

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 1 of 36

Tues., June 27, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- School Board Story
- 3- Lowary Retirement Party
- 4- 4-H Horse show Results
- 5- Certain booking photos will now be public
- 6- Retail gas prices lowest this year
- 7- Leave fireworks at home
- 7- Practice safe boating
- 8- State Parks Celebrate the 4th
- 9- SDEA names executive director
- 10- Social Security Column
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Today's Forecast
- 13- Yesterday's Weather
- 13- Today's Weather Info
- 13- National Weather Map
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- News from the Associated Press

Tuesday, June 27

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, sherbet, whole wheat bread.

T-Ball: both teams Scrimmage in Groton, 6 p.m.

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

Jr. Teener: at Sisseton for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U12: vs. Welke at Aberdeen, 6 p.m., for 2 games.

Olive Grove: Ladies Night, potluck, 6 p.m.; Noon Bridge.

28

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O with salad, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee Time, 9 a.m.; Kid Zone Camp, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

29

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Kid Zone Camp, 7 p.m.

T-Ball: both teams Scrimmage in Groton, 5 p.m.

Legion: hosts Webster for 1 game, 6:30 p.m.

U12: at Redfield for 2 games, 7 p.m.

U10: at Redfield for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U8 Blue: at Redfield for 2 games, 5 p.m.

U8 Red: at Britton for 2 games, 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**

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

NOW OPEN

Flarris
Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**



"HE WHO WISHES TO
SECURE THE GOOD
OF OTHERS HAS
ALREADY SECURED
HIS OWN."

Confucius

@CHICKENSOUPSOUL

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Elementary building project running on schedule

The use of the contingency fund for the Groton Area Elementary School building project is at 32 percent of its budget. The school board approved a few more change orders which brought the total up to \$59,489. However, it should be noted that the bulk of the change order is the work on the parking lot. Superintendent Joe Schwan said to date, the complete project is running on schedule.

The board approved the resignation of Joel Guthmiller as assistant volleyball coach. Guthmiller will take over the boys and girls golf coaching responsibilities. Mike Becker turned in his resignation as boys soccer coach due to health issues. Joellen Miller and Sandi Sippel were hired as co-advisors as basketball cheerleaders.

Bus #9, which has been in "time-out" for the past two months, will get a new Cummins motor for \$29,000. It will have a five-year warranty.

The board approved transferring \$150,000 from Capital Outlay to General Fund, making the total transfer of \$250,000. Business Manager Mike Weber said next year's budget will have the \$250,000 transfer built in.

On Tuesday morning, Superintendent Joe Schwan and Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke will be interviewing two candidates for the high school math position. To date, the current openings for extra curricular activities are junior high football, assistant volleyball and head boys soccer coach.

The fuel oil, diesel and gas contract was awarded to Ken's Shell Express and the Groton Independent was awarded the newspaper contract.

**Please join us for a
RETIREMENT PARTY
honoring
ANITA LOWARY
for her 36 years of
service with the
City of Groton!!**

**When: June 30, 2017
from 2-4 pm**

**Where: City Hall,
209 N Main, Groton**

Refreshments will be served



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 4 of 36

2017 Brown County 4-H Horse Show

Exhibitor, 4-H Age, Grade, Division, Class, Class Ribbon, Class Awards

Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Equitation, Senior Stock Seat Equitation, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Equitation, Senior Hunt Seat, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Games, Senior Barrel Racing, Blue
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Games, Senior Pole Bending, Red
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Performance, Senior Reining, Red
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Performance, Senior Trail, White
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Performance, Senior Ranch Riding, Blue
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Showmanship, Senior English Showmanship, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Adrienne Schaunaman, 18, 12, Showmanship, Senior Western Showmanship, Purple
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Equitation, Beginner Stock Seat Equitation, Blue, RESERVE CHAMPION
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Games, Junior Barrel Racing, Purple
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Games, Junior Pole Bending, Blue
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Games, Beginner Flag Racing, Blue, RESERVE CHAMPION
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Performance, Junior Ranch Riding, Blue
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Performance, Junior Trail, White
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Performance, Junior Reining, Red
Blake Pauli, 9, 5, Showmanship, Beginner Pony/Miniature Horse Western Showmanship, Blue, GRAND CHAMPION
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Equitation, Senior Hunt Seat, Purple, RESERVE CHAMPION
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Equitation, Senior Stock Seat Equitation, Purple, RESERVE CHAMPION
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Performance, Senior Reining, Red
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Performance, Senior Ranch Riding, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Performance, Senior Trail, Blue, RESERVE CHAMPION
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Showmanship, Senior Western Showmanship, Purple, RESERVE CHAMPION
Cassandra Townsend, 15, 10, Showmanship, Senior English Showmanship, Purple, RESERVE CHAMPION
Colin Sprinkel, 14, 8, Equitation, Senior Stock Seat Equitation, Purple
Colin Sprinkel, 14, 8, Performance, Senior Trail, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Colin Sprinkel, 14, 8, Performance, Senior Ranch Riding, Blue
Colin Sprinkel, 14, 8, Showmanship, Senior Western Showmanship, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Colin Sprinkel, 14, 8, Showmanship, Senior English Showmanship, Purple
Dylan Krueger, 13, 8, Equitation, Junior Stock Seat Equitation, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Dylan Krueger, 13, 8, Performance, Junior Reining, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Dylan Krueger, 13, 8, Performance, Junior Ranch Riding, Purple, RESERVE CHAMPION
Dylan Krueger, 13, 8, Performance, Junior Trail, Red
Dylan Krueger, 13, 8, Showmanship, Junior Western Showmanship, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Trey Wright, 18, 12, Performance, Senior Ranch Riding, Purple, RESERVE CHAMPION
Trey Wright, 18, 12, Performance, Senior Trail, Red
Trey Wright, 18, 12, Showmanship, Senior Western Showmanship, Red
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Equitation, Beginner Stock Seat Equitation, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Games, Junior Pony Barrel Racing, White
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Games, Junior Pony Pole Bending, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Games, Beginner Flag Racing, White
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Performance, Junior Reining, Red
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Performance, Junior Ranch Riding, Purple
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Performance, Junior Trail, White
Walker Zoellner, 8, 2, Showmanship, Beginner Western Showmanship, Purple, GRAND CHAMPION

Certain booking photos will now be public

From S.D. Newspaper Association

The identification photos that law enforcement officials take when they arrest someone on a felony charge will become a public record in South Dakota on Saturday.

Making public the police booking photos – or “mug shots” as they are sometimes called – of persons charged with a felony crime is one of a few open government changes found in the new state laws that will take effect on Saturday.

Most bills approved by the legislature and signed by the governor become law on July 1. Exceptions are bills with emergency clauses, which become law sooner.

South Dakota now joins most every state in the country that allow for public release of law enforcement booking photos.

Until now, law enforcement officials in South Dakota were permitted to release booking photos only if a person was a fugitive from justice or had escaped from jail.

The change this year was the result of a recommendation made by an open government task force appointed by Attorney General Marty Jackley in 2016.

The Jackley task force was comprised of representatives from law enforcement, state and local government, the judiciary and the news media.

The task force originally proposed that all booking photos of persons arrested, whether it be a misdemeanor or felony charge, be a public record. The legislature narrowed the bill to those arrested on felony charges only.

News media representatives had advocated for making booking photos public for many years. Previous legislative attempts had been soundly rejected.

Also becoming law on Saturday is a requirement that state boards, commissions and departments shall make various information publicly available online, including meeting minutes, financial statements, audit reports, annual reports and information about future meetings.

For the past several years, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has advocated for state government to make the information publicly available. This year, he convinced the legislature to make his administration’s open government policies law. No legislators voted against the bill.

The legislature also approved a proposal sponsored by Rep. Timothy Johns of Lead that state boards, commissions and departments post their public meeting agendas at least 72 hours in advance. The 72-hour time frame does not include Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.

A year ago, the legislature approved a bill brought by former Rep. Lee Schoenbeck of Watertown that state boards, commissions and departments post their meeting agendas with at least two intervening days. The law originally required 24 hours notice of meeting agendas.

Local government entities such as schools, cities and counties are not affected by the 72-hour requirement. Local government boards must post meeting agendas at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 6 of 36

Retail Gasoline Prices at Lows for the Year in South Dakota

June 26, 2017 – South Dakota's pump price average hit a low for the year today, AAA reports, \$2.27 for a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline. According to GasPrices.AAA.com, the state average hasn't been this low since Dec. 29, 2016.

"Gasoline stocks in our region are healthy, sitting at 3.3 million barrels ahead of this time last year," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "As stocks continue to increase, gas prices continue to fall. Today's state average is 13 cents below the 2017 high of \$2.40 recorded on April 26."

The nation's top ten states with the cheapest gas today include: South Carolina (\$1.93), Oklahoma (\$1.95), Alabama (\$1.99), Mississippi (\$2.00), Missouri (\$2.01), Tennessee (\$2.02), Arkansas (\$2.02), Virginia (\$2.03), Texas (\$2.06) and Kansas (\$2.07).

Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.10, down 17 cents from one month ago ... down 10 cents from 6/26/16

Rapid City – \$2.29, down 14 cents from one month ago ... down 7 cents from 6/26/16

South Dakota – \$2.27, down 11 cents from one month ago ... down 7 cents from 6/26/16

U.S. – \$2.26, down 11 cents from one month ago ... down 5 cents from 6/26/16

Despite a surge in gasoline demand on the week, the national average price for gasoline is nearing its low for the year at \$2.26 per gallon. February of this year was the last time the price of a gallon of regular gasoline was this low nationally.

On the week, gas prices fell in all but three states (Indiana, Ohio and Michigan) while all regions, except the Southeast, saw gasoline inventories drop. This is good news for people planning to travel for the Independence Day holiday. AAA forecasts 37.5 million American will drive to their holiday destination, which potentially can mean a small increase in holiday weekend gas prices. Today, consumers can find gas for \$2.24 or less at 60 percent of gas stations in the country.

The price of gas has fallen for 24 consecutive days. Today's national average is three cents cheaper than a week ago and eleven cents cheaper than a month ago. Heading into Independence Day weekend, gasoline is five cents less than a year ago. Record refinery rates, high gasoline and crude inventory, and less-than-favorable demand this year are among the contributing factors causing the downward price trend across the U.S.

Quick Stats

The nation's top ten markets with the largest yearly changes: Hawaii (+26 cents), Illinois (-22 cents), New Jersey (+19 cents), Ohio (-18 cents), Utah (+18 cents), Alaska (+17 cents), Wisconsin (-16 cents), Washington (+16 cents), Oklahoma (-15 cents) and Oregon (+14 cents).

Global Market Dynamics

On Monday morning, the price per barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil stood a bit above \$43 per barrel following a turbulent week when prices moved to their lowest level in 10 months. Last week's report from the Energy Information Administration showed that demand for crude oil remains robust as gross inputs at U.S. refineries have topped 17 million barrels per day in each of the past nine weeks. However, crude oil inventories remain high, with current storage levels near 500 million barrels, which is approximately 9 million barrels ahead of last year. Moreover, when looking at five-year crude oil storage trends, the surplus is even more eye-opening: roughly 82 million more barrels are in storage now than five years ago. Last week, Baker Hughes, Inc. reported that the U.S. oil rig count grew by 11 last week, landing at 758 rigs – a three-year high. The data points toward the rising tide of crude oil, which has contributed to prices dropping at the pump for drivers, and has helped to push the price per barrel down. The cheaper price per barrel has contributed to refineries producing record amounts of gasoline for most of the year.

State Park Visitors are Advised to Leave Fireworks at Home

PIERRE, S.D. – The upcoming Fourth of July holiday is a popular time in South Dakota's state parks and recreation areas. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is asking state park visitors to leave fireworks at home.

"Parks are a Fourth of July destination," said state park director Katie Ceroll. "For many guests, the trip is a family tradition. High use of the campgrounds, beaches and day-use areas over the holiday weekend is a given."

Discharging fireworks is prohibited on all lands owned or leased by GFP. The ban includes state parks, recreation areas, lakeside use areas, game production areas and nature areas. Discharging fireworks is also illegal within the boundaries of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, national forests and national parks in South Dakota.

Ceroll also wants to remind park users that a number of parks are under fire restrictions due to drought conditions. For burn ban information, visit the GFP website and click on the park name.

For more information on the South Dakota State Parks, visit gfp.sd.gov or call 605.773.3391.

-GFP-

GFP Reminds Boaters to Practice Safe Boating

PIERRE, S.D. – As the Fourth of July holiday approaches, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is joining a national effort to highlight boating safety.

Operation Dry Water will take place June 30 – July 2, 2017, promoting boating safety and responsible use of alcohol while boating across the country.

"We want to ensure that recreational boaters, paddlers, kayakers and others have a safe place to enjoy South Dakota's waters," said Joe Keeton, boating law administrator. "Alcohol impairs judgment and reaction time on the water just as it does when driving a car, even more so because with the added stressors of sun, heat, wind and noise on a boat. Choosing to consume alcohol while boating puts everyone at risk, including passengers and people in the water. Our goal is to remove anyone choosing to operate a vessel impaired and to keep everyone on the water safe."

Alcohol consumption and boating continues to be an issue and is listed as the leading known contributing factor in all fatal boating accidents nationwide. As part of the national event, GFP will conduct extra boating safety patrols statewide to promote safe and responsible boating practices heading into the holiday weekend.

Tips to staying safe on the water this summer:

Boat sober. Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths*. Alcohol and drugs use impairs a boater's judgment, balance, vision and reaction time.

Wear your life jacket. 83% of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket*.

Take a boating safety education course. 77% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety instruction, where instruction was known*.

Use your engine cut-off device. Many boating accidents involve operators or passengers who have fallen overboard. Wearing an engine cut-off switch lanyard or wireless engine cut-off device will shut the engine down if the operator is ejected or falls overboard.

File a float plan. Leave a float plan with at least one person on land so they know where to find you if needed. You should be able to rely on this person to notify local law enforcement if you do not return within a reasonable hour of expectancy.

Check the weather. Not only can poor weather spoil a trip, but it can also cause an emergency situation out on the water.

Keeton noted that state regulations require all children under age seven to wear an approved personal flotation device anytime a boat is moving at greater than no-wake speed. He recommends taking the next

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 8 of 36

step and keeping a personal flotation device on all occupants in the boat at all times.

"Before heading onto the water, check your equipment," Keeton said. "Fire extinguishers, life jackets, throwable flotation devices are required and must be in good working condition. The best way to prevent an unwanted tragedy on the water is to be prepared."

Visit operationdrywater.org or gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/boating/boating-safety-tips.aspx for more information about boating under the influence.

Boaters can view the 2017 South Dakota Boating Handbook online at gfp.sd.gov or pick up a copy at any GFP office.

-GFP-

*2016 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics

State Parks to Celebrate Independence Day

PIERRE, S.D. –Celebrate the 4th of July early in South Dakota's state parks. From parades to campsite decorating contests, state parks are ready to celebrate the holiday weekend with family fun for all ages.

Saturday, July 1

A Classic Fourth, Fort Sisseton Historic State Park, Lake City. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. CT.

Info: 605.448.5474

Extreme Amazing Race, Newton Hills State Park, Canton. 10 a.m. CT.

Info: 605.987.2263

4th of July Parade, West Bend Recreation Area, Pierre. 10 a.m. CT.

Independence Day Bike Parade, Lake Poinsett Recreation Area, Arlington. 10:30 a.m. CT. Info: 605.983.5085

Independence Bike Parade, Lake Vermillion Recreation Area, Canistota. 11 a.m. CT.

Info: 605.296.3643

Uncle Sam's Bike Parade, Big Sioux Recreation Area, Brandon. 3 p.m. CT.

Info: 605.582.7243

Red, White and Blue Bike Parade, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, Yankton. 9:30 a.m. CT. Info: 605.668.2985

Amazing Nature Race, Mina Lake Recreation Area, Aberdeen. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. CT.

Info: 605.626.3488

Sunday, July 2

Soak Your Park Manager, Newton Hills State Park, Canton. 3 p.m. CT.

Info: 605.987.2263

Kids' Bike Parade, Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. 10:30 a.m. CT.

Info: 605.627.5441

Independence Day Campsite Decorating Contest, Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. 4 p.m. CT. Info: 605.627.5441

Independence Day Bike Parade, Newton Hills State Park, Canton. 1:30 p.m. CT.

Info: 605.987.2263

Amazing Nature Race, Richmond Lake Recreation Area, Aberdeen. 11 a.m. CT.

Info: 605.626.3488

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.

SDEA Names Richard Kern as Executive Director

PIERRE – The South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) named Richard Kern as the organization's official Executive Director as of June 19, 2017. Kern has worked for the Association in an interim capacity since January 2017. Kern is in his 40th year as an education and employee advocate and brings diverse experiences to SDEA from all levels of association work.

"Richard brings a wealth of knowledge to this position. His ability to focus on SDEA's vision and goals and lead the transformation of them into what happens on a day-to-day basis will help SDEA better serve our members and move our Association forward," said SDEA President Mary McCorkle. "As a team, we will work to advocate what's right for our members, for our schools and for our students. Together with Richard, SDEA will stand up for public education by bringing the important issues facing our schools to the forefront and building stronger partnerships within the education community and with parents and the community as a whole."

"I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to work with the talented and hard-working leadership and staff at SDEA. My focus will be supporting the SDEA mission of advocating new directions for public education in South Dakota. SDEA is recognized as a powerful voice for students and our schools. I am looking forward to helping the Association continue its work," said Kern.

Kern manages a staff of 15 employees with SDEA offices in Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. Prior to joining SDEA, Kern served as the Assistant Executive Director of NEA-Alaska (2008-2016), and UniServ Director for Winnebagoland Uniserv Council in Wisconsin (2000-2008). Kern spent 19 years as music instructor at the Kuskokwim School District in Alaska. While at NEA-Alaska, Kern was responsible for UniServ programs, strategic planning, member/leader training and education policy.

Kern holds BA and MM degrees in music from Northeast Oklahoma State University and Wichita State University. He also holds a degree in administration from the University of Alaska.

SDEA is South Dakota's largest education professionals' organization, representing over 6,000 elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty, education support professionals, retired educators and students preparing to become teachers.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Tyler Bowling

Public Affairs Specialist

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Email: tyler.bowling@ssa.gov

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE ARE LASTING SOURCES OF INDEPENDENCE

In July, communities everywhere celebrate our nation's independence with fireworks, family, and friends. A strong community also creates independence as we help each other recognize our full potential.

Social Security has been helping people maintain a higher quality of life and a level of independence for over 80 years. Medicare has been doing the same for over five decades. Most people first become eligible for Medicare at age 65. For many older Americans, this is their primary health insurance and without it, they might not enjoy an independent lifestyle.

Medicare can be a little confusing to newcomers so we've broken it down into segments. The four parts of Medicare are as easy as A, B, C, and D.

- o Part A (Hospital Insurance) helps cover inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing care, hospice care, and home health care. Most people get Medicare Part A premium-free since it is earned by working and paying Social Security taxes.

- o Part B (Medical Insurance) helps cover services from doctors and other outpatient health care providers, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventive services. Most people pay a monthly premium for Part B. Some high-income individuals pay more than the standard premium. If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period and then decide to do so later, your coverage may be delayed and you may have to pay a higher monthly premium for as long as you have Part B.

- o Part C (Medicare Advantage) allows you to choose to receive all of your health care services through a provider organization. This plan includes all benefits and services covered under Part A and Part B, usually includes Medicare prescription drug coverage, and may include extra benefits and services at an extra cost. You must have Part A and Part B to enroll in Part C. Monthly premiums vary depending on the state where you live, private insurer, and whether you select a health maintenance organization or a preferred provider organization.

- o Part D (Medicare prescription drug coverage) helps cover the cost of prescription drugs. Many people pay a premium for Part D. However, people with low income and resources may qualify for Extra Help to pay the premium and deductible. If you don't enroll in a Medicare drug plan when you're first eligible, you may pay a late enrollment penalty if you join a plan later. You will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. To see if you qualify for extra help visit www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

Will you be age 65 soon? Even if you decide not to retire, you should apply for Medicare. You can apply in less than 10 minutes using our online Medicare application. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare to learn more about applying for Medicare.

Today in Weather History

June 27, 1894: Three people were injured as a tornado destroyed a home 5 miles north of Houghton in Brown County. Lumber on a wagon was scattered for over a mile. This tornado was estimated to be an F2. Also, a second F2 tornado formed south of Aberdeen and moved northeast and went near Randolph, to beyond Bath. Several barns and two homes were destroyed along the narrow path. Three other small funnels were seen to touch down. Another tornado with estimated F2 strength moved ENE from northeast of St. Lawrence to Bonilla and Hitchcock. At least one home was destroyed. One person was killed in the destruction of her home, north of Wessington. An estimated F2 tornado hit 2 miles south of Henry. At least two small homes were totally blown away. There was another possible tornado 12 miles north of Henry. Numerous tornadoes continued into Minnesota.

June 27, 1928: A long-lived estimated F2 tornado moved southeast from 7 miles west of Faulkton, passing north and east of Orient. Buildings were damaged on nine farms. One home near Orient was riddled with timbers from a nearby grain elevator. This tornado was estimated to travel a distance of 40 miles. Estimated loss of property was \$90,000.

1901 - There was a rain of fish from the sky at Tiller's Ferry. Hundreds of fish were swimming between cotton rows after a heavy shower. (David Ludlum)

1915: The temperature at Fort Yukon, Alaska soared to 100 degrees to establish a state record.

1957 - Hurricane Audrey smashed ashore at Cameron, LA, drowning 390 persons in the storm tide, and causing 150 million dollars damage in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Audrey left only a brick courthouse and a cement-block icehouse standing at Cameron, and when the waters settled in the town of Crede, only four buildings remained. The powerful winds of Audrey tossed a fishing boat weighing 78 tons onto an off-shore drilling platform. Winds along the coast gusted to 105 mph, and oil rigs off the Louisiana coast reported wind gusts to 180 mph. A storm surge greater than twelve feet inundated the Louisiana coast as much as 25 miles inland. It was the deadliest June hurricane of record for the U.S. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms moving out of Nebraska produced severe weather in north central Kansas after midnight. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph damaged more than fifty camping trailers at the state park campground at Lake Waconda injuring sixteen persons. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Beloit and Sylvan Grove. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The afternoon high of 107 degrees at Bismarck, ND, was a record for the month of June, and Pensacola, FL, equalled their June record with a reading of 101 degrees. Temperatures in the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley dipped into the 40s. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Ohio Valley to western New England. Thunderstorm spawned six tornadoes, and there were 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Tropical Storm Allison spawned six tornadoes in Louisiana, injuring two persons at Hackberry. Fort Polk LA was drenched with 10.09 inches of rain in 36 hours, and 12.87 inches was reported at the Gorum Fire Tower in northern Louisiana. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995: The Madison County Flood on June 27, 1995, was the worst flash floods Virginia had seen since the remnants of Camille dropped up to 30 inches of rain one night in Nelson County in August 1969. The Nelson County flood ranked as one of the nation's worst flash floods of this century and resulted in the deaths of 117 people. The Madison County flood killed one person.

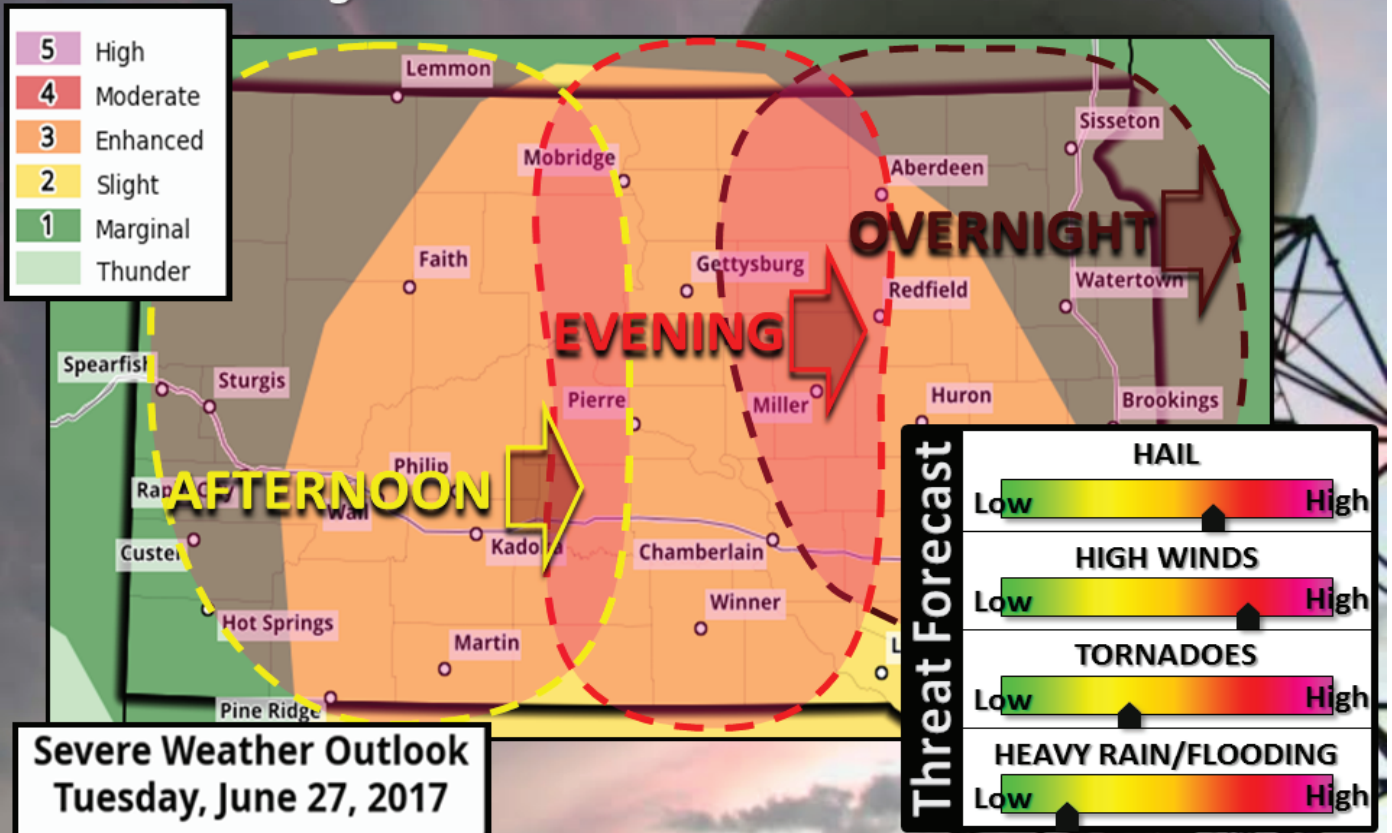
2011: Polar temperatures and unusual snowfall chill several cities in Brazil's southern states. Four cities in Santa Catarina state are blanketed in snow. The city of Urubici reported a temperature of 23.9 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill of 16.6 degrees below zero. In Florianopolis, the capital of Santa Catarina and a renowned sea resort, thermometers registered 21.2 degrees. Click [HERE](#) for more information from MercoPress.

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 12 of 36

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Severe Thunderstorms and Breezy 60%	Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms 20%	Chance T-storms 40%	Mostly Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 75 °F

Windy – Severe Storms Possible



Published on: 06/27/2017 at 5:41AM

Strong winds will develop out of the south, ahead of a cold front that will be the focus for severe storms. The front will move steadily east through the afternoon - evening - overnight. Storms in central South Dakota come with the risk for hail and strong winds, along with isolated tornadoes - but will transition to just a hail and damaging winds risk overnight.

Groton Daily Independent

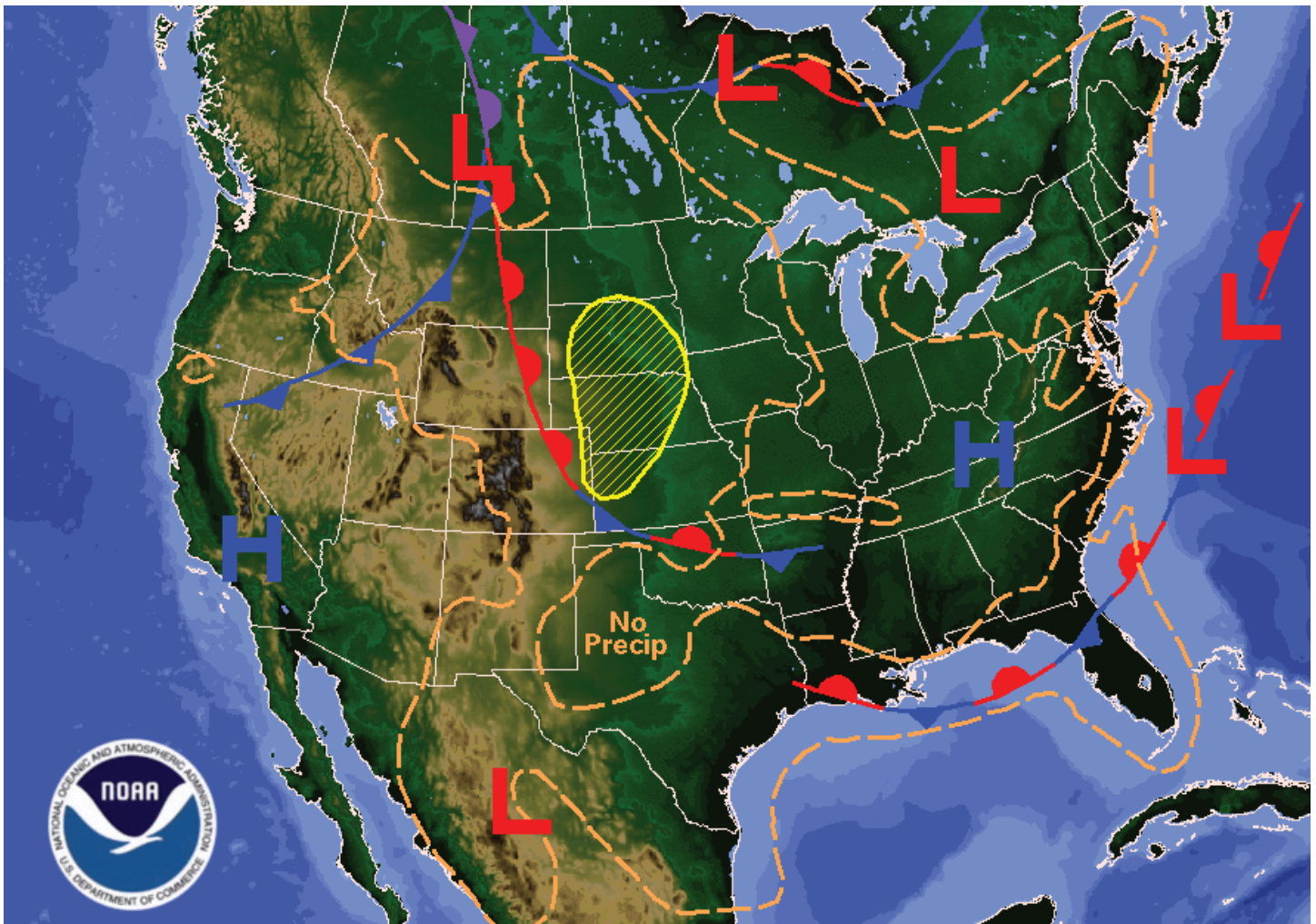
Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 13 of 36

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.7 F at 6:33 PM
Low Outside Temp: 40.5 F at 6:25 AM (tied record low)
High Gust: 12 Mph at 11:25 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1936
Record Low: 43° in 1907
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in June: 3.34
Precip to date in June: 2.52
Average Precip to date: 10.48
Precip Year to Date: 5.71
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 27, 2017, issued 4:26 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 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 14 of 36



THROUGH IT ALL – TRUST!

Everyone seems to have a need to be safe and secure. We see warnings everywhere we look and watch for them everywhere we go. They alert us to potential dangers and advise us of impending problems. They are an important part of life.

There were several times in the life of David when he was forced to flee for his life. Even though he was God's anointed king, he was not immune to the injustice and hatred of others. Even Saul had a desire to destroy him.

Once when he was in danger he stood his ground and said, "I trust in the Lord for protection, so why do you say to me, Fly like a bird to the mountain?" During this time of outward trouble he looked inside himself and found what he needed: His Lord!

Our society has become heavily involved in seeking temporary solutions to eternal problems. More than we want to admit are addicted to drugs – whether legal or illegal, prescribed or purchased without proper authority. But those solutions are temporary and only last for a short time and ultimately end in disaster.

But that is not true if we trust in the Lord. He is more than a stimulus or a sedative; He will become our Savior and remain so throughout eternity. He does not destroy – He delivers. He does not control us; He transforms us to that which is good, pure, wholesome and life giving. No prayer is too hard for Him to answer and there is no problem too complex from Him to solve.

Prayer: We trust in Your power, Lord, to deliver us from sin and protect us from whatever would destroy us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 11:1 In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: "Flee like a bird to your mountain."

News from the Associated Press

Game, Fish and Parks joining national boating safety effort

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks says it's joining a national effort to promote boating safety.

The agency says Operation Dry Water will take place Friday until Sunday to promote boating safety and encourage responsible alcohol use while boating.

Joe Keeton, boating law administrator, says officials want to make sure that recreational boaters, paddlers, kayakers and others are safe while enjoying South Dakota waters. Keeton says alcohol impairs judgment and reaction time on the water, just as it does to people driving cars.

Game, Fish and Parks plans to have extra boating safety patrols statewide.

Landowner battles South Dakota officials over bighorn sheep

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The reintroduction of bighorn sheep in the Hell Canyon region of the southwestern Black Hills is a conservation success story for South Dakota officials, but not for a third-generation landowner who wants them taken away.

The animals have been a nuisance for Dan Stearns, who lives on a ranch in the region, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2tMweTk>) reported.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks released 20 bighorn sheep on public land in the area in 2001. Breeding and more releases have increased their population to about 130.

Stearns said the bighorn sheep take his cattle's food and water, damage his fences and flatten his grass and alfalfa.

The department recently offered Stearns nearly \$30,000 in compensation and assistance, including payments for the alfalfa eaten by wildlife, fenced-in areas to store hay and specialized fencing to resist damage from wildlife or keep wildlife out entirely. They've also offered to guide wildlife away from Stearns' ranch with aircraft.

Stearns turned down the help.

"If I take their money, then they're going to be done with me and I'll be forced into accepting their way," he said. "It won't change the way they do things."

He said he wants the bighorn sheep taken away and the department to stop forcing landowners to accommodate wildlife and start managing wildlife to accommodate landowners.

"They're not managing the wildlife," Stearns said. "They want to manage the landowners."

Department officials say their relationship with Stearns and other landowners affected by bighorn sheep as critical. Officials ranging in rank from the secretary of the department to regional supervisors have visited Stearns at his ranch to solicit his cooperation to no avail.

The department grants only three bighorn hunting licenses since the animals are scarce in the state. One of the licenses is auctioned to the highest bidder. The department uses the proceeds of the auction to fund research, re-introductions and other efforts to bolster and grow the bighorn sheep population in South Dakota.

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

North Dakota allows Missouri River water for fracking

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota officials have lifted a moratorium on industrial water permits, allowing the oil industry to access water from the Little Missouri State Scenic River for hydraulic fracturing. The discussion of giving the oil industry access to the water from the river began this spring after a State Water Commission hydrologist found North Dakota was granting water permits for fracking and other uses

that violated a state law, The Bismarck Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2tdnNDc>) reported.

State lawmakers recently voted in favor of changing the law, but Gov. Doug Burgum issued a moratorium in May that suspended temporary water permits.

Burgum and other members of the State Water Commission voted Thursday to lift the moratorium. They adopted a new policy that allows the temporary water permits.

The decision has raised concerns from some conservationists about the impact the permits will have on the Badlands.

"It's questionable whether there's even sufficient water supply left in the river to provide water for new permits," said State Engineer Garland Erbele.

Laura Anhalt, a board member for the Badlands Conservation Alliance, said the alliance hoped Burgum would "be a friend of our land and water."

"We need somebody in a very, very high place to stand up for the land and water," said Anhalt. "There's nobody out there doing that."

At the meeting Thursday, Burgum also reinstated the Little Missouri River Commission. The advisory group is required by law.

Burgum said he wants to discuss the matter again after the advisory group weighs in.

"Because of the scenic nature of the Little Missouri River, there's a lot of people in the state that have an interest, rightfully so, about the nature and the preservation of this river," Burgum said.

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

Disruptions addressed in Northern Plains military exercises

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Two years after the Air Force opened a massive training complex over the Northern Plains, ranchers who have complained about the military aircraft exercises say progress has been made in addressing their concerns, thanks in large part to a new advisory group.

Beginning Tuesday, military planes from bases in eight states will take part in Combat Raider, a three-day exercise in the Powder River Training Complex. The 35,000-square-mile complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming is the largest over the continental U.S.

"I enjoy them when they're up in the air flying at the right height. I'm tickled to death they're protecting us," said Jody McCoid, who ranches cattle in northwestern South Dakota. "But when they fly low, you can't hear anything, and it sure disrupts everything. I've had spooked calves hit the fence."

The Federal Aviation Administration approved quadrupling the training airspace in March 2015. The expanded complex officially opened in September of that year, with large-scale exercises such as Combat Raider limited to 10 days per year.

The FAA provides notice of such exercises, but ranchers and civilian pilots have asked for more information about flights and for a better system of reporting disturbances that range from rattled windows and scared farm animals to unsafe airspace. Air Force officials have previously agreed to steps such as posting notices in local newspapers and late last year began meeting with an advisory council spearheaded by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, an advocacy group for general aviation pilots.

About three dozen people representing the interests of ranchers, pilots, airports, the military and others attended the first meeting of the Powder River Council last November at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. It was led by Warren Hendrickson, the aircraft association's regional manager and a former Air Force pilot.

"While there are many competing demands for this airspace, it is incumbent upon all users to identify problems and collaborate in the creation of mitigated solutions," he said at the time.

One positive that has resulted is more direct communication between the Air Force and the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

"Just being able to call somebody when we have a complaint — and knowing who to contact — has been

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 17 of 36

a big help," Executive Director Silvia Christen said. "The next step is addressing some of those concerns and complaints that come in."

The Air Force is "firmly committed to cultivating a good long-term relationship," said Ellsworth spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Miranda Simmons.

This week's exercise will involve eight types of aircraft including bombers, fighter jets, helicopters, reconnaissance planes and refueling tankers. They're coming from 14 Air Force and National Guard units in South Dakota, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Dakota elders meet to discuss sculpture's fate

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Dakota elders have met privately in Sisseton, South Dakota to talk about what to do with wood from a dismantled sculpture at the Walter Art Center in Minneapolis that met with protests from Native Americans.

The art center removed the gallows-like sculpture called "Scaffold" because of opposition from those who said it brought back painful memories of the mass hanging of 38 Dakota men in 1862. Artist Sam Durant said the sculpture was intended to raise awareness about capital punishment and America's violent past. But, protesters said it was insensitive and trivialized a dark chapter in Minnesota and Dakota history.

The wood remains in storage. Mediator Stephanie Hope Smith tells the Star Tribune (<http://strib.mn/2tdV7KW>) the meeting Sunday did not set any time or process on how the wood should be handled.

Information from: Star Tribune, <http://www.startribune.com>

Dale Bartscher joining Marty Jackley's campaign for governor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The founder of a South Dakota conservative advocacy group is joining Marty Jackley's campaign for governor.

Jackley's campaign said Monday that former Family Heritage Alliance executive director Dale Bartscher will serve as state political director for the campaign. Jackley says Bartscher will be a "tremendous asset."

Bartscher helped establish the grassroots Family Heritage Alliance in 2010, and he's been a well-known lobbyist at the state Capitol. Bartscher says he will be crisscrossing the state for Jackley.

Jackley, the state attorney general, and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem are Republicans competing to succeed GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who can't run again because of term limits. The Republican primary election is in June 2018 after what is expected to be an intense campaign.

State Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton has also entered the 2018 race.

Man charged with assaulting boy, promising video game

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors say a Mount Vernon man sexually assaulting a 7-year-old boy after promising him a video game.

Court documents say 27-year-old Tyler Dobras was caring for the boy in June 2016 at a residence in Mitchell and told him he would buy a video game for him if he participated in a sex act.

The Daily Republic reports authorities say the boy agreed and finally told his mother this month. Dobras is charged with first-degree rape, a felony that's punishable by up to life in prison.

An attorney for Dobras did not immediately return a call for comment.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 18 of 36

Revised ordinance bans feeding stray animals

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A revised local ordinance under consideration in Sioux Falls would make it illegal to feed stray dogs, cats or other animals that don't have owners.

The city attorney's office and animal control staff have reworked local ordinances which have been sent to the City Council.

The current law makes it illegal to "harbor or keep" stray animals. The revision adds feeding the animals. Animal control supervisor Julie DeJong says it could reduce animal bites and scratches and prevent other wildlife from being drawn into the city.

There's no timetable on when the council will take up the revision.

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

6-time defending champ Sioux Falls Storm in title game again

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Storm arena football team will play for the Indoor Football League title for the eighth straight year.

The Storm beat the Iowa Barnstormers 66-32 on Saturday to advance to the United Bowl on July 8 in Sioux Falls. They will face the Arizona Rattlers, a team they defeated earlier this season 40-29.

The Storm have won six straight IFL titles.

Business fire in Pierre ruled accidental but cause unknown

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A weekend business fire in Pierre has been ruled accidental.

The Saturday night blaze destroyed the Branding Iron Bistro, and smoke heavily damaged the Pottery 2 Paint store next door.

Fire Chief Ian Paul tells the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sdqzDV>) that the state fire marshal's office conducted an initial investigation Sunday and ruled the fire accidental, though the cause still isn't known.

No one was hurt.

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

Syria denies US allegations of coming chemical attack

By PHILIP ISSA and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria has denied White House allegations that it may be preparing a new chemical attack, insisting again that it has never used such arms.

Ali Haidar, the minister for national reconciliation, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the White House statement foreshadowed a "diplomatic battle" that would be waged against Syria in the halls of the U.N.

The White House issued a stern warning to Syrian President Bashar Assad on Monday night, saying it had "potential" evidence that Syria was preparing for another chemical weapons attack.

In an ominous statement issued with no supporting evidence or further explanation, Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the U.S. had "identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children."

He said the activities were similar to preparations taken before an April 2017 attack that killed dozens of men, women and children, and warned that if "Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price."

Several State Department officials typically involved in coordinating such announcements said they were caught completely off guard by the warning, which didn't appear to be discussed in advance with other national security agencies. Typically, the State Department, the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies would all be consulted before the White House issued a declaration sure to ricochet across foreign capitals.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 19 of 36

The officials weren't authorized to discuss national security planning publicly and requested anonymity. A non-governmental source with close ties to the White House said the administration had received intelligence that the Syrians were mixing precursor chemicals for a possible sarin gas attack in either the east or south of the country, where government troops and their proxies have faced recent setbacks.

In Moscow Tuesday, a senior Russian lawmaker dismissed the warning as "provocation."

Assad had denied responsibility for the April 4 attack in the rebel-held Idlib province that killed dozens of people, and Russia, Assad's key backer, sided with him. Days later, President Donald Trump launched a retaliatory cruise missile strike on a Syrian government-controlled air base.

Frants Klintsevich, first deputy chairman of the defense and security committee in the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, on Tuesday accused the United States of "preparing a new attack on the positions of Syrian forces."

In comments to state-owned RIA Novosti, he added: "Preparations for a new cynical and unprecedented provocation are underway."

The U.S. strike was the first direct American assault on the Syrian government and Trump's most dramatic military order since becoming president months before.

Trump said at the time that the Khan Sheikhoun attack crossed "many, many lines," and called on "all civilized nations" to join the U.S. in seeking an end to the carnage in Syria.

Syria maintained it hadn't used chemical weapons and blamed opposition fighters for stockpiling the chemicals. Russia's Defense Ministry said the toxic agents were released when a Syrian airstrike hit a rebel chemical weapons arsenal and munitions factory. Russia is a close ally of Assad.

The U.S. attack on a Syrian air base came after years of heated debate and deliberation in Washington over intervention in the bloody civil war. Chemical weapons have killed hundreds of people since the start of the conflict.

The U.S. is providing air support and arms to Kurdish-led Syrian forces who are fighting to drive the Islamic State group from Raqqa, the extremists' self-styled capital.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Tuesday that Washington would continue to provide weapons after the Raqqa battle is over. His comments were likely to anger Turkey, which views the Kurdish fighters as an extension of the insurgency raging in its southeast.

On Monday, Trump had dinner with Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and other top officials as he hosted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House.

Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talked earlier Monday about the need to secure a cease-fire in Syria, fight extremist groups and prevent the use of chemical weapons, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, followed up Spicer's statement with a Twitter warning: "Any further attacks done to the people of Syria will be blamed on Assad, but also on Russia & Iran who support him killing his own people."

Less than an hour after Spicer issued the statement, Trump was back to tweeting about the 2016 campaign, denouncing investigations into potential collusion between Moscow and his campaign aides as a "Witch Hunt!"

Colvin reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Josh Lederman, Vivian Salama and Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT MAY CONSTITUTE A 'BONA FIDE RELATIONSHIP'

Those permitted into the United States under the partially reinstated travel ban may include those who have an American job, school enrollment or a close relative.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 20 of 36

2. WHO HOLDS KEY TO HEALTH CARE BILL PASSAGE

Trump's campaign promise to repeal and replace "Obamacare" is now in the hands of a key group of GOP senators who are opposing — or not yet supporting — the legislation.

3. WHITE HOUSE WARNS ASSAD AGAINST CHEMICAL ATTACK

The White House claims "potential" evidence that Damascus is preparing for a gas attack similar to the one that killed dozens in April; Syria dismisses the statement.

4. INDICTMENT SLAMS BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT

Prosecutors describe a scheming, arrogant and corrupt Michel Temer who lined his pockets with illegal money while neglecting the office he represented.

5. 'I DID IT FOR NOTHING'

Two South Carolina inmates lured four fellow blockmates into their cell, killing them in cold blood, with one of the inmates telling AP he did it because he was tired of life behind bars and wanted to land on death row.

6. SAUDIS DEMOLISH HISTORIC SHIITE HOMES

Officials say al-Awamiya has become a hideout for militants, but the move is stoking sectarian tensions that resonate around the Persian Gulf and the region.

7. WHY LIU XIAOBO SUPPORTERS ARE ANGRY

The Nobel Peace laureate has late-stage liver cancer, leading to questions whether China's best-known political prisoner received adequate care while incarcerated.

8. NEXT LEGAL CHALLENGE FOR COSBY: CALIFORNIA

A hearing is scheduled to set a trial date for a lawsuit accusing him of sexually assaulting a teen at the Playboy Mansion more than 40 years ago.

9. CROWD-FUNDING CAMPAIGN SAVES JORDANIAN BOOKSTORE

A local landmark in Amman, customers linger over rare treasures, stay to chat and often pay as they please.

10. MOVE OVER, 'BIG O'

Russell Westbrook, who broke Oscar Robertson's record for triple-doubles in a season, captures NBA MVP honors.

Ruling in travel ban leaves myriad questions unanswered

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's decision to partially reinstate President Donald Trump's temporary travel ban has left the effort to keep some foreigners out of the United States in a murky middle ground, with unanswered questions and possibly more litigation ahead.

The justices ruled Monday in an unsigned opinion they would hold a full hearing on the case in October. In the meantime, the administration can bar travelers from six majority-Muslim countries from the U.S. if they don't have a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship" with someone or some entity in the country.

It's unclear what will ultimately constitute a "bona fide relationship," though the ruling suggested that an American job, school enrollment or a close relative could meet that threshold. Equally unclear is how many foreigners will be affected from the six countries: Syria, Sudan, Iran, Yemen, Libya and Somalia.

The ruling was seen as at least a partial victory for Trump in the biggest court case of his presidency. Trump claims the temporary ban is needed to prevent terrorist attacks. Opponents reject that and argue it's a backdoor way to bar Muslims from entering the United States, as Trump promised in his campaign.

The early indications are that the administration will use the decision to take a tough line on travelers from those countries. A senior U.S. official familiar with the situation said the Trump administration has plans in place to relaunch the stalled ban and tourists will be among those kept out.

Under these plans, largely orchestrated by White House adviser Stephen Miller, tourists from those countries and any academics, lecturers or others invited to speak or make presentations in the U.S. will be barred. Those groups are regarded as unable to show a substantial and pre-existing tie to a person or

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 21 of 36

institution in the United States.

The official who described the plans was not authorized to discuss them publicly by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

But some immigration lawyers and advocates said relatively few people would fall under the ban because these travelers tend to have sufficient relationships with people or institutions in the United States.

Jamal Abdi, policy director for the National Iranian American Council, said most Iranians who visit the United States have relatives here or are coming to work or study. He said his group has no idea how the administration plans to judge family relationships and a hard line could mean a significant number of Iranians will be kept out the country for the time being.

It could also mean more lawsuits if advocates for immigrants believe the administration is going beyond the Supreme Court's guidelines in barring visitors to the United States.

Like the fate of would-be tourists and scholars, the immediate future for refugees is murky.

In its opinion, the court partially reinstated Trump's temporary prohibition on refugees from any country, using criteria similar to that used in the travel ban. The effect on refugees could be greater because they are less likely to have family, school or business relationships in the United States.

Lavinia Limon, CEO of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, said she was dismayed by the ruling, but insisted that her agency has "an existing relationship with incoming refugees, certified and arranged through the Department of State."

"Travel plans are in process, beds have been made and staff around the country plan to meet new Americans at the airports today, tomorrow and in the coming weeks and months," Limon said.

Trump's initial travel ban caused panic and chaos at airports around the world in late January as it took effect immediately after being signed. Refugees, legal U.S. residents and visa holders were turned back at airports or barred from boarding U.S.-bound planes. A federal court blocked it about a week later.

There may be less confusion as the ban is partially reinstated. The administration has revised its travel ban to exclude legal residents and visa holders. Also, the government said last week the ban would go into effect 72 hours after the Supreme Court ruling — which would be Thursday morning in Washington.

Associated Press reporters Ted Bridis and Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acaldwellap. Find her work at <http://apnews/2svihLQ>.

Democrats aim to blast Trump for favoring wealthy

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are out to capitalize on what they believe is growing public sentiment that President Donald Trump, the richest man to call the White House home, is turning his back on the people who got him elected in favor of his wealthy peers. The party is hoping that pitch will pack extra oomph at a time when even some Republicans are raising concerns that the GOP health-care plan could hurt the poor.

Though stung by a series of defeats in special congressional elections, Democrats believe they can make inroads with some of Trump's most loyal supporters by driving home the combined potential impact of proposed tax cuts that would largely benefit the wealthy and pending health care legislation that would fail to cover tens of millions of Americans enrolled in "Obamacare."

In a polling memo circulated by the Democratic group Priorities USA, Democrats say they have seen a significant shift in the last two months in the number of people that believe the president sides with the wealthy and big corporations over average Americans. Democrats plan to turn that message into a prominent sales pitch for their candidates and surrogates, and could make it the theme of ads as well.

Guy Cecil, the group's chairman, said that for the president's first three months in office, voters who backed President Barack Obama then switched to Trump believed that the new president represented

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 22 of 36

middle-class workers more than he represented the wealthy. But he said that has changed since April.

"People are taking a second look," says Cecil. "The reason that health care is so powerful is because it directly affects people's lives and there's a clear trade-off: You're giving tax cuts to the rich; you're taking health care away from everybody else."

Public polling also turns up growing unease about GOP attention to needs of the middle class. A Pew Research Center poll released last week found 57 percent of respondents said the Democratic Party "cares about the middle class" while 42 percent said that Republicans did.

The White House dismissed the findings.

"Unlike the Democrats who have no agenda and no ideas, the president is working hard to lower the cost of health care, cut taxes for all families and businesses, and create good jobs and higher wages for all," said White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Trump, of course, has never shied away from being associated with wealth.

His insurgent candidacy for president was built on his business experience, and his time on the reality TV show "The Apprentice" cast him as America's CEO, with his riches on full display. Even though he refused to release his tax returns, he boasted time and again on the campaign trail about how much money he had, even declaring, "I'm really rich."

That hasn't changed since Trump took office. He spends most weekends at one of his opulent resorts, brags about his advisers' wealth and even told the crowd at an Iowa rally last week that he didn't "want a poor person" for any senior economic jobs.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that the House health care bill would leave 23 million people without insurance while the Senate would do the same to 22 million, with the brunt falling on older people with lower income. Trump's proposed budget also targets many of the programs that help low-income Americans, such as help with heating their homes.

Democrats hope it provides more ammunition to revive their effective 2012 attack lines claiming Mitt Romney had turned his back on the working and middle classes.

But what worked against Romney may not necessarily be effective with Trump loyalists.

"The draconian impact of the GOP Trumpcare bill is a potential asset for the Democrats," said Wendy Schiller, political science professor at Brown University, "but the big obstacle for them is that the bill's provisions do not take effect until well after 2018, and not entirely until 2025. So it is unclear they will be able to persuade the majority of voters in congressional districts that the sky is falling on health care if nothing much changes."

Moreover, many of the president's backers don't care about Trump's wealth or his policies, their loyalty instead guided by partisan impulses and Trump's larger-than-life personality and promises.

"His supporters pay attention to what he's saying, and less so to either the Democrats or the press," Republican pollster Neil Newhouse said in an email. "Simply put, Democrats can criticize his health care plan and tax plan as much as they want, but it falls on deaf ears with Trump voters, as they simply tune it out."

The president's allies point to all the failed attacks launched at Trump during the campaign and to GOP wins in the recent special elections as evidence that the Democrats won't be successful if they are simply the anti-Trump party. Former Trump campaign adviser Barry Bennett says the party's latest strategy is further evidence that the president is "living in their heads."

"Attacks like these are to define someone and Donald Trump is already completely defined," Bennett said. "The people of Warren, Ohio, don't care if he is rich. They care if he is creating jobs."

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Thomas at <http://twitter.com/@KThomasDC>

Supreme Court playground ruling feeds school voucher debate

By CAROLYN THOMPSON, Associated Press

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and other proponents of school voucher programs are praising a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said a Lutheran church was wrongly denied a state grant for its preschool playground. But opponents say the ruling is far from an endorsement of the use of public money for religious schools.

The court, by a 7-2 vote, sided with Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Missouri, which had sought a state grant to put a soft surface on its preschool playground.

"We should all celebrate the fact that programs designed to help students will no longer be discriminated against by the government based solely on religious affiliation," DeVos said after the justices ruled Monday that Missouri violated the First Amendment in denying the grant.

The Columbia, Missouri, church had sought the grant under a state program that reimburses nonprofit organizations that install playground surfaces made from recycled tires. The Department of Natural Resources rejected the application because the state constitution prohibits the use of public money "in aid of any church, sect or denomination of religion."

The church's challenge was watched by both sides of the debate over whether states can let parents choose to send their children to religious schools through publicly funded programs.

Teachers unions, which oppose vouchers as diverting money from public schools, said the narrow ruling dealt a setback to voucher proponents by leaving intact the state's constitutional provision that prohibits state funding of religious actions.

American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten pointed to a footnote by Chief Justice John Roberts that said the court did not address "religious uses of funding."

"The Supreme Court's Trinity decision cannot be read as opening the door for states to promote religion or expand vouchers," Weingarten said.

But the pro-school choice Center for Education Reform said that even without reviewing the constitutionality of Missouri's prohibition on the use of state funds at religious schools, the justices had bolstered the choice movement by condemning the denial of a public benefit to an otherwise eligible recipient solely on the basis of its religious identity.

The Orthodox Jewish group Agudath Israel of America said the ruling could provide support for the argument that it would be discriminatory to not allow publicly funded tuition vouchers to be used for schooling at a religious institution.

"That puts somewhat of an onus on the state to make sure that if we're going to have a program and we're saying that it's open to everyone, it's intended to serve all the kids in our state, then it should be a program ... that includes kids that go to private and religious schools," said the group's Washington director, Rabbi Abba Cohen.

Richard Katskee, the legal director at the organization Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said that while the ruling does not strike down existing constitutional provisions against governments funding religion, "it probably will encourage more legal challenges over those provisions."

Thompson reported from Buffalo, New York. Associated Press writer Kantele Franko in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

These senators will make or break the GOP's health care push

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's campaign promise to repeal and replace "Obamacare" is now in the hands of a key group of GOP senators who are opposing — or not yet supporting — legislation Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is pushing to bring to a vote this week.

These lawmakers range from moderate to conservative Republicans, and include senators who were just

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 24 of 36

re-elected and a couple facing tough re-election fights. Their concerns about the legislation vary along with their ideology, from those who say it's overly punitive in ejecting people from the insurance rolls, to others who say it doesn't go far enough in dismantling former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. Satisfying one group risks alienating another.

Trump spent part of the weekend placing phone calls to a handful of these lawmakers, focusing on senators who supported his candidacy — Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky. The next several days will show whether the president's efforts pay off and if those lawmakers and the others will ultimately fall in line on legislation that would impact health care for millions of Americans, while allowing Trump and GOP leaders to boast of fulfilling a campaign promise seven years in the making.

McConnell has scant margin for error given united Democratic opposition, and can afford to lose only two Republicans from his 52-member caucus.

A look at the key Republican lawmakers:

THE CONSERVATIVES

Cruz, Paul, Johnson and Sen. Mike Lee of Utah jointly announced their opposition to the legislation as written last Thursday, the same day it was released. They said it did not go far enough to dismantle "Obamacare," and Johnson also complained of a rushed process.

"They're trying to jam this thing through," Johnson complained Monday to conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt.

Yet Johnson, like many other congressional Republicans, was elected in 2010 on pledges to repeal Obamacare and has been making that promise ever since. While looking for tweaks that can satisfy the conservatives, Senate GOP leaders are also arguing that any Republican who fails to vote for the leadership bill will be responsible for leaving Obamacare standing.

Few Senate Republicans expect Paul to vote with them in the end, because of opposition he's long expressed to government tax subsidies going to pay for private insurance, but many expect Cruz could be won over, especially since he's running for re-election.

THE ENDANGERED

Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada, the only Senate Republican up for re-election next year in a state Hillary Clinton won, surprised Senate GOP leaders by coming out hard against the health legislation at a news conference Friday. Standing next to Nevada's popular Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, Heller said he could not support a bill that "takes away insurance from tens of millions of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Nevadans."

Nevada is one of the states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The GOP bill would unwind that expansion and cap Medicaid payments for the future. Nevada also has a disproportionate share of older residents under age 65 — when Medicare kicks in — who would likely face higher premiums because the GOP bill gives insurance companies greater latitude to charge more to older customers.

Heller's fellow moderate Republican, Sen. Jeff Flake, faces similar issues of an aging population in neighboring Arizona. He is viewed as the second-most-endangered GOP incumbent next year after Heller.

Flake has not yet taken stance on the bill but is facing a raft of television ads from AARP and other groups that are opposed.

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, a Democrat seen as a possible Flake challenger next year, said Monday the Senate bill "doesn't make anyone healthier. It doesn't make anyone safer."

But Flake, who was outspoken against Trump during last year's campaign but has grown quieter since his election, also faces a potential primary challenge from the right.

Both Heller and Flake face the uncomfortable prospect of angering their party's base if they don't support the GOP health bill — but alienating general election moderate and independent voters if they do.

THE MODERATES

Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska are fellow moderates who've raised concerns

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 25 of 36

about the Senate health bill for a variety of reasons.

On Monday, after the release of a Congressional Budget Office analysis that the bill will leave 22 million more people uninsured over a decade, Collins announced she would oppose an important procedural vote on the legislation this week. Along with potential opposition from Johnson, Paul and Heller on the vote, that could leave leadership struggling to even advance to a final vote on the health care bill.

Collins said that the bill's Medicaid cuts hurt the most vulnerable and that it doesn't fix problems for rural Maine.

Murkowski has not taken a position but has also expressed concerns about the impacts on a rural, Medicaid-dependent population, as well as funding cuts to Planned Parenthood.

THE TWO-ISSUE SENATORS

Sens. Rob Portman of Ohio and Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia are generally reliable votes for GOP leadership. In this case, both have two specific, and related, concerns causing them heartburn on the health bill: The prevalence of opioid addiction in their states, and their constituents' reliance on Medicaid.

In many cases, voters with addiction problems rely on Medicaid for treatment help, and Portman and Capito both represent states that expanded Medicaid under Obama's law.

Last year about 100,000 low-income West Virginia residents with Medicaid coverage had drug abuse diagnoses, according to state health officials.

Associated Press writers Bob Christie in Phoenix, Becky Bohrer in Juneau, and Michael Virtanen in Morgantown, W.V., contributed to this report.

Medicaid mission creep threatens GOP's 'Obamacare' repeal

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Somewhere along the way, the Republican crusade to repeal "Obamacare" also turned into an effort to limit the future growth of Medicaid. That bit of mission creep is complicating prospects for the GOP, and could lead to deadlock.

The federal-state program for low-income people has long been stigmatized as substandard. But over time it has grown and changed to become a mainstay for hospitals, nursing homes, insurers, and now drug treatment centers confronting the opioid epidemic. With about 70 million enrolled, Medicaid covers more people than Medicare, from newborns to nursing home residents.

Republicans including Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Dean Heller of Nevada, and Govs. John Kasich of Ohio, Charlie Baker of Massachusetts, and Doug Ducey of Arizona have all expressed misgivings about the Senate's GOP health care bill. On Monday, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, a nonpartisan group that represents state administrators of the program, said in a statement from its board that the legislation is unworkable, and called it "a transfer of risk, responsibility, and cost...of historic proportions."

"We would see dramatic reductions in federal Medicaid funding, which would result in large budget gaps for the states," said analyst Caroline Pearson of the consulting firm Avalere Health.

A Congressional Budget Office estimate released Monday said the Senate bill's biggest impacts on spending would come from Medicaid. In 2026, the federal contribution would be \$160 billion lower than under current law, and 15 million fewer people would be covered through the program.

But Republican leaders are unlikely to retreat, due to political and practical reasons. Although the House and Senate bills differ on timing and some key details, they would basically achieve the same goals:

—Phasing out the extra financing that former President Barack Obama's health care law provides to states that expand Medicaid. Thirty-one states have taken advantage of a generous federal matching formula, expanding their programs to mainly benefit low-income adults. About 11 million people have gained coverage. Under the GOP bill, states could continue to serve this group, but would have to accept a lower match from Washington.

—Putting a limit on future federal financing for the entire program, through a per-beneficiary cap that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 26 of 36

would be adjusted for inflation. That would effectively end Medicaid's status as an open-ended entitlement, through which the federal government matches a share of what each state spends. The GOP formula for annual adjustments has sparked a particularly sharp reaction, with critics saying that the Senate decision to use a broad measure of annual inflation simply won't keep up with faster increases in health care costs.

On the Medicaid expansion, there's wide agreement among Republicans that Obama's federal matching rate of no less than 90 percent amounts to wasteful spending. On average, the regular Medicaid match works out to about 60 percent.

More broadly, as a political principle, many Republicans are strong believers in limiting the future growth of federal health care programs. House Speaker Paul Ryan has long advocated a voucher-like option for Medicare that would also restrain spending. But President Donald Trump had promised not to cut the health program for seniors. That left Medicaid with total annual spending of more than \$550 billion.

"The present system is unsustainable; we don't have enough money to continue what's being done," said Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., the budget committee chairman. Medicaid "was set up for poor women, for children and disabled people. Obamacare used it as a dumping ground for able-bodied people."

States would gain much greater flexibility over how to spend their Medicaid dollars under the Republican caps.

But liberals see another agenda. On the practical side, the Medicaid cuts in the GOP bills facilitate rolling back hundreds of billions in tax increases on upper-income people and corporations that helped finance coverage for Obama's legislation.

"Cutting Medicaid leaves more room to repeal some of these taxes," said Paul Van de Water, a policy expert with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which advocates for low-income people.

Facing a growing outcry, the White House and some Republican leaders are pushing back hard, arguing that their legislation would not cut Medicaid, because spending on the program would keep growing, just not as fast.

"In fact, this is slowing the growth of Medicaid and allowing governors more flexibility," White House counselor Kellyanne Conway asserted on Fox.

"I'm not going to allow people and detractors and Trump haters to call me a liar because they don't want to do the homework and look at what is actually happening to Medicaid," Conway added.

The claim involves some budgetary sleight of hand that both parties have resorted to.

If a bill changes the rules to reduce what government was otherwise expected to spend, that meets the definition of a cut.

In fact, Republicans called it a cut when Democrats reduced Medicare payments to providers to help finance Obama's health overhaul. Democrats responded that they were reducing wasteful spending to extend Medicare's solvency.

But the argument worked in favor of Republicans, helping them win the House in the 2010 midterm elections.

Russell Westbrook wins NBA MVP; Rockets, Bucks take 2 awards

By BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Russell Westbrook moved past Oscar Robertson and kept right on going to the top of the NBA.

Westbrook was voted MVP on Monday night after setting a record with 42 triple-doubles during his historic season. He led the league with 31.6 points and added 10.7 rebounds and 10.4 assists per game, joining Robertson as the only players to average a triple-double for the season and breaking Robertson's single-season record of 41 triple-doubles in 1961-62.

"I remember growing up just being home, playing the video games and stuff with my pops, and my mom sitting there and my brother and just talking about maybe one day I could be the MVP. Obviously I was joking at the time," Westbrook said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 27 of 36

"But now to be standing here with this trophy next to me is a true blessing, man, and it's an unbelievable feeling, something that I can never imagine."

Westbrook's victory ended the first NBA Awards show, which included two wins apiece for the Houston Rockets and Milwaukee Bucks.

He received 69 first-place votes and 888 points from a panel of 100 media members and a fan vote to easily beat Houston's James Harden, who had 22 first-place votes and 753 points. Kawhi Leonard was third with nine first-place votes and 500 points.

Westbrook succeeded Stephen Curry, who had won the past two MVP awards. The point guard who plays with defiance on the court got choked up during an acceptance speech in which he brought some teammates onto the stage with him.

The Thunder went 33-9 when he had a triple-double, riding Westbrook's record run into the playoffs in their first season after losing Kevin Durant to the Golden State Warriors.

"Oscar, guys like him, Magic Johnson, those guys, obviously I wasn't able to see those guys play, but just to look back at history and see the things that they did, it's something that I looked up to as a kid," Westbrook said.

"I never thought I would be able to say that I broke Oscar Robertson's record, and that's just a true blessing."

Earlier, Milwaukee's Malcolm Brogdon became the first player not picked in the first round to win NBA Rookie of the Year in the common draft era, beating out Philadelphia's Dario Saric and Joel Embiid.

Brogdon was the No. 36 overall selection out of Virginia. The common draft era began in 1966.

"I think it's an example for guys that are told they are too short, they are not athletic enough, they are not real point guards, they are not real shooting guards," Brogdon said. "I just think it's an important message for people to see, and it can be done. It just takes a lot."

Teammate Giannis Antetokounmpo won the Most Improved Player award.

Houston coach Mike D'Antoni won his second Coach of the Year award, and the Rockets' Eric Gordon was Sixth Man of the Year after setting a record for most 3-pointers off the bench in his first season as a reserve.

"Obviously I'm just proud of the team and the way they responded all year. Great organization," D'Antoni said of the Rockets' 55-win season.

"This is not an individual award. This is a lot of people, a lot of hard work goes into it, and I'm the recipient of some pretty good players."

In his first season coming off the bench, Gordon set a single-season record with 206 3-pointers by a reserve. He averaged 16.2 points to help fuel the Rockets' run to the surprising No. 3 seed in the Western Conference and edged former NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala of Golden State by 32 points.

Golden State's Draymond Green won the Defensive Player of the Year, ending Leonard's two-year run. Leading the league in steals from his do-everything role with the NBA champions. He had a franchise-record 10 steals in a Feb. 10 game at Memphis while recording the first triple-double in NBA history without scoring in double figures, adding 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

The NBA formerly gave out its individual awards at various points throughout the postseason before switching to the awards show this season and presenting them all at once in front of the league's top players and stars from the entertainment world.

Two of the best moments came during segments that didn't include the NBA's six individual awards.

Bill Russell was presented the first Lifetime Achievement award, welcomed on stage by fellow Hall of Fame centers Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Robinson, Shaquille O'Neal, Alonzo Mourning and Dikembe Mutombo. The 11-time champion as a player and the league's first black coach first pointed at them and joked that he would have kicked their butts, then told them: "You have no idea how much respect I have for you guys."

Former Thunder assistant coach Monty Williams was given the SagerStrong Award for the strength he showed after his wife was killed in a car crash in Oklahoma City. He was given a colorful jacket like the

ones worn by Craig Sager, the longtime Turner Sports reporter who died of cancer this past season.

White House warns Syria's Assad against chemical attack

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House issued a stern warning to Syrian President Bashar Assad on Monday night as it claimed "potential" evidence that Syria was preparing for another chemical weapons attack.

In an ominous statement issued with no supporting evidence or further explanation, Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the U.S. had "identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children."

He said the activities were similar to preparations taken before an April 2017 attack that killed dozens of men, women and children, and warned that if "Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price."

The White House offered no details on what prompted the warning and spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said she had no additional information Monday night.

Several State Department officials typically involved in coordinating such announcements said they were caught completely off guard by the warning, which didn't appear to be discussed in advance with other national security agencies. Typically, the State Department, the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies would all be consulted before the White House issued a declaration sure to ricochet across foreign capitals.

The officials weren't authorized to discuss national security planning publicly and requested anonymity.

A non-governmental source with close ties to the White House said the administration had received intelligence that the Syrians were mixing precursor chemicals for a possible sarin gas attack in either the east or south of the country, where government troops and their proxies have faced recent setbacks.

Assad had denied responsibility for the April 4 attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun in the rebel-held Idlib province that killed dozens of people, including children. Victims show signs of suffocation, convulsions, foaming at the mouth and pupil constriction.

Days later, President Donald Trump launched a retaliatory cruise missile strike on a Syrian government-controlled air base where U.S. officials said the Syrian military had launched the chemical attack.

It was the first direct American assault on the Syrian government and Trump's most dramatic military order since becoming president months before.

Trump said at the time that the Khan Sheikhoun attack crossed "many, many lines," and called on "all civilized nations" to join the U.S. in seeking an end to the carnage in Syria.

Syria maintained it hadn't used chemical weapons and blamed opposition fighters for stockpiling the chemicals. Russia's Defense Ministry said the toxic agents were released when a Syrian airstrike hit a rebel chemical weapons arsenal and munitions factory. Russia is a close ally of Assad.

The U.S. attack on a Syrian air base came after years of heated debate and deliberation in Washington over intervention in the bloody civil war. Chemical weapons have killed hundreds of people since the start of the conflict.

Earlier Monday, Trump had dinner with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and other top officials as he hosted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House.

Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talked earlier Monday about the need to secure a cease-fire in Syria, fight extremist groups and prevent the use of chemical weapons, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, followed up Spicer's statement with a Twitter warning: "Any further attacks done to the people of Syria will be blamed on Assad, but also on Russia & Iran who support him killing his own people."

Less than an hour after Spicer issued the statement, Trump was back to tweeting about the 2016 campaign, denouncing investigations into potential collusion between Moscow and his campaign aides as a

“Witch Hunt!”

Associated Press writers Josh Lederman, Vivian Salama and Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Utah wildfire grows to largest active fire in US

By BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The nation’s largest wildfire has forced more than 1,500 people from their homes and cabins in a southern Utah mountain area home to a ski town and popular fishing lake.

Firefighters battled high winds Monday as they fought a fire that has grown to 72 square miles (184 square kilometers) and burned 13 homes — larger than any other fire in the country now, state emergency managers said.

Some flames reached 100 feet high, while fire crews faced dry, windy conditions Tuesday and a “high potential” for extreme fire behavior, officials said late Monday.

The estimated firefighting costs now top \$7 million for a fire started June 17 near the Brian Head Resort by someone using a torch tool to burn weeds, they said. Investigators said they know who the culprit is, but they haven’t yet released the person’s identity or what charges will be leveled.

Crews in California, meanwhile, got a handle on a brush fire that closed a freeway. Arizona firefighters had to ground aircraft because of unauthorized drones over a fire near Flagstaff.

The Utah fire began near the ski resort town of Brian Head, generally known for weekend getaway homes for Las Vegas residents. It has spread several miles east to an area around Panguitch Lake, a popular spot for fishing.

Authorities ordered more evacuations Monday in a sparsely populated area as stronger winds and lower humidity develop that could push fire growth north after calmer weather kept its growth in check over the weekend. The fire is about 10 percent contained.

About 175 people have been briefly allowed back to their homes near Panguitch Lake since Sunday under escort, said Denise Dastrup with the Garfield County Sheriff’s Office.

Randi Powell said her grandfather is hoping to get up to see his cabin on Tuesday. Powell said it has been an “emotional roller coaster” for her and her grandparents, who live part of the year at a cabin near the fire. Powell said she and her sister helped grab family heirlooms, pictures and important documents last Thursday when her grandparents had to evacuate on short notice.

Powell is relying on social media updates from friends and others who live or have homes in the area. So far, it appears her grandparents’ 5-bedroom cabin, built about 60 years ago, is still intact, she said. But that hasn’t stopped them from worrying.

“There will be uncertainty until you get up there and walk through it,” said Powell, 32, who lives about one hour away in Cedar City. “Until it’s totally out, you won’t know if you’ll be OK.”

At Brian Head Resort, they are hoping that hot spots near where the blaze started will calm down enough to allow officials to lift the evacuations in time for 4th of July festivities that usually bring an estimated 15,000 people to listen to music and watch fireworks, resort spokesman Mark Wilder said.

If the events can happen, they will likely be scaled back with fewer visitors — and with no fireworks, he said. Wilder said they’re hopeful but realistic.

“Things change day-to-day,” Wilder said. “This thing has been a beast.”

Meanwhile, a wildfire surging out of control on California’s Central Coast has forced about 250 people to evacuate from their homes.

The blaze broke out late Monday afternoon and within just a few hours had grown to about 500 acres (200 hectares), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

The evacuation order is for a string of homes along about five sparsely populated rural roads in and around the small town of Santa Margarita about 10 miles (16 km) north of the much larger city of San Luis Obispo. The fire has grown to 1.5 square miles (365 hectares.)

Another California wildfire sparked by a traffic accident on a remote stretch of highway 80 miles east of

Los Angeles has grown to nearly two square miles (over 500 hectares) in just a few hours.

Two people were hospitalized in the solo-vehicle crash and subsequent car fire that caused the wildfire on Monday afternoon.

Both California fires came amid soaring temperatures and dry air that are supposed to start receding early Tuesday.

In New Mexico, Gov. Susana Martinez ordered flags to fly at half-staff in honor of a volunteer firefighter who died from injuries suffered while battling a brush fire in eastern New Mexico last week. Nara Visa Fire Chief Gary Girard tells The Eastern New Mexico News that John Cammack was severely burned after falling from a fire engine when the winds shifted and the flames changed direction.

In Arizona, firefighters had to ground aircraft after they spotted drones being flown near the fire, Bureau of Land Management spokesman Dennis Godfrey said. The Arizona Republic reports another unauthorized drone was spotted Sunday, temporarily halting aerial efforts to put out a fire northwest of Flagstaff that is 88 percent contained.

Associated Press writer Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

China's jailed Nobel Peace laureate given medical parole

By DIDI TANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate and dissident Liu Xiaobo has been transferred to a hospital after being diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer, authorities and his friends say.

The deteriorating health of China's best-known political prisoner was immediately met with dismay and anger by the country's beleaguered community of rights activists and lawyers, who called it a blow to the democracy movement.

Liu, 61, is receiving treatment at a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang, lawyer Mo Shaoping told The Associated Press. Liu was diagnosed on May 23, and prison authorities in a statement said Liu was granted a medical parole and placed in the care of cancer experts, although it was not clear exactly when he was transferred to the hospital.

His cancer appears to be severe. "No surgery, no radiation, and no chemotherapy will do," a sobbing Liu Xia, his wife, said in a video phone call recorded on a cell phone. The clip has been shared in circles of supporters and verified by the couple's friends, who said she was at the hospital.

Liu's supporters and international human rights advocates are urging China to provide the best care to Liu and allow him to seek medical treatments abroad.

"The Chinese government's culpability for wrongfully imprisoning Liu Xiaobo is deepened by the fact that they released him only when he became gravely ill," said Sophie Richardson, China director at New York-based Human Rights Watch, in a statement. "The government should immediately allow Liu Xiaobo and his wife, Liu Xia, to seek proper treatment wherever they wish."

Liu, a literary critic and China's most prominent democracy campaigner, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 after being convicted of inciting state subversion for writing and disseminating Charter '08, a manifesto calling for an end to single-party rule.

The following year, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize by a Norway-based Nobel committee, which cheered China's fractured, persecuted dissident community and brought calls from the U.S., Germany and others for Liu's release, but also infuriated Beijing. In April, Beijing finally normalized relations with Oslo after a six-year hiatus.

The Liaoning Provincial Prison Administrative Bureau, which oversees the prison where Liu was incarcerated, confirmed in a statement on its website Monday that Liu had received a medical parole. It said the China Medical University No. 1 Affiliated Hospital in Shenyang formed a team of eight nationally known experts in the field of tumors that drew up a treatment plan for Liu.

It was unclear exactly what treatment Liu was receiving but as of 10 days ago his condition was stable, Mo said, citing Liu's family. He noted, however, that medical parole is only granted to prisoners who are gravely ill and unable to be treated at the prison's medical facilities.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 31 of 36

Mo said Liu was likely to be closely guarded at the hospital in Shenyang and unable to receive visits from friends or return home. "Normally, most people will be allowed to go home, or to be with their families, or hospitals, but Liu Xiaobo is a special case," Mo said.

"I don't think he will be allowed to meet with people other than close relatives," he added.

At Liu Xia's apartment building in Beijing, AP journalists were accosted Monday by half a dozen plainclothes and other security officers and physically blocked from going beyond the first floor.

Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said Monday he was not aware of the latest development in Liu's case.

The news of Liu's diagnosis shocked and saddened fellow human rights activists who have admired the sacrifices Liu and his wife have made in the hope of achieving peaceful political change. Activists have also been alarmed by Liu Xia's gradual descent into depression after the soft-spoken poet and artist was forcibly sequestered by state security at home during her husband's imprisonment.

"It's known that Liu Xiaobo and his family have made a tremendous sacrifice for the cause of freedom and democracy in China," said Shanghai-based legal scholar Zhang Xuezhong. "This is unfortunate news for him and his family, and it's a blow to China's democracy movement, as so many people have placed hope in him, and rightfully so."

Zhang said Liu must go abroad for medical treatment. "I doubt he will get the treatment that is timely, sufficient and attentive in China," Zhang said. "The international community has a moral obligation to fight for him to get the treatment outside China."

Guo Yuhua, a professor of sociology at the elite Tsinghua University in Beijing, said she was angered by the news. "Those with conscience have given so much to this country, yet they are persecuted by the totalitarian rule," she told AP. "Those who have done evil will sooner or later be held accountable and written into the history to be spat on forever."

She urged Beijing to provide the best medical treatment for Liu and facilitate his travel if he and his family wish to seek treatment overseas. "Life and dignity should be first and foremost in this case," Guo said.

In Washington, Liu's international lawyer, Jared Genser, said he was deeply concerned by the circumstances of the dissident's parole.

"It is unconscionable that the government neglected Dr. Liu's health, despite repeated calls from the international community to ensure proper care. The Chinese authorities must provide Liu Xiaobo open access to his counsel and to the international community so that his wishes at this difficult time can be ascertained and honored," he said in a statement.

Associated Press journalists Isolda Morillo and Mark Schiefelbein contributed to this report.

Brazil's crisis deepens as president accused of corruption

By PETER PRENGAMAN and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's attorney general formally accused President Michel Temer of corruption on Monday, making him the first sitting president in Latin America's largest nation to face criminal charges.

Attorney General Rodrigo Janot's accusation is the latest salvo in an intensifying showdown between Temer and justice officials who are building a corruption case that reaches to the highest levels.

The case now goes to the lower Chamber of Deputies in Congress, which must decide whether it has merit. If two-thirds of the legislature decides that it does, then the president will be suspended for up to 180 days while a trial is conducted. House Speaker Rodrigo Maia, an ally of Temer, would be president in the interim.

In his decision, Janot said that Temer at some point between March and April of this year took a bribe of around \$150,000 offered by Joesly Batista, former chairman of meat-packing giant JBS.

Janot opened an investigation last month into Temer for corruption, obstruction of justice and being part of a criminal organization. A recording emerged that apparently captured Temer, in a late-night conversation with Batista earlier this year, endorsing hush money to former House Speaker Eduardo Cunha, a former Temer ally who is serving a 15-year sentence for corruption. Batista reached a plea agreement

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 32 of 36

with federal prosecutors.

Temer has denied wrongdoing and said he refuses to resign despite numerous calls for him to do so and plunging popularity. The office of the presidency said it would not have comment Monday night.

Janot's decision to put forward only the corruption allegation may be a strategy to force the lower Chamber of Deputies to first deal with it before having to consider the other allegations.

Allies of Temer have been torn between whether to continue supporting the beleaguered leader or bail on him because of fears that association could be toxic during elections next year.

Janot's 64-page decision was a blistering assessment of Temer and his actions as Brazil's top leader. Janot said bribes to Temer could have reached about \$12 million over nine months, and that in general Temer showed a total disregard for the office.

"The circumstances of this meeting (with Batista) - at night and without any register in the official schedule of the president of the Republic - reveal the intent of not leaving traces of the criminal actions already taken," wrote Janot.

Earlier Monday, Temer sought to show his government conducting business as usual, defiantly saying he wasn't going anywhere in his first comments since returning from a trip to Russia and Norway last week that was filled with gaffes and mounting bad news.

"Nothing will destroy us. Not me and not our ministers," he said during the ceremonial signing of a bill in the capital of Brasilia.

Despite the optimism, Temer is facing risks to his mandate on several fronts, from tanking popularity to numerous calls, including from heavyweight politicians, for him to step down.

His trip last week to Russia and Norway ended up underscoring the president's problems and Brazil's diminished stature overseas thanks to a steady stream of corruption scandals the last three years.

Few people showed up at the reception at Brazil's embassy in Moscow, no top Norwegian officials welcomed Temer at Oslo's airport and the country's prime minister, Erna Solberg, gave Temer a public lecture about the colossal "Car Wash" investigation that has upended Brazilian politics and could even jail Temer and several of his Cabinet ministers.

Launched in March 2014, the investigation into billions of dollars in inflated construction contracts and kickbacks to politicians has landed dozens of the country's elite in jail and threatens many more.

"We are very concerned about the 'Car Wash' probe," said Solberg, adding that it was important for Brazil to "clean up" corruption.

To top it off, during Temer's visit, Norway announced a 50 percent cut in funds it pays into Brazil's Amazon rainforest fund because of increased deforestation. The increased deforestation began before Temer took power last year, but environmentalists argue his policies are aggravating the situation.

"It was a trip to distract people from the problems in politics," said Mauricio Santoro, a political scientist at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. "It ended up being a disaster."

Temer, who took over in May of last year after President Dilma Rousseff was impeached and later removed from office, now also has the dubious distinction of having the lowest approval rating of a president since 1989.

The Datafolha polling institute showed over the weekend that just 7 percent of those questioned approved of Temer's administration, the worst since the country was embroiled in a crisis of hyper-inflation on the watch of President Jose Sarney.

Even stalwart allies have begun to bail on Temer.

Former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who initially supported Temer and is a key leader of the junior coalition party, said in an article published by daily Folha de S.Paulo on Monday that the president could end the crisis by ushering in new elections sooner than the end of his mandate, which goes through 2018.

"I plead with the president to meditate over the opportunity of such a gesture of greatness," said Cardoso.

Follow Peter Prengaman: <http://www.twitter.com/peterprengaman>

Follow Mauricio Savarese: <https://www.twitter.com/MSavarese>

Budget office: Senate health bill adds 22 million uninsured

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Republican health care bill would leave 22 million more Americans uninsured in 2026 than under President Barack Obama's health care law, the Congressional Budget Office estimated Monday, complicating GOP leaders' hopes of pushing the plan through the chamber this week.

Minutes after the report's release, three GOP senators threatened to oppose a pivotal vote on the proposal this week, enough to sink it unless Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., can win over some of them or other GOP critics. The bill will fail if just three of the 52 Republican senators oppose it, an event that would deal a humiliating blow to President Donald Trump and Senate leaders.

The 22 million additional people without coverage is just a hair better than the 23 million who'd be left without insurance under the measure the House approved last month, the budget office has estimated. Trump has called the House version approved last month "mean" and told Senate Republicans to approve legislation with more "heart."

In good news for the GOP, the budget office said the Senate bill would cut the deficit by \$202 billion more over the coming decade than the House version. Senate leaders could use some of those savings to attract moderate support by making Medicaid and other provisions in their measure more generous, though conservatives would prefer using that money to reduce federal deficits.

The White House lambasted the nonpartisan budget office in a statement, saying it has a "history of inaccuracy" projecting coverage. Democrats said the report confirmed their own analysis of the GOP measure. "This bill is every bit as mean as the House bill," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Of the 22 million without coverage by 2026 under the Senate plan, 15 million would be without it next year, the budget office said. That could be a particular concern to moderate Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., who faces perhaps the toughest 2018 re-election race of any Senate Republican and has said he can't support the measure if huge numbers of people lose coverage.

The budget office report said coverage losses would especially affect people between ages 50 and 64, before they qualify for Medicare, and with incomes below 200 percent of poverty level, or around \$30,300 for an individual.

In one example, the report says that in 2026 under Obama's law, a 64-year-old earning \$26,500 would pay premiums amounting to \$1,700 a year, after subsidies. Under the Senate bill, that person would pay \$6,500, partly because insurers would be able to charge older adults more.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she would vote against a GOP procedural motion, expected Wednesday, to begin formally debating the legislation. She tweeted that she favors a bipartisan effort to fix Obama's 2010 statute but added, "CBO analysis shows Senate bill won't do it."

In addition, conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said he would oppose that motion unless the bill was changed. And fellow conservative Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said he had "a hard time believing" he'd have enough information to back that motion this week.

Those two — plus fellow conservatives Mike Lee of Utah and Ted Cruz of Texas — have said the current measure doesn't do enough to erase Obama's law and reduce premiums. All four said last week they'd oppose the bill without changes, as did Heller.

Most of the disgruntled senators have left the door open to backing the measure if it's changed.

"It's going to be very close, but we're working with each one of them in trying to accommodate their concerns without losing other support," said No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas.

Vice President Mike Pence invited four GOP senators to dinner Tuesday to discuss the bill, his office said: Lee and Sens. James Lankford of Oklahoma, Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Ben Sasse of Nebraska.

The Senate plan, aimed at rolling back much of Obama's 2010 statute, would end the tax penalty that law imposes on people who don't buy insurance, in effect erasing Obama's so-called individual mandate. It would let states ease Obama's requirements that insurers cover certain specified services like substance abuse treatments, and eliminate taxes on wealthier people and medical companies that Obama's law used to expand coverage.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 34 of 36

It would also phase out extra federal money that law is providing to 31 states to expand Medicaid to additional low-income earners. And it would put annual caps on overall Medicaid money the government until now has automatically paid states, whatever the costs.

CBO said that under the bill, most insurance markets around the country would be stable before 2020. It said that similar to the House bill, average premiums around the country would be higher over the next two years — including about 20 percent higher in 2018 than under Obama's statute — but lower beginning in 2020.

But the office said that overall, the Senate legislation would increase out of pocket costs for deductibles and copayments. That's because standard policies would be skimpier than currently offered under Obama's law, covering a smaller share of expected medical costs.

In another troublesome finding for the legislation, the budget office warned that in some rural areas, either no insurer would be willing participate in the individual market or the policies offered would be prohibitively expensive. Rural America was a stronghold for Trump in the presidential election.

The American Medical Association, the nation's largest doctors' group, said it opposed the Senate bill because some people would lose coverage and others would find it too costly. They wrote that the measure violates the physicians' dictum, "First, do no harm."

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

Prosecutors use Joe Arpaio's immigration talk against him

By JACQUES BILLEAUD, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Former Sheriff Joe Arpaio's criminal trial opened Monday over his defiance of the courts in traffic patrols that targeted immigrants, marking the most aggressive effort to hold the former lawman of metro Phoenix accountable for tactics that critics say racially profiled Latinos.

In opening arguments, prosecutors displayed comments Arpaio made in news releases and during TV interviews in which he bragged about immigration enforcement, aiming to prove that he should be found guilty of misdemeanor contempt of court.

"He thought he could get away with it," prosecutor Victor Salgado said, adding that at least 170 were illegally detained because Arpaio didn't stop. "He never thought this day would come."

Arpaio's defense lawyer vigorously disputed that a person with nearly 60 years in law enforcement would violate a court order, putting the blame on a former attorney who gave bad legal advice.

Critics hope the eight-day trial in federal court in Phoenix will bring a long-awaited comeuppance for the defiant 85-year-old who led crackdowns that divided immigrant families and escaped accountability.

His tactics drew fierce opponents as well as enthusiastic supporters nationwide who championed what they considered a tough-on-crime approach, including forcing inmates to wear pink underwear and housing them in tents outside in the desert heat.

Arpaio spent nine of his 24 years in office doing the sort of local immigration enforcement that President Donald Trump has advocated. To build his highly touted deportation force, Trump is reviving a long-standing program that deputizes local officers to enforce federal immigration law.

Arpaio's lawyers say the former sheriff is charged with a crime for cooperating with U.S. immigration officials, which the Trump administration now encourages.

His legal troubles played a major role in voters turning him out of office in November after a campaign in which he appeared alongside Trump at several rallies in Arizona.

Now, Trump is in office and Arpaio is on trial.

If convicted, Arpaio could face up to six months in jail, though lawyers who have followed his case doubt that a man of his age would be put behind bars.

The former six-term sheriff of metro Phoenix has acknowledged defying a judge's 2011 order in a racial

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 35 of 36

profiling lawsuit by prolonging the patrols for months. But he insists it was not intentional. To win a conviction, prosecutors must prove he violated the order on purpose.

Unlike other local police leaders who left immigration enforcement to U.S. authorities, Arpaio made hundreds of arrests in traffic patrols that sought out immigrants and business raids in which his officers targeted immigrants who used fraudulent IDs to get jobs.

His immigration powers were eventually stripped away by the courts and federal government, culminating with a judge ruling in 2013 that Arpaio's officers racially profiled Latinos.

Arpaio's defense centers around what his attorneys said were weaknesses in the court order that failed to acknowledge times when deputies would detain immigrants and later hand them over to federal authorities.

"He followed the law as the law exists," said Dennis Wilenchik, Arpaio's lead attorney.

Prosecutors are seeking to use Arpaio's own words against him in their case.

The sheriff's office issued a news release a week after the judge told it to stop the patrols saying it would continue to enforce immigration laws. Arpaio also gave a March 2012 TV interview in which he said his office was still detaining immigrants who were in the country illegally.

Tim Casey, who defended Arpaio in the profiling case for nearly six years, was forced to take the stand against his former client, saying he had several meetings with the lawman to discuss the judge's order. Arpaio rested his chin on the palm of his hand Casey reluctantly testified.

The questioning got bogged down in objections over whether attorney-client privilege barred Casey from providing details of the conversations.

Casey says he told Arpaio that his officers either had to arrest immigrants on state charges or release them. Prosecutors say Arpaio turned the detainees over to federal authorities in violation of the court order.

The retired lawman lost a request to prohibit prosecutors from mentioning comments he made about immigration during his last three campaigns.

He also lost a last-ditch effort to let a jury instead of a judge decide whether he is guilty, with the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejecting the request.

It's not known whether Arpaio will testify in his defense.

Follow Jacques Billeaud at twitter.com/jacquesbilleaud. His work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/jacques%20billeaud>.

'Like bombs': Bankrupt company's air bags still out there

By TOM KRISHER, DEE-ANN DURBIN and MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

Takata's lethally defective air bags proved to be the company's undoing Monday. But it could take years to get the dangerous devices off the road in the U.S. and around the world.

Crushed by lawsuits, fines and recall costs, the Japanese auto parts supplier filed for bankruptcy in Tokyo and Delaware and will sell most of its assets for \$1.6 billion to a rival company. A small part of Takata will continue to manufacture replacements for the faulty air bag inflators.

The problem, though, is that 100 million of the Takata inflators worldwide have been recalled, 69 million in the U.S. alone in the biggest automotive recall in American history. It will take the industry years to produce that many replacements.

In the meantime, millions of car owners are forced to nervously wait for someone to fix a problem blamed for at least 16 grisly deaths worldwide, 11 of them in the United States. Many owners have been put on waiting lists by their dealers until the parts arrive.

"The big problem is the air bags are still out there. They're like bombs waiting to explode," said Billie-Marie Morrison, the lawyer for a young Las Vegas woman grievously injured by an exploding air bag in March.

In fact, the last batch of U.S. repairs is not scheduled to begin until September 2020, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which is overseeing the recall.

"I don't think I have any options," lamented Marv Muller, the owner of a 2009 Subaru Impreza. "It's really bad."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 348 ~ 36 of 36

Muller, a recruiter in New York, received a letter in January saying his car needed to have its passenger air bag repaired. He contacted a Subaru dealer, only to be told it didn't have the parts.

He was put on a waiting list and told he would have his car repaired in June. It hasn't happened yet.

In the U.S., more than 16 million inflators have been repaired so far, or 38 percent of the total. In Japan, 70 percent have been replaced, according to Takata. That's partly because Japan won't renew vehicle registrations unless recalls have been completed.

Because of the type of chemical propellant used by Takata, the defective air bags can inflate with too much force and spew deadly shrapnel at drivers and passengers. Takata sold the inflators to 19 automakers, including Toyota, Subaru, BMW, Honda, Ford and Nissan.

Takata's bankruptcy filing clears the way for most of its assets to be taken over by Key Safety Systems, a Chinese-owned company based in suburban Detroit.

Takata President Shigehisa Takada said that with the company rapidly losing value, filing for bankruptcy was the only way it could carry on.

"We're in a very difficult situation, and we had to find ways to keep supplying our products," Takada said.

Victims and their families fear the bankruptcy filing could leave little money left over to compensate them. Earlier this year, Takata pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges and agreed to pay \$1 billion for concealing the defect for years. The penalties include \$850 million in restitution to automakers, \$125 million for victims and families and a \$25 million criminal fine.

"Filing for bankruptcy is going to protect Takata financially, but it's not going to protect drivers who have been injured or are going to be injured," Morrison said.

Morrison's 19-year-old client Karina Dorado was injured when the air bag in her 2002 Honda Accord deployed during an otherwise minor crash. Morrison said Dorado underwent several operations to repair neck and vocal cord injuries, but her voice will never sound the same.

Dorado's car was found to have a defective Takata air bag that had been taken from another vehicle.

That illustrates another one of the headaches for regulators and automakers, who may never be able to trace all of the inflators that need to be repaired.

Lawmakers say the U.S. government needs to do a better job of ensuring the vehicles are fixed. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, pointed out that the Trump administration has yet to appoint someone to lead NHTSA.

In a statement, NHTSA said it has been assured by Takata that the bankruptcy won't disrupt the flow of repair parts.

The safety agency is also making sure older cars are fixed first, since the chemical Takata used in the air bags, ammonium nitrate, degrades over time, especially in hot, humid climates.

That worries Angela Dickie, 47, of Charleston, South Carolina, who owns a 2012 Volkswagen Passat with a Takata air bag.

While her vehicle is not as old as the 2001-03 model year vehicles that are considered a priority for repairs, it still makes Dickie nervous to drive it. She said Volkswagen also refused to provide her with a rental car while she waits for a repair.

"By the grace of God I drive the vehicle every day, just like every other person that has these vehicles, because we don't have an option," she said.

AP Writers Marcos Martinez in Miami, Ken Ritter in Las Vegas, Joseph Pisani in New York and Elaine Kurtenbach in Tokyo contributed to this report.