an hour and a half inside the building and declined to comment to reporters.

Among those also expected to be coming were acting FBI director Andrew McCabe, Michael J. Garcia, an associate judge on New York's highest court, and GOP Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate leader and a former state attorney general. That's according to two people familiar with the search process who weren't authorized to publicly discuss the deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

They are among nearly a dozen candidates Trump is considering, a group that includes several lawmakers, attorneys and law enforcement officials.

Fisher formerly served as assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Criminal Division. She faced resistance from Democrats during her confirmation over her alleged participation in discussions about detention policies at the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba. She also was deputy special counsel to the Senate special committee that investigated President Bill Clinton's Whitewater scandal.

The FBI has never had a female director.

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Superville reported from Lynchburg, Virginia.

## **Nations battle cyberattack damages; UK focuses on hospitals**

**By SYLVIA HUI and JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Teams of technicians worked "round the clock" Saturday to restore hospital computer systems in Britain and check transport services in other nations after a global cyberattack that hit dozens of countries crippled the U.K.'s health system. In Russia, where a wide array of systems came under attack, officials said services had been restored or the virus contained.

The extortion attack, which locked up computers and held users' files for ransom, is believed to be the biggest of its kind ever recorded, disrupting services in nations as diverse as the U.S., Russia, Ukraine, Spain and India. Europol, the European Union's police agency, said the onslaught was at "an unprecedented level and will require a complex international investigation to identify the culprits."

The ransomware appeared to exploit a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows that was purportedly identified by the U.S. National Security Agency for its own intelligence-gathering purposes and was later leaked to the internet.

It was not yet known who perpetrated Friday's attacks. Two security firms — Kaspersky Lab and Avast — said they had identified the malicious software behind the attack in over 70 countries, although both said the attack had hit Russia the hardest.

The Russian Interior Ministry, which runs the country's police, confirmed it was among those that fell victim to the ransomware, which typically flashes a message demanding a payment to release the user's own data. Spokeswoman Irina Volk was quoted by the Interfax news agency Saturday as saying the problem had been "localized" and that no information was compromised.

A spokesman for the Russian Health Ministry, Nikita Odintsov, said on Twitter that the cyberattacks on his ministry were "effectively repelled."

Russia's central bank said Saturday it had seen no incidents "compromising the data resources of bank institutions," state news agency Tass reported. The national railway system said although it was attacked, rail operations were unaffected.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 16 of 43

French carmaker Renault's assembly plant in Slovenia halted production after it was targeted in the global cyberattack. Radio Slovenia said Saturday the Revoz factory in the southeastern town of Novo Mesto stopped working on Friday evening to stop the malware from spreading. The radio said the factory is working with the central office in France to resolve the problem.

In Britain, the National Cyber Security Center says it is "working round the clock" with experts to restore vital health services.

British Home Secretary Amber Rudd — who was chairing a government emergency security meeting Saturday in response to the attack — said 45 public health organizations were hit, though she stressed that no patient data had been stolen. The attack froze computers at hospitals across the country, with some canceling all routine procedures. Patients were asked not to go to hospitals unless it was an emergency and even some key services like chemotherapy were canceled.

British media had reported last year that most public health organizations were using an outdated version of Microsoft Windows that was not equipped with security updates.

Krishna Chinthapalli, a doctor at Britain's National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery who wrote a paper on cybersecurity for the British Medical Journal, said many British hospitals still use Windows XP software, introduced in 2001.

Security experts said the attack appeared to be caused by a self-replicating piece of software that enters companies and organizations when employees click on email attachments, then spreads quickly internally from computer to computer when employees share documents.

The security holes it exploits were disclosed several weeks ago by TheShadowBrokers, a mysterious group that has published what it says are hacking tools used by the NSA as part of its intelligence-gathering.

Shortly after that disclosure, Microsoft announced that it had already issued software "patches," or fixes, for those holes — but many users haven't yet installed the fixes or are using older versions of Windows.

In the U.S., FedEx Corp. reported that its Windows computers were "experiencing interference" from malware, but wouldn't say if it had been hit by ransomware.

Elsewhere in Europe, the attack hit companies including Spain's Telefonica, a global broadband and telecommunications company.

Germany's national railway said Saturday that departure and arrival display screens at its train stations were affected, but there was no impact on actual train services. Deutsche Bahn said it deployed extra staff to busy stations to provide customer information, and recommended that passengers check its website or app for information on their connections.

Other European organizations hit by the massive cyberattack included soccer clubs in Norway and Sweden, with IF Odd, a 132-year-old Norwegian soccer club, saying its online ticketing facility was down.

Security officials in Britain urged organizations to protect themselves from ransomware by updating their security software fixes, running anti-virus software and backing up data elsewhere.

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Heintz reported from Moscow.

## **For 1st commencement address, Trump picks Liberty University** **By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — For his first commencement address as president, Donald Trump has picked Liberty University, the Christian school whose leader was among Trump's earliest and most vocal sup-



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 17 of 43

porters.

Trump's remarks Saturday on the Lynchburg, Virginia, campus will mark his first extended public appearance since he fired James Comey as FBI director this week.

The president largely has stayed out of public view since Tuesday, when he removed the head of the agency investigating Russia's role in the 2016 election, along with possible ties between Trump's campaign and the Russian government.

Trump lashed out at Comey on Friday, tweeting that Comey "better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!"

Trump's chief spokesman refused to comment Friday on whether active listening devices are in the Oval Office or elsewhere in the building. That nondenial drew comparisons to the secretly taped conversations and telephone calls that led to President Richard Nixon's downfall in the Watergate scandal in the 1970s.

Trump had earlier criticized Comey as a "showboat" and a "grandstander," and the president's warning prompted new accusations of interference with the FBI's Russia investigation.

In his weekly address to the nation, Trump said he was "delighted to be participating first hand in the excitement" as students and faculty celebrate Liberty's more than 18,000 graduates.

The commander in chief typically addresses graduates of one of the U.S. military service academies, and Trump is scheduled to speak at the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut on Wednesday.

"To young Americans at both schools, I will be bringing a message of hope and optimism about our nation's bright future," Trump said.

Jerry Falwell Jr., Liberty's president, helped Trump win an overwhelming 80 percent of the white evangelical vote.

A recent Pew Research Center survey marking Trump's first 100 days in office, a milestone reached on April 29, found three-quarters of white evangelicals approved of his performance as president while just 39 percent of the general public held the same view.

Christian conservatives have been overjoyed by Trump's appointment of Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, along with Trump's choice of socially conservative Cabinet members and other officials, such as Charmaine Yoest, a prominent anti-abortion activist named to the Department of Health and Human Services.

But they had a mixed response to an executive order on religious liberty that Trump signed last week. He directed the IRS to ease up on enforcing an already rarely enforced limit on partisan political activity by churches.

He also promised "regulatory relief" for those who object on religious grounds to the birth control coverage requirement in the Affordable Care Act health law. Yet the order did not address one of the most pressing demands from religious conservatives: broad exemptions from recognizing same-sex marriage.

Still, Falwell, who endorsed Trump in January 2016 just before that year's Iowa caucuses, praised Trump's actions on issues that concern Christian conservatives.

"I really don't think any other president has done more for evangelicals and the faith community in four months than President Trump has," Falwell told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Falwell became a key surrogate and validator for the thrice-married Trump during the campaign, frequently traveling with Trump on the candidate's plane and appearing at events. Falwell often compared Trump to his later father, the conservative televangelist Jerry Falwell, and argued that while Trump wasn't the most religious candidate in the race, he was the man the country needed.

Trump has spoken at Liberty University before. He courted Christians there in January 2016 with a

speech that drew laughs from some in the audience when referred to one of the Bible's books as "Two Corinthians" instead of the more common "Second Corinthians." In that speech, Trump promised: "We're going to protect Christianity, and I can say that. I don't have to be politically correct."

Newly elected U.S. presidents often give their first commencement addresses at the University of Notre Dame, the country's best-known Roman Catholic school.

Presidents Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush did so during their first year in office. But this year, Vice President Mike Pence will speak at Notre Dame's graduation, becoming the first vice president to do so.

Notre Dame spokesman Paul Browne declined to say whether Trump had been invited to the May 21 ceremony, saying it was against school policy to reveal who had turned down offers.

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AP Religion Writer Rachel Zoll in New York and Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in Washington and Brian Slodysko in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

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Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## **Mnuchin: US partners more comfortable with Trump on trade**

**By DAVID McHUGH, Associated Press**

BARI, Italy (AP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says major trading partners "are much more comfortable" with the Trump administration's trade policies and understand U.S. growth will benefit them.

Mnuchin spoke after face-to-face meetings with major trade partners such as Germany, Japan and Canada at the Group of Seven finance ministers' meeting in Bari, Italy.

Mnuchin said his meetings with finance leaders had led to better understanding of the U.S. president's position that trade must be fair and balanced as well as open. He said they understand that "we don't want to be protectionist, but we reserve our right to be protectionist to the extent we believe trade is not free and fair."

Earlier, the finance officials warned that long-term growth could remain subdued and that steps need to be taken to make the global economy work for everyone.

They also called for a renewed common effort against cybercrime, a timely message in the wake of Friday's ransomware attacks in dozens of countries.

The gathering in a 13th-century seaside fortress in the southern Italian town of Bari is paving the way for a meeting of national leaders in Taormina, Sicily May 26-27. The G7 countries are Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, the United States, and the United Kingdom; the European Union also attends the informal forum.

Italy, the host country for the informal forum this year, wanted the meeting to produce separate statements about fairer growth and fighting tax evasion.

Italian Finance Minister Pier Carlo Padoan said that Saturday's morning session on cybercrime was "unfortunately very timely," an apparent reference to the wave of ransomware attacks reported Friday in dozens of countries in which files were locked and money demanded to unlock them.

The G-7 countries are: Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom; the European Union also attends the informal meetings.

The group's agreements, presented in the form of a final statement, aren't legally binding; instead they represent the leaders' political commitment to follow through.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 19 of 43

Pope makes 2 Fatima children saints on centenary of visions

By NICOLE WINFIELD and BARRY HATTON, Associated Press

FATIMA, Portugal (AP) — Pope Francis added two Portuguese shepherd children to the roster of Catholic saints Saturday, honoring young siblings whose reported visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years ago turned the Portuguese farm town of Fatima into one of the world's most important Catholic shrines.

Francis proclaimed Francisco and Jacinta Marto saints at the start of Mass marking the centenary of their visions. A half-million people watched in the vast square in front of the shrine's basilica, the Vatican said, citing Portuguese authorities. Many had spent days at Fatima in quiet prayer, reciting rosaries before a statue of the Madonna. They clapped as soon as Francis read the proclamation aloud.

"It is amazing, it is like an answer to prayer because I felt that always they would be canonized," said Agnes Walsh from Killarney, Ireland. She said she prayed to Francisco Marto for 20 years, hoping her four daughters would meet "nice boys like Francisco." "The four of them have met boys that are just beautiful I couldn't ask for better, so he has answered all my prayers," she said.

Francisco and Jacinta, aged 9 and 7, and their 10-year-old cousin, Lucia, reported that on March 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary made the first of a half-dozen appearances to them here while they grazed their sheep. They said she confided in them three secrets — foretelling apocalyptic visions of hell, war, communism and the death of a pope — and urged them to pray for peace and a conversion away from sin.

At the time, Europe was in the throes of World War I, and the Portuguese church was suffering under anti-clerical laws from the republican government that had forced many bishops and priests into exile.

"Our Lady foretold, and warned us about, a way of life that is godless and indeed profanes God in his creatures," Francis said in his homily. "Such a life, frequently proposed and imposed, risks leading to hell."

He urged Catholics today to use the example of the Marto siblings and draw strength from God, even when adversity strikes. The children had been threatened by local civil authorities with death by boiling oil if they didn't recant their story. But they held fast and eventually the church recognized the apparitions as authentic in 1930.

"We can take as our examples Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God's light and taught to adore him," he said. "That was the source of their strength in overcoming opposition and suffering."

The Martos are now the youngest-ever saints who didn't die as martyrs.

Before the Mass, Francis prayed at the tombs of each of the Fatima visionaries. The Marto siblings died two years after the visions during Europe's Spanish flu pandemic. Lucia is on track for possible beatification, but her process couldn't start until after her 2005 death.

At the end of the Mass, Francis was to offer a special greeting to the many faithful who flock to Fatima in hopes of healing. Many toss wax body parts — hands, hearts, livers and limbs — into a giant fire pit at the shrine as an offering.

Participating in the offertory procession Saturday were Joao Baptista and his wife, Lucila Yurie, of Brazil. They were with their son, Lucas, whose medically inexplicable healing was the "miracle" needed for the Marto siblings to be declared saints.

The boy, aged 5 at the time, had fallen 6.5 meters (21 feet) from a window in 2013 and suffered such severe head trauma that his doctors said he would be severely mentally disabled or in a vegetative state if he even survived. The boy not only survived but has no signs of any after-effects.

"We thank God for Lucas' cure and we know in all faith from our heart that this miracle was obtained with the help of the little shepherd children Francisco and Jacinta," Baptista told reporters earlier as the

family broke their silence to reveal details of the case.

In 2000, St. John Paul II beatified the Marto siblings during a Mass at Fatima and used the occasion of the new millennium to reveal the third "secret" that the children reported they had received from the Madonna. The text, written by Lucia, had been kept in a sealed envelope inside the Vatican for decades, with no pope daring to reveal it because of its terrifying contents: a "bishop dressed in white" — the pope — on his knees at the foot of a cross, killed in a hail of bullets and arrows, along with other bishops, priests and various lay Catholics.

The message featured an angel crying out "penance, penance, penance!"

The impending canonization of the children had led to speculation that a fourth "secret" remained, but the Vatican has insisted there are no more secrets related to the Fatima revelations.

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Hatton reported from Lisbon, Portugal.

## Turnout is key for Iran's election, a challenge for Rouhani

By NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's presidential election may turn on turnout.

Historically, the more Iranians who cast ballots, the greater the chance a reformist or a moderate like incumbent President Hassan Rouhani will be elected.

However, Rouhani's bid for another four-year term comes amid apathy and grumbling from an electorate that largely hasn't seen the benefits of his signature nuclear deal with world powers. As his opponents promise populist cash handouts to the poor, Rouhani needs all the voters he can to cast ballots on May 19. But even some of his supporters say they may stay home.

"I will not vote," said Hossein Ghasemi, a 35-year-old taxi driver who voted for Rouhani in 2013. "None of them care about our demands and difficulties linked to daily increasing prices."

Rouhani faces five opponents in the election, but some may well drop out in the coming days to boost the chances of the most-prominent candidates. Eshaq Jahangiri, one of Rouhani's vice presidents, is expected to leave the race to help his boss.

A reformist dropping out ahead of the 2013 election helped Rouhani edge out a nearly 51 percent majority to win. That election saw turnout of 73 percent, a high figure Rouhani will need to duplicate among Iran's 56.4 million eligible voters this time around. If no candidate wins an outright majority, the top two candidates will compete in a second round of voting on May 26.

There are already warning signs on the horizon for Rouhani. A report Monday by the state-run IRNA news agency said a survey of over 6,000 eligible voters found over a third saying they would not be voting, while another 46 percent said they would pick their candidate later. It offered no margin of error on the nationwide random survey.

"The main rival of Rouhani is 'lack of participation' by people," said Saeed Leilaz, a Tehran-based political analyst.

That lack of enthusiasm stems from the average Iranian's major concern: The economy. While the nuclear deal allowed Iran to resume crucial oil exports to Europe and sign billion-dollar airplane deals, chronic unemployment and inflation remain major concerns. Iran's universities continue to graduate its youth without jobs available.

The economic crisis can be seen in pictures of homeless people sleeping in graves outside of Tehran, images that shocked the nation and Rouhani himself. The poor, both young and old, can be seen in Iranian cities searching trash for food or cleaning car windows for loose change.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 21 of 43

Meanwhile, the president found himself heckled and his vehicle beaten by angry miners Sunday as he visited the site of a coal mine disaster that killed at least 42 people.

"I like Rouhani, but I do not want to vote at all," said Aidin Yahyavi, 32. "Years after graduating, I am still unemployed and my parents support me."

That's exactly the kind of voter Rouhani needs to inspire. About a third of eligible voters live in big cities where Rouhani remains popular and where average turnout is around 40 percent. Another third live in smaller, regional cities. In rural areas, where clerics and Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guard hold greater sway, turnout reaches 90 percent.

Rouhani faces his most-serious challenge from hard-liner Ebrahim Raisi, a favorite of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Raisi already has the support of two major clerical bodies that declined to endorse anyone in the last presidential election.

Raisi has pledged to support the poor with a monthly cash payment equivalent to \$65 — about a sixth of what a menial laborer makes in a month. Tehran mayor Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, a conservative vying for the presidency, has promised to pay the poor the equivalent of up to \$40 monthly.

Iran's government already pays nearly \$12 billion in relief to the poor, which includes \$13 monthly cash allotments.

Cash payouts helped win rural voters over to the hard-line former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was barred by authorities from running in this election. Rouhani's administration has sought to cut back such cash payments, instead trying to use the money to fund development projects.

"The economy is not in good shape," said Mehdi Khalaji, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "They trust Rouhani because he succeeded in the nuclear negotiations .... (but) people want to hear about candidates' capabilities to solve economic problems."

Influential reformist activist Mostafa Tajzadeh, who spent years in prison after opposing Ahmadinejad's contested 2009 re-election, worries promises of cash will sway the poor and unemployed. He and other activists fear a runoff as the Iranian middle class and more liberal voters in Tehran so far seem unenthused.

"It is impossible that the army of poor and unemployed people ignore promises for increasing cash for poor people," he said.

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Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## **Amphibious military exercises moving ahead on Guam**

**By HAVEN DALEY and AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press**

NAVAL BASE GUAM (AP) — Multinational amphibious exercises on the U.S. Pacific island of Guam were moving ahead as scheduled Saturday, one day after being suspended when a French landing craft ran aground.

First Lt. Joshua Hays, a spokesman for the U.S. 3rd Marine Division, said Japanese soldiers will practice rubber craft raids. On Sunday, U.S. Marines plan to conduct live-fire training with French troops.

The weeklong maneuvers, which also involve the United Kingdom, were intended to show support for the free passage of vessels in international waters amid concerns China may restrict access to the South China Sea.

They're being held around Guam and Tinian islands, U.S. islands that are about 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) south of Tokyo and east of Manila, Philippines.

The exercises feature two French ships currently on a four-month deployment to the Indian and Pa-

cific oceans. Some 50 Japanese soldiers and 160 Japanese sailors were due to participate, along with U.K. helicopters and 70 U.K. troops deployed with one of the French ships.

On Friday, the drills came to a halt when a French landing craft ran aground just as the exercises were getting underway. U.S. officials said they stopped the drills so they could assess the situation.

McAvoy reported from Honolulu.

## **Arizona police: Woman switched flour for formula**

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A Tucson woman is accused of substituting flour for infant formula in containers returned to several local stores for refunds, and police have warned the public to check formula containers' seals for tampering.

One child got sick from ingesting tampered formula but is in good condition after being treated at a hospital and released May 5, police said late Thursday.

Police Chief Chris Magnus held an unusual nighttime news conference to disclose the arrest and to warn the public. "We're concerned about this and wanted to get the information out as quickly as possible to avoid any other children from becoming sick," Magnus said.

Police said the suspect was motivated by money and apparently took place over at least several days and possibly for up to two months. The formula was either purchased or stolen, police said.

Dr. Francisco Garcia, chief medical officer for Pima County, said tests are being conducted to determine whether other substances were put in formula containers along with flour, such as something to make it more palatable.

Police said Jennifer LaPlante, 30, was arrested Thursday on suspicion of fraudulent schemes and artifices and child endangerment.

LaPlante remained jailed Friday. It wasn't immediately known whether she has an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

Police listed two Fry's grocery stores and two Wal-Mart stores, all on Tucson's eastside, that are linked to the incident.

Officials at Arkansas-based Wal-Mart said they don't restock baby formula and are "deeply disturbed" by the Tucson incident.

"Our customers deserve safe, quality foods, and we have policies in place to help ensure that returned baby formula is not put back on our shelves," Wal-Mart spokesman Ragan Dickens said in a statement.

A police department spokesman, Sgt. Pete Dugan, said Friday he wasn't aware of additional reports of tampered formula.

However, detectives remained "smack-dab in the middle of the investigation," Dugan said. "They need to find out if there's others involved. They need to find out if there's other stores involved."

Officials advised recent purchasers of infant formula from Tucson businesses to check seals on containers and to see whether the formula smelled normal.

Parents shouldn't feed infants with any formula if there's any question of possible tampering, Garcia said. "Those seals should be intact," he said.

## **School: Boy, 8, who killed himself never said he was bullied**

**By LISA CORNWELL, Associated Press**

CINCINNATI (AP) — An 8-year-old boy shown on surveillance video being knocked to the floor unconscious at school two days before he killed himself told staff he had fainted and never said he had been

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 23 of 43

bullied or assaulted, a school spokeswoman said Friday.

Gabriel Taye's mother didn't learn of the bullying until her attorneys saw a copy of an email written by a Cincinnati police homicide detective in an investigative file that describes the scene outside a boys' bathroom, her lawyers said. The attorneys have questioned why the mother was told he fainted on Jan. 24 when the video shows he had been injured by another boy at Carson Elementary School.

The Hamilton County coroner said she is reopening the investigation into Gabriel's suicide. He hanged himself with a necktie in the bedroom of his Cincinnati apartment on Jan. 26.

The school spokeswoman said administrators weren't aware of the recording until days later when the detective investigating Gabriel's suicide requested surveillance videos from security officials.

The district released copies of a choppy 24-minute-long video that shows one boy bullying other students and then, according to the mother's attorneys, pushing Gabriel into a wall when he tried to shake the boy's hand and knocking him unconscious. The spokeswoman said it's unclear from the video what happened to Gabriel at that moment.

"It is our firm position that the allegations portrayed in the media are not supported by the video," the district said in a statement released later Friday. The release also noted that police reviewed the video and no charges were filed.

An assistant principal arrived about 4½ minutes after Gabriel fell to the floor, followed by other school employees and the school nurse, who helped him to his feet. He was on the floor just over seven minutes.

Coroner Lakshmi Sammarco told Cincinnati radio station WLW on Thursday that she asked police for a full investigation to determine whether there were contributing factors to Gabriel's suicide, WXIX-TV reported.

"It was very hard for me to believe that an 8-year-old would even know what it means to commit suicide," Sammarco told WLW.

Cincinnati police said they would have no further comment about the case, and they directed questions to the coroner's office. The coroner's spokesman said Friday that Sammarco wasn't available for comment.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters said Friday night his office is considering whether criminal charges should be filed in connection with Gabriel's death, WCPO-TV reported.

District officials and attorneys for Gabriel's mother have disputed what the mother was told the day Gabriel was knocked unconscious.

The district said administrators asked Cornelia Reynolds, Gabriel's mother, to pick him up from school and take him to a hospital. Her attorneys counter that Reynolds decided on her own to pick him up and took him to the hospital after her sister, who was baby-sitting while Reynolds was at work, called to say Gabriel had vomited and was complaining of stomach pains. Doctors said he had a stomach virus and sent him home, attorney Carla Leader said.

Leader said Gabriel had no history of mental health issues and described him as a happy-go-lucky kid. When Reynolds asked him what happened at school the day he was knocked unconscious, he said he didn't know, her attorneys said.

"He really didn't have any recollection of what had happened," said attorney Jennifer Branch, who also is representing Reynolds.

Cincinnati Public Schools is reviewing with faculty and staff the procedures regarding adult supervision in the restrooms, and is committed to student safety, the district's statement said.

On Friday, a small group of demonstrators gathered on the sidewalk outside Carson Elementary, with some parents complaining about their children being bullied.

Carolyn Emery has two children at the school, including a daughter who was in first grade with Gabriel. She said he was a "very loving little boy who always had a smile on his face."

Her 9-year-old daughter, Jericka, said she has been bullied as recently as this week, when another girl smacked her. She said she has seen a lot of bullying at the school and doesn't think it will get any better. "They won't do anything about it," Jericka Emery said.

Another demonstrator outside the school said her 9-year-old daughter was jumped by other girls on a school bus and had marks and bruises on her face.

"She doesn't even want to go to school anymore, and she always liked school," Amy Henson said. "Her grades have been slipping since this started."

Henson said she was told the students were suspended from the bus for several days, but nothing else was done. She no longer lets her daughter ride the bus.

She was among several parents Friday who said they would like their children to go to another school. Henson said school officials sent a note home with students after Gabriel's death saying that a student had died in an accident and counselors would be available for their children.

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This story has been corrected to show that it took 4½ minutes, not 7½ minutes, before a school official came to Gabriel's aid.

## **Dozens of countries hit by huge cyberextortion attack**

**By ANICK JESDANUN, JILL LAWLESS and ARITZ PARRA, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Dozens of countries were hit with a huge cyberextortion attack Friday that locked up computers and held users' files for ransom at a multitude of hospitals, companies and government agencies.

It was believed to be the biggest attack of its kind ever recorded.

The malicious software behind the onslaught appeared to exploit a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows that was supposedly identified by the National Security Agency for its own intelligence-gathering purposes and was later leaked to the internet.

Britain's national health service fell victim, its hospitals forced to close wards and emergency rooms and turn away patients. Russia appeared to be the hardest hit, according to security experts, with the country's Interior Ministry confirming it was struck.

All told, several cybersecurity firms said they had identified the malicious software, which so far has been responsible for tens of thousands of attacks, in more than 60 countries. That includes the United States, although its effects there didn't appear to be widespread, at least initially.

The attack infected computers with what is known as "ransomware" — software that locks up the user's data and flashes a message demanding payment to release it. In the U.S., FedEx reported that its Windows computers were "experiencing interference" from malware, but wouldn't say if it had been hit by ransomware.

Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at the Helsinki-based cybersecurity company F-Secure, called the attack "the biggest ransomware outbreak in history."

Security experts said the attack appeared to be caused by a self-replicating piece of software that enters companies and organizations when employees click on email attachments, then spreads quickly internally from computer to computer when employees share documents and other files.

Its ransom demands start at \$300 and increase after two hours to \$400, \$500 and then \$600, said Kurt Baumgartner, a security researcher at Kaspersky Lab. Affected users can restore their files from backups, if they have them, or pay the ransom; otherwise they risk losing their data entirely.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 25 of 43

Chris Wysopal of the software security firm Veracode said criminal organizations were probably behind the attack, given how quickly the malware spread.

"For so many organizations in the same day to be hit, this is unprecedented," he said.

The security holes it exploits were disclosed several weeks ago by TheShadowBrokers, a mysterious group that has published what it says are hacking tools used by the NSA as part of its intelligence-gathering.

Shortly after that disclosure, Microsoft announced that it had already issued software "patches" for those holes. But many companies and individuals haven't installed the fixes yet or are using older versions of Windows that Microsoft no longer supports and didn't fix.

By Kaspersky Lab's count, the malware struck at least 74 countries. In addition to Russia, the biggest targets appeared to be Ukraine and India, nations where it is common to find older, unpatched versions of Windows in use, according to the security firm.

Hospitals across Britain found themselves without access to their computers or phone systems. Many canceled all routine procedures and asked patients not to come to the hospital unless it was an emergency. Doctors' practices and pharmacies reported similar problems.

Patrick Ward, a 47-year-old sales director, said his heart operation, scheduled for Friday, was canceled at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

Tom Griffiths, who was at the hospital for chemotherapy, said several cancer patients had to be sent home because their records or bloodwork couldn't be accessed.

"Both staff and patients were frankly pretty appalled that somebody, whoever they are, for commercial gain or otherwise, would attack a health care organization," he said. "It's stressful enough for someone going through recovery or treatment for cancer."

British Prime Minister Theresa May said there was no evidence patient data had been compromised and added that the attack had not specifically targeted the National Health Service.

"It's an international attack and a number of countries and organizations have been affected," she said.

Spain, meanwhile, took steps to protect critical infrastructure in response to the attack. Authorities said they were communicating with more than 100 energy, transportation, telecommunications and financial services providers about the attack.

Spain's Telefonica, a global broadband and telecommunications company, was among the companies hit.

Ransomware attacks are on the rise around the world. In 2016, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center in California said it had paid a \$17,000 ransom to regain control of its computers from hackers.

Krishna Chinthapalli, a doctor at Britain's National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery who wrote a paper on cybersecurity for the British Medical Journal, warned that British hospitals' old operating systems and confidential patient information made them an ideal target for blackmailers.

He said many NHS hospitals in Britain use Windows XP software, introduced in 2001, and as government funding for the health service has been squeezed, "IT budgets are often one of the first ones to be reduced."

"Looking at the trends, it was going to happen," he said. "I did not expect an attack on this scale. That was a shock.

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Lawless reported from London. Parra reported from Madrid.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 26 of 43

## NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By The Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular, but completely untrue, headlines of the week. None of these stories are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. AP checked these out; here are the real facts:

NOT REAL: U.S. Department of State suspends New York Times licence

THE FACTS: The account claiming the State Department suspended the newspaper's operational permit after it criticized Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is "completely false," Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha says. There is no permit required for U.S. news organizations and there is no issue with the newspaper's foreign press credentials, she said. A website made up to look like a CNN outlet says in a story published last month that the State Department accused The Times of "breaking communication code of ethics" in a matter that could cause diplomatic challenges between the two countries.

NOT REAL: Sarah Palin out of her coma, able to identify her attackers

THE FACTS: More than half a dozen sites have run the same verbatim account of a hit-and-run accident on California's Pacific Coast Highway involving the former Alaska governor, followed up by stories alleging Palin emerged from her coma to identify her assailants. A spokesman for Palin tells the AP the reports are "as fake as fake can be." The sites report that the accident happened April 28, when Palin's Twitter and Facebook accounts were active. The 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate has been a target of hoax articles in the past .

NOT REAL: Hobby Lobby just announced plan to close ALL stores

THE FACTS: The arts and crafts retail chain has 700-plus stores and says it's adding 60 more in 2017. A story published by Daily Info News, The Washington Feed and other outlets said the chain's CEO said it could go out of business if it pays fines for violating a mandate under the Affordable Care Act to provide employees access to emergency contraception. Hobby Lobby won an exemption from the law based on religious preferences in a 2014 Supreme Court decision.

NOT REAL: 2 moms, 5 kids killed in car crash in (insert place here)

THE FACTS: Multiple websites have appropriated many details from a true account of a June 2016 minivan accident in Southern California that killed two mothers and four children while two fathers survived. The stories circulating with dozens of different headlines change the U.S. county where it occurred, and in some cases add the fathers' names and varying ages of the children.

NOT REAL: Robertson: David Bowie is not dead, he was kidnapped by demons summoned by rock music

THE FACTS: This account first published by politicops.com last year and recently recycled by admitted hoax site uspoln.com began with an accurate answer by "700 Club" host Pat Robertson to a teenager's written question on whether it was OK to listen to rock music. Robertson replied that some rock wasn't "all that bad," but some "is just evil." A spokesman for Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network tells the AP that the evangelist made no mention of Bowie, who died on Jan. 10, 2016.

This is part of an ongoing Associated Press effort to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://apne.ws/APFactCheck>

This new weekly fixture is part of The Associated Press' ongoing efforts to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

This story has been corrected to show that Sarah Palin was the vice presidential candidate in 2008, not 2012.

## Hinting at secret tapes, Trump warns ousted FBI director

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JAKE PEARSON and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Raging against a political firestorm, President Donald Trump on Friday shot a sharp warning at his ousted FBI director about possible "tapes" of their disputed private conversations, raising the provocative possibility that recording devices have been installed in the White House.

Trump's top spokesman refused to comment on whether listening devices are active in the Oval Office or elsewhere, a non-denial that recalled the secretly taped conversations and telephone calls that ultimately led to President Richard Nixon's downfall in the Watergate scandal. Trump's warning to fired FBI Director James Comey prompted new accusations of interference in an investigation into allegations of collaboration between Russia and the Trump presidential campaign last year.

It also escalated a potentially damaging standoff between a fuming, undisciplined president and the unorthodox lawman he dismissed three days earlier. Not to mention Congress, which is also investigating.

Democrats quickly seized on the dispute, demanding the White House turn over any tapes that might exist of the president's conversations with Comey.

Trump's behavior raises "the specter of possible intimidation and obstruction of justice," wrote Reps. John Conyers and Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrats on the House Judiciary and Oversight committees, in a letter to White House Counsel Don McGahn. "The president's actions also risk undermining the ongoing criminal and counterintelligence investigations and the independence of federal law enforcement agencies."

In an interview with Fox News Friday, Trump declined to comment on whether he has listening devices in the White House.

"Well that I can't talk about. I won't talk about that. All I want is for Comey to be honest. And I hope he will be," Trump said.

For a president whose tweets frequently rattle Washington — and foreign capitals — Trump's message early Friday morning was particularly jarring: "James Comey better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!" the president wrote.

The White House refusal to elaborate left open several questions: Had Trump, as his predecessor had in the 1970s, been covertly taping conversations? Was he trying to intimidate Comey? Was he suggesting Comey had recordings? Or was it merely a button-pushing claim launched over frustration at news coverage of the controversy.

The tweet appeared to refer to a series of three conversations in which, Trump claims, Comey assured him he was not under FBI investigation as part of the bureau's probe into Russia's interference in the 2016 election. Comey has not explicitly denied the account. But sources close to him have cast doubt on the president's account, noting it would be extraordinary for an FBI director to discuss an open investigation.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 28 of 43

On Friday, a person close to the former director recounted a different version. At a one-on-one dinner at the White House in January, Trump asked Comey to pledge his loyalty to the president and Comey declined, instead offering to be honest with him, according to the person, who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer denied that account, insisting that the president simply "wants loyalty to this country and the rule of law." Details of the dinner were first reported by The New York Times.

The firing of Comey already has left Trump with the dubious distinction of being the first president since Nixon to dismiss a law enforcement official overseeing an investigation tied to the White House. He also, like Nixon, has grown increasingly isolated in the White House, recently relying on only a small circle of family members and loyal advisers while livid about the West Wing's failing efforts to get ahead of the damaging Russia story, according to several people close to Trump. They also commented only condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Those people also describe him as deeply frustrated by what he views as unfair media coverage — irritation that emerged in a separate tweet in which he suggested he may shut down the regular press briefings at the White House.

Trump was widely known to record some phone conversations at his office in Trump Tower during his business career, sometimes remarking to aides after a call as to whether or not he had taped it.

"I would note that New York is a one-party consent state, and President Trump has always abided by the law," said Sam Nunberg, a former campaign aide. Federal law and the law in New York State do not require both parties on a call to be aware that it was being recorded. In Florida, where the president frequently spends weekends, both parties must consent to recording.

Spicer, who kept his answers short during Friday's briefing and largely dodged specific questions about Trump's meeting with Comey, said he was not aware that any recording of the Trump-Comey meeting exists. Associates of the former FBI director, who remained out of sight Friday at his suburban Virginia home, said they believed any tapes would validate Comey's side of the story.

It was not clear when Comey would speak for himself. He declined an invitation to appear at a closed meeting of the Senate intelligence committee next week.

The face-to-face meeting between the president and the director raised other concerns. It came just days after the FBI interviewed Trump's then-National Security Adviser Mike Flynn about his conversations with the Russian ambassador and a day after acting Attorney General Sally Yates first alerted the White House that she believed Flynn had lied about the conversations and could be blackmailed by Moscow.

Former National Intelligence Director James Clapper said Friday that Comey was uneasy about attending the dinner due to the "appearance of compromising the independence of the FBI which is a hallowed tenet in our system."

Clapper also told MSNBC that he didn't know if there was collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials, contradicting the president's assertion that the former director had cleared him of wrongdoing.

The swirling controversy has obliterated any momentum from the House passage of the Republican health care bill last week and threatens to overshadow Trump's first international trip, beginning next week, in which the president will meet with leaders in both the Middle East and Europe.

Trump, in an NBC interview Thursday, said that he had been intending to fire Comey — whom he derided as a "showboat" and "grandstander" — for months and that it had nothing to do with the Russia

investigation. But he also said, "In fact when I decided to just do it, I said to myself, I said you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story, it's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should have won."

Even before Trump's provocative tweets, the White House was scrambling to clarify why Comey was fired. It initially cited a Justice Department memo criticizing Comey's handling of last year's investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails as the impetus, only to have that version undercut by Trump himself.

Senate intelligence committee Chairman Richard Burr said he doesn't think the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation was the reason for the firing. But he called Trump's tweet "inappropriate."

White House officials said Trump is considering nearly a dozen candidates to replace Comey, including Texas Sen. John Cornyn, South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy, former Michigan Rep. Mike Rogers and former New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly. Four candidates — Cornyn, acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe, attorney Alice Fisher and judge Michael Garcia — have interviews scheduled Saturday.

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Pearson and Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Eileen Sullivan and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

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## **Trump threatens to cancel briefings; Spicer back at podium**

**By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump threatened to shut down daily press briefings Friday as he sought to defend his White House from criticism of its shifting explanations and misstatements about the firing of FBI Director James Comey.

Trump's statements, through a tweet and later television interview, threaten a Washington institution that is the most high-profile forum for journalists to question the government about policy and the news of the day.

In the Trump era, it has become a cable TV hit and cultural touchstone. Press Secretary Sean Spicer, who was back behind the podium Friday after Sarah Huckabee Sanders subbed for him for two days, has been the subject of memorable lampoons by comic Melissa McCarthy on "Saturday Night Live."

Spicer was back to answering questions Friday about Comey's firing. The White House first said this week that Trump made the move because of a negative memo about Comey from the Justice Department, only to have the president later say he made the decision before seeing the memo. Conflicting stories were the topic of much media discussion.

That led Trump to tweet Friday morning, "As a very active President with lots of things happening, it is not possible for my surrogates to stand at podium with perfect accuracy."

He added, "Maybe the best thing to do would be to cancel all future 'press briefings' and hand out written responses for the sake of accuracy???"

In an interview with Fox News Channel's Jeannine Pirro set to air Saturday, Trump suggested eliminating the daily briefings and instead having one every two weeks — conducted by him.

"First of all, you have a level of hostility that's incredible and it's very unfair," he said. He said Spicer is a nice man "but he gets beat up." Trump would not directly answer questions about whether Spicer, who was out two days because of Naval Reserve duty, would remain in his job.

Like many administrations, the relationship between Trump and the press has been tense. Starting with Spicer's claim that the media inaccurately portrayed the size of Trump's inauguration audience,



there have been questions about whether the administration is knowingly providing inaccurate information.

There was some talk as Trump took office that his administration would do things differently and cut back on press access. But Spicer and his team have kept up regular briefings. The president, a devoted viewer of coverage about himself, has given several interviews, most recently to NBC News' Lester Holt on Thursday, although he has favored Fox News' friendlier venue.

White House briefings and news conferences provide both "substantive and symbolic opportunities" for journalists to question government officials, said Jeff Mason, White House correspondent for Reuters and president of the White House Correspondents Association.

"That exercise, conducted in full view of our republic's citizens, is clearly in line with the spirit of the First Amendment," Mason said. "Doing away with the briefings would reduce accountability, transparency and the opportunity for Americans to see that, in the U.S. system, no political figure is above being questioned."

Spicer said Trump's "robust schedule" means that "sometimes we don't get an opportunity to get in to see him and get his full thinking. We work very hard to get you the most accurate and up-to-date information every day."

In the Fox interview, Trump seemed to herald his own work ethic.

"Here's the thing, the difference between me and another president," Trump said. "Another president, I won't use names, but another president doesn't do what I'm doing. They really don't. I'm not saying that in a bragging way."

"I know," Pirro said.

"I'm not saying it any way," Trump said. "Another president, Jeannine, will sit in the Oval Office and do practically nothing all day."

## **EPA allows mine company to pursue permits near Alaska bay**

**By BECKY BOHRER, Associated Press**

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — In a sharp reversal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has cleared a way for a company to seek permits to develop a massive copper and gold deposit near the headwaters of a world-class salmon fishery in southwest Alaska.

As part of a court settlement with the Pebble Limited Partnership, the EPA agreed to begin the process of withdrawing proposed restrictions on development in the Bristol Bay region, an area that produces about half of the world's sockeye salmon.

The agreement, signed Thursday but released on Friday, comes four months into the Trump administration, which supporters of the proposed Pebble Mine hoped would give it a fairer shake than they believed they received under President Barack Obama.

The mining industry has seen promising signs from the administration, including a willingness to take a different look at projects and to review regulations seen as overly burdensome, said Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the National Mining Association.

"I think the public is in no danger of seeing genuine environmental protection diminished," he said. "We're simply asking for a more efficient process."

Environmental groups see the Pebble agreement as potentially giving a go-ahead to industry to challenge EPA actions or to seek permits about which they previously might have been uncertain.

"It obviously sends a psychological message to big mining companies that if they were nervous about getting permits in the past ... that this is their golden opportunity to get their mine through the process," said Brett Hartl, government affairs director for the Center for Biological Diversity environmental

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 31 of 43

group.

Critics of the Pebble settlement called it a backdoor deal and a slap in the face to residents of the region who petitioned the EPA in hopes of securing environmental protections.

Pebble sued in federal court over what it claimed was EPA's collusion with mine opponents to block the project, after an EPA study concluded large-scale mining posed significant risk to salmon in the Bristol Bay region and could adversely affect Alaska Natives in the region, whose culture is built around salmon. A review by EPA's inspector general last year found no evidence that the agency predetermined the study's outcome.

In a release, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agreement "will not guarantee or prejudge a particular outcome, but will provide Pebble a fair process for their permit application and help steer EPA away from costly and time-consuming litigation."

"We are committed to listening to all voices as this process unfolds," Pruitt said.

Tom Collier, CEO of the Pebble partnership, said this is a different EPA than his company dealt with under Obama and is committed to "due process."

"It's a day for Pebble Mine to really have a new start," Collier said.

Court documents showed the two sides had been exploring ways to resolve the case since August, when Obama was still in office.

Dennis McLerran, a regional EPA administrator under Obama who worked on the Bristol Bay issue, called Pebble's lawsuit "nuisance litigation," and said a settlement was inevitable because of the time and money involved to keep fighting in court.

But he said terms calling for EPA to initiate a process to withdraw proposed restrictions on development mark a significant departure from the prior administration. It's unclear how that process will be carried out.

The proposed mine has been hotly debated for years. Environmental activists like actor Robert Redford opposed development and multinational jewelers said they wouldn't use minerals mined from the Alaska prospect.

The EPA study provided the basis for the agency in 2014 to invoke a rarely used process under the federal Clean Water Act that supporters of the proposed mine feared could result in the project's veto before it goes through the permitting process.

While the EPA proposed restrictions on development, they were never finalized. A judge ordered the agency to stop work related to that process while the lawsuit was pending.

Collier said he hopes this year to initiate the permitting process, which can take years. He also said the company is pursuing a smaller project than most people probably think.

McLerran said he's concerned Pebble will file for a smaller-footprint mine with the intention of eventually fully developing the massive deposit. A small footprint mine would not be economically viable at that remote site, he said.

Northern Dynasty, which owns the Pebble partnership, has called the Pebble deposit "one of the greatest stores of mineral wealth ever discovered" — containing copper, gold, molybdenum and silver. Northern Dynasty has been seeking a partner since 2013, when a subsidiary of London-based Anglo American PLC announced plans to withdraw.

Jason Metrokin, CEO of Bristol Bay Native Corporation, said in a release that the settlement "calls into question how serious the EPA is about following its mission and fulfilling the purposes of the Clean Water Act."

On Thursday, representatives of tribal organizations and others in the Bristol Bay region expressed concern that protections they had been seeking could be wiped away and frustration that Pruitt had

not reached out to them.

Norman Van Vactor, with the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, said the next phase of challenges to the project could include additional legal fights and "standing in front of bulldozers."

Contributing to this report were Associated Press reporters Michael Biesecker in Washington, D.C., and Ellen Knickmeyer in San Francisco.

## Michelle Obama criticizes Trump school lunch decision

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama on Friday criticized a Trump administration decision to delay federal rules aimed at making school lunch healthier, saying kids will end up "eating crap" instead.

Mrs. Obama told a health conference in Washington that more nutritionally sound school meals are needed since millions of kids nationwide eat federally subsidized breakfast and lunch at school. Without mentioning President Donald Trump by name, she urged parents to think about the government's recent decision and to "look at motives."

"You have to stop and think, 'Why don't you want our kids to have good food at school? What is wrong with you and why is that a partisan issue?'" Mrs. Obama said. "Why would that be political?"

"Moms, think about this. I don't care what state you live in, take me out of the equation, like me, don't like me, but think about why someone is OK with your kids eating crap," she said.

During a nearly hourlong conversation led by Sam Kass, the Obamas' personal chef during their White House years and executive director of the anti-childhood obesity initiative she spearheaded as first lady, Mrs. Obama also spoke briefly about her future plans. Her family's last day in the White House was Jan. 20, and she said she and former President Barack Obama would spend the year figuring out what comes next.

In one of his first major acts, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced on May 1 that the department will delay an upcoming requirement to reduce the amount of sodium in school meals. Purdue said he also planned to keep issuing waivers to a regulation requiring that more whole grains also be served. Schools could also serve 1 percent flavored-milk instead of the nonfat variety now required.

The school meal changes reflect suggestions from the School Nutrition Association, which represents school nutrition directors and companies that sell food to schools. The group often battled with the Obama administration, which phased in the healthier school meal rules starting in 2012.

The move partially rolls back rules the former first lady supported as part of her "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity initiative, but leaves most of the Obama administration's school meal rules in place. Those rules include requirements that students must take fruits and vegetables on the lunch line. Some schools have asked for changes to that policy, saying students often throw those items into the trash.

"If kids aren't eating the food, and it's ending up in the trash, they aren't getting any nutrition — thus undermining the intent of the program," Perdue said in making the announcement at a school in Leesburg, Virginia.

But Mrs. Obama said it's time for adults to take charge and not put kids in charge.

"How about we stop asking kids how they feel about their food because kids, my kids included, if they could eat pizza and french fries every day with ice cream on top and a soda they would think they were happy, until they get sick," she said.

"That to me is one of the most ridiculous things we talk about in this movement," the former first lady continued. "You know what? Kids don't like math either. What are we going to do? Stop teaching

math?"

Her appearance at the annual conference, sponsored by the Partnership for a Healthier America, a nonprofit organization that was created to support her anti-childhood obesity work, was Mrs. Obama's second major public outing since leaving the White House. Last month in Orlando, Florida, she participated in a question-and-answer session during the American Institute of Architects' annual conference.

The Obamas have started to re-emerge into the public arena after laying low and cooling their heels on vacations since leaving the White House. Mrs. Obama said she and her husband are busy settling into their new home and offices in Washington and making sure daughters Malia and Sasha are doing well. They also have books to write and money to raise for the presidential center they plan to build on the South Side of her native Chicago.

"We're not gone. We're just breathing," Mrs. Obama said.

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## Attorney general sparks fear with push for harsh sentences

By **SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's federal prosecutors should bring the toughest charges possible against most crime suspects, Attorney General Jeff Sessions instructed in a move that critics assailed as a return to failed drug-war policies that unduly affected minorities and filled prisons with nonviolent offenders.

The move announced Friday is a reversal of Obama-era policies that is sure to send more people to prison and for much longer terms. It has long been expected from Sessions, a former federal prosecutor who cut his teeth during the height of the crack cocaine epidemic and who has promised to make combating violence and drugs the Justice Department's top priority.

"This policy affirms our responsibility to enforce the law, is moral and just, and produces consistency," Sessions wrote in a memo to U.S. attorneys made public early Friday.

Advocates warned the shift would crowd federal prisons and strain Justice Department resources. Some involved in criminal justice during the drug war feared the human impact would look similar.

"It ruined families and took away a large number of African-American men from their communities at their prime working years," said Georgetown law professor Paul Butler, who was a federal prosecutor during the 1990s. "You had people who weren't able to be responsible fathers for their kids, who weren't able to serve a couple of years for making a mistake, then come home and do better. That's the era Jeff Sessions wants to return us to."

The announcement is an unmistakable undoing of Obama administration criminal justice policies that aimed to ease overcrowding in federal prisons and contributed to a national rethinking of how drug criminals were prosecuted and sentenced.

Sessions contends a spike in violence in some big cities and the nation's opioid epidemic show the need for a return to tougher tactics. He foreshadowed the plan early in his tenure, when he signaled his strong support for the federal government's continued use of private prisons, reversing another Obama directive to phase out their use.

"We know that drugs and crime go hand-in-hand," Sessions said in a Friday speech. "Drug trafficking is an inherently violent business. If you want to collect a drug debt, you can't file a lawsuit in court. You collect it by the barrel of a gun."

The policy memo says prosecutors should "charge and pursue the most serious, readily provable offense" — something more likely to trigger mandatory minimum sentences. Those rules limit a judge's

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 34 of 43

discretion and are typically dictated, for example, by the quantity of drugs involved in a crime.

The memo concedes there will be cases in which "good judgment" will warrant a prosecutor veering from that rule. And Sessions said prosecutors maintain "discretion to avoid sentences that would result in an injustice."

But any exceptions will need to be approved by top supervisors, and the reasons must be documented, allowing the Justice Department to track the handling of such cases by its 94 U.S. attorney's offices.

And even if they opt not to pursue the most serious charges, prosecutors are still required to provide judges with all the details of a case when defendants are sentenced, which could lengthen prison terms.

The directive rescinds guidance by Sessions' Democratic predecessor, Eric Holder, who told prosecutors they could in some cases leave drug quantities out of charging documents so as not to charge suspects with crimes that trigger long sentences. Holder's 2013 initiative, known as "Smart on Crime," was aimed at encouraging shorter sentences for nonviolent drug offenders and preserving Justice Department resources for more serious and violent criminals.

In a statement Friday, Holder called the reversal "dumb on crime," saying it would be "financially ruinous" for the department to focus its spending on incarceration rather than preventing and investigating crime.

"It is an ideologically cookie-cutter approach that has only been proven to generate unfairly long sentences that are often applied indiscriminately and do little to achieve long-term public safety," Holder said.

The Obama policy shift coincided with U.S. Sentencing Commission changes that made tens of thousands of federal drug prisoners eligible for early release, and a clemency initiative that freed convicts deemed deserving of a second chance. Combined, those changes led to a steep decline in a federal prison population that now stands at just under 190,000, down from nearly 220,000 in 2013. Nearly half of those inmates are in custody for drug crimes, records show.

Obama officials cited that decline and a drop in the overall number of drug prosecutions as evidence that policies were working as intended. They argued prosecutors were getting pickier about the cases they were bringing and were seeking mandatory minimum sentences less often.

Still, some prosecutors felt constrained by the Holder directive and expressed concern that they'd lose plea bargaining leverage — and a key inducement for cooperation — without the ability to more freely pursue mandatory minimum sentences.

The reversal restores prosecutors' tools to go after drug traffickers and gangs, said Lawrence Leiser, head of the National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

Sessions has remained an advocate for longer sentences, even as efforts to overhaul the criminal justice system secured bipartisan support in recent years. He argues Holder's approach sidestepped federal laws that impose such sentences and created inconsistency across the country in the way defendants are punished.

"I trust our prosecutors in the field to make good judgments," Sessions said. "They deserve to be unhandcuffed and not micro-managed from Washington. Rather, they must be permitted to apply the law to the facts of each investigation."

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Associated Press writer Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia contributed.



## AP-NORC poll: Most Americans feel fine about school choice

By MARIA DANILOVA and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as fierce political battles rage in Washington over school choice, most Americans know little about charter schools or private school voucher programs. Still, more Americans feel positively than negatively about expanding those programs, according to a new poll released Friday.

“I wonder what the fuss is about,” said Beverly Brown, 61, a retired grocery store worker in central Alabama. Brown, who doesn’t have children, says American schools need reform, but she is not familiar with specific school options and policies. “Educational standards have to be improved overall.”

All told, 58 percent of respondents say they know little or nothing at all about charter schools and 66 percent report the same about private school voucher programs, according to the poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Charters are schools funded by taxpayer money, but they operate independently of school districts and thus have more freedom in setting their curriculum and hiring staff. Vouchers are publically funded scholarships given to low-income families to help cover tuition in private schools, including religious ones.

Using taxpayer money to aid struggling public schools or diverting it to fund more charter schools or make private schools available to more families has been hotly debated since Donald Trump was elected president. During the campaign, Trump promised to fund a \$20 billion school choice program. He picked a long-time charter and private school advocate, Betsy DeVos, as his education secretary. Last week the president welcomed a group of students who were voucher recipients to the White House and asked Congress to work with him to make school options available nationwide.

Those efforts face fierce resistance from teachers unions and some Democrats who say that school choice drains funds from public schools while leaving charter and private schools unaccountable in terms of academic standards and civil rights protections. Other Democrats support some of the choice measures, which also divide Republicans.

Patrick McGuin, an education professor at Drew University, said he was surprised by the fact that most Americans had little knowledge about school choice options.

“That’s pretty remarkable given the growth and high-profile politics around charters,” McGuin said. “As much as policymakers are talking the heck about this, the debate really hasn’t permeated the general public’s discussion yet.”

Charter schools currently operate in 42 states and the District of Columbia. D.C. has only the federally funded voucher program, while 30 states have voucher or similar education choice programs.

Even though they are unfamiliar to many, Americans have largely positive reactions to charter schools and vouchers. While 55 percent of respondents say parents in their communities had enough options with regard to schools, about 4 in 10 feel that the country in general would benefit from more choice. Forty-seven percent say they favor opening more public charter schools, 23 percent are opposed, and 30 percent feel neutral about it. Meanwhile, 43 percent of respondents support giving low-income families tuition vouchers for private schools, 35 percent are opposed and 21 percent don’t have a strong opinion either way.

Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to favor opening more charter schools, 53 percent to 42 percent, but there is little partisan variation for voucher programs. At the same time, opposition to vouchers is highest among those who have heard the most about them.

John Rekers, a 46-year-old mortgage broker in California, has five kids and all of them are attending

charter schools. He believes charter schools are more innovative and progressive. "They are not so oriented to sitting at desks and doing stuff," he said.

"The charter school is much better oriented in teaching children," Rekers said. "They have higher standards."

Marc Culbreath, a janitor in Philadelphia, spent several years renting a house in the suburbs so that his children could go to quality public schools, but when the family moved into the city, they were appalled by neighborhood schools.

"Kids in the city — their public schools are terrible," Culbreath said. Culbreath sent his son, now in 10th grade, to a charter school and he is now on track to go to college. "They treat the kids in the city same as they treat the kids in the suburbs," he said of the charter school.

But Madolyn Stall, 22, a college student in Kansas, doesn't support voucher programs. "If you cannot afford to go to a private school, then public school is fine," she said. "I don't really want to pay more of my tax money to send people to private school when they can go to public school."

About 7 in 10 respondents feel that both charter schools and private schools funded with taxpayer money should meet the same education standards as public schools. School choice critics point to the fact that most private school don't need state accreditation to operate and that some private schools teach creationism in science classes.

Still, Americans are more likely to say that private schools, both locally and nationally, provide a good quality of education than say the same of public schools.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,036 adults was conducted April 20-23 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

AP-NORC: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

## Captain of shipwrecked Costa cruise liner heads to jail

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Italian captain of the Costa Concordia cruise liner that crashed into a reef in 2012 and capsized, killing 32 people, was headed to a Rome prison after losing his final appeals bid Friday.

The Court of Cassation, Italy's highest criminal tribunal, upheld Francesco Schettino's lower court convictions and his 16-year prison sentence.

Schettino was convicted of manslaughter and causing the shipwreck while captaining the luxury liner sailing near Giglio Island off Tuscany. He was also convicted of abandoning the capsizing vessel with passengers and crew still aboard.

"Finally, Schettino begins to pay for his wrongdoing," Michelina Suriano, one of the lawyers representing passengers, said after the ruling.

Defense lawyer Saverio Senese called the ex-captain a scapegoat and expressed "great bitterness" over the final decision.

He said Schettino, when told by phone about the verdict, said he respected the decision and was standing outside Rome's Rebibbia Prison on Friday evening, ready to begin serving his sentence.

Senese said he would study the court's ruling to see if there were grounds to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. Lawyers for passengers have also expressed disappointment that only

Schettino ultimately was going to prison, since they contended that others working for the cruise ship company also shared some blame.

"For our clients, a chapter has been closed," said Massimiliano Gabrielli, a lawyer who represented some passengers. "We are sorry that the only one who will go jail tomorrow is Schettino."

Some 4,200 passengers and crew were aboard the Costa Concordia during a Mediterranean cruise when the ship collided on Jan. 13, 2012, during dinner hour with the reef. The rocky reef speared the vessel's side, allowing tons of water to rapidly pour inside.

Prosecutors argued that Schettino had steered the ship too close to the island's coastline. They also contended he downplayed the severity of the crash, wasting valuable rescue time.

Some of the dead drowned in the sea, others perished in the ship's elevator shafts when the vessel capsized and sea water rushed into the space. Some survivors were plucked to safety by helicopters after the liner overturned, while others swam to safety to the island in the dark, cold winter's night.

The wreckage, raised in a dramatic engineering feat, was eventually towed to the Italian mainland to be broken up for scrap.

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Giulia Saudelli contributed to this report.

## **Trump lawyers push back against Russia ties in letter**

**By KEN THOMAS and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for President Donald Trump said Friday that a review of his last 10 years of tax returns did not reflect "any income of any type from Russian sources," but their letter included exceptions related to previously cited income generated from a beauty pageant and sale of a Florida estate.

The letter represented the latest attempt by the president to tamp down concerns about any Russian ties amid an ongoing investigation of his campaign's associates and Russia's meddling in the 2016 election.

The attorneys did not release copies of Trump's tax returns, so The Associated Press cannot independently verify their conclusions. Their review also notably takes into account only Trump's returns from the past 10 years, leaving open questions about whether there were financial dealings with Russia in earlier years.

The lawyers offered no supporting documents to back up the claims made in the letter.

Trump has refused to release his income tax records, despite pressure from Democrats, breaking with a practice set by his predecessors. The president has said he would release his returns when the Internal Revenue Service completes an audit. The tax returns, the attorneys say, largely reflect income and interest paid by the web of corporate entities that made up The Trump Organization prior to Trump taking office.

Joseph Thorndike, a tax historian and contributing editor to an accounting trade publication, Tax Analysts, said he still believes Trump should release his tax returns like other presidents have and questioned the value of the letter released Friday.

"I'm not sure it does what the president thought it would do," Thorndike said of the letter. "It rules out some of the most obvious things, but it leaves plenty of room."

Thorndike said in general there's no reason to assume that Russia connections, if they existed, would appear on Trump's personal tax returns. "It's not going to be as transparent as that. His financial life and business structure are complicated," he noted.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 38 of 43**

In the letter released to the AP and dated March 8, the attorneys said Trump's last 10 years of tax returns don't reflect equity investments by Russians in entities controlled by Trump or debt owed by Trump to Russian lenders. Under U.S. tax law, not all financial ties would be required to be reported on a personal tax return.

The letter said the returns do reflect some income from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant that was held in Moscow and a property sold to a Russian billionaire in 2008 for \$95 million.

The White House said Trump asked his lawyers for the letter to outline information on any ties Trump might have to Russia. The letter was then provided to Sen. Lindsey Graham. Graham leads one of the congressional committees investigating Russia's interference in last year's election.

The letter came amid an active FBI probe into the Trump 2016 campaign's possible ties to Russia's election meddling and days after Trump's stunning firing of FBI Director James Comey.

"I have no investments in Russia, none whatsoever," Trump said Thursday in an interview with NBC News. "I don't have property in Russia. A lot of people thought I owned office buildings in Moscow. I don't have property in Russia."

The president said he "had dealings over the years," including the Miss Universe pageant and the sale of a home to "a very wealthy Russian." "I had it in Moscow long time ago, but other than that I have nothing to do with Russia," he said, referring to the pageant.

Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee, said "Trump's attempt to hide his Russia connections is misleading and pathetic."

The unnamed Russian billionaire cited by the Trump company's lawyers is Dmitry Rybolovlev, whose financial empire springs from his companies' production of potash, often used for fertilizer.

Trump had purchased the 62,000 square-foot estate for \$41.35 million in 2004 and he sold the mansion to Rybolovlev in July 2008 for \$95 million. The deal was widely reported at the time, including by The Associated Press.

When Trump was pressed during a campaign conference last year about his ties to Russia, he said: "You know the closest I came to Russia, I bought a house a number of years ago in Palm Beach," adding that "I sold it to a Russian for \$100 million."

The letter, written by attorneys Sheri Dillon and William Nelson from the law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, simultaneously leaves open the possibility of other Russian ties while attempting to dismiss them.

The letter doesn't vouch for any of Trump's personal federal tax returns that predate the past decade. The attorneys also write that over the last 10 years, it is likely that the Trump Organization sold or rented condos, or other products, that "could have produced income attributable to Russian sources."

"With respect to this last exception, the amounts are immaterial," the attorney wrote.

Dillon worked with the Trump Organization to develop plans for the organization's future and addressed reporters in January at a New York news conference before Trump's inauguration. Her law firm was honored by Chambers & Partners' 2016 Chambers Europe guide as Russia Law Firm of the Year.

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Associated Press writers Chad Day and Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

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View the letter: <http://apne.ws/2r1WBX6>

## Don't call me Caitlyn: Baby name plunges in popularity

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Don't call me Caitlyn.

A year after Caitlyn Jenner announced her new name and gender, the popularity of the name Caitlyn plummeted more than any other baby name, according to Social Security's annual list of the most popular baby names.

In fact, the four names that dropped the most were all variations of the same name: Caitlin, Caitlyn, Katelynn and Kaitlynn.

"It was inevitable," said Laura Wattenberg, founder of Babynamewizard.com. "Caitlyn was already falling in popularity. Now it is suddenly controversial."

The Social Security Administration released its annual list of the 1,000 most popular baby names for 2016 on Friday. The agency uses the announcement to drive traffic to its website, where workers can start tracking their benefits long before they retire.

Emma was the top baby name for girls for the third year in a row. It was followed by Olivia, Ava, Sophia and Isabella.

Noah was the top baby name for boys for the fourth year in a row. It was followed by Liam, William, Mason and James.

The agency also lists the baby names that increase — and decrease — the most in popularity.

All four versions of Caitlyn fell out of the top 1,000.

In 2015, the former Bruce Jenner, an Olympic gold medalist, shocked the world when she announced that she is now a transgender woman. The iconic cover of Vanity Fair magazine was emblazoned with the quote, "Call me Caitlyn," on top of a picture of a very feminine Jenner.

The issue sparked much debate and an outpouring of support for Jenner in a country that is still evolving in its views of gay marriage and equal rights for the LGBT community.

The first time any spelling of Caitlin showed up on Social Security's list of popular baby names was in 1976 when Caitlin debuted at No. 947.

C-a-i-t-l-i-n has been the most common spelling. The name reached the height of its popularity in 1988, when it ranked No. 44. After 17 years in the top 100 it started to fall after the turn of the century.

Last year, it fell 542 spots — the biggest drop of any name — to No. 1,151.

Wattenberg said it would be wrong to blame Caitlyn's drop in popularity solely to the fact that Jenner is transgender. In general, she said, parents don't want to give their children names that might attract controversy.

It's one reason few parents name their children after politicians.

"Even parents who are huge Donald Trump supporters are unlikely to name their child Donald," Wattenberg said. "In part, we just want to avoid controversy in picking names."

For the record, Donald fell 45 spots last year, to No. 488. Hillary fell out of the top 1,000 names in 2009 and has not returned.

The Social Security Administration's website provides lists of the top 1,000 baby names for each year, dating to 1880. The top baby names that year were John and Mary. John is now No. 28 and Mary has fallen to No. 127.

Sometimes old is new: Emma was the third most popular name in 1880.

The top 10 baby names for girls stayed the same in 2016, though the order shuffled a bit. For boys, Alexander dropped to No. 11 and Elijah cracked the top 10 for the first time ever, at No. 9.

Baby naming experts said parents have long used biblical names for their children. However, there has



been a decided shift from the New Testament to the Old.

"Elijah to our grandparents would be unimaginable," Wattenberg said.

Also, parents are getting more creative in naming the little ones. As a result, today's top names aren't nearly as popular as the top names from 50 years ago.

For example, a little more than 19,000 baby boys were named Noah last year. In 1966, about 80,000 babies were named Michael, the top name for baby boys that year.

"Once parents see that a name is super popular, they are going to start avoiding it," said Jennifer Moss, founder of Babynames.com.

Pop culture often influences the names that increase and decrease in popularity, and it happened again 2016.

For boys, the named that skyrocketed in popularity was Kylo, as in Kylo Ren, a character in the 2015 movie, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." For girls, it was Kehlani, as in Kehlani Parrish, a singer and songwriter nominated for a Grammy in 2016.

Neither of these names is among the most popular, but they jumped more spots than any other names. Kylo jumped 2,368 spots to No. 901. Kehlani jumped 2,487 spots to No. 872.

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Online:

Most popular baby names: <https://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/index.html>

<http://www.babynamewizard.com>

<http://www.babynames.com>

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Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

## **US prepares to ban laptops on flights from Europe**

**By LORNE COOK and JOHN LEICESTER, Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — The U.S. is expected to broaden its ban on in-flight laptops and tablets to include planes from the European Union, a move that would create logistical chaos on the world's busiest corridor of air travel.

Alarmed at the proposal, which airline officials say is merely a matter of timing, European governments held urgent talks on Friday with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The ban would affect trans-Atlantic routes that carry as many as 65 million people a year on over 400 daily flights, many of them business travelers who rely on their electronics to work during the flight.

The ban would dwarf in size the current one, which was put in place in March and affects about 50 flights per day from 10 cities, mostly in the Middle East.

Chief among the concerns are whether any new threat prompted the proposal and the relative safety of keeping in the cargo area a large number of electronics with lithium batteries, which have been known to catch fire. American officials were invited to Brussels next week to discuss the proposed ban, the EU said.

European Commission spokeswoman Anna-Kaisa Itkonen said the EU had no new information about a specific security concern.

U.S. officials have said the decision in March to bar laptops and tablets from the cabins of some international flights wasn't based on any specific threat but on longstanding concerns about extremists targeting jetliners.

Experts say a bomb in the cabin would be easier to make and require less explosive force than one in the cargo hold. Baggage in cargo usually goes through a more sophisticated screening process than

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 41 of 43

carry-on bags.

Jeffrey Price, an aviation-security expert at Metropolitan State University of Denver, said the original ban focused on certain countries because their equipment to screen carry-on bags is not as effective as machines in the U.S.

A French official who was briefed about Friday's meeting said the Americans announced they wanted to extend the ban, and the Europeans planned to formulate a response in coming days. The official said the primary questions revolved around when and how — and not whether — the ban would be imposed.

The official spoke only on condition of anonymity to discuss the plan.

Jenny Burke, a Homeland Security spokeswoman, said no final decision has been made on expanding the restriction.

But Homeland Security officials met Thursday with high-ranking executives of the three leading U.S. airlines — American, Delta and United — and the industry's leading U.S. trade group, Airlines for America, to discuss expanding the laptop policy to flights arriving from Europe.

Two airline officials who were briefed on the discussions said Homeland Security gave no timetable for an announcement, but they were resigned to its inevitability. They spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the meeting publicly.

The U.S. airlines still hope to have a say in how the policy is put into effect at airports to minimize inconvenience to passengers. The initial ban on passengers bringing large electronics devices into the cabin hit hardest at Middle Eastern airlines.

Emirates, the Middle East's largest airline, this week cited the ban on electronics as one of the reasons for an 80 percent drop in profits last year. It said the ban had a direct impact on demand for air travel into the U.S. and it faced rising costs from introducing complimentary laptop loans to some passengers.

Alain Bauer, president of the CNAPS, a French regulator of private-sector security agents, including those checking baggage and passengers in France's airports, predicted "chaotic" scenes initially if the ban was instituted.

"Imagine the number of people who carry their laptops and tablets onto planes — not just adults, but also children," he told the AP.

He said it would slow passage through security checks as people try to negotiate a way of keeping their laptops.

"It's not like losing your water bottle or your scissors. It will take more time to negotiate," he said.

"You need a lot of time to inform them and a lot of time for it to enter people's heads until it becomes a habit," he said. "After a week of quite big difficulties, 95 percent of people will understand the practicalities."

The head of the International Air Transport Association said recently that the electronics ban is not an acceptable or effective long-term solution to security threats, and said the commercial impact is severe.

An industry-backed group, the Airline Passenger Experience Association, said the U.S. government should consider alternatives. That could include routinely testing laptops for chemical residues associated with bombs, requiring owners to turn on their devices, and letting frequent travelers keep their electronics with them.

The group's CEO, Joe Leader, noted that airlines have reduced service by more than 1 million long-haul seats in the 10 Middle Eastern and North African cities affected by the March policy. If it spreads to Europe, "it's simply a matter of time" before laptops are banned in the cabins of domestic U.S. flights, he said.

At the Delta area of the Cincinnati airport, a sign warned passengers that beginning Friday on flights

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 42 of 43

returning to the U.S. any electronic devices other than a cellphone would have to be placed in checked baggage. The airline flies between Cincinnati and Paris.

A Delta spokesman said the sign was posted in error by an employee at the airport. Asked if Delta had anticipated that the in-cabin ban on larger electronics would go into effect this week, the spokesman declined to comment.

Leicester reported from Paris. Alicia Caldwell in Washington; David Koenig in Dallas; and Lori Hinnant in Paris contributed.

Corrects to Friday, stated Saturday, in second to last paragraph.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, May 13, the 133rd day of 2017. There are 232 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 13, 1917, three shepherd children, Lucia de Jesus dos Santos and two of her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary near Fatima, Portugal; it was the first of six such apparitions that the children claimed to have witnessed.

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists arrived by ship at the site of what became the Jamestown settlement in Virginia (the colonists went ashore the next day).

In 1846, the United States declared that a state of war already existed with Mexico.

In 1918, the first U.S. airmail stamps, featuring a picture of a Curtiss JN-4 biplane, were issued to the public. (On a few of the stamps, the biplane was inadvertently printed upside-down, making them collector's items.)

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence, who earned international fame as Lawrence of Arabia, was critically injured in a motorcycle accident in Dorset, England; he died six days later.

In 1940, in his first speech as British prime minister, Winston Churchill told Parliament, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, were spat upon and their limousine battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1967, a vault fire at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in Culver City, California, destroyed hundreds of the studio's early films. The Scott McKenzie single "San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)" was released.

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome in September.)

In 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh).

In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped a bomb onto the group's row house; 11 people died in the resulting fire that destroyed 61 homes.

In 1992, the Falun Gong movement had its beginnings in the northeastern Chinese city of Changchun.

In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *44 Liquormart v. Rhode Island*, unanimously struck down Rhode

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 303 ~ 43 of 43**

Island's ban on ads that listed or referred to liquor prices, saying the law violated free-speech rights.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush made a pilgrimage to the site of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia to mark the 400th anniversary of its founding. Pope Benedict XVI, ending a five-day visit to Brazil, blamed both Marxism and unbridled capitalism for Latin America's problems. Canada won hockey's world championship with a 4-2 victory over Finland.

Five years ago: The mutilated bodies of 49 people were found near Monterrey, Mexico, apparent victims of a drug cartel. A gunman assassinated Arsala Rahmani, a former high-ranking Taliban official working to end the decade-long war in Afghanistan. Donald "Duck" Dunn, 70, the bassist who helped create the gritty Memphis soul sound at Stax Records in the 1960s as part of the legendary group Booker T. and the MGs, died in Tokyo while on tour.

One year ago: The Obama administration issued a directive requiring public schools to permit transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity. President Barack Obama hosted a state dinner honoring the leaders of Sweden, Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Norway following a multilateral summit that Obama used to laud the Nordic states as model global citizens on climate change, security, humanitarian efforts and economic equality.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buck Taylor is 79. Actor Harvey Keitel is 78. Author Charles Baxter is 70. Actress Zoe Wanamaker is 69. Actor Franklyn Ajaye is 68. Singer Stevie Wonder is 67. Ohio Gov. John Kasich is 65. Actress Leslie Winston is 61. Producer-writer Alan Ball is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Dennis Rodman is 56. "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert (kohl-BEHR') is 53. Rock musician John Richardson (The Gin Blossoms) is 53. Actor Tom Verica is 53. Country singer Lari White is 52. Singer Darius Rucker (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 51. Actress Susan Floyd is 49. Contemporary Christian musician Andy Williams (Casting Crowns) is 45. Actress Samantha Morton is 40. Former NBA player Mike Bibby is 39. Former MLB player Barry Zito is 39. Rock musician Mickey Madden (Maroon 5) is 38. Actor Iwan Rheon is 32. Actress-writer-director Lena Dunham is 31. Actor Robert Pattinson is 31. Actress Candice Accola King is 30. Actor Hunter Parrish is 30. Folk-rock musician Wylie Gelber (Dawes) is 29. Actress Debby Ryan is 24.

Thought for Today: "The worst-tempered people I've ever met were people who knew they were wrong." — Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).