

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 1 of 50

Tues., June 20, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Brush Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul image
- 3- Ladies Invitational Golf Tourney
- 4- SD leaving vacation time on table
- 5- New Democratic party director
- 6- Social Security Admin Column
- 7- City Council Story
- 8- State park events for this weekend
- 8- Life Jacket program
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- Today's Weather Info
- 11- National Weather Map
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- News from the Associated Press

Tuesday, June 20

Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, almond rice with peas, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, orange sherbet, dinner roll.

T-Ball: Black team at Columbia, 5:30 p.m.

Jr. Teener: hosts Claremont for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U12: Hosts Welke for 2 games, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

U10: vs. Borge at Manor Park, Aberdeen, for 1 game at 6:30 p.m.

U8 Blue: vs. Borge at Manor Park, Aberdeen, for 1 game, 5:30 p.m.

Softball: hosts Ipswich (U8 at 5:30 p.m., U10 at 6:30 p.m., U12 at 7:30 p.m.)

Olive Grove: Ladies Night, 6 p.m.

21

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf salad.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee time, 9a .m.; Conde UMW, 10 a.m.

Outdoor Story Time: at the Little Free Library located south of the Methodist Church, 10:30 a.m.

Legion: hosts Warner for 2 games, 6 p.m.

Softball: U10 hosts Clark at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Olive Grove: Men's League, 6 p.m.

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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Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”

-Coach John Wooden

Chicken Soup
for the **Soul.**





Left to right are first flight winners Barb Gillick and Kathy Bauer; and championship flight winners Toni Gisi and Colette Quam. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

Ladies Invitational Golf Tourney Monday, June 19, 2017, Olive Grove Golf Course

Championship Flight

- 71- Colette Quam and Toni Gisi
- 80- Terri Holmes and Ellen Renner
- 80- Suzie Easthouse and Angel McGregor
- 82- Sharon Zastrow and Cyndy Larson
- 84- Cindy Kraft and Becky Campbell
- 86- Doreen Borchard and Lollie Dean
- 86- Renae Ball and Betty Dunker

First Flight

- 87- Barb Gillick and Kathy Bauer
- 88- Brenda Waage and Sue Stanley
- 92- Arlys Kluess and Diane Easthouse
- 94- Donna Wagner and Deanne Hoyle
- 95- Judy Thompson and Julie Fliehs
- 99- Julie Hinds and Mary Blackmun
- 103- Jeanne Wanous and Judy Sundling
- 113- Melinda Eikamp and Arlo Spencer

- Closest to Pin #4:** Colette Quam
- Longest Putt #9:** Lolly Dean
- Longest Drive #7:** Colette Quam

73 Percent of South Dakotans are Leaving Vacation Time on the Table, Fourth-Highest Percentage of All the States, Report Finds

June 19, 2017 - Project: Time Off, an initiative of the U.S. Travel Association that encourages American workers to take their unused vacation time, released a new research report today, "Under-Vacationed America: An Analysis of the States and Cities that Need to Take a Day." AAA is a travel industry coalition partner of Project: Time Off.

Key findings from the Under-Vacationed America report include:

Fifty-four percent of Americans did not use all their vacation time in 2016, leaving a collective 662 million vacation days on the table.

If Americans were to use that time, it would generate \$128 billion in direct spending – an overall economic impact of \$236 billion.

Americans ARE taking more vacation days. Last year, vacation usage rose to an average of 16.8 days, the second year of growth after bottoming out in 2014 at 16.0 days.

"While many vacation days appear to fall victim to the 24/7 work culture in the U.S., AAA reported earlier this year that 70 percent of families are planning to take one or two vacations this year, a 13 percent jump over 2016," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Families continue to see the value of traveling as a way to bond and reconnect in today's busy world."

Nationwide, U.S. workers took an average of 16.8 days of vacation in 2016, turning the trend line in a positive direction after losing almost a week of vacation time since 2000. This was up from 16.2 days in 2015. This, however, is a far cry from the 20.3 day long-term average from 1976 to 2000.

While Americans are taking more vacation time, there is also a slight increase in the number of days left unused. In 2016, 662 million vacation days were left on the table, four million days more than 2015. However, forfeited vacation days—time that cannot be rolled over, banked, or paid out—are down eight percent to 206 million forfeited days. Those forfeited days have a cost. Last year, employees gave up \$66.4 billion in lost benefits, which translates to an average of \$604 per employee.

Methodology

GfK conducted an online survey from January 26-February 20, 2017 with 7,331 American workers, age 18+, who work more than 35 hours a week and receive paid time off from their employer. These data were weighted and scaled. The geographic data below represents all 50 U.S. states and the 30-largest

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the country, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. For a complete methodology, please see the report.

About Project: Time Off

Project: Time Off is an initiative to win back America's Lost Week of vacation. We aim to shift culture so that taking time off is understood as essential to personal well-being, professional success, business performance, and economic expansion. The initiative is supported by the Project: Time Off Coalition, a broad-based group of organizations focused on changing America's thinking and behavior about vacation time. Learn more at ProjectTimeOff.com.

Five States with the Most Unused Vacation			
STATE	% WITH UNUSED DAYS	UNUSED VACATION DAYS	DIRECT SPENDING POTENTIAL
Idaho	78%	3.1 million	\$433 million
New Hampshire	77%	2.7 million	\$552 million
Alaska	73%	1.7 million	\$651 million
South Dakota	73%	1.8 million	\$404 million
Oklahoma	69%	9.7 million	\$690 million

South Dakota Democratic Party Announces New Executive Director

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - The South Dakota Democratic Party today announced the hiring of Sam Parkinson as its new Executive Director.

"I am pleased to announce our Interim Executive Director, Sam Parkinson, has accepted the position on a permanent basis," said Ann Tornberg, South Dakota Democratic Party Chair. "Sam has been a real asset to the Party through his work as Finance Director and Interim Executive Director. I look forward to his leadership working alongside our talented and dedicated staff, our energized volunteers, and our growing list of candidates for 2018."

"I'm excited to take on the role of Executive Director for the South Dakota Democratic Party," said Parkinson. "The Party is seeing a new surge of interest and energy from South Dakotans looking for a change from the corrupt and out-of-touch political establishment in Pierre. I am committed to build upon this great new energy so Democrats have a successful election in 2018."

Parkinson has served as Finance Director for the South Dakota Democratic Party since August of 2015 and became Interim Executive Director in April of this year. Parkinson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Dakota, majoring in Political Science. He grew up in Rapid City and is a graduate of Rapid City Stevens High School. Parkinson previously interned in the South Dakota Legislature for then-House Minority Leader Bernie Hunhoff and was a Young Elected Legislative Leaders Fellow during the 2014 election cycle.

<https://d1kxpthy2j2ikk.cloudfront.net/Uploads/9056/images/Sam%20headshot.jpg>



Sam Parkinson
Executive Director
South Dakota Democratic Party

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Tyler Bowling

Public Affairs Specialist

2200 N Maple Ave Suite 301 Rapid City, SD 57701

Email: tyler.bowling@ssa.gov

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Q & A

Question:

Recently, I was told I shouldn't be carrying my Social Security card around. Is that true?

Answer:

We encourage you to keep your Social Security card at home in a safe place. Do not carry it with you unless you are taking it to a job interview or to someone who requires it. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, and the best way to avoid becoming a victim is to safeguard your card and number. To learn more, visit our Social Security number and card page at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question:

My wife and I live in South Dakota, but plan to spend the winter in New Mexico. My wife will turn 62 while we are down south. Can she apply for benefits in New Mexico, or do we have to wait until we get back home to apply for retirement at our local Social Security office?

Answer:

These days, you don't even have to be near a Social Security office to apply for benefits. Regardless of where you and your wife are living, you can apply for retirement benefits online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applytoretire. It's so easy to do, and it can take as little as 15 minutes to complete and submit the application. If she prefers, your wife can file a retirement benefit application at any Social Security office — including the one closest to you in South Dakota, New Mexico, or wherever you happen to be.

Question:

I've read there is a five-month waiting period before my Social Security disability payments start. Are there any exceptions to this waiting period? Can I receive SSI during this waiting period?

Answer:

While there are no exceptions to the five-month waiting period, you may be able to receive SSI payments if you have met Social Security's strict definition of disability and meet the income and resource requirements of the SSI program. For more information regarding the income and resource requirements of the SSI program, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityssi/ssi.html.

Community Center to get a new color

The Groton Community Center will be getting a new coat of paint and a new color. The council agreed on Stately Graystone as the new main color with white trim. Shirley Briggs will be starting the painting project on Tuesday.

City Hall will also be getting new shingles. The council agreed to accept the low quote from Blocker Construction in the amount of \$2,250 to reshingle city hall.

The council moved \$200,000 from the electric fund to the general fund to help pay for \$250,000 in debt service.

Dollar General's application for wine and beer was approved by the council. Mayor Scott Hanlon had to ask for a second time before Councilman David McGannon seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Two more handicap parking spots will be added at the baseball complex. There is currently only one spot.

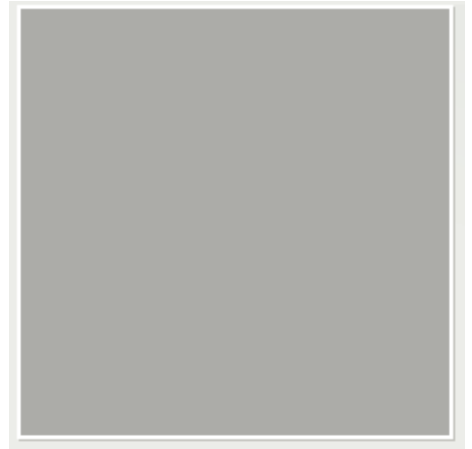
The governor has declared July 3rd as a holiday in South Dakota. The city ordinance does not recognize governor's declarations so the council decided to make July 3rd a holiday in Groton as well. In addition, the city council meetings will be moved to July 10th and July 24th.

The ice machine at the ballpark broke down again. The city put \$800 into it last year and instead of putting more money into it, the council agreed to buy one for \$1,425.

There is interest in the old jail building. The council agreed to put something together to put the jail building up for bids to be moved or removed from the property. That advertisement will be approved at the next council meeting.

The council approved to have a golf team in the annual Chamber Golf Tournament on June 23rd. If the city cannot get a team together, it will donate the \$250 fee for prizes.

During the finance officer's school report, Finance Officer Anita Lowary made mention of something she didn't even know about. The Owner Occupied option on property taxes only reduces the school taxes. It does not reduce any of the other property taxes.



The new color of the Groton Community Center

State Park Events Scheduled for June 23-25

PIERRE, S.D. – Parks across the state are hosting fun activities for both individuals and families. Join in the events and learn something new.

Bring family and friends to Walker's Point Recreation Area and Lake Herman State Park to celebrate Halloween in June. Decorate your campsite and wear your costumes for trick-or-treating and other Halloween-themed fun all weekend long.

Friday, June 23 – Sunday, June 25

Halloween in June, Walker's Point Recreation Area, Wentworth. Friday-Sunday. Info: 605.256.5003

Halloween in June, Lake Herman State Park, Madison. Friday-Sunday. Info: 605.256.5003

Saturday, June 24

Lantern Tour, Fort Sisseton Historic State Park, Lake City. 9 p.m. CT. Info: 605.448.5474

Survival 101, Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, Sioux Falls. 2 p.m. CT. Info: 605.213.1036

Dutch Oven Gathering, North Point Recreation Area, Pickstown. 10 a.m. CT. Info: 605.487.7046

All events are free, but a park entrance license is required.

For more information on activities in South Dakota State Parks, visit gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office, or call 605.773.3391.

-GFP-

Life Jacket Loaner Program Available this Summer

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) wants to remind anglers and boaters that the life jacket loaner program makes life jackets available for infants to adults.

All life jackets are in clean working order and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. These life jackets are free and can be loaned out for up to two weeks at a time. The program is designed to educate the public about life jacket wear and safety and provides a way to get life jackets to those who need them. Life jackets are required by state law for every person aboard a watercraft.

Below is a list of the participating GFP offices with access to these life jackets through the program:

Aberdeen: 605.626.2391, 5850 E. Highway 12

Chamberlain: 605.734.4530, 1550 E King Ave.

Ft. Pierre: 605.223.7700, 20641 SD Hwy 1806

Huron: 650.353.7145, 895 3rd Street SW

Mobridge: 605.845.7814, 909 Lake Front Drive

Rapid City (Outdoor Campus West), 4130 Adventure Trail

Sioux Falls: (Outdoor Campus East), 4500 Oxbow Ave.

Watertown: 605.882.5200, 400 West Kemp

Webster: 605.345.3381, 603 E. 8th Ave.

Adams Homestead: 605.232.0873, 272 Westshore Dr., McCook Lake

Lake Vermillion: 605.296.3643, 26140 451st Ave, Canistota

Lewis and Clark: 605.688.2985, 43349 SD Hwy 52, Yankton

North Point: 605.487.7016, 38180 297th, Lake Andes

Snake Creek: 605.337.2587, 35316 SD Hwy 44, Platte

Newton Hills: 605.987.2263, 28767 482nd Ave, Canton

Oahe Downstream: 605.223.7722, 20439 Marina Loop Road, Fort Pierre

Today in Weather History

June 20, 1957: An F2 tornado moved ENE from near Rockham to near Athol and Ashton. One person was killed as a mobile home was destroyed near the start of the path. Four barns were destroyed, and one home was unroofed.

Also on this day, an F5 tornado cut a swath through Fargo, North Dakota killing 10 and injuring at least 103 people. This tornado was the northernmost confirmed F5 tornado until the Elie, Manitoba tornado on June 22, 2007. Click [HERE](#) for more information from NDSU University Archives.

June 20, 1989: A meteorological "hot flash" hit Pierre. Descending air from collapsing thunderstorms caused the temperature in Pierre to warm from 86 degrees at midnight to 96 at one a.m. and to 104 at 2 a.m. Pierre's record high for the date of 105 degrees in 1974.

1682 - A major tornado ripped through southwestern Connecticut, passing through Stratford, Milford, and New Haven, and then into Long Island Sound. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1921 - Circle, MT, received 11.5 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state. The town of Circle received a total of 16.79 inches of rain that month to establish a rainfall record for any town in Montana for any month of the year. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - A farmer near Greensburg, KS, looked up into the heart of a tornado. He described its walls as rotating clouds lit with constant flashes of lightning and a strong gassy odor with a screaming, hissing sound. (The Weather Channel)

1964 - A squall line producing large hail swept through central Illinois. A second squall line moved through during the early morning hours of the 21st, and a third one moved through shortly after dawn. The series of hailstorms caused nine million dollars damage. Hailstones as large as grapefruit caused heavy damage to trees, utility lines, crops and buildings. The thunderstorms also produced as much as five inches of rain in an eight hour period. (David Ludlum)

1970: Nesbyen, Norway reached 96 degrees on this day, becoming the warmest temperature recorded in Norway.

1987 - Thunderstorms prevailed east of the Rockies, producing severe weather in the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Colorado, and produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Goodland, KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


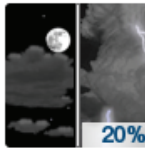





1988 - Thirty-eight cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, and 104 degrees at Chicago, IL, equalled records for the month of June. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced baseball size hail near Kief, and wind gusts to 100 mph near McGregor. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early morning thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 61 mph at Pierre, SD, and the hot thunderstorm winds raised the temperature from 86 degrees at midnight to 96 degrees by 1 AM, and 104 degrees by 2 AM. Butte, MT, and Yellowstone Park, WY, reported snow that afternoon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2001: Large hail driven by strong thunderstorm winds raked Denver International and front-range airports. Wind gusting to 54 mph along with hail as large 2 inches in diameter punched at least 14 thousand holes and cracks in the flat roofs of several buildings at Denver International Airport. Also, 93 planes and hundreds of cars were damaged. About 100 flights had to be canceled stranding 1500 travelers. The Airport was completely shut down for about 20 minutes. The storm also damaged ground avoidance radar used to track planes on the ground to prevent collisions. Damage was estimated at 10 million dollars not counting the damage to the 93 airliners. The storm moved south and struck Watkins Colorado with hail as large as 2 1/2 inches in diameter and winds gusting to 60 mph.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 10 of 50

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 77 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 72 °F

Not Bad For Longest Day Of The Year

Sunny
Highs: Upper 80s West
To Mid 70s East
& Low Humidity

*Isolated Storms Early Wednesday Morning
In Central South Dakota
Additional Afternoon Storms Possible East*



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 6/20/2017 5:11 AM Central

Published on: 06/20/2017 at 5:47AM

Expect sunny skies and mild conditions with low humidity today, but we could see some storms overnight and into Wednesday before a front swings through. Notably cooler conditions are expected for the latter half of the work week and through the weekend.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 11 of 50

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 77.8 F at 8:09 PM

Low Outside Temp: 51.6 at 2:35 AM

High Gust: 24 at 3:08 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1988

Record Low: 34° in 1969

Average High: 79°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in June: 2.46

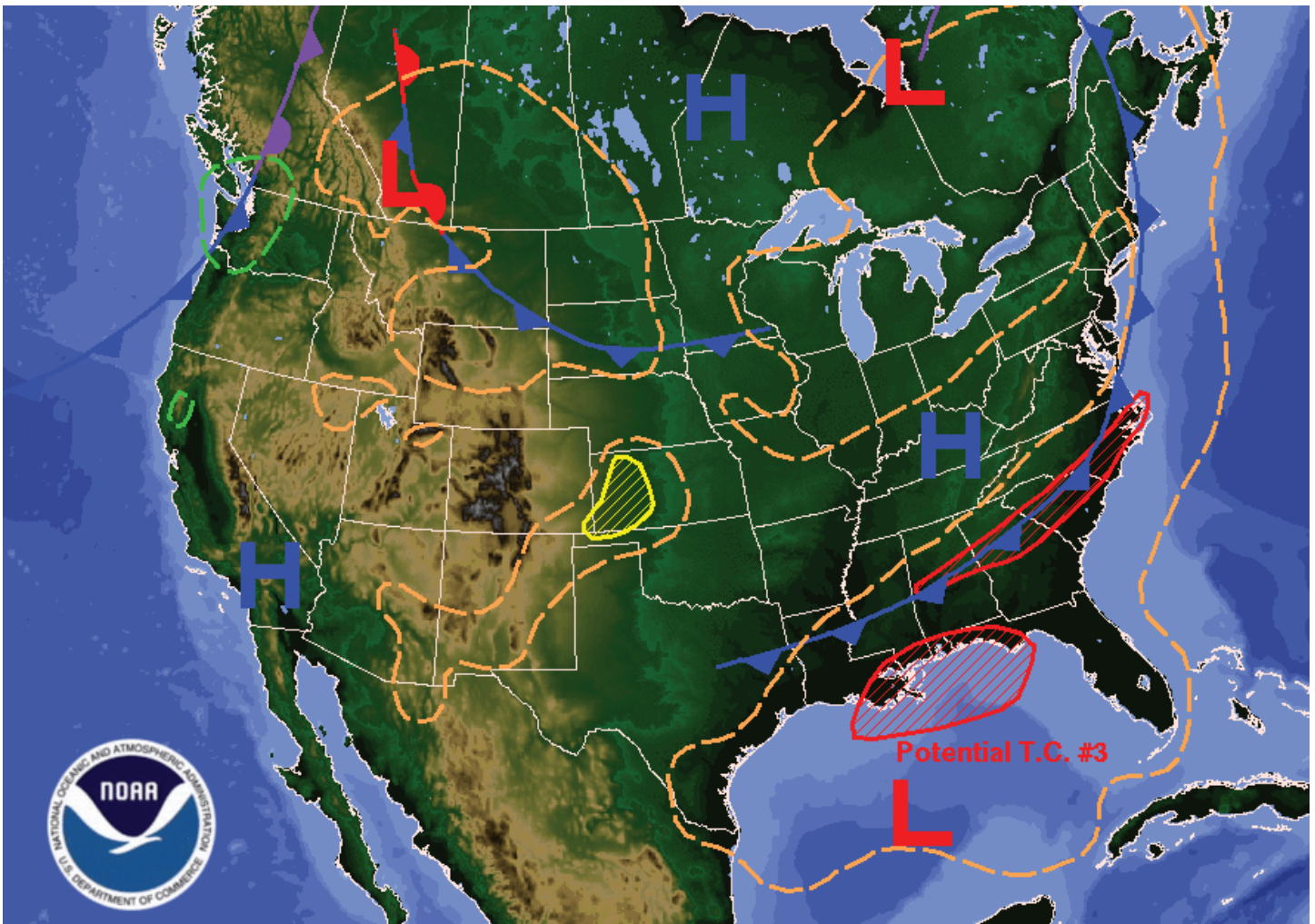
Precip to date in June: 2.43

Average Precip to date: 9.60

Precip Year to Date: 5.62

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 20, 2017, issued 5:19 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 12 of 50



THE ANSWER TO INSULTS

No one is or ever has been immune from being hurt or harmed by arrows of anger that come from those we thought were our friends. Sometimes the statements that shame and slam us even come from members of our own family. And, unfortunately, some of us may even be guilty of doing to others what they have done to us and caused them pain and sleepless nights. We all know the feelings of pain and panic that come from "word wounds" and the problems they have caused us.

David faced the same issues. He spoke of those who persecuted him and wanted to tear him to pieces as a lion destroys its prey. They rage and do wickedness, bring iniquity and bear falsehood and caused him trouble. Those powerful words leave very little to the imagination. He was not reporting any second-hand observations or stories that others told him of their experiences. People were out to get him and he knew it.

And he responded to them in a way that sets the Christian standard for revenge. He turned the matter over to God! He began by affirming his relationship to God by declaring, "I come to you for protection, O Lord my God. Save me from my persecutors."

He knew exactly where to go and what to do to solve his problem and heal his wounded heart: He went to His Lord knowing that only He could save him from the harm that others would do to him if they could.

We must do as David did. We must call upon the Lord to be our Defense and Defender in times of need.

Prayer: Lord, we claim the promises of Your Word, knowing that You will guide us and guard us forever. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 7:1 LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me.

News from the Associated Press

Head of South Dakota mental hospital resigns after 1 year

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The head of South Dakota's mental health hospital in Yankton is resigning just a year after taking the job.

A spokeswoman with the Department of Social Services says Human Services Center Administrator Troy Jones announced his resignation Monday for personal and family reasons. His last day will be Aug. 31.

Jones took over as administrator in May 2016. He vowed to improve employee safety and morale at the center, which has struggled with turnover and staff shortages.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2rKhIOE>) reports Jones' departure leaves state officials searching for the center's fourth administrator since 2011.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard had expressed support for Jones and encouraged critics to show patience as he addressed the hospital's challenges.

Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, says the governor is sorry to see Jones go.

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

South Dakota Democrats name new executive director

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Democratic Party says it has hired an executive director.

The party said Monday that interim Executive Director Sam Parkinson has accepted the job permanently since taking over in April. Before that, Parkinson had served as the party's finance director since August 2015.

His new role came after the party's former executive director, Suzanne Jones Pranger, left her post to campaign for state Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton, who launched a bid for governor late last month.

Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg says Parkinson has been an asset to the party. Parkinson says South Dakota Democrats are seeing a new surge of interest and energy from state residents.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Attorney General Marty Jackley are Republicans competing for the governor's office in 2018.

South Dakota hosts catamaran sailing competition

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Catamaran sailors from the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the U.S. Virgin Islands are in South Dakota this week competing for a championship.

The Hobie Class Association is holding its North American Championships at Lewis and Clark Lake this week, the Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2sGPioh>) reported.

Catamarans feature two parallel hulls connected by a single deck. The boats are classified by how many feet long they are.

Up to 75 boats will take to the lake for a series of races Monday through Friday. The top team in each division will be named the North American champion.

The association is broken into 16 divisions, with Division 7 hosting this week's event. That division includes North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri.

"We sail in Iowa and Minnesota, but when we come to Yankton, many of the sailors in our division will comment that it's one of their favorite places to sail," said Ben Wells, association spokesman.

Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carmen Schramm said the goal is to not only find ways to attract teams into town, but also to draw the public to Hobie Cat Beach near the marina along the lake.

"It is unique, and it's one of those things that we have that you wouldn't probably have on the rest of the river," she said. "This one just really works well for what they do."

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

No tax on bentonite means less revenue for South Dakota

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has no tax on mining bentonite despite neighboring states generating millions of dollars from special taxes on the gray and tan clay.

Miners have been extracting bentonite from beneath South Dakota's soil for decades, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2tEFUHS>) reported. Now, South Dakota regulators are considering a company's application for additional bentonite mining northwest of Belle Fourche, a city in the western part of the state.

The application from American Colloid would allow the company to re-open a previously mined, square-mile area that is projected to yield about 35,000 tons of bentonite annually for 15 years.

Bentonite is used in numerous products, from cat litter to drilling fluid. It becomes a sticky paste when wet.

Sen. Gary Cammack, R-Union Center, said he guesses bentonite doesn't get a severance tax because South Dakota residents may think of it as a useful mud more than a lucrative commodity.

The state currently taxes the mining of gold, silver, coal, lignite, petroleum, oil, natural gas, uranium and thorium. Those taxes produced a total of about \$6.3 million in revenue last year.

Revenue reports show that special taxes on bentonite generated \$5.5 million in Wyoming and \$1.3 million in Montana last year.

A report from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources stated there was nearly 201,000 tons of bentonite mined in the state in 2015. If that tonnage were multiplied by the 2015 average price of \$74 per ton as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey, the value of bentonite mined in the state that year would've been nearly \$15 million.

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

Showers bring some relief to South Dakota farmers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Showers have brought some relief to South Dakota farmers, but much of the state remains dry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says showers and thunderstorms early last week brought much-needed rainfall to parts of South Dakota. But precipitation in many areas of the state remains below normal for the year.

More than half of South Dakota's topsoil moisture supplies are rated short or very short.

Half of the state's winter wheat crop is rated poor or very poor while more than half of the spring wheat is in poor or very poor condition. A third of the oats crop is rated poor or very poor.

Sunflower plantings have reached 92 percent, compared with 78 percent last year and well ahead of the five-year average of 69 percent.

Wild announce affiliation agreement with Rapid City Rush

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Wild have announced an ECHL affiliation agreement with the Rapid City Rush for the upcoming season.

The Wild's primary developmental affiliate is the Iowa Wild in the AHL. Under the affiliation agreement announced Monday, the Rush will serve as a resource for the development efforts and personnel needs of both the Iowa Wild and the Minnesota Wild.

Minnesota Wild senior vice president of hockey operations Brent Flahr calls Rapid City "a terrific hockey market."

Rush general manager Joe Ferras says the NHL's Wild have a "tremendous fan base in Rapid City and the state of South Dakota."

The Rush are entering their 10th anniversary season. The team won the Ray Miron Presidents' Cup in 2010 while in the former Central Hockey League.

More AP NHL coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

Authorities ID Lake Preston man killed in Spink County crash

DOLAND, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Lake Preston man who died in a crash in Spink County last week.

The Highway Patrol says 66-year-old Darwin Tinnereim was driving a sport utility vehicle that left state Highway 37 and rolled north of Doland about mid-day Thursday.

He was pronounced dead at the scene, and was the only person in the vehicle.

Firefighters rescue injured person from burning Ipswich home

IPSWICH, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the cause of a weekend house fire in Ipswich that injured a person.

Fire Chief Tracy Hutson tells the American News (<http://bit.ly/2rInNv5>) that firefighters who responded to the blaze about 1:30 a.m. Saturday rescued the person from the home.

The victim was taken to an Aberdeen hospital. The person's identity and condition weren't released. Hutson says the single-story home was extensively damaged.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Georgia race finally heads to voters; DC watching closely

By BILL BARROW, Associated Press

ROSWELL, Ga. (AP) — The most expensive House race in U.S. history heads to voters Tuesday in the northern suburbs of Atlanta.

Either Republican Karen Handel will claim a seat that's been in her party's hands since 1979 or Democrat Jon Ossoff will manage an upset that will rattle Washington ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

Their matchup in Georgia's 6th Congressional District has become a proxy for the national political atmosphere and a test of GOP strength early in Donald Trump's presidency.

Here are five things worth knowing about the race:

IT'S OSSOFF'S YOUTH VS. HANDEL'S EXPERIENCE

Ossoff is a 30-year-old former congressional staffer turned documentary filmmaker. Making his first bid for office, he's become a symbol of the Trump opposition movement.

Yet Ossoff barely mentions the president, talking instead in generalities about "restoring civility" and the importance of Congress as an oversight body. He doesn't constantly refer to Handel, a former Georgia secretary of state, directly either, instead pitching his "fresh leadership" against "career politicians."

Handel, 55, embraces her experience as a statewide and local elected official. "You know me," she says, adding often that Ossoff has "no record" and "inflates his resume."

She's also known as a Susan G. Komen Foundation executive when the organization in 2012 sought to cut off its support of Planned Parenthood, which provides services including abortions.

IT'S A TRUMP DISTRICT ... BARELY

The Georgia 6th is an affluent and well-educated district that has elected Newt Gingrich, the former speaker; Johnny Isakson, now Georgia's senior U.S. senator; and most recently Tom Price, who resigned in February to join the administration.

But even with that pedigree, Trump barely edged Democrat Hillary Clinton in November, giving Ossoff

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 16 of 50

his opening once Price was confirmed. Ossoff hopes to maximize the district's Democratic base and pick up just enough independents and moderate Republicans who don't align with Trump.

Handel has handled Trump gingerly. She barely mentioned him ahead of finishing second to Ossoff in an April primary. She welcomed him for a fundraiser in late April, but it was closed.

Even a Trump Cabinet member and former Georgia governor, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, acknowledged the conundrum at a recent Handel rally, saying "some Republicans" are "turned off" by the president.

But that hasn't stopped from Trump from weighing in on the race. In one early Tuesday tweet, Trump criticized Ossoff, saying he'll raise taxes, is weak on crime and "doesn't even live in district." In another tweet, Trump praised Handel as a hard worker who will fight for lower taxes, great health care and strong security.

THERE'S BIG MONEY, FROM EVERYWHERE

Ossoff raised more than \$23 million, most from outside Georgia. He emphasizes it's mostly from individual donors. Handel notes that many of those people live in Democratic-leaning states like California, New York and Massachusetts.

Of course, Handel's benefited from outside money, too; it just hasn't flowed through her campaign, which has raised less than a quarter of Ossoff's haul.

The Congressional Leadership Fund, a political action committee backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan, has spent \$7 million on her behalf. National Republicans' House campaign arm added \$4.5 million, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce chipped in another seven figures. A chunk of the \$5 million Handel raised herself came in three fundraisers headlined by Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and House Speaker Paul Ryan.

AHEAD OF 2018, BOTH PARTIES WANT TO WIN. REALLY. A LOT.

Democrats have plenty of energy nationally, but it hasn't translated to the electoral scoreboard.

The party needs to flip at least 24 GOP-held seats by next November to reclaim a House majority.

Party insiders say Georgia is not a must-win given the GOP advantages here, but winning in a district like this could put them on their way to a successful 2018, and it would embolden donors and volunteers nationally — and potentially boost candidate recruiting in friendlier districts.

Losing would raise questions about whether Democrats can turn protests and fundraising records into enough votes.

For Republicans, it's about defense, with a healthy dose of fear.

Winning in this once-safe GOP district would follow House special election victories this year in GOP-held districts in Kansas and Montana. Republicans are favored to hold a fourth seat up Tuesday in South Carolina, while Democrats already held their lone open seat in a California special election.

But if Handel loses, it will be a clear warning sign to House Republicans facing tough races in other suburban districts across the country, many of them among the 23 GOP-held seats where Trump trailed Clinton in 2016. And it will make all the clearer that there is no easy path for Republicans to run under Trump's banner — he's still popular with the base, but the base isn't large enough to win every seat that Republicans hold now.

THERE'S ONE LAST-MINUTE CURVEBALL, BUT IT MAY NOT MATTER

A little-known political action committee unveiled a last-minute ad trying to link Ossoff to the shooting of a Republican House leader and others at a GOP congressional baseball team practice last week outside Washington.

Handel disavowed the ad, which blames the "violent left" for the shooting and suggests such acts would continue if Ossoff wins. Ossoff called Rep. Steve Scalise's shooting a "national tragedy" that should not be politicized.

Principled PAC says it made a "five-figure" buy on Fox News, a low spending total on cable news that likely means the spot got more attention from the campaign and reporters than from voters.

Follow Bill Barrow on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

A look at Syria's conflict, as mutual enemies close in on IS

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State group is in retreat across Syria and Iraq, and the contours of a new conflict among the array of parties battling it are already starting to appear.

The U.S. military shot down a Syrian government warplane on Sunday, saying it had targeted an American-allied Kurdish force that is battling the extremists in their de facto capital, Raqqa. That led Russia, a close ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, to warn that it would target U.S.-led coalition planes flying west of the Euphrates River.

Another front is shaping up on the ground below, with Assad's forces, which are also battling the Islamic State group, reaching the Iraqi border in the distant east. There they appear set to link up with Iranian-backed militias, establishing a vital land corridor from Damascus to Tehran.

The latest events are unfolding in Syria's remote east, far from the main battles of the civil war, which is still raging despite a largely ignored "de-escalation" plan brokered by Russia, Iran and Turkey.

Here's a look at where things stand for the conflict's main players.

PRESIDENT BASHAR ASSAD

He has survived six years of war and largely defeated the uprising against his family's four-decade rule. Now in control of Syria's five largest cities, Assad is eyeing Deir el-Zour in the east, which has been besieged by IS since 2014.

Retaking Deir el-Zour would help Assad secure access to natural gas and mineral resources, and open a potentially lucrative corridor to nearby Iraq. But the drive toward the border has already brought him into conflict with U.S.-backed opposition forces to the south and east.

IRAN

No country has invested more in Assad's survival than Iran, which has sponsored thousands of pro-government militiamen from across the region and injected billions of dollars to keep the economy from collapsing.

Now it appears bent on helping Assad retake the east. On Sunday, Iran lobbed ballistic missiles at IS targets in eastern Syria, the first such attack it has carried out anywhere since at least 2001.

Iran cast the strike as a response to Islamic State attacks in Tehran earlier this month that killed at least 18 people and wounded more than 50. But the Revolutionary Guard said it was sending a broader message to its archrival Saudi Arabia and the United States.

RUSSIA

Russia has been waging an air campaign in support of Assad since 2015, targeting both the Islamic State group and mainstream rebels. Moscow recently claimed to have killed IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, but that hasn't been confirmed.

For most of the last two years the U.S. and Russia have coordinated their different campaigns in the crowded skies over Syria, but as their allied forces converge in the east that could prove more difficult.

Russia said Monday it was suspending its cooperative mechanism with the U.S. in response to the downing of the Syrian warplane and threatened to shoot down enemy aircraft over Syrian government-held territory in the west.

It could be bluster. Russia suspended the same mechanisms in April after the U.S. struck a Syrian military base in response to a chemical attack, but resumed its participation weeks later.

UNITED STATES

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 18 of 50

The U.S.-led coalition is providing close air support to the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces as they fight to retake Raqqa, the capital of the IS group's self-styled caliphate, where the 2015 Paris attacks and other foreign plots have been hatched.

The U.S. also has special operations forces and advisers embedded with the SDF, raising the stakes in the fight for the northern city.

In addition to downing the Syrian jet near Raqqa, the U.S. has also fired on Syrian government forces in the east on three occasions in just the last month. There, Washington backs Syrian opposition forces trained in Jordan.

After the three encounters, Assad's forces wheeled around and seized territory to the north all the way to the Iraqi border, leaving U.S. forces and their allies largely isolated in the southeast and cutting off their path to the Islamic State group.

SYRIA'S KURDS

In recent years the SDF has driven IS from much of northern Syria and emerged as the most effective U.S. ally battling the group in Syria.

But its progress has alarmed NATO member Turkey, which views the main Kurdish militia in the group as an extension of the rebels that have waged a decades-long insurgency in southeast Turkey.

Turkey and the Kurdish fighters have come to blows on a few occasions in recent months, leading U.S. forces to establish a buffer between them.

OPPOSITION FORCES

The Syrian opposition, which once dreamed of sweeping into Damascus and toppling Assad, is now largely confined to scattered enclaves in the northwest and south of the country. Peace efforts have stalled, and even the limited "de-escalation" agreement has been repeatedly violated.

Beset by internal divisions, with some of the most powerful rebel groups allied with al-Qaida, it's unclear what role the rebels will play as the conflict enters a post-Islamic State phase. Perhaps now, more than ever, Syria's fate appears to be in the hands of competing foreign powers, none of which show any sign of backing down.

This story has been corrected to show that IS attacks in Tehran were earlier in June, not last week.

INSIDE WASHINGTON: Writing a bill in private not unusual

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican effort to secretly craft a health care bill and whisk it through the Senate is drawing fire from members of both parties. But it's not uncommon for either party to draft bills or resolve stubborn final hurdles behind closed doors, foregoing the step-by-step, civics-book version of how Congress works.

That's even true for the process that produced President Barack Obama's health care law, the Affordable Care Act, which the GOP is now trying to dismantle. While Democrats reached out to Republicans, held scores of committee hearings and staged many days of debate on that legislation in 2009 and 2010, they also resorted to private meetings to reach agreements that clinched its approval.

Lacking the votes to block this year's GOP effort, Democrats are looking to score political points by targeting the closely held process Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is using to write legislation replacing much of Obama's statute.

GOP senators have been meeting privately to address disputes over cutting Medicaid, limiting insurance requirements and revamping tax credits. McConnell wants a Senate vote before the chamber leaves town for a July 4 recess, giving Democrats scant opportunity to rally resistance against a major bill whose contents are unknown.

"Some version of secrecy has to happen. You're not going to get anywhere if that's not the case," said

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 19 of 50

C.R. Wooters, a top House Democratic aide when Obama's law was being passed. But he added: "Most of our real private meetings were the final tweaks, not the original bill. I think that's the difference. The general parameters of the bill were widely known."

Democrats said they were planning to start forcing procedural votes to slow the Senate down, making floor speeches and taking other steps to call public attention to McConnell's effort. Democrats took turns giving speech in a mostly empty Senate chamber well into the early morning hours before ceding the floor. The Senate has not held any committee hearings or votes on the measure that McConnell is trying to craft, and even some GOP senators are critical.

"I always believe legislation is best crafted through the normal order," Sen Susan Collins, R-Maine, told the Portland Press Herald. "I think it's much better to have committee consideration of bills, public hearings and to have a full debate."

McConnell said last week that "nobody is hiding the ball here" and that people are "free to ask anybody anything."

Three House committees voted on that chamber's version of the bill and there were a handful of hearings before the House approved a revised version of its legislation last month.

That pales compared to how the Democratic-run Congress handled Obama's legislation.

Starting in 2009, House and Senate committees held scores of hearings and voted on hundreds of amendments, including some from Republicans — who all ended up voting "no" on final passage. The initial House bill was posted online for 30 days before the first of three committees began voting on the measure, and the Senate spent 25 days debating health care overhaul.

The legislation didn't become law until March 2010.

"Just about everything was done in public," said Jim Manley, a top aide to then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. But when you encounter problems, he said, "sometimes you need to go behind closed doors to work it out."

There were plenty of hiccups that Democratic leaders resolved or tried to settle privately.

Early in 2009, a Gang of Six, three senators from each party, used secret talks to unsuccessfully seek compromise on an overall bill. That December, Reid used closed-door meetings to craft a final package using elements from differing measures approved by his chamber's finance and health committees.

There were private talks between Reid and then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., after the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was replaced by Republican Scott Brown, costing Democrats their 60th Senate seat — the number of votes needed to end GOP filibusters aimed at killing the legislation. Closed-door discussions were also used to resolve differences with anti-abortion Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak of Michigan that threatened the bill's passage.

The difference between his private negotiations and how Republicans are trying to move their bill through the Senate now is that the details of the entire Democratic bill and the language he was seeking were well-known to the public, Stupak said Monday.

"They're talking about a whole new way of delivering health care" and people don't know the details, Stupak said of Republicans. Last-minute negotiations among lawmakers and between Congress and the White House "are never in public," he said.

There are plenty of examples of bills that were essentially written, or had their final details completed, in private settings. These include a bipartisan bill the Senate approved last week sanctioning Russia for interfering in last year's election, and the deal McConnell and then-Vice President Joe Biden helped finalize preventing sharp tax increases in 2013. There was also a bipartisan budget pact between the chairs of the Senate and House budget committees in 2013 and an agreement between Pelosi and then-Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, on how Medicare reimburses doctors.

Associated Press writers Erica Werner, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Richard Lardner and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

UK police: Mosque attack suspect held on terror charges

LONDON (AP) — British police have identified the suspect held in connection with the van attack outside a London mosque as Darren Osborne, from the Welsh city of Cardiff. He is being held on suspicion of attempted murder and alleged terror offenses.

British media report that some of Osborne's neighbors have described the father of four as "aggressive" and "strange."

Witnesses said Osborne claimed he wanted to "kill all Muslims" after he drove into a crowd leaving a mosque early Monday morning. One man who was receiving first aid at the time of the attack died; it's unclear if his death was a result of the attack or from a previous condition.

Osborne was arrested on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism including murder and attempted murder.

Death of American detained in North Korea baffles experts

By FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's missile and nuclear tests, its carefully scripted propaganda bluster, even its military threats: Far from the scattershot workings of a madman, most of this fits the playbook of a small, proud country well used to stoking tensions to get concessions it would otherwise not receive from surrounding big powers.

What happened to Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died just days after North Korea released him from detention in a coma, is far more difficult to make sense of.

It jars so strikingly with the fates of most past detained Americans that outside observers are left struggling not only with the mystery of what killed Warmbier but also with what his death means for attempts by Washington and its allies to stop North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear-tipped ICBM that can target the U.S. mainland.

"The treatment of Otto Warmbier is beyond the pale of North Korea's usual standards," said John Delury, an Asia expert at Seoul's Yonsei University. "It's worth a forceful response. The U.S. government should not just throw up its hands and say, 'This is just how North Korea is.' But how do you do that in a smart way where there is some modicum of accountability?"

What follows is a closer examination of one of the more perplexing and heart-rending developments in North Korea's long, antagonistic standoff with its neighbors and Washington.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

It may never be known, but there are some clues — as well as widespread speculation.

The University of Virginia student was medically evacuated from North Korea last week, more than a year after a court sentenced him to 15 years in prison with hard labor for allegedly trying to steal a propaganda banner.

Early this month, North Korean diplomats at the United Nations urgently requested a face-to-face meeting with U.S. officials in New York. During the meeting, Washington learned of Warmbier's condition.

His family said it was told he fell into a coma soon after his March 2016 sentencing after contracting botulism and taking a sleeping pill. Doctors in Cincinnati said they found no active sign of botulism or evidence of beatings. They say he had severe brain damage but they don't know what caused it.

Some observers believe that North Korea became worried because Warmbier's condition suddenly worsened.

"North Korea sent him back to the United States before he died because more questions would have been raised about his death and the situation would have gotten worse if it had returned his dead body," said Cheong Seong-jang, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea.

Others believe it is unlikely that North Korea intentionally harmed Warmbier because he was valuable as a political pawn. Poor hygienic conditions, diet or bad medical care may have been responsible for a coma that North Korean doctors couldn't handle.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 21 of 50

Or maybe North Korea concealed his medical condition for so long in the hopes that he'd recover.

WHAT DOES IT SHOW ABOUT NORTH KOREA'S INNER WORKINGS?

Some outside experts see an internal divide in North Korea between officials who believe solving the long standoff with Seoul and Washington is the best way to improve the country's economy and international standing, and hard-liners who believe that outside pressure, isolation and animosity help keep the ruling Kim family in power by solidifying domestic support.

The last thing conservatives want, the argument goes, is curious American tourists talking with citizens and undercutting decades of propaganda that assures North Koreans that they are the envy of the world.

But North Korea has also consistently lobbied Washington for specific concessions that would need deep negotiations, something recent U.S. administrations have been reluctant to pursue because of the North's weapons programs. North Korea's demands include a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War and the removal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula.

"I'm sure there are high-ranking North Koreans who regret what happened to Warmbier and who think this was a mistake," Delury said. "You've got to capitalize on this, and influence their internal debates to get them to recognize and acknowledge what happened."

Another reading is that Warmbier's death may simply show a pattern of North Korean callousness and a lack of concern over diplomatic repercussions. Outside groups say North Korea tortures thousands of its own citizens at prison camps. And earlier this year the North was suspected of arranging the killing of the half-brother of leader Kim Jong Un with VX nerve agent at a Malaysian airport.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR DIPLOMACY?

Outrage in the United States means that more pressure, not dialogue, is the more likely course. But some analysts believe negotiations could happen because of U.S. worries about the safety of the three other Americans still detained in North Korea.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been unable to pursue the engagement with the North he favors because of a string of North Korean missile tests. Warmbier's death could make it even harder, although some analysts think Moon could offer talks with the North as a way to get other detainees out of North Korea.

"It's unlikely that Washington and Seoul will let Warmbier's death entirely derail their efforts at talks because North Korea's nuclear weapons program is such a serious and immediate threat," said Koh Yuhwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University. Still, opponents will question whether such negotiations may give the North more time to expand its nuclear weapons program.

Delury said the Trump administration may try to pressure China to cut its large numbers of tourists to North Korea until the North apologizes and releases the other Americans.

Whether North Korea will actually respond to pressure or talks is unclear. The country may not worry about much of anything externally, even the death of a young tourist, until it reaches its goal of building a nuclear ICBM that can ease what it sees as decades of U.S. and South Korean hostility.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim and Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

AP-NORC poll: Few favor Trump move to ditch Paris accord

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Less than one-third of Americans support President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, a new poll shows, and just 18 percent of respondents agree with his claim that pulling out of the international agreement to reduce carbon emissions will help the U.S. economy.

The survey conducted by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research earlier this month found that a slim majority — 52 percent — worry that withdrawing will actually hurt the economy.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 22 of 50

Twenty-seven percent think it won't have an impact either way.

But digging deeper into the numbers shows a sharp partisan divide on global warming, with Republicans more likely to align themselves with the president's views.

Seventy-eight percent of Democrats think withdrawing from the Paris agreement will hurt the national economy. Among Republicans, just 24 percent think it will hurt, 40 percent think it will have no impact and 34 percent think it will help.

Donald Nolan is a New Jersey businessman who has spent years living and traveling overseas. He worries that Trump is undermining U.S. credibility abroad. An independent voter, Nolan said he strongly opposes pulling out of the Paris accord.

"Where I live, we're 36 feet above sea level. If the polar ice caps melt, there won't be any dry land here," said Nolan, 60. "If you are pulling out of something that pretty much every other country in the world is a part of, then that is not seen as being a leader. When I lived overseas, America was always looked at as being first. But I see our position to be deteriorating."

Overall, 44 percent of Americans are very concerned and 26 percent are moderately concerned that withdrawing from the agreement will hurt the country's standing in the world, with that concern also dividing along party lines.

By a 46 percent to 29 percent margin, more oppose than favor the U.S. withdrawing from the agreement. Democrats are far more likely to oppose than support withdrawing from the agreement, 69 percent to 16 percent. Republicans are more likely to support Trump's withdrawal, 51 percent to 20 percent.

Independents are mixed in their views. Twenty-five percent support the withdrawal, 36 percent are opposed and 37 percent don't feel strongly one way or the other.

Similarly, 43 percent say they're very or extremely concerned that the U.S. withdrawing from the agreement will hurt global efforts to fight climate change, while 25 percent are moderately concerned. Seventy-two percent of Democrats, but just 13 percent of Republicans, are very concerned about the withdrawal hurting global efforts to fight climate change.

Sixty-four percent of Americans disapprove and just 34 percent approve of how Trump is handling the issue of climate change, the poll shows. That's similar to his overall approval rating, but there are other areas where Trump performs a bit better. For example, 43 percent approve of how he's handling the economy and 47 percent approve of how he's handling the threat of terrorism.

The poll shows about two-thirds of Americans think that climate change is happening, while only about 1 in 10 think it's not. The remaining quarter aren't sure one way or another.

Seven in 10 Americans — including some of those who aren't sure whether climate change is actually happening — think it's a problem that the U.S. government should be working to address. Among those who do think it's a problem the government should address, more oppose than support withdrawing from the Paris agreement by a 60 percent to 21 percent margin.

More than half of Americans — 53 percent — say climate change is a very or extremely important issue to them. Women are more likely than men to call climate change an important issue, 59 percent to 47 percent.

Bonnie Sumner, an independent voter who has lived in Colorado the last nine years, is among those who said doing something to combat climate change is important. She said her community in the Rocky Mountains is still dealing with the after effects of a devastating wildfire.

"It's definitely gotten hotter than it used to be," said Sumner, 72. "I try to keep up with science, not people who have money to be made by not wanting things to change."

The poll shows that 35 percent of Americans have a great deal of confidence in the scientific community, 51 percent have some confidence, and 11 percent have hardly any confidence. But, again, there's a big political divide: 53 percent of Democrats, but just 22 percent of Republicans and 19 percent of independents, say they have a great deal of confidence in scientists.

Sumner said Trump is too quick to dismiss the evidence of global warming compiled by climate scientists.

"His position, as it is with too many other things, is, 'I know what's best, I know better than everybody else, and this is a hoax, and this is fake news,'" she said. "I'm frightened for us, my children and my grandchildren. We only have one earth, we have to work together."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,068 adults was conducted June 8-11 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 4.1 percentage points.

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

Follow Associated Press environmental reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://Twitter.com/mbieseck> and Emily Swanson at http://twitter.com/el_swan

Online:

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

Supreme Court pushes Redskins' name fight back to society

By **STEPHEN WHYNO, AP Sports Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Redskins aren't in the clear with their team name just yet, even after the Supreme Court ruled Monday that the government can't block trademarks on the basis that they're offensive.

Supreme Court precedent may help the club in its ongoing legal battle, but the fight over the Redskins moniker will continue in social and business realms. The Redskins, Cleveland Indians with their "Chief Wahoo" logo and other professional and college organizations featuring Native American nicknames and mascots cannot be censored by the U.S. government, but that doesn't take the pressure off.

"Just because the Redskins may believe they're in the clear or the Cleveland Indians or even some collegiate teams (think) they're in the clear, that doesn't mean that those that do business with the team, including its sponsors, are going to take their foot off the gas if they believe change is really required," USC professor of sports business David Carter said. "A positive legal ruling may not yield beneficial business impacts in and around the sports business world because we've seen a heightened sensitivity over the years with this topic."

The Supreme Court found that Simon Tam could trademark the Slants as the name of his Asian-American rock band because it would be unconstitutional for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to discriminate against it, citing the First Amendment's free speech protection.

The Redskins have a separate case that had been on hold in federal appeals court while the Slants decision was rendered. Owner Dan Snyder said he was "thrilled" by the ruling, and lawyer Lisa Blatt said it resolves the team's dispute and vindicated its position.

St. John's University intellectual property law center director Jeremy Sheff said while the Supreme Court has essentially shut the door on legal challenges to the Redskins name, "there can still be social pressure brought to bear."

The Change the Mascot campaign released a statement saying it never believed this would be settled in a courtroom. But just as the Indians receive blowback for Chief Wahoo and schools like the University of North Dakota, Miami of Ohio and others moved away from Native American mascots, public opinion won't simply sway one direction because of the Supreme Court's decision.

"That doesn't necessarily reflect what people in the marketplace feel, so if students at a university don't like their slogan, mascot or trademark and/or the marketplace — those who purchase tickets or support the athletic programs or the university in general — I think will still be a driver on what is acceptable and what is not," said Brian LaCorte, a Phoenix-based lawyer for Ballard Spahr. "It will become I think a point for the consumer marketplace to define parameters."

Last September, Forbes said the Redskins were the fifth-most valuable team in the NFL at \$2.95 billion. As Carter pointed out, "The Redskins are a historic, an endemic brand, a presence" in the Washington area, and neither their name nor their lack of recent playoff success has hurt their popularity.

A recent Washington Post poll found that 90 percent of 504 Native Americans surveyed nationwide did not think the Redskins name was offensive, and that likely had more sway on the opinions of undecided people than the Supreme Court ruling. The next place for this argument very well may be the team's effort to get a new stadium, and Carter said politicians could use it as a part of the negotiation if taxpayer money is involved.

"If Daniel Snyder wants to get any public dollars for a new stadium, the likelihood of him being able to accomplish that in this environment is really slim until or unless he changes the name of the team," Carter said. "I think it's going to boil down to money and what will the trade-offs be."

If Virginia, the District of Columbia or Maryland approve public money for a new Redskins stadium, Carter said that would be considered "a tacit endorsement that it is OK to keep the name."

Trump's legal plan built in his image: Fight, fight, fight

BY ERIC TUCKER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, whose combative instincts are to lash out and never retreat, appears to be shaping a legal team in his own image. His clear directive: Fight, fight, fight.

In aggressively worded statements and confrontational TV appearances, Trump's personal lawyers and newly hired proxies have shown themselves more than ready to defend him in the manner to which he is accustomed — with arguments seemingly aimed at public opinion as much as at warding off any actual legal threat from prosecutors.

The legal team, like the president, has come out ready to hit hard, even if not always quite accurately.

"The president has not been and is not under investigation," lawyer Jay Sekulow has declared repeatedly the past few days, only to add to the statement Monday that he didn't know for certain if that was true. "The legal team has not been notified," he said on CNN.

The Trump team's style makes for a study in contrasts when compared to the seasoned group of prosecutors and criminal law experts working under Robert Mueller, the tight-lipped, respected ex-FBI director. To make it even more difficult, their client's public statements often threaten to undercut their work.

"I don't care who Trump hires. There's no reason to think he's going to listen to legal advice," said Washington defense lawyer Peter Zeidenberg. "Good luck trying to represent him."

It's too early to say for sure what legal strategy his team will settle on, especially since the full contours of the probe aren't known and no public allegations have been leveled by investigators. But two avenues appear clear so far: The lawyers are prepared to paint Mueller's investigative team as somehow politically motivated, or too aligned with the interests of fired FBI Director James Comey; and they will argue the president didn't illegally exert pressure on the investigation.

Already, they've floated the idea that Mueller could be biased because some members of his investigative team have made campaign contributions to Democrats and because Mueller interviewed for the FBI director's job after Trump fired Comey.

Attacking the idea that the president tried to obstruct the investigation also seems key. Comey did tell Trump he was not personally under investigation, but that was before the director was fired. Comey has since said he suspects the circumstances of his firing will be scrutinized by Mueller, putting pressure on Trump's supporters to deny any illegal intent — critical to an obstruction of justice case. Some suggest his actions were wholly legitimate, based on ignorance rather than malevolence or on anger at an FBI director who would not repeat publicly his private reassurances.

"If you can prove that there was something there and the president knew about it, then the obstruction case looks far stronger," said Washington attorney Justin Dillon. "But if it's just, he's acting impetuously because he doesn't like having himself or his friends investigated for something he genuinely believes he didn't do, then I think that's a much harder case for obstruction."

Whether Trump himself is under investigation at this stage also is still unclear. On Friday, he seemed to confirm news reports that he was, tweeting, "I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 25 of 50

man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt.” Pressed by TV interviewers, Sekulow declared that Trump was not being investigated, then tried to walk that back, at least slightly, saying there had been no such notification.

That lack of formal notification wouldn't be unusual in the early stages of an investigation. Federal prosecutors sometimes, but not always, advise an individual if he is at risk of being charged or is the subject of an investigation. Prosecutors early on also are generally focused on understanding how a particular circumstance unfolded, rather than in pursuing a particular target.

One thing's for certain: Even with Mueller's team working in silence, declining to discuss or confirm the most basic details, Trump's team is determined to make his case in public. That may be an understandable approach in such a high-profile matter, though not always an advisable one.

“My constituents are prosecutors, judges and juries,” said criminal defense lawyer Bill Jeffress. “When you became a sort of talking head and spokesperson — a PR person basically — you lose credibility and you confuse your role. I think that's a tough thing for a defense lawyer.”

While total silence won't work, a more measured public approach may be prudent, Dillon said.

“He probably can't say nothing, but I think he should say as little as possible — and it should be so boring that it makes for bad copy,” he said.

“Boring” seems out of the question. Take Mark Corallo, the conservative public relations veteran who currently serves as a spokesman for Marc Kasowitz, Trump's longtime personal lawyer who now leads his defense team. The New York Times reported Monday that Corallo's recent tweets have included praise for Mueller and a suggestion that Vice President Mike Pence should be the Republican nominee in 2020.

Though several Trump associates have hired more conventional attorneys from the elite ranks of Washington-region litigators — son-in-law Jared Kushner has turned to Jamie Gorelick, a former deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration, and Vice President Mike Pence has retained veteran Richmond, Virginia, defense lawyer Richard Cullen — the Trump defense team has a decidedly different pedigree.

Kasowitz heads the group despite his lack of deep experience in Washington or in criminal defense. Well known in the Manhattan business circles that Trump inhabits, Kasowitz has a reputation as a bare-knuckles court brawler.

At the president's urging, he has been on the offensive, casting doubt on Comey's character and raising questions about whether the former FBI director inappropriately disclosed sensitive material.

Trump has also retained Sekulow, who has been the face of the legal team on TV — though he, too, has an untypical background, having largely specialized in religious liberty claims.

The White House recently bolstered the legal team's credentials by hiring former prosecutor John Dowd, who may be best known for investigating allegations of improper gambling by baseball player Pete Rose. He also represented Sen. John McCain in the 1991 “Keating Five” scandal for which McCain was ultimately exonerated after being accused of improperly meeting with bank regulators on behalf of a campaign donor.

Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to corrects spelling of 'Sekulow'

10 Things to Know for Tuesday

By The Associated Press

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

1. U.S. STUDENT RELEASED BY NORTH KOREA IN COMA DIES IN CINCINNATI

Otto Warmbier died less than a week after returning home. It's unclear what fallout, if any, there will be in U.S.-North Korea relations.

1. VAN ATTACK TARGETING MUSLIMS IN LONDON HAS COMMUNITY FEELING ON EDGE

In a country rattled by three attacks by Islamic extremists in as many months, Muslim residents fear violence from those who blame them for the actions of a few.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 26 of 50

1. FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS DRIVER ATTEMPTED TERROR ATTACK

The attacker died after ramming a car carrying weapons and explosives into a police vehicle on the Champs-Elysees.

1. WHAT POLICE SAY LED TO MUSLIM TEEN'S MURDER IN VIRGINIA

Police say a man became "enraged" by a traffic argument with one of the teens Nabra Hassanen was walking with, but some in her community believe it was a hate crime.

1. FAMILY QUESTIONS PREGNANT WOMAN'S FATAL SHOOTING BY SEATTLE POLICE

Police say Charleena Lyles confronted two officers with a knife after she reported a burglary. Police knew she had struggled with mental illness.

1. SURVIVOR OF SAN FRANCISCO UPS SHOOTING BAFLED BY KILLER'S REPORTED MOTIVE

Police suggested that the gunman felt disrespected by co-workers, but Alvin Chen says the two colleagues who were fatally shot would not have bullied anyone.

1. COMPLEX WAR IN SYRIA BRINGS URGENCY TO ATTEMPT TO EASE US-RUSSIA TENSIONS

The Trump administration says the US and Russia are in discussions after the US shot down a Syrian fighter plane and Russia threatened retaliation.

1. HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT TRUMP'S TRAVEL BAN

An AP poll found that 57 percent say courts are acting properly in blocking the ban, while 39 percent say judges are interfering.

1. WHOLE FOODS CEO SAYS DEAL WITH AMAZON WAS RESULT OF 'WHIRLWIND COURTSHIP'

Mackey told employees the \$13.7 billion deal would help the grocery chain more quickly realize cost-cutting efforts and other changes.

1. CARRIE FISHER HAD COCAINE, TRACES OF HEROIN AND OTHER DRUGS IN HER SYSTEM AT DEATH

Investigators could not determine what impact the drugs had on her death, and described sleep apnea as the main cause.

Top court to hear case that could reshape US political map

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court will take up a momentous fight over parties manipulating electoral districts to gain partisan advantage in a case that could affect the balance of power between Democrats and Republicans across the United States.

At issue is whether Republican lawmakers in Wisconsin drew legislative districts that favored their party and were so out of whack with the state's political breakdown that they violated the constitutional rights of Democratic voters.

It will be the high court's first case in more than a decade on what's known as partisan gerrymandering. A lower court struck down the districts as unconstitutional last year.

The justices won't hear the arguments until the fall, but the case has already taken on a distinctly ideological, if not partisan, tone. Just 90 minutes after justices announced Monday that they would hear the case, the five more conservative justices voted to halt a lower court's order to redraw the state's legislative districts by November, in time for next year's elections.

The four more liberal justices, named to the court by Democrats, would have let the new line-drawing proceed even as the court considers the issue.

That divide could be significant. One factor the court weighs in making such decisions is which side seems to have a better chance of winning.

Republicans who control the state legislature assured the court that they could draw new maps in time for the 2018 elections, if the court strikes down the districts. If the state wins, there'll be no need for new districts.

Democrats hope a favorable decision will help them cut into Republican electoral majorities. Election law experts say the case is the best chance yet for the high court to put limits on what lawmakers may do to gain a partisan advantage in creating political district maps.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 27 of 50

Both parties have tried to get the largest partisan edge when they control redistricting. Yet Democrats are more supportive of having courts rein in extreme districting plans, mainly because Republicans control more legislatures and drew districts after the 2010 census that enhanced their advantage in those states and in the House of Representatives.

The Supreme Court has never struck down districts because they are unfairly partisan. Similar lawsuits are pending in Maryland, where Democrats dominate, and North Carolina, where Republicans have a huge edge in the congressional delegation and the state legislature.

"The decision in this case will likely set the path for redistricting in 2020 and beyond. The essential question is whether the court will finally accept a new standard and block partisan gerrymandering, or continue the court's stated disapproval of excessive partisan gerrymandering while never finding one to overrule," League of Women Voters president Chris Carson said.

The challengers to the Wisconsin districts said it is an extreme example of redistricting that has led to ever-increasing polarization in American politics because so few districts are genuinely competitive between the parties. In these safe seats, incumbents tend to be more concerned about primary challengers, so they try to appeal mostly to their party's base.

"Partisan gerrymandering of this kind is worse now than at any time in recent memory," said Paul Smith, who is representing the challengers to the GOP plan in Wisconsin.

But Wisconsin officials defended the legislature's work and called on the justices to undo the lower-court ruling.

"As I have said before, our redistricting process was entirely lawful and constitutional, and the district court should be reversed," Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel said.

Wisconsin Republicans drew the maps in 2011 after they took full control of state government in the 2010 elections. Under those maps in 2012, Republicans captured 61 percent of state assembly seats while winning 48.6 percent of the statewide vote. They now have their largest majorities in the state House and Senate in decades.

The federal court that struck down the districts adopted an equation that offers a way to measure the partisan nature of the districts. It essentially measures and compares each party's wasted votes — those going to the winner in excess of what's needed for victory — in an election. As measured by this "efficiency gap," Republicans can increase the number of the districts they control by stuffing Democratic voters into already Democratic districts.

The measurement could appeal to Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has said he is willing to referee claims of excessively partisan redistricting, but only if the court can find a workable way to do so. Until now, he hasn't found one.

Associated Press writer Scott Bauer contributed to this report from Madison, Wisconsin.

Poll: Courts are right in blocking Trump's travel ban

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans say federal courts are acting properly in blocking President Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Two versions of the travel ban targeting Muslim-majority countries have been put on hold by federal courts. Trump says the ban is necessary to keep would-be terrorists from traveling to the United States. Opponents, including some state officials, argue that it is intended to keep Muslims out.

Fifty-seven percent of Americans say the courts have acted correctly by blocking the travel ban from taking effect, while 39 percent say the judges are wrongly interfering. The poll shows a sharp partisan divide: 82 percent of Democrats say the courts acted rightly, while 73 percent of Republicans say they're wrongly interfering. Among independents, 56 percent agree with the courts.

"From the beginning President Trump said, even before the election, that he intended to ban Muslims,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 28 of 50

not that he intended to ban terrorists but Muslims," said Nick Hardy, 54, an independent voter who said he leans Democratic. "That's just not right."

Trump initially signed an executive order in late January that banned people from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Libya from traveling to the United States. That included legal permanent residents. The order also blocked all refugees from being resettled in the United States. The order caused chaos and confusion at airports around the world. Some travelers arriving in the United States were detained before being sent home, and people overseas were blocked from boarding U.S.-bound flights.

The original order was blocked in federal court, and an appeals court later upheld that ruling. A second order that dropped Iraq from the list of affected countries also has been blocked. It also exempted legal U.S. residents from the ban.

The Trump administration has asked the Supreme Court to immediately reinstate the updated ban, saying the U.S. will be safer if it is in place.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this month refused to reinstate the executive order, and a three-judge panel said the administration failed to show that blocking citizens from the six nations was needed to protect the U.S. The court also found that the president's order violated an immigration law prohibiting discrimination based on nationality.

As a candidate, Trump pledged to block Muslims from traveling to the United States until American authorities could get a better handle on vetting visitors and immigrants. Those campaign remarks have been used as evidence of his intention by opponents of the order.

The 4th U.S. Circuit in Richmond, Virginia, also has called Trump's national security concerns an after-the-fact justification for an order "steeped in animus and directed at a single religious group."

Sixty-two percent of responders did think trying to protect the United States from security threats was a major reason, while 26 percent thought it was a minor reason and 11 percent thought it was not a reason at all.

On the other hand, 50 percent of people who responded to the AP-NORC poll said they think a desire to prevent Muslims from entering the country was a major reason for the ban, while 20 percent said it was a minor reason. Twenty-eight percent thought it was not a reason.

Those viewpoints also largely broke down along partisan lines. Sixty-four percent of Democrats, 46 percent of independents and 34 percent of Republicans say preventing Muslims from entering the country was a major reason for the travel ban. Eighty-seven percent of Republicans, 70 percent of independents and 41 percent of Democrats say protecting the country from security threats was a major reason.

Rebecca Miller, a 50-year-old pet care business owner from Tampa, Florida, said she doesn't agree with a lot of what Trump says but supports the travel ban and thinks the courts have wrongly interfered with it. Miller said she votes "promises, not party" and sees the travel ban as a safety issue.

"I think that they want to stop the travel ban based on people claiming a certain religion. I don't think it's about religion, it's about safety," Miller said. "I'm very interested to see the ban put into effect and for a couple of years kind of monitor it and see how it goes."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,068 adults was conducted June 8-11 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 4.1 percentage points.

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

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acaldwell and Emily Swanson at www.twitter.com/EL_Swan

Online:

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

Harvard freshmen's ouster over posts draws broad response

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Few college-bound kids lose their shot, and their slot, at their dream school once they get in, but it happened at one of the world's most elite institutions and for a reason that has, until recently, hardly registered in the university admissions process: social media.

Harvard University's decision to rescind admission offers to 10 incoming freshmen because of offensive Facebook posts comes at a time of heightened attention to free speech and student conduct on U.S. college campuses, and has stirred debate far beyond the halls of the Ivy League school.

Other schools say it's an eye-opener for those involved in the admissions process.

"We're going to continue to watch how this unfolds and, with other higher ed institutions, learn from it," said Janet Bonkowski, spokeswoman for the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay.

Harvard rescinded the admission offers after discovering the students had traded offensive images and messages on a private Facebook group, student newspaper The Harvard Crimson reported. The posts were often sexually explicit and mocked Mexicans, the Holocaust, sexual assault and child abuse.

The Cambridge, Massachusetts, university declined to comment, but the school does tell accepted students their offers can be withdrawn if their behavior "brings into question their honesty, maturity or moral character."

Its decision may have been rare, but the situation it addressed was not: young applicants crossing lines in their social media posts.

Mike Reilly, a former college admissions officer in Washington state and now an executive with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, said Harvard's move can be seen as incongruent with free speech.

But Nancy Beane, a high school counselor in Atlanta and president of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, said zero tolerance for racist comments should be the standard for all institutions of higher education.

"We're all humans. We're all going to make mistakes and make poor choices in our lives, but there are consequences," Beane said. "I'm not sure why we've decided people can say whatever they want, do whatever they want, and there are no consequences for it."

In 2015, the national counselors association surveyed its members at more than 1,700 colleges and found less than a third reported rescinding an admissions offer each year. Nearly 70 percent of those colleges said it was because of a dishonest application, while 20 percent said it was over a disciplinary issue. Social media behavior wasn't considered a reason to drop a student.

David Cruz, 22, who is studying hospitality management at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, said Harvard did the right thing. The transfer student pointed to colleges across the country that have been criticized for not doing enough when it comes to troublesome student conduct, from reported sex assaults to racist incidents.

"Their students acted on their own, but that also represents the school," Cruz said. "Whatever you post, everyone can see it, whether you're trying to hide it or not."

Some admissions officers can and do use Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites when assessing applicants, though they generally don't patrol the internet for damaging information. Instead, they consider online posts when something specific is brought to their attention.

Still, social media content being used to oust a student is uncommon. The University of Wisconsin, for instance, doesn't check applicants' social media accounts and doesn't have plans to start.

In general, dropping an admitted student is a last-resort move, reserved for the most egregious cases. Even then, the college usually will attempt to keep the student by confronting them with the hope that an explanation and a slap on the wrist will resolve the issue.

Harvey Mudd College in California has never rescinded an offer because of a social media profile, said Peter Osgood, its admissions director. But he recalls one instance where school officials discussed an objectionable post with an admitted applicant.

"This matter was dealt with privately and discreetly, and that student became a wonderful citizen for the

college, even a much valued tour guide," Osgood said.

Associated Press writer Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Follow Sally Ho at http://twitter.com/_sallyho

Canceled flights, burning door handles: Heat hits Southwest **By CLARICE SILBER and JOSH HOFFNER, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — Airlines canceled flights in Phoenix and doctors urged people to be careful around concrete, playground equipment and vehicle interiors Monday as a punishing heat wave threatens to bring temperatures approaching 120 degrees to parts of the Southwestern U.S.

Arizona is seeing the most stifling temperatures, but the wrath of the heat wave is being felt across Nevada and California as well. Las Vegas was forecast to hit 117 (47 Celsius) on Tuesday on the first day of summer, and excessive heat warnings cover almost all of California.

Despite the dangers, the weather may not be as bad as originally expected. The National Weather Service had been forecasting Tuesday highs at 120 or higher in Phoenix for the past several days, a number not seen in the desert city in more than 20 years, but it now predicts 119.

"That's deadly heat no matter how you slice it," weather service meteorologist Chris Breckenridge said. Here are a few things to know about the heat wave:

AIRLINES WATCHING THE HEAT

When the temperature soars, it's harder for airplanes to take off.

American Airlines canceled nearly 40 flights on Tuesday in Phoenix operated by regional jets because of the heat. The airline also said it will allow Phoenix passengers flying during the peak heat Monday through Wednesday to change flights without a fee.

American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein said the smaller regional jets flown by its partners can't operate once the temperature hits 118. That maximum is set by Bombardier, the manufacturer.

Larger airliners made by Boeing and Airbus have higher maximum operating temperatures, but airlines still need to closely monitor the weight of the jets during the heat.

Feinstein said the carrier began limiting sales on some flights to prevent the planes from exceeding maximum weight for safe takeoff in the hot conditions. Airlines can use other strategies for limiting weight during hot weather, such as not fueling completely, then making a refueling stop.

HITTING 120 IS RARE

Phoenix and Las Vegas are used to 110-degree heat, but temperatures above 115 are rare.

Phoenix hit 118 degrees Monday, tying the record for the date set last year.

The last time the city reached 120 was in 1995. A notorious heat wave in 1990 brought consecutive days at 120 degrees, including the record of 122.

The heat is spread across California. The Central Valley has been baking in unusually bad heat, and the Northern California city of Redding hit a June 18 record of 110 degrees on Sunday — 19 degrees above normal.

It could be worse: Death Valley could see 124 degrees Tuesday.

SWELTERING LAS VEGAS

Visitors should be aware of a little-known fact about the temperatures in the gambling mecca: The Strip is often hotter than the rest of the city.

Weather service meteorologist Ashley Allen says the Strip's tall, close buildings and long stretches of concrete cause the area to heat quickly and cool slowly.

She says it's hard to predict exactly how hot the Strip will get because the weather service does not get

official readings there, but temperatures could reach somewhere between 115 and 120 degrees despite the city's airport forecast to hit 114 Monday.

BURN RISKS

It gets so hot in Phoenix that stores put coverings over door handles so people don't burn their hands. Steering wheels and car shifters can be too hot to touch when getting into a car. And the pavement can burn the paws of pets.

The director of the Arizona Burn Center said second- and third-degree burns from touching hot items are common in the extreme heat. Dr. Kevin Foster warned people to be extra careful around concrete, car interiors and playground equipment, especially young children who have sensitive skin.

Pavement and concrete can be dangerous for pets, Foster said.

HEALTH HAZARDS

The heat is a serious public health hazard in places such as Phoenix and Las Vegas.

The county that is home to Phoenix had 130 heat-related deaths in 2016, the highest number in more than a decade. The Arizona Department of Health Services says nearly 2,000 people visit Arizona emergency rooms every year because of heat-related illnesses.

Homeless people comprised one-third of heat-related deaths in 2016, according to county records. Most of the others involved people with non-functioning air conditioners.

Kurt Dickson, an emergency room doctor at Banner Health in Phoenix, said people have a range of heat illnesses during the summer months, including fatigue, heatstroke and severe sun burns.

Police: Road rage led to bat attack, Muslim teen's death

By MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — A man charged with murder in the death of a Muslim Virginia teen who was attacked near her mosque became "enraged" by a traffic argument with one of the girl's friends and hit her with a baseball bat before abducting her, police said Monday.

Though the slaying of Nabra Hassanen — whose body was found in a pond — raised concerns that she was targeted because she was Muslim, Fairfax County police spokeswoman Julie Parker said at a news conference that police have no reason to believe that the killing was a hate crime.

"Nothing indicates that this was motivated by race or by religion. It appears the suspect became so enraged over this traffic argument that it escalated into deadly violence," Parker said.

Hassanen, 17, was with a group of as many as 15 teens who had left their Sterling-area mosque between Ramadan prayers to get food at a McDonald's, Parker said.

They were making their way back to the All Dulles Area Muslim Society between 3 and 4 a.m. Sunday, some walking and some riding bikes, when the suspect drove up to the group and began to argue with a male teen, Parker said.

The suspect, 22-year-old Darwin Martinez Torres, drove up onto a curb and the group scattered, Parker said. Martinez Torres caught up with them in a nearby parking lot, got out of his car armed with a baseball bat and began chasing the group, she said.

"His anger over that earlier encounter then led to violence when he hit Nabra with a baseball bat," Parker said. She said he took the girl with him in his car to a nearby location, where she was assaulted a second time.

Authorities later found her body in a pond. An autopsy revealed she died of blunt force trauma to the upper body, Parker said.

During an intense search for Hassanen on Sunday, an officer stopped a suspicious car and Martinez Torres was taken into custody, police said earlier.

Martinez Torres was arraigned Monday and denied bail pending a July 19 court appearance. A judge

appointed him a public defender, whose office declined comment. Immigration authorities put a detainer on him, saying he's a citizen of El Salvador and there's probable cause to believe he lacks permission to be in the U.S.

Police announced earlier in the day that they were not investigating the slaying as a hate crime, which provoked deep skepticism among some American Muslims.

Abas Sherif, a spokesman for the victim's family, said Nabra and all the other girls in her group were wearing Muslim head coverings and loose Islamic robes when the driver approached.

"Road rage. Indeed. If you think for a minute that her appearance had nothing to do with this crime, you're lying to yourself," tweeted attorney Rabia Chaudry, a prominent Muslim activist who lives in the Washington suburbs.

ADAMS is one of the largest mosques in the country, and is particularly busy during Ramadan. Observant Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, and since Ramadan this year overlaps with the summer solstice, and sunrise occurs well before 6 a.m., some Muslims will eat large meals in predawn hours.

Two boys in their group who spoke with The AP after paying condolences to the family Monday said they didn't witness anything to make them think it was a hate crime. They said that when the car pulled up beside them and slowed down, they thought the driver might even be a friend, playing a joke.

When the car hopped the curb, they perceived hostile intent and began to run. The group of more than a dozen kids did not immediately realize Hassanen was missing. Once they did, they told security officials at the mosque, who contacted police. The boys declined to give their names.

The girl's father, Mohmoud Hassanen Aboras of Reston, said his daughter was a friend to everyone. Aboras emigrated from southern Egypt and has three younger daughters, who, like Nabra, were born in the U.S.

He said he was not particularly interested in knowing why his daughter was attacked or whether it could be considered a hate crime. His daughter is gone, regardless.

"My daughter is dead, and I don't want anyone to feel what I feel, to lose your 17-year-old daughter ... Christian, Muslim, Jew, Hispanic, whatever," he said, surrounded by more than a dozen friends and family in his apartment.

This story has been corrected to reflect that two boys, not girls, described the attack to the AP.

Contributors include Alanna Durkin Richer and Sarah Rankin in Richmond.

House Dems question Flynn disclosures of Middle East travel

By CHAD DAY and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two top House Democrats are questioning whether Michael Flynn failed to report a 2015 trip to the Middle East to federal security clearance investigators, a potential omission that could add to the legal jeopardy President Donald Trump's former national security adviser faces over the truthfulness of his statements to authorities and on government documents.

The lawmakers — Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., and Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y. — said in a letter released Monday that they believe Flynn may have violated federal law by failing to disclose the trip, which they believe involved a proposal to provide nuclear power to several Middle Eastern countries, and any foreign contacts he had during another trip to the region that year.

The letter from Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House oversight committee, and Engel, the ranking Democrat on the House foreign affairs committee, is the latest to call attention to potential problems with what Flynn reported to the U.S. government about his foreign travel, contacts and business after he left the Defense Intelligence Agency in August 2014.

Federal and congressional probes have been looking closely at Flynn's foreign travel and contacts as part of investigations into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election and any possible collusion with associates of Trump or his campaign.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 33 of 50

Separately, federal investigators have been scrutinizing Flynn's work for a Turkish businessman and the Defense Department's inspector general has been looking into whether Flynn failed to get U.S. government permission to receive foreign payments. Among those payments was more than \$33,000 he received from RT, the Russian state-sponsored television network that U.S. intelligence officials have branded as a propaganda arm of the Kremlin.

Flynn's attorney, Robert Kelner, declined to comment on the allegations in the letter.

In their letter, Cummings and Engel said they believe Flynn was not forthcoming about a trip to the Middle East in the summer of 2015.

They cited a recent Newsweek report that Flynn flew to Israel and Egypt that summer as part of an effort promoting a U.S.-Russian partnership to construct nuclear reactors for civilian power needs. They also point to Flynn's June 10, 2015, testimony before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee.

During the testimony, Flynn told lawmakers he "just came from a trip — fairly extensive trip to the Middle East," during which the issue of developing nuclear energy in the region came up. But Cummings and Engel said it "does not appear that General Flynn disclosed this trip or any foreign contacts as part of his security clearance renewal process," noting that intentionally concealing such information from a security clearance form is a felony.

Cummings and Engel also raised questions about an October 2015 trip to Saudi Arabia, which Flynn did report as part of his security clearance review. The review took place in the early months of 2016.

The lawmakers said Flynn told security clearance investigators that he traveled to Saudi Arabia because "as a business owner, he is working on developing business with another country."

Flynn reported that he went on the six-day trip with a friend, who was also American, to speak at a conference, stayed at a hotel called the King Khaled International Hotel and had the trip paid for by a "work sponsor."

But congressional staffers could not confirm the existence of such a hotel, though they note the airport in Riyadh shares that name. They also could not find any evidence of a conference that Flynn would have attended during the time frame, noting that three speakers' bureaus affiliated with Flynn did not report being involved with the trip or a conference in Saudi Arabia.

In the letter, the lawmakers asked Flynn's former firm, Flynn Intel Group, to provide additional information about his foreign travel and his involvement with two other companies who spearheaded the nuclear power plan.

In financial disclosures Flynn filed out earlier this year, he reported serving as an adviser between August 2015 and last December to one of the companies, identified as X-Co Dynamics/Iron Bridge Group.

X-Co Dynamics is a Virginia-based consulting firm headed by former U.S. Rear Admiral Michael Hewitt, whose board of retired military advisers included former National Security Agency chief Keith Alexander and former Marine Corps General James "Hoss" Cartwright, who was prosecuted last year for lying to the FBI in a leak investigation.

A representative for Hewitt reached by the AP on Monday afternoon said he was not available because he was traveling.

Flynn did not detail his work with X-Co Dynamics in the disclosure, but the Newsweek report alleged that Flynn's trip to Israel and Egypt in summer 2015 was part of a private effort by the firm to advance the idea of a massive ring of atomic reactors that would be built by the U.S. nuclear industry and the Russian government and largely bankrolled by Saudi Arabia.

According to an internal memo obtained by Newsweek, the project was the brainchild of ACU Strategic Partners, a U.S. firm promoting the idea of a partnership between the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to build and operate 40 nuclear power reactors across the Middle East. Russia would have financial incentive to join the project, according to the ACU plan, because it would take the lead in building the plants and providing a burial ground for their waste.

ACU Strategic Partners managing director Alex Copson did not immediately respond to an email from the AP seeking comment.

Newsweek reported that Flynn's role in the project, via X-Co Dynamics, was to design and put into play

"a vast security network for the entire enterprise." Flynn's financial disclosure did not show any financial payment from X-Co Dynamics for his involvement.

Newsweek reported that the proposed deal was scuttled by the Obama administration. Saudi Arabia later signed a deal with Russia's nuclear agency, Rosatom, to build 16 reactors.

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Car rams police vehicle on famed Paris avenue; attacker dies

By **ELAINE GANLEY and LORI HINNANT, Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — A man on the radar of French authorities for extremism was killed Monday after ramming a car carrying arms and explosives into a police convoy on Paris' famed Champs-Elysees Avenue, setting off a fiery blast and a cloud of orange smoke, officials said. France's anti-terrorism prosecutor opened an investigation.

Gendarmes jumped out of the vehicle, ran to the car, smashed its windows and pulled out the driver in an apparent attempt to save him, according to witness accounts. The interior minister confirmed that he died.

No one else was injured despite the crowds of tourists and others walking down the avenue on a hot, sunny day, the Paris police department said.

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb called it an "attempted attack" and said it "shows once again that the threat level in France is extremely high." The minister used the occasion to explain the continued need for a state of emergency, in place since 2015, and plans to extend it until Nov. 1, to be presented at a Cabinet meeting Wednesday.

A man could be seen lying on his stomach on the ground immediately after the incident, wearing a white shirt and dark shorts. The body was kept out of view under a tent, and later police were seen removing it, in a body bag on a stretcher.

If confirmed as a deliberate attack, this would be the fifth time this year that police forces have been targeted around the French capital.

Noemie Pfister, walking with her infant child and a friend, said she saw a car fly past a column of police vans, then fishtail. She wasn't sure if she saw it ram into one of the vehicles because it happened so quickly, but she can't forget the smoke and flames.

"I saw gendarmes get out of a van, run, break the window" of the car, she said in an interview. "They took the man out and put him a bit further away (from the car) on the other side of the road," she recalled.

"I couldn't understand, but I find it really strange that a car would pass (police) vans and all of a sudden spit fire," said Pfister. "I thought in my mind of an attack."

Leonard Odihe said he saw officers break into the car, pull the man out and throw two weapons on the ground, "a big pistol and another big arm like the weapons police carry."

Odihe said he also saw bottles of gas, one of which apparently exploded inside the car.

Two police officials told The Associated Press that a handgun was found on the driver, who they said was badly burned after the vehicle exploded. They identified him as a 31-year-old man from the Paris suburb of Argenteuil who had an "S" file, meaning he was flagged for links to extremism.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to reveal details of the incident, the second this year on the city's most famous avenue, which is popular with tourists from around the world.

The interior minister said the current situation in France shows a new security law he is to present is needed to eventually "maintain a high security level" without the state of emergency.

Earlier this month, an attacker on foot went after a police patrol with a hammer in front of Notre Dame Cathedral.

In April, an attacker opened fire on a police van on the Champs Elysees, killing one officer and gravely wounding two others. The attacker was shot dead by police. That incident recalled two other attacks on

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 35 of 50

soldiers providing security at prominent locations around Paris, one at the Louvre museum in February and one at Orly airport in March.

Victoria Boucher and daughter Chrystel came in from the suburb of Cergy-Pontoise for a Paris visit and weren't afraid to go to the famed avenue.

"The show must go on," the daughter said in English. "They won't win."

Sylvie Corbet, Angela Charlton, Oleg Cetinic and Christophe Schopoliansky contributed.

Google promises YouTube crackdown on online extremism

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is promising to be more vigilant about preventing terrorist propaganda and other extremist videos from appearing on its YouTube site amid intensifying criticism about the internet's role in mass violence.

Its crackdown will involve both computer programs and an expanded group of people dedicated to identifying videos promoting terrorism so they can be blocked from appearing on YouTube or quickly removed.

Google is making the commitment in the wake of violent attacks in the U.S. and elsewhere. A van struck a crowd of people outside a London mosque Sunday, the second time an automobile was used as a weapon in that city this month, and less than a week after a gunman attacked GOP lawmakers on a baseball field.

And earlier this month, British Prime Minister Theresa May called on governments to form international agreements to prevent the spread of extremism online. Some proposed measures would hold companies legally accountable for the material posted on their sites, a liability that Google and other internet companies are trying to avert.

Toward that end, Facebook last week pledged to use more advanced technology and more than 150 human reviewers to find and remove terrorist content before people see it on its social networking site.

Although Google said in a blog post that it is been trying to block extremist content for years, its general counsel Kent Walker wrote that "the uncomfortable truth is that we, as an industry, must acknowledge that more needs to be done. Now."

Anti-hate groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center have skewered Google and Facebook for doing too little to muzzle hate groups online.

Google, along with other companies such as Facebook, Microsoft and Twitter, recently agreed to create an international forum to share and develop technology, support smaller businesses and speed up their joint efforts against online terrorism.

To step up its policing efforts, Google will nearly double the number of independent experts it uses to flag problematic content and expand its work with counter-extremist groups to help identify content that may be used to radicalize and recruit terrorists.

The Mountain View, California, company will also train more people to identify and remove extremist and terrorism-related content faster.

Google also is taking a tougher stance on videos that don't clearly violate its policies but still offend broad swaths of society, like those that contain inflammatory religious or supremacist content. YouTube won't remove those videos, but viewers will first have to click through an "interstitial" warning in order to see them.

Google also won't sell ads alongside this category of objectionable video to reduce the moneymaking opportunities for their creators. These initiatives could help Google woo back major advertisers who began pulling back from YouTube earlier this year after learning that their brands sometimes appeared next to unsavory videos.

YouTube also won't recommend these videos to its users, and it won't allow YouTube users to endorse them or leave comments — all efforts aimed at limiting their popularity.

Google is also teaming up with Jigsaw, a company also owned by its corporate parent Alphabet Inc., to target online ads at potential Isis recruits in hopes of diverting them to anti-terrorist videos.

Van attack on London Muslims suggests new polarization

By **DANICA KIRKA, PAISLEY DODDS and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — The rash of deadly terror attacks that has rattled Britain in recent months took an ominous new turn on Monday as Muslim worshippers became targets during the holy month of Ramadan, mowed down by an attacker who plowed a van into a crowd leaving prayers at two mosques in north London.

It was the same tactic Islamic extremists used in recent assaults on Westminster Bridge and London Bridge. Those attacks and a third outside a pop concert in Manchester have triggered a surge in hate crimes against Muslims around Britain.

British authorities, including Prime Minister Theresa May, and Islamic leaders moved swiftly to ease concerns in the Muslim community following the attack shortly after midnight that injured at least nine people in London's Finsbury Park neighborhood, which is home to a large Muslim population.

Authorities said the incident was being treated as a terror attack. One man died at the scene, although he was receiving first aid at the time and it wasn't clear if he died as a result of the attack or from something else.

British media identified the suspect as Darren Osborne, a 47-year-old Briton and father of four living in Cardiff, Wales, who was not known to authorities before the attack.

Details about the assailant were sketchy, but the assault — the most dramatic against Muslims in London in recent years — suggested a new, dangerous level of polarization in British society.

"This was an attack on Muslims near their place of worship," May said in a televised address. "And like all terrorism, in whatever form, it shares the same fundamental goal. It seeks to drive us apart — and to break the precious bonds of solidarity and citizenship that we share in this country. We will not let this happen."

Mayor Sadiq Khan, London's first Muslim mayor, also urged residents to stand together.

"While this appears to be an attack on a particular community, like the terrible attacks in Manchester, Westminster and London Bridge, it is also an assault on all our shared values of tolerance, freedom and respect," Khan said, adding that there would be "zero tolerance" for hate crimes.

"We will not allow these terrorists to succeed. ... We will stay a strong city," the mayor said.

May said police would assess security at mosques and provide any additional resources needed ahead of upcoming celebrations marking the end of Ramadan.

The Metropolitan Police Service, already stretched by investigations of the earlier attacks and a high-rise apartment fire that killed at least 79 people, said it was putting extra patrols on the streets to protect the public.

The attack occurred about 12:20 a.m. when a speeding white van swerved into worshippers emerging from prayers outside the Muslim Welfare House and nearby Finsbury Park Mosque. People surrounded the driver and witnesses said the outraged crowd began attacking him. A local imam, Mohammed Mahmoud, said he and others shielded the man until police could take him away.

"By God's grace, we were able to protect him from harm," the imam said.

Police said the driver was arrested on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism, including murder and attempted murder.

Toufik Kacimi, chief executive of the Muslim Welfare House, told Sky News the attack clearly targeted Muslims, saying the driver acted deliberately and was not drunk or mentally ill.

"The driver of the van, said 'I did my bit,' which means he's not mentally ill," Kacimi said. "This person was conscious. He did what he did deliberately to hit and kill as many Muslims as possible, so he is a terrorist."

But Kacimi said there was no need for the Muslim community to panic, because police and government officials have been "very, very supportive."

"At this stage, we are calling for calm," he said.

Monday's attack hit a community already feeling targeted from the fallout from three previous attacks in as many months, all blamed on Islamic extremists. Hate crimes directed at Muslims have increased nearly five-fold, according to British security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with official policy.

Ali Habib, a 23-year-old student, said residents were upset that Monday's attack wasn't portrayed in the same light as other attacks across Britain.

"There has been an outpouring of sympathy for all the recent terror attacks but hardly a whisper on this attack," he said. "People are both scared and angry. Parents are scared to send their children to evening prayers. I don't think people understand how much these attacks affect all of us."

May attempted to counter that feeling, saying that police arrived at the scene within one minute, and that the incident was classified as a possible terror attack within eight minutes. The prime minister, who has been criticized for failing to show compassion to victims, traveled to the attack site within hours, and met with community and faith leaders.

"Diverse, welcoming, vibrant, compassionate, confident and determined never to give in to hate. These are the values that define this city," she said later outside Downing Street. "These are the values that define this country."

The attack occurred outside the Muslim Welfare House, a small mosque with about 200 congregants. Nearby, evening prayer services had just concluded at the larger Finsbury Park Mosque, which was associated with extremist ideology for several years after the 9/11 attacks. However, the mosque was shut down and reorganized and has not been associated with radical views for more than a decade.

The mosque's current leaders say they support inter-faith dialogue and want to serve the community in north London, which is located near Emirates Stadium, home of the Arsenal soccer club.

Britain's terror alert level is at "severe," meaning security officials believe an attack is highly likely.

On June 3, Islamic extremists used a vehicle and then knives to kill eight people and wound dozens of others on London Bridge and in the popular Borough Market area. Police shot and killed the three Islamic extremists who carried out the attack. In March, a man plowed a rented SUV into pedestrians on London's Westminster Bridge, killing four people before stabbing a police officer to death outside Parliament. He was also killed by police.

Manchester was hit by a deadly attack on May 22 when a suicide bomber killed 22 people at an Ariana Grande concert.

Coroner: Cocaine among drugs found in Carrie Fisher's system

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carrie Fisher's autopsy report shows the actress had cocaine in her system when she fell ill on a plane last year, but investigators could not determine what impact the cocaine and other drugs found in her system had on her death.

The report released Monday states Fisher may have taken cocaine three days before the Dec. 23 flight on which she became ill. She died four days later.

It also found traces of heroin, other opiates and MDMA, which is also known as ecstasy, but that they could not determine when Fisher had taken those drugs. The findings were based on toxicology screenings done on samples taken when the "Star Wars" actress arrived at a Los Angeles hospital.

Coroner's officials ruled Fisher died from sleep apnea and a combination of other factors. A news release issued Friday mentioned drugs were found in Fisher's system, but it did not provide details.

Monday's full report contains a detailed explanation of the results, such as why investigators believe Fisher took cocaine at least three days before her flight.

"At this time the significance of cocaine cannot be established in this case," the report states.

It also states that while heroin is detectable in the system for a briefer period of time, investigators could not determine when Fisher, 60, took it or the ecstasy. Toxicology tests also found other opiates in Fisher's system, including morphine, although the report states the morphine could have been a byproduct of heroin.

"Ms. Fisher suffered what appeared to be a cardiac arrest on the airplane accompanied by vomiting and with a history of sleep apnea. Based on the available toxicological information, we cannot establish the significance of the multiple substances that were detected in Ms. Fisher's blood and tissue, with regard to the cause of death," the report states.

Among the factors that contributed to Fisher's death was buildup of fatty tissue in the walls of her arteries, the coroner's office said last week.

A phone message left for Fisher's brother, Todd, was not immediately returned.

Todd Fisher said Friday he was not surprised that drugs may have contributed to his sister's death.

"I would tell you, from my perspective that there's certainly no news that Carrie did drugs," Todd Fisher said. He noted that his sister wrote extensively about her drug use, and that many of the drugs she took were prescribed by doctors to try to treat her mental health conditions.

Fisher long battled drug addiction and mental illness. She said she smoked pot at 13, used LSD by 21 and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at 24. She was treated with electroshock therapy and medication.

"I am not shocked that part of her health was affected by drugs," Todd Fisher said.

He said his sister's heart condition was probably worsened by her smoking habit, as well as the medications she took. "If you want to know what killed her, it's all of it," he said.

Anthony McCartney can be reached at <http://twitter.com/mccartneyAP>

Cosby alternate juror 'probably' would have voted to convict

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — An alternate juror in Bill Cosby's sexual assault case said Monday he "probably" would have voted to convict and was "ridiculously sick" when he found out the main jury couldn't reach a verdict.

A mistrial was declared Saturday after jurors said they were hopelessly deadlocked. Prosecutors plan to retry the 79-year-old star on charges he drugged and molested a woman in 2004.

As an alternate, Mike McCloskey heard all the testimony but didn't participate in deliberations.

He told Pittsburgh radio station WDVE that jurors did not discuss the case on the bus ride after the trial, maintaining "complete silence." The trial took place outside Philadelphia, but the jury came from the Pittsburgh area.

"It was the craziest, eeriest bus ride I've ever taken," said McCloskey, 43.

McCloskey posted his juror's badge on Facebook as proof of his role in the case. He did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press on Monday.

Jurors deliberated more than 52 hours over six days before telling a judge they couldn't break their deadlock. The jurors' names haven't been made public and the split on the vote hasn't been disclosed, shrouding the case in mystery.

Prosecutors are fighting to keep the jurors' identities a secret, arguing in court documents Monday that releasing them would result in a "publicity onslaught" and make picking a jury for the second trial more difficult. Media organizations including The Associated Press urged a judge to release them, saying the public has an interest in "confirming that the outcome of the first trial was the result of an impartial process."

Pennsylvania law allows the public release of jurors' names, but judges have discretion to keep them a secret under certain conditions.

Judge Steven O'Neill, who presided over the Cosby trial, will hold a hearing Tuesday on the release of the names.

He advised jurors when the trial ended Saturday that they didn't need to discuss the case.

"It can never be clearer that if you speak up, you could be chilling the justice system in the future if jurors are needed in this case," O'Neill told them.

Cosby, the actor and comedian once known as "America's Dad," was charged with three felony counts of aggravated indecent assault stemming from Andrea Constand's allegations that he drugged and violated her at his suburban Philadelphia home. He said the encounter was consensual.

It is not yet clear why jurors could not reach a verdict, or how close they came.

"We get 12 people to agree on sex assault cases all the time, but this is not any case. It's an old case, it's a controversial case, it's a case that involves questions of consent," said Loyola Law School professor

Laurie Levenson.

In a retrial, District Attorney Kevin Steele could ask the judge to allow testimony from more of Cosby's 60 accusers, or to disclose to jurors that Constand is gay. That never came up in her seven hours of testimony. The defense had hoped, if it did, to introduce evidence she had previously dated a man.

"The key to retrying a case is to do it differently the second time because the defense expects you to do it the same way," said Constand's lawyer, Dolores Troiani.

Cosby remains free on \$1 million bail in the criminal case. O'Neill could schedule the retrial within weeks.

The entertainer is also battling sexual battery or defamation cases still pending by 10 women in California and Massachusetts. Several of them attended the criminal trial with their lawyers.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

For more on Cosby, including stories about the trial, historical photos, videos and an audio series exploring the case, visit <http://www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial>.

Justices say law on offensive trademarks is unconstitutional

By SAM HANANEL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday struck down part of a law that bans offensive trademarks, ruling in favor of an Asian-American rock band called the Slants and giving a major boost to the Washington Redskins in their separate legal fight over the team name.

The justices were unanimous in saying that the 71-year-old trademark law barring disparaging terms infringes free speech rights guaranteed in the Constitution's First Amendment.

"It offends a bedrock First Amendment principle: Speech may not be banned on the ground that it expresses ideas that offend," Justice Samuel Alito said in his opinion for the court.

Slants founder Simon Tam tried to trademark the band name in 2011, but the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office denied the request on the ground that it disparages Asians. A federal appeals court in Washington later said the law barring offensive trademarks is unconstitutional and the Supreme Court agreed.

The Redskins made similar arguments after the trademark office ruled in 2014 that the name offends American Indians and canceled the team's trademark. That case, before a federal appeals court in Richmond, had been on hold while the Supreme Court considered the Slants case.

Tam insisted he was not trying to be offensive, but wanted to transform a derisive term into a statement of pride. The Redskins also contend their name honors American Indians, but the team has faced decades of legal challenges from Indian groups that say the name is racist.

Tam said the band was "beyond humbled and thrilled" with the ruling.

"This journey has always been much bigger than our band: it's been about the rights of all marginalized communities to determine what's best for ourselves," he said.

Despite intense public pressure to change the Redskins name, team owner Dan Snyder has refused, saying in the past that it "represents honor, respect and pride" for Native Americans. Snyder issued a quick statement after Monday's decision: "I am THRILLED. Hail to the Redskins."

Redskins attorney Lisa Blatt said the court's decision effectively resolves the Redskins' longstanding dispute with the government.

"The Supreme Court vindicated the team's position that the First Amendment blocks the government from denying or cancelling a trademark registration based on the government's opinion," Blatt said.

Trademark office spokesman Paul Fucito said officials are reviewing the court's ruling and planned to issue further guidance on how they will review trademark applications.

Indian groups opposing the Redskins said the ruling does not change the fact that the name "is a dictionary-defined racial slur."

"If the NFL wants to live up to its statements about placing importance on equality, then it shouldn't hide behind these rulings, but should act to the end this hateful and degrading slur," said a joint statement

from the National Congress of American Indians and the group Change the Mascot.

The ruling means offensive trademarks can no longer be denied, even for names that intend to disparage individuals or groups of people, said Megan Carpenter, dean at the University of New Hampshire School of Law and an expert on trademark law.

While the justices all agreed on the outcome, they split in their rationale. Alito rejected arguments that the government has an interest in preventing speech that is offensive to certain groups.

"Speech that demeans on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, or any other similar ground is hateful; but the proudest boast of our free speech jurisprudence is that we protect the freedom to express the thought we hate," Alito said in a part of his opinion joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas and Stephen Breyer.

Writing separately, Justice Anthony Kennedy stressed that the ban on disparaging trademarks was a clear form of viewpoint discrimination forbidden under the First Amendment.

"A law that can be directed against speech found offensive to some portion of the public can be turned against minority and dissenting views to the detriment of all," Kennedy said in an opinion joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonya Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Justice Neil Gorsuch took no part in the case, which was argued before he joined the court.

Government officials said the law did not infringe on free speech rights because the band was still free to use the name even without trademark protection. The same is true for the Redskins, but the team did not want to lose the legal protections that go along with a registered trademark. The protections include blocking the sale of counterfeit merchandise and working to pursue a brand development strategy.

Critics of the law said the trademark office has been wildly inconsistent over the years in deciding what terms are too offensive to warrant trademark protection. The government has in the past rejected trademarks for the terms "Heeb" and "Injun," but allowed those for companies such as Baked By A Negro bakery products, Midget Man condoms, and Dago Swagg clothing.

Associated Press writer Stephen Whyno contributed to this report.

Tensions rise in Syria as Russia, Iran send US warnings

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **NATALIYA VASILYEVA**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russia on Monday threatened aircraft from the U.S.-led coalition in Syrian-controlled airspace and suspended a hotline intended to avoid collisions in retaliation for the U.S. military shooting down a Syrian warplane.

The U.S. said it had downed the Syrian jet a day earlier after it dropped bombs near the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces conducting operations against the Islamic State group, adding that was something it would not tolerate.

The downing of the warplane — the first time in the six-year conflict that the U.S. has shot down a Syrian jet — came amid another first: Iran fired several ballistic missiles Sunday night at IS positions in eastern Syria in what it said was a message to archrival Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The developments added to already-soaring regional tensions and reflect the intensifying rivalry among the major players in Syria's civil war that could spiral out of control just as the fight against the Islamic State group in its stronghold of Raqqa is gaining ground.

Russia, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, called on the U.S. military to provide a full accounting as to why it decided to shoot down the Syrian Su-22 bomber.

The U.S. military confirmed that one of its F-18 Super Hornets shot down a Syrian jet that had dropped bombs near the U.S. partner forces SDF. Those forces, which are aligned with the U.S. in the campaign against the Islamic State group, warned Syrian government troops to stop their attacks or face retaliation.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that as of Monday, all coalition jets and drones flying west of the Euphrates River will be tracked as potential targets.

Areas of northern Syria west of the Euphrates were controlled by IS before Syrian government forces captured most of them in recent months. The Russians, who have been providing air cover for Assad's

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 41 of 50

forces since 2015, appear to want to avoid further U.S. targeting of Syrian warplanes or ground troops that have come under U.S. attack in eastern Syria recently.

It was the second time Russia suspended a hotline intended to minimize incidents with the U.S. in Syrian airspace. In April, Russia briefly suspended cooperation after the U.S. military fired 59 missiles at a Syrian air base following a chemical weapons attack that Washington blamed on the Assad government.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Washington is working to re-establish communications aimed at avoiding mishaps involving U.S. and Russian air operations in Syria.

Speaking in Washington, the top U.S. military officer said the two sides were in delicate discussions to lower tensions.

"The worst thing any of us could do right now is address this with hyperbole," Dunford said.

Viktor Ozerov, chairman of the defense and security committee at the upper chamber of Russian parliament, described his Defense Ministry's statement as a warning.

"I'm sure that because of this, neither the U.S. nor anyone else will take any actions to threaten our aircraft," he told the state-owned RIA Novosti news agency. "That's why there's no threat of direct confrontation between Russia and American aircraft."

Ozerov insisted that Russia will be tracking the coalition's jets, not shooting them down, but he added that "a threat for those jets may appear only if they take action that pose a threat to Russian aircraft."

Iran said the missile strike by its powerful Revolutionary Guard hit Syria's eastern city of Deir el-Zour on Sunday night and was in retaliation for two attacks in Tehran earlier this month that killed 17 people and were claimed by the Islamic State group.

It appeared to be Iran's first missile attack abroad in over 15 years and its first in the Syrian conflict, in which it has provided crucial support to Assad. The muscle-flexing comes amid the worsening of a long-running feud between Shiite powerhouse Iran and Saudi Arabia, with supports Syrian rebels and has led recent efforts to isolate the Gulf nation of Qatar.

"The Saudis and Americans are especially receivers of this message," Gen. Ramazan Sharif of the Revolutionary Guard told Iranian state TV in an interview.

It also raised questions about how U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, which had previously put Iran "on notice" for its ballistic missile tests, will respond. Israel also is concerned about Iran's missiles and has deployed a multilayered missile-defense system.

The missile attack came amid recent confrontations in Syria between U.S.-backed forces and Iranian-backed pro-government factions. The U.S. recently deployed a truck-mounted missile system in Syria as Iranian-backed forces cut off the advance of the U.S.-supported rebels along the Iraqi border.

Iranian officials threatened more strikes. Former Guard chief Gen. Mohsen Rezai wrote on Twitter: "The bigger slap is yet to come."

U.S.-backed opposition fighters said Assad's forces have been attacking them in the northern province of Raqqa and warned that if such attacks continue, the fighters will take action.

Clashes between Syrian troops and the SDF would escalate tensions and open a new front line in the many complex battlefields of the civil war, now in its seventh year. Clashes between the Kurdish-led SDF and Syrian forces have been rare and some rebel groups have even accused them of coordinating on the battlefield.

Both sides are battling the Islamic State group, with SDF fighters focusing on their march into the northern city of Raqqa, which the extremist group has declared to be its capital.

Syrian government forces have also been attacking IS in northern, central and southern parts of the country, seizing 25,000 square kilometers (9,600 square miles) and reaching the Iraqi border for the first time in years.

SDF spokesman Talal Sillo said the government wants to thwart the SDF offensive to capture Raqqa. He said government forces began attacking the SDF on Saturday, using warplanes, artillery and tanks in areas that SDF had liberated from IS.

Sillo also warned that if "the regime continues in its offensive against our positions in Raqqa province,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 42 of 50

this will force us to retaliate with force.”

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks Syria’s war, said government forces expanded their presence in Raqqa province by capturing from IS the town of Rasafa.

Vasilyeva reported from Moscow. Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi in Tehran and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed.

And so it begins: Brexit talks to focus 1st on orderly exit

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Talks on Britain leaving the European Union began Monday with both sides saying they will focus first on an orderly withdrawal: a deal for citizens living in each other’s territory, border arrangements between Ireland and the U.K. and the amount that Britain will pay to get out of previous EU commitments.

Both EU negotiator Michel Barnier and his British counterpart David Davis said after the first negotiating session they were confident of quick progress but said major challenges lay ahead to meet the deadline of March 2019 for Britain to officially leave the bloc.

“In the first step, we will deal with the most pressing issues. We must lift the uncertainty caused by Brexit,” said Barnier. “In a second step, we will scope our future partnership.”

From his comments, it appeared that the Brexit talks will largely follow the EU’s conditions and will center on the two sides’ new relationship only once sufficient progress has been made on the withdrawal issues.

Davis was heartened by the spirit of the talks, during which the negotiators, both interested in mountaineering, exchanged a walking stick and a hiking book.

Barnier said there will be one week of negotiations every month and the two sides will use the time in between to work out proposals. Both sides will put top advisers to work immediately on a border agreement between Ireland and the United Kingdom, aiming to make sure the Irish peace agreement and the common travel area should as unaffected by Britain’s EU departure as possible.

While the EU negotiating team led by Barnier has been ready for months, British efforts on Brexit stalled even after it triggered the two-year process on March 29. An early election this month, in which British Prime Minister Theresa May lost her Conservative majority in parliament, only added to the problems.

Time is pressing. After Britain’s June 23, 2016 referendum to leave the bloc, the other 27 nations wanted to start the exit talks as soon as possible so they could work on their own futures, but Britain long seemed dazed by its own momentous move.

And even when May finally triggered the two-year unraveling process on March 29, she followed it up by calling an early election on June 8 that she hoped would strengthen her majority in parliament and thus her negotiating mandate with the EU.

The move backfired, May lost her Conservative majority in the vote and has been fending off critics of her leadership ever since.

Still, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson remained upbeat Monday, saying he thinks the Brexit negotiations will yield “a happy resolution that can be done with profit and honor for both sides.”

Johnson also urged Europeans to look further down the road.

“The most important thing for us is to look to the horizon, raise our eyes to the horizon. In the long run, this will be good for the U.K. and good for the rest of Europe,” Johnson said at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

Japan investigates delay in reporting US Navy ship collision

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan’s coast guard is investigating why it took nearly an hour for a deadly collision between a U.S. Navy destroyer and a container ship to be reported.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 43 of 50

A coast guard official said Monday they are trying to find out what the crew of the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal was doing before reporting the collision off Japan's coast to authorities 50 minutes later.

The ACX Crystal collided with the USS Fitzgerald off Japan's coast, killing seven of the destroyer's crew of nearly 300. The ships collided early Saturday morning, when the Navy said most of the 300 sailors on board would have been sleeping. Authorities have declined to speculate on a cause while the crash remains under investigation.

A track of the much-larger container ship's route by MarineTraffic, a vessel-tracking service, shows it made a sudden turn as if trying to avoid something at about 1:30 a.m., before continuing eastward. It then made a U-turn and returned around 2:30 a.m. to the area near the collision.

The coast guard initially said the collision occurred at 2:20 a.m. because the Philippine ship had reported it at 2:25 a.m. and said it just happened. After interviewing Filipino crewmembers, the coast guard has changed the collision time to 1:30 a.m.

Coast guard official Tetsuya Tanaka said they are trying to resolve what happened during the 50 minutes. He said officials are planning to get hold of a device with communication records to examine further details of the crash. Japan's Transport Safety Board also started an accident investigation on Sunday.

Adding to the confusion, a U.S. Navy official said it is sticking with the 2:20 a.m. timing for the crash that he said had been reported by the Fitzgerald.

Asked about the earlier time cited by the coast guard, Navy spokesman Cmdr. Ron Flanders said, "That is not our understanding." He said any differences would have to be clarified in the investigation.

Nanami Meguro, a spokeswoman for NYK Line, the ship's operator, agreed with the earlier timing.

Meguro said the ship was "operating as usual" until the collision at 1:30 a.m., as shown on a ship tracking service that the company uses. She said the ship reported to the coast guard at 2:25 a.m., but she could not provide details about what the ship was doing for nearly an hour.

"Because it was in an emergency, the crewmembers may not have been able to place a call," she said.

Coast guard officials are investigating the case as possible professional negligence, but no criminal charges have been pressed so far.

On Monday, the Navy's 7th Fleet identified the seven sailors who died. Navy divers recovered the bodies after the severely damaged Fitzgerald returned to the fleet's home in Yokosuka, Japan, with assistance from tug boats.

The victims were Gunner's Mate Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, from Palmyra, Virginia; Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, from San Diego, California; Sonar Technician 3rd Class Ngoc T Truong Huynh, 25, from Oakville, Connecticut; Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, from Weslaco, Texas; Fire Controlman 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, from Chula Vista, California; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, from Halethorpe, Maryland; and Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, from Elyria, Ohio.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said President Donald Trump and the entire administration was sending their thoughts and prayers to the sailors' families. The incident was a "sobering reminder of the dangers" faced by the men and women of the U.S. military every day, Spicer said.

In a statement, acting Navy Secretary Sean Stackley said, "We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our fellow shipmates. ... As details emerge, we can all be proud of the heroic effort by the crew to tend to the needs of those injured and save the ship from further damage while returning safely to port."

He thanked "our Japanese allies" for their swift assistance, and said the Navy will fully investigate the cause.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy ordered flags flown at half-staff there in memory of Huynh.

Huynh's sister, Lan Huynh, told WVIT-TV that the family is coping as best they can.

She described her brother as "selfless" and said he always "had the brightest smile."

The mother of another sailor on the ship said her son kept diving in his flooded berth after the crash to try to save his shipmates until it began running out of air pockets, while other survivors — believing their ship was under attack — hurried to man the guns.

Mia Sykes of Raleigh, North Carolina, told The Associated Press on Sunday that her 19-year-old son, Brayden Harden, was knocked out of his bunk by the impact and water immediately began filling the berth.

Sykes said her son told her that four men in his berth died, including those sleeping on bunks above and below him, while three died in the berth above his.

She said she hopes her son, from Herrin, Illinois, can come home to be with family as he works through what happened. "You have to realize most of them are 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds living with guilt. But I told him, 'There's a reason you're still here and make that count.'"

Associated Press writer Yuri Kageyama contributed to this story.

Leaping into water tanks to escape Portugal's deadly fires

By BARRY HATTON and HELENA ALVES, Associated Press

NODEIRINHO, Portugal (AP) — Survivors emerged Monday with stories of leaping into water tanks and other dramatic escapes from the forest fires scorching central Portugal, and authorities came under mounting criticism for not doing more to prevent Portugal's deadliest natural disaster in decades.

More than 2,700 firefighters were still battling Monday to contain several major wildfires in the area northeast of Lisbon, where one blaze that began Saturday killed 63 people, many of them as they tried to flee the flames in their cars.

Water-dropping planes from Spain, France and Italy arrived as part of a European Union cooperation program but they were grounded in some places because thick smoke limited visibility, officials said. That left firefighters — backed by fire engines and bulldozers — to do the heavy work on the ground in temperatures that approached 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

Firefighters brought some of the blazes under control, but other wildfires still raced through inaccessible parts of the area's steep hills, the Civil Protection Agency said.

Portugal is observing three days of national mourning after the deaths Saturday night around the town of Pedrogao Grande, 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of Lisbon.

Scorching weather, as well as strong winds and woods that are bone dry after weeks with little rain, fueled the blazes. Villages dot the landscape, much of it now scorched.

In Nodeirinho, a hillside village of a few dozen people, 84-year-old Marta da Conceicao said residents called the fire services more than 20 times for help on Saturday.

"Nobody came. They were up in the mountain or somewhere else," she told The Associated Press. "Here it was up to God and the people."

As the flames licked at her, burning her leg, she and her elderly neighbors survived by jumping into a water storage tank.

A British man living nearby also had a hair-raising escape. Like more than half of the dead in Saturday's blaze, Daniel Starling had jumped in his car and raced away as the flames bore down. He came across a family of four elderly people and picked them up. He said he drove around fallen trees and even off the road in his quest to reach safety.

"We stopped at one point, because we did not know where to go, because there were flames everywhere. But I just carried on the only way that I knew. (It was) just flames over the car and the family and me screaming," said the 56-year-old from Norwich, England.

They stopped when they came to a policeman at a junction. "The family," Starling said, "got out and they were kissing the car."

Officials say 47 of the dead in Saturday night's blaze died on a road as they fled the flames.

Fire experts, meanwhile, pointed to a series of shortcomings in Portugal's strategy of tackling wildfires, even though the summer blazes have been happening for decades. There is a broad consensus that more work is needed on fire prevention, starting with forest clearing and the creation of fire breaks.

"In Portugal, the main factor in the scale of wildfires is the unbroken stretches of forest," Paulo Fernandes, a forest researcher at Portugal's Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro University, told the AP.

But he noted that around 90 percent of landowners have smallholdings, making it difficult for authorities

to keep tabs on them all.

Xavier Viegas, a wildfire expert at Portugal's Coimbra University, said Portugal needs a long-term strategy, but changes in government often mean changes in forest and farm policies.

He said a key measure would be the creation of "fire-resilient communities" who receive instructions on what to do when faced with a wildfire and don't act rashly.

"We need to prepare them so that they don't go dashing off in cars," Viegas told the AP.

Portugal's leading environmental lobby group, Quercus, blamed the blazes on "forest management errors and bad political decisions" by governments over recent decades. It rebuked authorities for allowing the planting of huge swathes of eucalyptus trees — the country's most common and most profitable species — but one that's often blamed for stoking blazes.

Emergency services have also been criticized for not closing the road where most of the deaths occurred.

Wildfires are an annual scourge in Portugal. Between 1993 and 2013, Portugal recorded the highest annual number of forest fires in southern Europe, according to a report last year by the European Environment Agency.

The government announced a raft of new measures against wildfires in March. They included restrictions on eucalyptus plantations and a simplified and cheaper program of property registration that seeks to ascertain which land is being neglected.

Not all of those reforms have come into force yet.

Statistics show that 35 percent of Portugal is covered by woodland, slightly above the EU average of 31 percent. The forest industry, especially the production of paper pulp, accounts for around 3 percent of the country's GDP.

Hatton reported from Lisbon, Portugal.

Cuba rejects new US policy, saying pressure will not work

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's foreign minister rejected President Donald Trump's new policy toward the island, saying Monday that "we will never negotiate under pressure or under threat" and refusing to return U.S. fugitives who have received asylum in Cuba.

In a hard-edged response to the policy announced Friday, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said from Vienna that Trump's restrictions on transactions with the Cuban military would not achieve their objective of weakening the government. He said they would instead create unity behind the communist leadership.

He described fugitives such as Joanne Chesimard, a black militant convicted in 1977 of the murder of a New Jersey state trooper, as political refugees who had received asylum from the Cuban government and would not be returned because the U.S. has no "legal or moral basis" to demand their return.

Surrounded by Cuban-American exiles and Cuban dissidents, Trump announced from a theater in Miami that the U.S. would impose new limits on U.S. travelers to the island and ban any payments to the military-linked conglomerate that controls much of the island's tourism industry. Trump also declared that, "the harboring of criminals and fugitives will end. You have no choice. It will end."

He said the U.S. would consider lifting those and other restrictions only after Cuba returned fugitives and made a series of other internal changes including freeing political prisoners, allowing freedom of assembly and holding free elections.

"When Cuba is ready to take concrete steps to these ends, we will be ready, willing, and able to come to the table to negotiate that much better deal for Cubans, for Americans," Trump said.

Rodriguez' response Monday was a clear signal that there could be very little, if any, high-level U.S.-Cuba negotiation during Trump's time in office. Already, while working-level meeting on topics such as search-and-rescue have taken place since Trump took office, no meetings between top diplomats have occurred. It's a sharp contrast to Obama's last year, during which top U.S. and Cuban diplomats met regularly to discuss topics including law-enforcement cooperation and compensation for Americans whose property

was taken during the 1959 Cuban revolution.

"Cuba will not make concessions that harm its sovereignty," Rodriguez said. "We have never done in the history of the revolution."

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

Religious, indigenous leaders demand rainforests be saved

By MATTI HUUHTANEN, Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — Religious and indigenous leaders on Monday called for an end to deforestation in the first international multi-faith, multi-cultural plea to reduce the emissions that fuel climate change.

Participants from 21 countries gathered at a conference in the Norwegian capital of Oslo, hoping that billions of people of faith worldwide will unite to protect the Earth's rainforests. Those forests are fundamental to human life but are suffering from agricultural and industrial exploitation in South America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Hosting the one-day meeting, Norwegian Climate and Environment Minister Vidar Helgesen said that halting deforestation requires "a global, tectonic shift in values."

The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative was launched by the Scandinavian country that has made reducing tropical deforestation one of its top international priorities, with investments of some \$3 billion in the past decade.

"In that decade, the scientific case, the economic case, and the geopolitical case for ending deforestation has only grown. However, more is needed," Helgesen said. "It is not the realm of policy, commerce or science, but of spirit, faith and moral conviction."

Tropical rainforests contain most of the Earth's land-borne biodiversity, help regulate rainfall and temperature globally and regionally, and provide food, water and income to 1.6 billion people.

The conference the rapid decreased in tropical rainforests has been fueled by palm oil plantations, cattle, soy and crop production and "rapacious and often illegal mining and logging operations." It said the reduction of the rainforests amounted to an area the size of Austria, or nearly 84,000 square kilometers (33,600 square miles).

"Forest communities around the world have put their lives on the line to care for the planet's tropical forests," said Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. "We are nothing without our forests. Our culture, our spirituality, our livelihoods, our incomes and our health are tied to them."

Those at the meeting included representatives of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu faiths, and indigenous leaders, including ones from Indonesia and Brazil.

Justices turn away appeal over Ohio ballot law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court won't hear an appeal of an Ohio law that changed the standards for absentee and provisional ballots in ways that critics said posed an illegal burden on minority voters.

The justices on Monday left in place a lower court ruling that had blocked rules requiring precise completion of the ballots, but upheld other changes that reduced the time voters could cure errors and prohibited poll worker assistance.

Advocates for the homeless and the Ohio Democratic Party sued Ohio's elections chief over the changes.

Ohio officials argued that the changes passed by Ohio's Republican-led legislature in 2014 were reasonable, nondiscriminatory and impose minimal burden on voters.

Carla Fendi, philanthropist and fashion force, dies at 79

MILAN (AP) — Carla Fendi, one of the five sisters who transformed the family leather goods business into a global luxury fashion house long known for its furs, has died following a long illness. She was 79.

The Rome-based fashion house confirmed Fendi's death Monday, expressing pain for the loss and gratitude for her continued contributions.

The sisters opened the first Fendi store in Rome's historic center in 1964, and a year later hired a young designer named Karl Lagerfeld who helped catapult the Italian brand into global fame, with a focus on designing luxury furs.

Each sister had her role, and Carla Fendi, as Fendi president, was the family business' public face until they sold to the French luxury group LVMH in 1999. She was honorary president until her death.

Experts: Takata bankruptcy means air bag victims get less

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A bankruptcy filing by Japanese air bag maker Takata will leave little money for dozens of people who sued the company over deaths and injuries caused by its exploding air bag inflators, according to outside legal experts and lawyers suing the company.

Takata Corp. and its U.S. operations are likely to seek bankruptcy protection by the end of June in a deal that would sell its assets to competitor Key Safety Systems Inc., a person briefed on the talks said. The person didn't want to be identified because discussions are in progress.

The price Key will pay is unknown, but much of it likely will go toward paying a \$1 billion U.S. criminal settlement. Most of the settlement money will go to automakers as restitution for recall costs.

Key is expected to buy Takata's assets "free and clear" of past liabilities, and lawyers say there won't be enough money to give victims what they would have received if they were suing a healthy company.

So far the faulty inflators have killed 11 people in the U.S. and 16 worldwide. Over 180 people have been injured. The problem touched off the biggest recall in U.S. automotive history, involving 19 automakers, 42 million vehicles and up to 69 million inflators. About 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide.

Some victims have serious facial injuries from metal shrapnel and would win large verdicts if Takata were financially strong, lawyers say. Kevin Dean, a South Carolina lawyer who has 25 cases pending against Takata, said one of his clients, a 26-year-old man, will never be able to smile due to nerve damage.

"It destroys people's faces. It's just a horrible injury," said Kent Emison, a Missouri, lawyer whose firm is considering a lawsuit against Takata and others on behalf of a woman whose trachea was punctured by shrapnel.

Takata's troubles stem from use of the explosive chemical ammonium nitrate in the inflators to deploy air bags in a crash. The chemical can deteriorate when exposed to hot and humid air and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister and spewing out metal fragments.

In February, Takata pleaded guilty to fraud and agreed to the \$1 billion settlement. Lawyers acknowledged in court that the company would have to be sold to fund the settlement. Automakers would get \$850 million in restitution for recall costs and a \$25 million fine would be paid to the government. Takata already has paid \$125 million into a fund for victims.

"Takata intends to try to use our bankruptcy laws to escape responsibility for the injured and the families of the dead," said Bradford Child, a Los Angeles lawyer who represents the family of a woman killed by a ruptured inflator.

In a statement last week, Takata maintained the possibility of keeping the company in operation. A committee set up to explore restructuring has made a recommendation with Key as a suitor, but Takata's board hasn't decided on it.

Douglas Baird, a bankruptcy law professor at the University of Chicago, said he expects Key will get Takata's assets without liability for past claims. Without this provision, no suitor would buy the company.

"It's in the interests of all these victims that you have this free and clear sale," he said. "The alternative is to liquidate the assets and sell them for kindling wood."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 48 of 50

Lawyers are unhappy that automakers will get \$850 million while relatively little goes to victims. Emison and others say \$125 million will go quickly, estimating that victims will get 5 to 10 cents on the dollar of what they would have received from a financially strong company. A court-appointed special master will come up with an allocation formula.

If Key pays more than \$1 billion for the company, victims could get more. A similar pool set up by General Motors paid out nearly \$600 million to settle 399 death and injury claims due to ignition switches that could shut off cars without warning.

Law firms also are suing automakers, but some lawyers say it will be hard to get money there because Takata has admitted that it concealed the problem. Dean says there's evidence that automakers knew Takata inflators were defective yet continued to use them, but automakers say they were deceived by Takata and shouldn't be liable.

At the end of April, only 22 percent of the 69 million recalled inflators in the U.S. had been replaced under the recalls, leaving almost 54 million on the roads, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website. This means more inflators will likely explode and more people will be hurt in the future, Emison said.

Key could be liable for future claims depending a lot on state laws that govern liability for successor companies, Baird said. But Dean said he thinks Key will structure the deal so it doesn't face any liability.

Key, with U.S. operations headquartered in suburban Detroit, is now owned by Ningbo Joyson Electronic Corp. of China. The maker of inflators, seat belts and crash sensors would not comment on Takata's bankruptcy.

Nikkei rises on Wall Street gains, other Asian indexes fall

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were slightly lower Tuesday, erasing initial gains, but Tokyo's benchmark rose, cheered by gains on Wall Street led by technology shares.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 1.1 percent in morning trading to 20,294.48. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged down 0.5 percent to 5,774.60. South Korea's Kospi was little changed, inching down less than 0.1 percent to 2,369.30. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell less than 0.1 percent to 25,908.98, while the Shanghai Composite fell 0.3 percent to 3,135.21.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 20.31 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,453.46 and surpassed its old record, set nearly a week ago, by half a percent. The Dow Jones industrial average added 144.71 points, or 0.7 percent, to 21,528.99, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 87.25, or 1.4 percent, to 6,239.01.

THE QUOTE: "The rally in U.S. markets reflects a situation where investors are being given no reason to sell. By the same token, valuations are full. Markets have been relatively capped, struggling to re-establish a strong uptrend," says Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in Sydney.

CHINA WATCH: Investors are closely watching the MSCI decision on China A-share inclusion to indexes, expected later in the day. Speculation has been growing that MSCI might include Chinese shares to its benchmark.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.65 yen from 111.12 yen late Monday in Asia. The euro fell to \$1.1156 from \$1.1194.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 7 cents to \$44.50 a barrel. It fell 54 cents to \$44.43 per barrel overnight. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 11 cents to \$47.02 a barrel.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed from New York.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at twitter.com/yurikageyama

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 49 of 50

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 20, the 171st day of 2017. There are 194 days left in the year. Summer begins at 9:24 p.m. Pacific time/10:24 p.m. Mountain time/11:24 p.m. Central time (12:24 a.m. Eastern time June 21).

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 20, 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted and was sentenced to five years in prison. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court).

On this date:

In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1791, King Louis XVI of France and his family attempted to flee in the so-called "Flight to Varennes," but were caught.

In 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

In 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1921, U.S. Rep. Alice Mary Robertson, R-Okla., became the first woman to preside over a session of the House of Representatives.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman vetoed the Taft-Hartley Act, which was designed to restrict the power of labor unions, but had his veto overridden by Congress. Gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, California, home of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1966, the Beatles album "Yesterday and Today" was released by Capitol Records, initially with its notorious "butcher" cover photo which ended up being replaced.

In 1977, the first oil began flowing through the recently completed Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez (val-DEEZ').

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a New York City law making it illegal for private clubs with more than 400 members to exclude women and minorities.

In 1990, South African black nationalist Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived in New York City for a ticker-tape parade in their honor as they began an eight-city U.S. tour.

In 2001, Houston resident Andrea Yates drowned her five children in the family bathtub, then called police. (Yates was later found guilty of murder, but had her conviction overturned; she was acquitted by reason of insanity in a retrial.)

Ten years ago: For the second time, President George W. Bush vetoed an embryonic stem cell bill as he urged scientists toward what he termed "ethically responsible" research. Sammy Sosa, playing for the Texas Rangers after a year out of baseball, hit his 600th home run, making him the fifth player to reach the milestone; the round-tripper came in the fifth inning of Texas' 7-3 victory over Sosa's former team, the Chicago Cubs.

Five years ago: A Republican-controlled House committee voted along party lines, 23-17, to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for failing to turn over Justice Department documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. (The full House voted in favor of the contempt citation eight days later.) Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin won the Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player. Painter and sketch artist LeRoy Neiman, best known for evoking the kinetic energy of the world's biggest sporting and leisure events with bright quick strokes, died in New York at age 91. Movie critic Andrew Sarris, 83, died in New York.

One year ago: Donald Trump abruptly fired campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in a dramatic shake-up designed to calm panicked Republican leaders and end an internal power struggle plaguing the billionaire businessman's White House bid. A divided U.S. Supreme Court bolstered police powers, ruling 5-3 that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 341 ~ 50 of 50

evidence of a crime in some cases may be used against a defendant even if the police did something wrong or illegal in obtaining it.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Martin Landau is 89. Actress Bonnie Bartlett is 88. Actress Olympia Dukakis is 86. Actor James Tolkan is 86. Actor Danny Aiello is 84. Blues musician Lazy Lester is 84. Actor John Mahoney is 77. Movie director Stephen Frears is 76. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 75. Actor John McCook is 73. Singer Anne Murray is 72. TV personality Bob Vila is 71. Musician Andre Watts is 71. Actress Candy Clark is 70. Producer Tina Sinatra is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lionel Richie is 68. Actor John Goodman is 65. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 63. Pop musician John Taylor is 57. Rock musician Mark degli Antoni (de-GLI'-an-toh-nee) is 55. Christian rock musician Jerome Fontamillas (Switchfoot) is 50. Rock musician Murphy Karges (Sugar Ray) is 50. Actress Nicole Kidman is 50. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan Tyminski is 50. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 49. Actor Peter Paige is 48. Actor Josh Lucas is 46. Rock musician Jeordie White (AKA Twiggy Ramirez) is 46. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 44. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 40. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 38. Actress Tika Sumpter is 37. Country musician Chris Thompson (The Eli Young Band) is 37. Actress-singer Alisan Porter is 36. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 34. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & the Nocturnals) is 34. Actor Mark Saul is 32. Actress Dreama Walker is 31. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse (plahs) is 28. Actress Maria Lark is 20.

Thought for Today: "Know how to ask. There is nothing more difficult for some people, nor for others, easier." — Baltasar Gracian, Spanish philosopher (1601-1658).