

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 1 of 45

## Fri., June 30, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- McKiver Collision Ad
- 1- Mosquito control tomorrow night
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- Heartland Ad on Lowary's Retirement
- 3- New completion date for US12
- 4- Drought Monitor
- 5- Check nursery stock for Japanese Beetle
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Info
- 8- National Weather Map
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- News from the Associated Press

**Friday, June 30**

**Senior Menu:** Beef tips with noodles, lettuce salad with dressing, delicious cookie, whole wheat bread.

**Retirement Party:** for Anita Lowary, city finance officer for 36 years, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall.



The City of Groton will be doing mosquito control Saturday evening. The nasty bugs have surfaced greatly in the past 24 hours. Remember to spray down with DEET and protect yourself. The Culix mosquito, the carrier of the West Nile Disease, has been found in three traps in Aberdeen, so they are emerging.

## Official Notices

Groton Area School Official Notices Book  
Brown County Official Notices Book  
Groton City Official Notices Book  
Other Official Notices Book

**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**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

**MCKIVER COLLISION**  
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!  
13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445  
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

Do not wait for  
*EXTRAORDINARY*  
.....  
circumstances to do good;  
try to use *ORDINARY*  
.....  
situations.

(Jean Paul Richter)

Congratulations to  
**ANITA  
LOWARY**  
on your retirement!

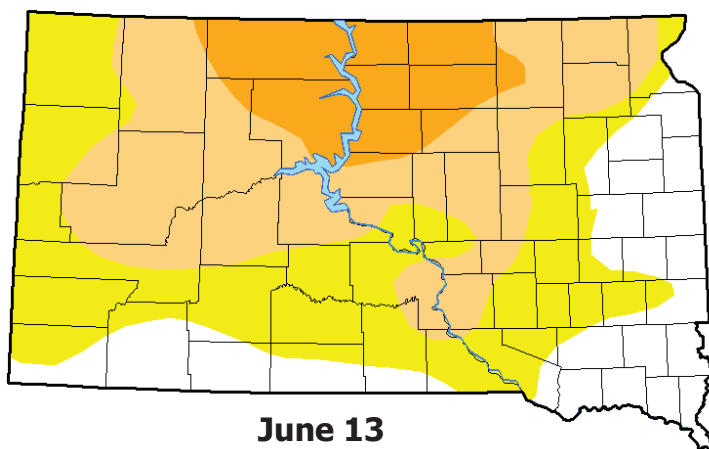
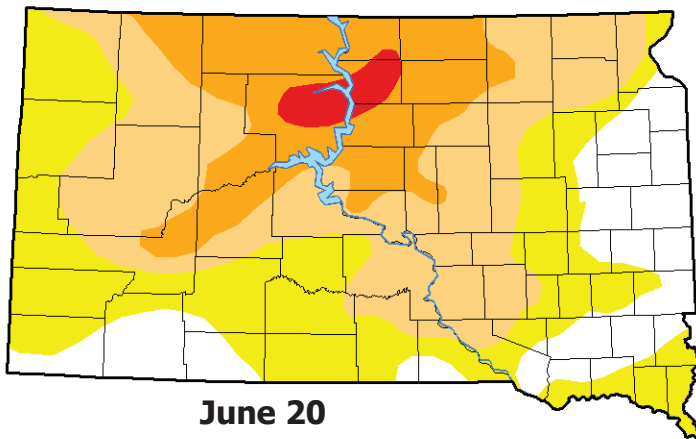
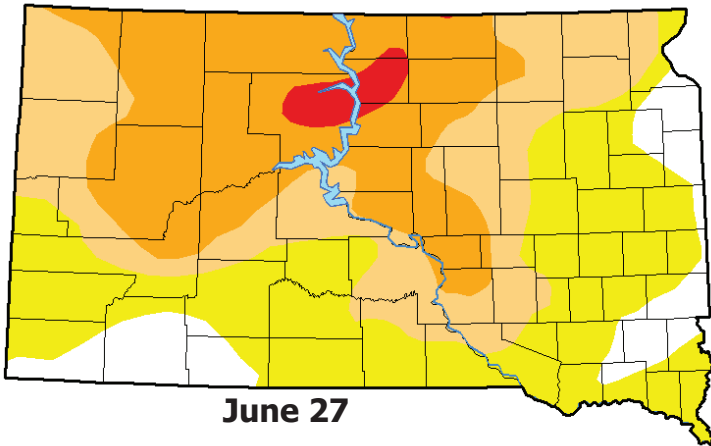
Thank you for years of dedicated  
service to the city of Groton.



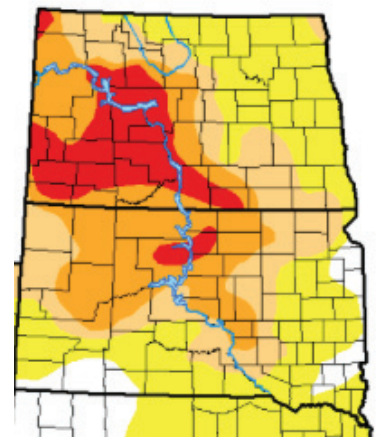
**Work continues on the US12 project in Groton as Webster Scale, Inc. employees take a look at the progress. The new completion date for US12 is now July 28th. The set-back from the July 1 deadline is mainly because of utility conflicts, according to the weekly DOT report held yesterday.** (Photo by Tina Kosel)



## Drought Monitor



Much needed rainfall was unfortunately scarce over most of the region during the past week. Combined with a heat wave early in the period with temperatures reaching into the 100's (°F) in some areas, conditions worsened in many places. North Platte, Nebraska, for example, tied a June record on the 21st, reaching 107°F. Abnormally dry conditions now encompass most of the state, save for the far west and parts of the far east. These conditions also extended southward into Kansas, which also saw abnormal dryness extended in the far southwest. The most deterioration, however, occurred in the Dakotas, especially northwestern South Dakota and North Dakota, where the rapidly worsening conditions warranted expansion of moderate, severe, and extreme drought to many regions. Extreme drought (D3) was expanded across a large section of western North Dakota and extended into Montana (see West). A county agent from McIntosh County noted that soil moisture is absent and crop and pasture losses are expected. Additionally, some producers are now having to haul water, and hay is less than half of normal. Pastures have zero regrowth. The one bright spot for the week in this region was southeastern Kidder and southwestern Sherman Counties: moderate drought (D1) improved to abnormally dry (D0) conditions. According to the USDA/NASS reports, the percent of topsoil moisture that was short to very short for the week ending June 25 was 53% in North Dakota, 63% in South Dakota, and 56% in Nebraska, increases of 10, 8 and 20%, respectively, compared to the June 18 report.



## Check Nursery Stock for Japanese Beetle

PIERRE, S.D.- The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) is encouraging residents to check any newly purchased nursery stock for Japanese beetle.

The adult Japanese beetle is under one-half of an inch long and has a shiny, metallic-green body with bronze-colored outer wings. The beetle has five small tufts of white hair along each side and two tufts of hair in the back of its body, just under the edges of its wings. During their two month lifespan, the female can lay up to 60 eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the young larvae or grubs begin to feed on grass roots.

"If you have recently purchased container grown trees, shrubs or perennials, check the root balls for any visible grubs or adult beetles," said SDDA plant industry manager Brenda Sievers. "If you have already planted your purchase, please monitor the area for signs of the adult Japanese beetle which could start emerging shortly. Japanese beetles are highly destructive, so if you do find any beetles, please destroy them and report those findings to SDDA at 605.773.3796. For treatment options, please contact your regional SDSU Extension Center or a local nurseryman." (\*\*\*)Download Sievers audio here(\*\*\*)

The Japanese beetle is native to Japan and was first found in the United States in New Jersey in 1916. Since that time, it has spread mainly to areas east of the Mississippi River. The adult beetles feed on foliage, flowers and fruits of over 300 species of ornamental and agricultural plants, including corn and soybeans. They defoliate leaves by feeding in between the veins, leaving the plant with a skeletonized appearance. SDDA staff found live larvae and pupae in container grown stock from Bailey Nurseries, Inc., Newport, MN. The nursery stock had been shipped to various nursery dealers and nurserymen across the state. The supplier is providing additional traps to nurseries that may have received affected stock.

For more information and pictures of the Japanese beetle, visit [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant\\_health/content/printable\\_version/jbidcard5-07.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/jbidcard5-07.pdf) or <https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles/>. For information about agronomic concerns, please go to: <http://igrow.org/up/resources/03-2000-2016.pdf>.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 6 of 45

## Today in Weather History

June 30, 1991: Thunderstorms dropped over 2 inches of rain over Brown, Marshall, and Roberts County. The rain washed out many county roads and flooded low-lying areas. Several streets were impassable in Aberdeen. Officially, Aberdeen recorded 1.91 inches of rain.

June 30, 1992: An F2 tornado lifted a roof off a house 18 miles east of Pierre. A barn was destroyed, and power lines and trees were downed. Also, an estimated wind gust of 61 mph was observed 5 miles west of Miller in Hand County.

1792: The first recorded tornado in Canadian history struck the Niagara Peninsula between Foothill and Port Robinson, leveling some houses and uprooting trees between the communities.

1886 - The second destructive hurricane in nine days hit the Apalachicola-Tallahassee area. (David Ludlum)

1900: The combination high winds and the presence of wooded fuel-filled cargo helped to spread a fire on the Hoboken Docks in New Jersey. The fire began when cotton bales caught fire and spread to nearby volatile liquids. The fire killed at least 300 people and was seen in New York City. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel. Click [HERE](#) for pictures.

1912: An estimated F4 tornado ripped through Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on this day. The storm became the deadliest tornado in Canada's history as it killed 28 people along a rare, 18.5-mile track from south to north.

1942 - The temperature at Portland, OR, hit 102 degrees, an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - The entire state of Pennsylvania was declared a disaster area as a result of the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes, which claimed 48 lives, and caused 2.1 billion dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hot weather prevailed in the Pacific Northwest, with readings above 100 degrees reported as far north as southern British Columbia. Yakima, WA, reported a record high of 100 degrees, while temperatures near the Washington coast hovered near 60 degrees all day. Thunderstorms prevailed from southwest Texas to New England. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph at Gettysburg, PA, killed one person. High winds and large hail caused more than five million dollars damage to property and crops in Lancaster County, PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Thunderstorms in eastern Kansas drenched Worden with 12.21 inches of rain, and a wall of water two to four feet deep swept through Lone Star, KS, flooding every home in the town. Up to ten inches of rain was reported southeast of Callaway, NE. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Winfield, KS. Seventeen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 36 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Winnfield, LA, reported 22.52 inches of rain in three days, and more than thirty inches for the month, a record for June. Shreveport LA received a record 17.11 inches in June, with a total for the first six months of the year of 45.55 inches. Thunderstorms also helped produce record rainfall totals for the month of June of 13.12 inches at Birmingham AL, 14.66 inches at Oklahoma City, OK, 17.41 inches at Tallahassee FL, 9.97 inches at Lynchburg, VA, and more than 10.25 inches at Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh had also experienced a record wet month of May. (The National Weather Summary)

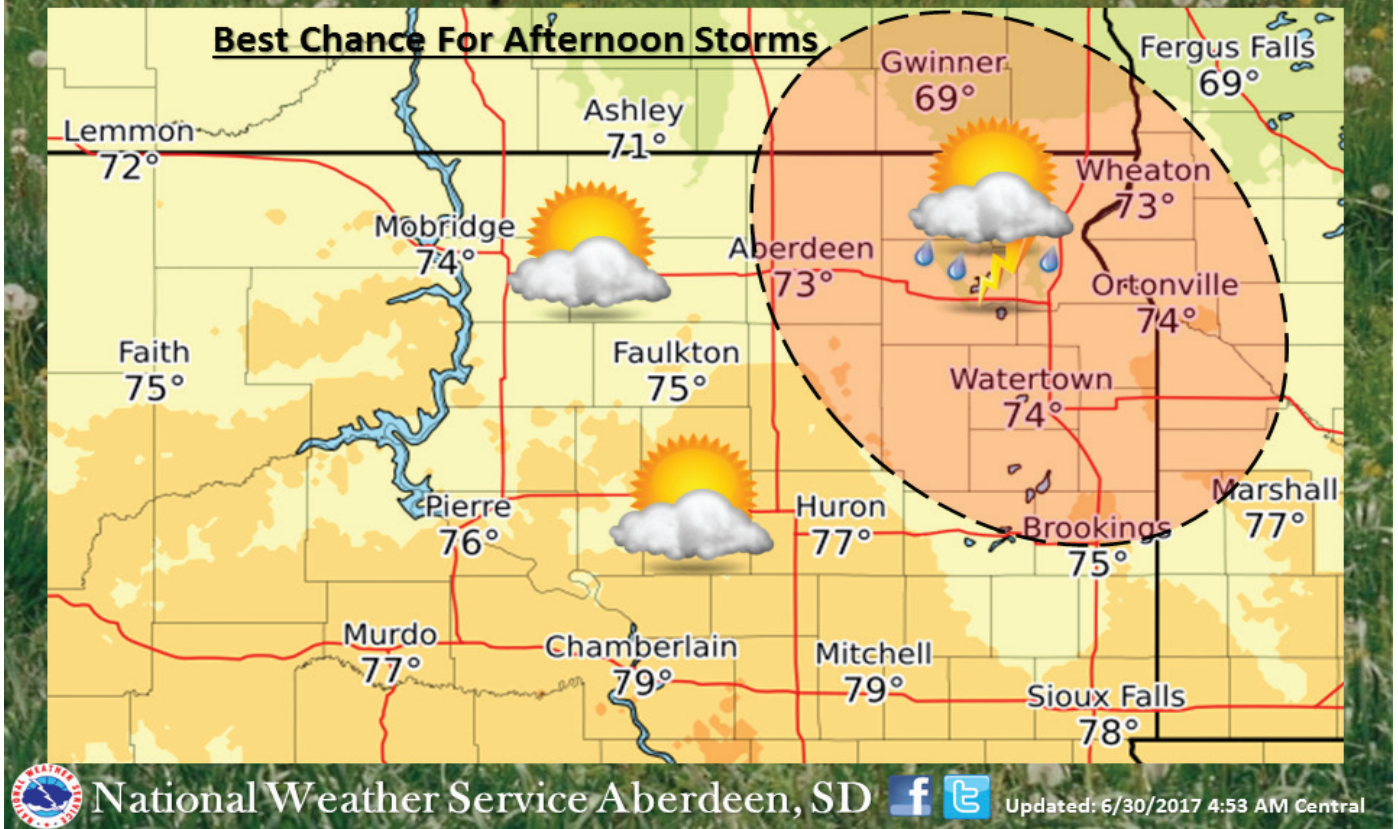
1999: Mount Baker, Washington closed out a record snowfall season both for the United States and the verifiable world record as the seasonal total from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 1999, finished with 1,140 inches.

# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 7 of 45

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night
							
20%						20%	30%
Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 73 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 64 °F

## Isolated-Scattered Weak Afternoon Storms Dry For The Weekend



Published on: 06/30/2017 at 5:08AM

Mostly dry conditions are expected today with high pressure moving into the Dakotas. Isolated to scattered coverage of weak storms is expected this afternoon before what limited low level moisture is pushed east. Expect warmer temperatures for the weekend.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 8 of 45

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.0 F at 12:05 PM

Low Outside Temp: 51.4 F at 5:24 AM

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 5:12 PM

Precip: 0.06

## Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1931

Record Low: 38° in 1918

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in June: 3.70

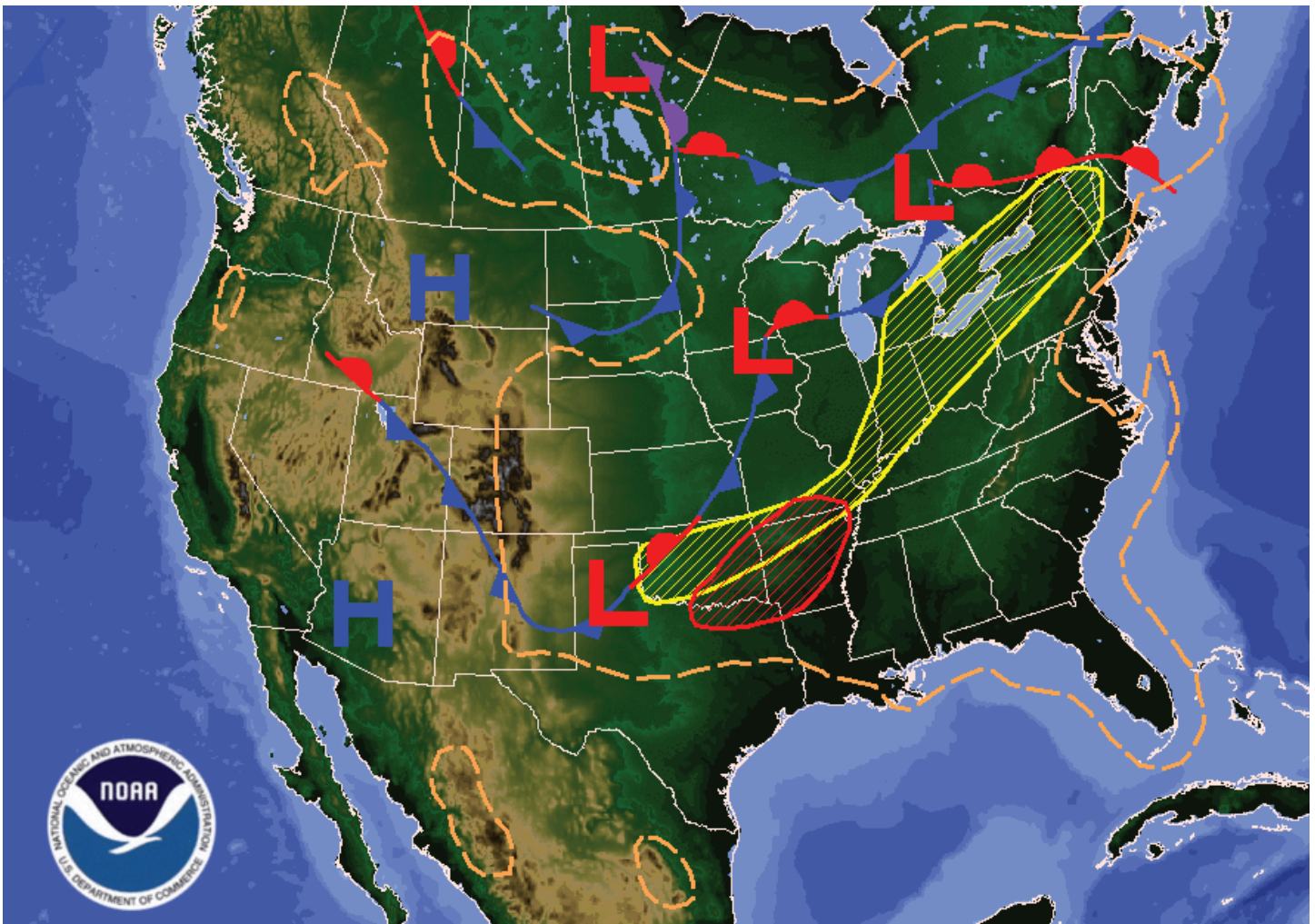
Precip to date in June: 2.58

Average Precip to date: 10.84

Precip Year to Date: 5.77

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jun 30, 2017, issued 4:50 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

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 9 of 45



## WHERE TO FIND SECURITY

David had no fear of being honest. He faced life with an openness that allowed him to vent his feelings, state his fears, express his desires, and claim God's promises.

"Keep me safe, O God!" is the way David begins Psalm 16. And then states immediately that he, at that moment, came to Him for refuge: "In you I take refuge." He did not say that he took refuge in God in the past or that he planned on taking refuge in God in the future. Indeed not. Something was threatening him at that very moment and he immediately went to God for help.

Sometimes we wait before we go to God with our needs. We believe that we are capable of handling our fears and failures by ourselves. We often think that we can cover up our mistakes and faults. But there is nothing in us or about us or has come from us that is beyond God's love, mercy and power. He knows who we are, sees us as we are and understands what we are going through and is waiting for our call for help.

The word keep as used in this psalm can also be interpreted to mean watch over – as a shepherd watches over his flock, or as a guard who keeps watch over the prisoners he is charged to control and contain.

David knew the responsibilities of shepherds first-hand. If anything happened to the sheep, the shepherd would be held accountable. He also knew, as a king, that if prisoners escaped, an entire kingdom could be damaged or destroyed. David knew Who to trust!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to place all of our confidence in Your love and power when we face the unknown. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 16:1 Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota sued for using catheter in toddler drug screen

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union sued South Dakota on Thursday over the forced use of a catheter to take a urine sample from a 3-year-old boy who was being tested for exposure to drugs as part of a child-neglect investigation.

The ACLU filed a pair of federal lawsuits challenging the practice, saying it violated the constitutional rights of the boy as well as five adults who underwent the same procedure in separate cases.

“Subjecting anyone to forcible catheterization, especially a toddler, to collect evidence when there are less intrusive means available is unconscionable,” said Heather Smith, executive director of the ACLU of South Dakota.

The boy’s mother said she was coerced into giving consent for the procedure, which Smith called “painful, physically and emotionally damaging, and deeply degrading.”

The lawsuit filed on behalf of the toddler said he was catheterized at a Pierre hospital after his mother’s boyfriend violated probation by testing positive for illegal drugs. The complaint alleges that the procedure caused the child to develop a staph infection in his penis.

A state Department of Social Services caseworker told the mother that her children would be taken away if she did not submit them to drug tests, according to the lawsuit, which names the department, several agency officials, Avera St. Mary’s Hospital and others as defendants.

Hospital staff held the boy down and inserted the catheter while he screamed because he was not toilet trained and could not produce a sample in a cup, the lawsuit said. The mother said she was not informed of any alternatives to catheterization, such as placing a bag over the child’s penis to collect urine, and did not know that she could object.

The tests came back negative for drugs, according to the complaint.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader newspaper first reported on the incident in April, but the department declined to discuss specific cases. Spokeswoman Tia Kafka said in an email at that time that the agency may seek a parent’s consent for a child’s drug screening, but the agency does not determine the method or perform the tests.

The department had no immediate comment about the lawsuits. Avera Health said in a statement that it had not been served with the lawsuit but that it has long recommended that care never be forced on anyone.

“We have communicated this position to law enforcement and conducted staff training,” the statement said. The hospital said it looked forward to “seeing that Avera and our staff are vindicated.”

The other complaint was filed against law enforcement agencies on behalf of five adults who were allegedly subjected to forced catheterization as part of criminal investigations.

The adults include Dirk Sparks, who said four Pierre police officers restrained him as he was catheterized against his will at the same hospital.

He told the newspaper that police were called to his home last year for a domestic disturbance and suspected he had been using methamphetamine. He said he refused to give them a urine sample at the jail, so they got a warrant and took him to the hospital for the procedure, which he described as painful and embarrassing. A judge ruled the warrant was valid.

Pierre Police Chief Dave Panzer did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

While case law generally forbids drawing blood or performing surgery without consent or warrants, the law is murkier on forced catheterization.

The ACLU points to a 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision against warrantless blood draws and a 1985 decision against surgical intrusions into a person to retrieve evidence. The group argues that catheterizations without consent should be treated the same — as a violation of the constitutional right against

unreasonable search and seizure, and the right against excessive force without due process.

Lower courts have ruled in favor of law enforcement in a handful of catheterization cases, but those rulings are not binding on federal courts in South Dakota.

Associated Press Writer Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

## South Dakota pastor faces opposition to halfway house plans

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota pastor wants to open a halfway house for women leaving the state Women's Prison, but he's facing opposition in the residential neighborhood.

Resident Jessica Bardeson knocked on doors in her Pierre neighborhood on Wednesday, seeking signatures on a petition to stop the Rev. Jack Benjamin's plan, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2u258bi>) reported.

Benjamin announced plans to build the halfway house next to United Pentecostal Church a year ago. But the house he purchased last month to temporarily use as the halfway house is across town from the church — and next door to Bardeson's home.

Benjamin said the recently purchased home will be temporary housing for the women. He plans to raise \$300,000 to build a facility next to his church.

Bardeson said she doesn't support the halfway house because it would devalue her property.

"It's inappropriate for this neighborhood, where we have kids and a park right across the street," she said, adding she was concerned about what would happen if a woman at the halfway house were to become involved in illegal activity, such as drug use.

Benjamin said he understands Bardeson's concerns.

"The reality is, the young ladies are being released from prison into Pierre and they are all over. They could even be in the apartment building across the street, and she wouldn't know it," Benjamin said. "They could be in rental houses up and down the street. These issues she obviously has a concern for. But they are coming into the community one way or another."

Utilities Director Brad Palmer said that Benjamin's plans fits with city ordinances.

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

## Options for new Rapid City arena presented

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The mayor of Rapid City is presenting options for replacing the community's aging arena.

Mayor Steve Allender says the outdated design and size of Barnett Arena has contributed to a decline in the "top tier" events that can generate revenue for the local economy.

Allender says it comes down to two options. Remodel the current arena for nearly \$25 million or build a new one for \$130 million. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2tp0fvd>) reports Allender says the number of events at the arena has dropped from 90 in 200 to less than 60 in 2016.

Allender says building a new arena will be a tough sell for citizens. Voters rejected a similar proposal for a \$180 million arena in 2015. The mayor is presenting the options to local leaders and community groups.

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



## Pipeline security company says it's victim of smear campaign

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The heavily criticized company that handled private security for the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline said Thursday that its efforts were aimed at creating a safe working environment and that it's the victim of a smear campaign.

North Carolina-based TigerSwan is in trouble with North Dakota regulators for operating without a state license and has been lambasted on social media by pipeline opponents for its aggressive tactics during months of protests against the \$3.8 billion pipeline that began moving North Dakota oil to a distribution point in Illinois this month.

The company said in a statement to The Associated Press that it "has been the subject of a deliberate misinformation campaign," and that social media "click bait" makes wild claims about work done in the interests of public safety." The company didn't immediately answer further questions, citing ongoing litigation.

North Dakota's Private Investigative and Security Board this week sued TigerSwan in state court, saying it had no license during the height of the protests and has continued operating after being denied one. The board wants a judge to stop TigerSwan's armed workers from continuing to monitor the pipeline system. It also is seeking attorney fees and administrative fines that could total thousands of dollars from the company and President James Reese for operating without a license, a misdemeanor carrying a potential sentence of 30 days in jail and a \$1,500 fine.

Pipeline opponents have denounced TigerSwan, which was founded by retired military special forces members, after internal documents recently surfaced indicating the company's workers in North Dakota used military-style counter-terrorism measures, had a close working relationship with public law enforcement and used propaganda.

"We worked hard at trying to make sure everybody remained peaceful and prayerful, but the goal of TigerSwan was to frame the dispute as extremely violent," said Dave Archambault, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, which has led opposition to the pipeline. The tribe fears environmental harm. Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline is safe.

Police made 761 arrests during protests in North Dakota between August and February.

"Working in concert with local law enforcement and providing information about violent and illegal behavior allows us to advise clients on a safe working environment," TigerSwan said in its statement.

The company also said it looks forward to addressing issues with the Private Investigative and Security Board, but it didn't elaborate.

---

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

## USDA expands emergency grazing in drought states

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing additional assistance for livestock producers dealing with the ongoing drought across North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

The USDA has expanded emergency grazing on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, including those counties where drought conditions are moderate.

The agency says the authorization includes any county in which any part of its border lies within 150 miles of a county with severe drought.

The action also allows ranchers in the expanded set of counties to donate their hay to those in severe drought counties if the ranchers are CRP contract holders.

Farmers enrolled in CRP received a yearly payment for removing environmentally-sensitive land from production.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 13 of 45

## Construction underway on \$14 million school in Lake Andes

LAKE ANDES, S.D. (AP) — Construction is underway on a multimillion-dollar school in Lake Andes. The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan and The Daily Republic report that ground was broken Wednesday for the project. It includes a new junior high-senior high school and remodeling of the existing elementary school.

The final cost of the project isn't known, but the construction company's preliminary estimate is \$14.2 million.

The school board has authorized \$6 million in reserves for the project and will borrow up to \$10 million. School Board President Debbie Houseman tells The Daily Republic that the project in the town of 833 people has been in the works for about a decade. It's scheduled for completion for the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Tablet computers distributed to South Dakota prisoners

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says all prison inmates who want a tablet computer now have one.

DOC began rolling out the tablets at the women's prison in Pierre last month. Inmates at Rapid City's minimum security were the latest and the last to receive the electronic devices.

Prison phone contractor Global Tel Link provides the free tablets. The company generates revenue from inmate-paid subscriptions to ebooks, games and music streaming on its closed network.

DOC spokesman Michael Winder tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2tsKQuk>) not all the inmates are embracing the technology. Winder says some of the older inmates just don't want the tablets.

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

## Bovine TB in Harding County cattle didn't spread to wildlife

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Testing shows that bovine tuberculosis in a beef cattle herd in Harding County didn't spread to area wildlife.

The infected cattle herd was identified in February. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks tested white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, coyotes and raccoons to determine if the respiratory disease had spread.

The agency says all 199 animals tested negative. Testing was done by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories. More testing is planned during the fall hunting season.

The salvageable big game meat that was processed will be delivered to food pantries through the Feeding South Dakota program.

## More court challenges expected for Trump's new travel ban

By MATTHEW LEE and ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A scaled-back version of President Donald Trump's travel ban is now in force, stripped of provisions that brought protests and chaos at airports worldwide in January yet still likely to generate a new round of court fights.

The new rules, the product of months of legal wrangling, aren't so much an outright ban as a tightening of already-tough visa policies affecting citizens from six Muslim-majority countries. Refugees are covered, too.

Administration officials promised that implementation this time, which started at 8 p.m. EDT (0000 GMT), would be orderly. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Dan Hetlage said his agency expected "business as usual at our ports of entry," with all valid visa holders still being able to travel.

Still, immigration and refugee advocates are vowing to challenge the new requirements and the administration has struggled to explain how the rules will make the United States safer.

And in Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif denounced the partial reinstatement of the travel ban as a "truly shameful exhibition of blind hostility to all Iranians" — and argued that the measure will

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 14 of 45

prevent Iranian grandmothers from seeing their grandchildren in America.

Zarif, who has persistently assailed the travel ban, wrote on his Twitter account that the "U.S. now bans Iranian grandmothers from seeing their grandchildren, in a truly shameful exhibition of blind hostility to all Iranians."

Under the temporary rules, citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen who already have visas will be allowed into the United States. But people from those countries who want new visas will now have to prove a close family relationship or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or business in the U.S.

It's unclear how significantly the new rules will affect travel. In most of the countries singled out, few people have the means for leisure travel. Those that do already face intensive screenings before being issued visas.

Nevertheless, human rights groups girded for new legal battles. The American Civil Liberties Union, one of the groups challenging the ban, called the new criteria "extremely restrictive," "arbitrary" in their exclusions and designed to "disparage and condemn Muslims."

The state of Hawaii filed an emergency motion Thursday asking a federal judge to clarify that the administration cannot enforce the ban against relatives — such as grandparents, aunts or uncles — not included in the State Department's definition of "bona fide" personal relationships.

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer met with customs officials and said he felt things would go smoothly. "For tonight, I'm anticipating few issues because, I think, there's better preparation," he told reporters at Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday night. "The federal government here, I think, has taken steps to avoid the havoc that occurred the last time."

Much of the confusion in January, when Trump's first ban took effect, resulted from travelers with previously approved visas being kept off flights or barred entry on arrival in the United States. Immigration officials were instructed Thursday not to block anyone with valid travel documents and otherwise eligible to visit the United States.

Karen Tumlin, legal director of the National Immigration Law Center, said the rules "would slam the door shut on so many who have waited for months or years to be reunited with their families."

Trump, who made a tough approach to immigration a cornerstone of his election campaign, issued a ban on travelers from the six countries, plus Iraq, shortly after taking office in January. His order also blocked refugees from any country.

Trump said these were temporary measures needed to prevent terrorism until vetting procedures could be reviewed. Opponents noted that visa and refugee vetting were already strict and said there was no evidence that refugees or citizens of those six countries posed a threat. They saw the ban as part of Trump's campaign promise to bar Muslims from entering the United States.

Lower courts blocked the initial ban and a second, revised Trump order intended to overcome legal hurdles. The Supreme Court on Monday partially reinstated the revised ban but exempted travelers who could prove a "bona fide relationship" with a U.S. person or entity. The court offered only broad guidelines.

In guidance issued late Wednesday, the State Department said the personal relationships would include a parent, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States. It does not include other relationships such as grandparents, grandchildren, aunts and uncles. On Thursday, the State and Homeland Security departments had both expanded the range of bona fide relationships to include fiancés.

Business or professional links must be "formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course rather than for the purpose of evading" the ban. Journalists, students, workers or lecturers who have valid invitations or employment contracts in the U.S. would be exempt from the ban. The exemption does not apply to those who seek a relationship with an American business or educational institution purely for the purpose of avoiding the rules.

Refugees from any country will face similar requirements. But the U.S. has almost filled its quota of 50,000 refugees for the budget year ending in September and the new rules won't apply to the few remaining slots. With the Supreme Court set to consider the overall ban in October, the rules could change again.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 15 of 45

The travel ban may have the biggest impact on Iranians. In 2015, the most recently available data, nearly 26,000 Iranians were allowed into the United States on visitor or tourist visas. Iranians made up the lion's share of the roughly 65,000 foreigners from the six countries who visited with temporary, or non-immigrant visas that year.

American journalist Paul Gottinger said he and his Iranian fiancée applied for a visa nearly a year ago but are still waiting on a decision. Gottinger says they were to wed at a Japanese garden in his parents' home state of Minnesota this month but postponed the ceremony until August because they had not yet received the visa.

Now, he expects they will have to delay again.

"Every twist and turn of the courts, we're holding our hearts and our stomachs are falling to the floor," he said by phone from Turkey.

The new regulations are also affecting the wedding plans of Rama Issa-Ibrahim, executive director of the Arab American Association of New York.

She is Syrian-American and had planned to get married this fall. While her father in Syria may be able to get a visa, her aunts and uncles may well be blocked.

"I would love for them to be at this wedding, and unfortunately, they aren't going to be able to be here," she said, adding that the ceremony would be postponed.

Associated Press writers Amy Taxin and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles and Michael Noble in New York contributed to this report.

## **OPCW probe: Sarin used in deadly April 5 attack in Syria**

**By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — An investigation by the international chemical weapons watchdog confirmed Friday that sarin nerve gas was used in a deadly April 4 attack on a Syrian town, the latest confirmation of chemical weapons use in Syria's civil war.

The attack on Khan Sheikhoun in Syria's Idlib province left more than 90 people dead, including women and children, and sparked outrage around the world as photos and video of the aftermath, including quivering children dying on camera, were widely broadcast.

"I strongly condemn this atrocity, which wholly contradicts the norms enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention," Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu said in a statement. "The perpetrators of this horrific attack must be held accountable for their crimes."

The investigation did not apportion blame. Its findings will be used by a joint United Nations-OPCW investigation team to assess who was responsible.

The OPCW scheduled a meeting of its Executive Council July 5 to discuss the findings.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement issued Thursday night after the report was circulated to OPCW member states that "The facts reflect a despicable and highly dangerous record of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime."

President Donald Trump cited images of the aftermath of the Khan Sheikhoun attack when he launched a punitive strike days later, firing cruise missiles on a Syrian government-controlled air base from 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.

Syrian President Bashar Assad has denied using chemical weapons. His staunch ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin, said earlier this month that he believed the attack was "a provocation" staged "by people who wanted to blame him (Assad) for that."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the report, which was not released in full, doesn't back claims by the U.S. and its allies that the sarin was dropped from aircraft.

The report "said they were not sure that the sarin found there had been airdropped in bombs," Lavrov

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 16 of 45

said in Moscow. "They don't know how the sarin ended up there, yet tensions have been escalating for all these months."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said that while the report did not apportion blame, "the U.K.'s own assessment is that the Assad regime almost certainly carried out this abominable attack."

Both the U.S. and the OPCW were at pains to defend the probe's methodology. Investigators did not visit the scene of the attack, deeming it too dangerous, but analyzed samples from victims and survivors as well as interviewing witnesses.

"A rigorous methodology was employed for conducting an investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons that took into account corroboration between interviewee testimonies; open-source research, documents, and other records; and the characteristics of the samples including those provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic," the OPCW said in a statement.

The Syrian government joined the OPCW in 2013 after it was blamed for a deadly poison gas attack in a Damascus suburb. As it joined, Assad's government declared some 1,300 tons of chemical weapons and precursor chemicals which were subsequently destroyed in an unprecedented international operation.

However, the organization still has unanswered questions about the completeness of Syria's initial declaration, meaning that it has never conclusively been able to confirm that the country has no more chemical weapons.

The investigative team responsible for the report has previously concluded "with a high degree of confidence" that chlorine and sulphur mustard, commonly known as mustard gas, had been used as weapons in Syria.

---

Associated Press writers Vladimir Isachenkov and Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed.

## Rookie sluggers Judge, Bellinger grab All-Star attention

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Time to pick players for the All-Star Game and make those close calls.

Yankees rookie Aaron Judge and Washington slugger Bryce Harper are among the big names who have undoubtedly secured their spots in Miami on July 11. But there's a logjam at the corners in the National League, and both rosters are smaller now that the Midsummer Classic no longer determines where the World Series begins.

"I'm OK with this," Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "When you're combining the attempt to play everybody and win the game for the sake of the National League so you get home-field advantage, there's a lot going on."

Online voting for the starters ended at midnight Thursday, so let's take a swing at sorting it all out — ignoring fan and player balloting. Simply our choices.

Both teams get 32 players, including 12 pitchers. That's down from 34 last year, with at least 13 pitchers. But all 30 clubs still must be represented, and that's where it really gets tricky.

For the purpose of these selections, we eliminated players expected to remain on the disabled list through Sunday night, when the rosters will be revealed. That means stars like Mike Trout and Dallas Keuchel, who were having All-Star seasons before they got injured, were left out because it's unclear if they'll be healthy enough to participate at Marlins Park.

Banged-up players on the cusp of returning to action within a few days were given full consideration.

Maddon will manage the NL squad after guiding the Cubs to a World Series title last season. Cleveland skipper Terry Francona runs the American League team.

Here we go:

---

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

FIRST BASE — The stunning starter is Toronto switch-hitter Justin Smoak, followed closely by another unexpected newcomer: Tampa Bay's Logan Morrison. Yonder Alonso represents last-place Oakland.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 17 of 45

**SECOND BASE** — Little big man Jose Altuve is a huge reason Houston has been the best team in baseball most of the year. His backups are Baltimore's Jonathan Schoop and Seattle star Robinson Cano.

**SHORTSTOP** — Carlos Correa makes it an all Astros double-play combination. Smooth-fielding Andrelton Simmons of the Angels is on the bench.

**THIRD BASE** — More surprises here, with Cleveland up-and-comer Jose Ramirez getting the start over Minnesota bopper Miguel Sano.

**CATCHER** — Steady backstop Salvador Perez of the Royals receives his fifth straight nod. Young slugger Gary Sanchez from the Yankees gets his first.

**OUTFIELD** — Leading off, instant power from George Springer of the Astros. He starts in center field, with the towering Judge in right and Chicago first-timer Avisail Garcia shifting to left. The reserves are Boston's Mookie Betts, Detroit's Justin Upton and Kansas City's Lorenzo Cain.

**DESIGNATED HITTER** — Corey Dickerson of the Rays hits his way to a surprising spot in the lineup. Mariners thumper Nelson Cruz also gets a call.

**STARTING PITCHERS** — Chris Sale claims starting honors in his debut season with the Red Sox. The other lefty is Jason Vargas, enjoying quite a comeback with the Royals. Dealing from the right side are Houston first-timer Lance McCullers Jr., Minnesota veteran Ervin Santana, Texas ace Yu Darvish, reigning Rookie of the Year Michael Fulmer from Detroit, and Cleveland teammates Corey Kluber and Carlos Carrasco. Toronto right-hander Marcus Stroman was a tough omission.

**RELIEVERS** — Boston flame-thrower Craig Kimbrel anchors a bullpen that also features Indians lefty Andrew Miller, Blue Jays closer Roberto Osuna and Houston setup man Chris Devenski.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**FIRST BASE** — So many sluggers to choose from. In the end, Arizona's Paul Goldschmidt gets the starting nod over Cincinnati's Joey Votto, Chicago's Anthony Rizzo and resurgent Ryan Zimmerman from Washington. Seems unfair to have to deny Rockies savior Mark Reynolds, putting up magnificent numbers and never an All-Star in 10 previous big league seasons.

**SECOND BASE** — Daniel Murphy is one of six Nationals selected, most of any team. Pirates dynamo Josh Harrison is the backup.

**SHORTSTOP** — The starter is 2016 Rookie of the Year Corey Seager from the Dodgers. He edges out Reds first-timer Zack Cozart.

**THIRD BASE** — Another power-packed position overloaded with deserving candidates. Colorado's Nolan Arenado wins the start, barely beating out Washington's Anthony Rendon and reigning MVP Kris Bryant from the Cubs. Somehow, there's no room for underrated Jake Lamb of the Diamondbacks or Milwaukee newcomer Travis Shaw. Several others warrant a look and can't even get it.

**CATCHER** — Giants star Buster Posey is a no-brainer. Cardinals professor Yadier Molina snags second string, a career achievement award at a thin position.

**OUTFIELD** — Bearded wonder Charlie Blackmon of the Rockies plays center field, flanked by Harper in right and Marcell Ozuna from the hometown Marlins in left. Miami bopper Giancarlo Stanton can start at DH in his home ballpark, with New York's Jay Bruce, Atlanta's Ender Inciarte and Los Angeles rookie Cody Bellinger on the bench. Bellinger is playing first base these days due to Adrian Gonzalez's injury, but he spent plenty of time in left field this season.

**STARTING PITCHERS** — Nationals ace Max Scherzer, last year's NL Cy Young Award winner, gets the ball to start. He's joined by teammate Gio Gonzalez and two other lefties: Clayton Kershaw (Dodgers) and Robbie Ray (Diamondbacks). The right-handers besides Scherzer are St. Louis' Carlos Martinez, Pittsburgh's Ivan Nova and Arizona's Zack Greinke. Washington's Stephen Strasburg has the star power and the strikeouts, but not the ERA. Los Angeles lefty Alex Wood is only short on innings.

**RELIEVERS** — Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen headlines a group that includes Colorado newcomer Greg Holland, Milwaukee strikeout artist Corey Knebel, Padres lefty Brad Hand and Phillies sidearm Pat Neshek.



## **GOP may keep Obama tax on wealthy in bid to save health bill**

**By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Senate Republicans may try preserving a tax boost on high earners enacted by President Barack Obama in a bid to woo party moderates and rescue their sputtering push to repeal his health care overhaul.

The break from dogma by a party that has long reviled tax boosts — and most things achieved by Obama — underscores Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's feverish effort to yank one of his and President Donald Trump's foremost priorities from the brink of defeat.

The money from the tax boost would instead be used to bolster proposed health care subsidies for lower-income people.

The change, proposed by Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., would give a more populist flavor to the bill. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that as the legislation now is written, it would boost out-of-pocket costs for many poor consumers and produce 22 million uninsured people while cutting around \$700 billion in taxes over a decade — largely for richer people and the health care industry.

"You're increasing the burden on lower-income citizens and obviously alleviating the burden on the wealthy. That is not an equation that works," Corker said. He said he was "very confident" that leaders would address the issue in the updated bill.

Top Republicans also considered an amendment pushed by conservatives to let insurers offer plans with low premiums and scant benefits. To do so, a company would also have to sell a policy that abides by the consumer-friendly coverage requirements in Obama's 2010 statute, which the GOP is struggling to repeal.

Both proposals were encountering internal Republican opposition, and it was uncertain either would survive. But the effort underscored how McConnell, R-Ky., needed to mollify both wings of his divided party to rescue his health care legislation, which he wrote secretly but has floundered.

McConnell postponed a vote on an initial version Tuesday because of opposition from conservatives and moderates alike. By this week's end, he wants to nail down changes that would assure the bill's passage after Congress' weeklong July 4 recess. No more than two of the 52 GOP senators can oppose the measure for him to prevail, and there were no indications he'd achieved that margin as senators left town Thursday.

"We're kind of at a stalemate right now, I'd say," said Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., who with Ohio GOP Sen. Robert Portman and others wants to forestall reductions the measure would make in Medicaid. Discussions about easing those cuts were continuing, but progress so far was "not enough for me," said Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev. Trump weighed in on the stalemate Friday morning, tweeting: "If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL, and then REPLACE at a later date!" That's an approach advocated by Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul.

The Medicaid program for low-income and disabled people has grown dramatically in their states and others, but the Republican bill would cut it, with reductions growing over time.

The CBO says Medicaid cuts in the Senate Republican health care bill would take a 35 percent bite off the program's projected spending by 2036.

Under Corker's proposal, the bill would retain Obama's 3.8 percent tax increase on investment income for married couples making more than \$250,000 a year and individuals making more than \$125,000. Keeping that increase would save \$172 billion over 10 years, and moderates want to use that money to make coverage more affordable for poorer consumers.

"If it takes something like that to get our members on board to move this process forward, I think we have to consider that," said No. 3 Senate GOP leader John Thune of South Dakota.

Conservatives said they opposed the idea, along with the chairmen of Congress' two tax-writing committees: Senate Finance chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and House Ways and Means chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas.

Also in play was a proposal by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, to let insurers offer skimpier policies, which conservatives say would lower premiums.

Moderates oppose that, especially if it lets insurers raise premiums on people with pre-existing medical

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 19 of 45

problems. No. 2 GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas suggested the proposal might not survive because Senate rules won't allow it on the bill.

The leader of the conservative House Freedom Caucus suggested the Senate bill would be doomed if it excluded something like Cruz's plan or House-approved provisions letting insurers charge higher prices to people with serious diseases. Many expect the House to try for quick passage of any health care bill the Senate approves, foregoing potential problems of negotiating a bicameral compromise.

"Is failure an option? Absolutely not," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C. "Is failure on the doorstep knocking? Absolutely. So we've got to make sure we don't answer that door."

Republicans also said party leaders agreed to add \$45 billion for battling opioids abuse to their bill. They were also considering a proposal by conservatives to let people use tax-advantaged health savings accounts to pay health care premiums.

Associated Press writers Erica Werner, Mary Clare Jalonick, Kevin Freking and Stephen Ohlemacher contributed to this report.

## MSNBC 'Morning Joe' hosts fire back at Trump Twitter blasts

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Morning Joe" hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski said Friday that President Donald Trump lied about their December encounter in a tweet and that his "unhealthy obsession" with their program doesn't serve his mental health or the country well.

The two MSNBC personalities postponed a vacation in order to respond to Trump's tweet, which drew wide condemnation a day earlier because he called Brzezinski "crazy" and said she was "bleeding badly from a face-lift" when he saw them at his Florida estate.

"We were heartened to hear a number of Republican lawmakers call out Mr. Trump for his offensive words and can only hope that the women who are closest to him will follow their examples," the hosts said in a co-bylined column posted Friday on The Washington Post's website.

They planned to appear on their show an hour after its 6 a.m. start to discuss the issue, colleague Willie Geist said.

His colleagues warmed up for him, with panelist Donnie Deutsch calling the president "a vulgar human being."

For their part, the hosts said they had known Trump for more than a decade and have "fond memories" of their relationship. They were at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida shortly before the New Year in December to encourage Trump to give them an interview.

They said Trump was lying about Brzezinski having a face-lift, although "she did have a little skin under her chin tweaked."

Their program and Trump have had a tortured relationship. They were criticized by some for being too close to Trump during the campaign and giving his candidacy an early boost, but have turned sharply against him. Brzezinski in recent weeks has wondered whether Trump was mentally ill and said the country under his presidency "does feel like a developing dictatorship."

The hosts said in the Post column that they've noticed a change in Trump's behavior over the past few years that left them neither shocked nor insulted by the Thursday tweet.

"The Donald Trump we knew before the campaign was a flawed character but one who still seemed capable of keeping his worst instincts in check," they wrote.

Trump on Thursday had launched a crude Twitter attack on the brains, looks and temperament of Brzezinski, drawing bipartisan howls of outrage and leaving fellow Republicans beseeching him: Stop, please just stop.

Trump's tweets revived concerns about his views of women in a city where civility already is in short supply and he is struggling for any support he can get for his proposals on health care, immigration and other controversial issues.

"I heard poorly rated @Morning\_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore)," Trump tweeted to his

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 20 of 45

nearly 33 million followers Thursday morning. "Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!"

The tweets served to unite Democrats and Republicans for once in a chorus of protest that amounted to perhaps the loudest outcry since Trump took office.

"Obviously I don't see that as an appropriate comment," said Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called Trump's tweets, "blatantly sexist." The president, she added, "happens to disrespect women ... it's sad."

Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma even linked the president's harsh words to the June 14 shootings of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise and three others.

"The president's tweets today don't help our political or national discourse and do not provide a positive role model for our national dialogue," Lankford said, noting that he had just chaired a hearing on the shootings.

On Trump's level of insult-trading, Brzezinski responded on Twitter by posting a photograph of a Cheerios box that included the phrase "made for little hands." People looking to get under the president's skin have long suggested that his hands appear small for his frame.

Trump's allies cast his outburst as positive, an example of his refusal to be bullied.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president was "pushing back against people who have attacked him day after day after day. Where is the outrage on that?"

"The American people elected a fighter; they didn't elect somebody to sit back and do nothing," she added.

First lady Melania Trump, who has vowed to fight cyberbullying while her husband is president, gave his tweets a pass.

"As the first lady has stated publicly in the past, when her husband gets attacked, he will punch back 10 times harder," her communications director, Stephanie Grisham, said in a statement.

The White House has shown increasing irritation over harsh coverage of the president on Brzezinski and Scarborough's "Morning Joe," including commentary questioning Trump's mental state.

## China strongly protests US arms sales to Taiwan

By **DIDI TANG** and **RALPH JENNINGS**, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Friday strongly protested a U.S. plan to sell \$1.4 billion worth of arms to Taiwan and demanded that the deal be canceled.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the sale would severely damage China's sovereignty and security interests and run counter to Washington's commitment to a "one-China" policy.

He asked the U.S. to immediately stop the sale to avoid harming relations with Beijing.

"We stress that nobody could sway our determination to uphold our territorial integrity and sovereignty," Lu said at a regular daily briefing. "We oppose any external interference in our internal affairs."

The U.S. State Department approved the arms sale on Thursday, the first such deal with Taiwan since President Donald Trump took office.

The sale was broadly welcomed on Taiwan as a show of U.S. support, despite concerns about the strain on finances and Beijing's angry response. Taiwan's defense department said the sale would enhance the island's self-defense capability.

China considers Taiwan to be part of its territory and has long opposed any arms sales to the self-governing island by foreign entities. It insists on eventual reunification, through force if necessary.

The U.S. State Department's approval of the sale — the first since December 2015— follows a tense year between China and Taiwan.

Beijing cut ties with the government of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen shortly after she took office in May last year and has been steadily ratcheting up diplomatic and economic pressure. Her ruling Democratic Progressive Party says it wants stable relations with Beijing, but hasn't followed her predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, in endorsing the "one-China" principle.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 21 of 45

China's hostility toward Tsai is a big concern, said Lee Chun-yi, a ruling party legislator. "Most people will support this arms sale because we need to strengthen our defense" amid strained relations between the sides, he said. The party favors a stronger Taiwanese identity.

About 66 percent of Taiwanese oppose unification with Beijing, a Taiwan Indicators Survey Research poll found in May 2016.

"How can we not do anything?" said Chu Chen-tsai, 57, a blue-collar worker in Taipei. "We hope to get high-quality weaponry to defend ourselves."

In the southern city of Kaohsiung, citizens feel vulnerable to a Chinese attack through the shipping port, said George Hou, a media studies lecturer at I-Shou University in the city.

"We need to maintain a balance with China, so for that stability the arms sale will be helpful," Hou said. "People here will consider it goodwill from the United States."

Many in Taiwan had been wondering whether Trump was sidelining Taiwan to form stronger relations with Beijing, in part to seek its help in pressuring North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program. Trump had raised hopes on the island when he broke with diplomatic precedent in December by taking a phone call from Tsai, but in February he assured Beijing he supported its "one-China" policy.

"The timing (of the arms sale proposal) is good politically, because a lot of people say Trump doesn't like Taiwan," said Huang Kwei-bo, associate professor of diplomacy at National Chengchi University in Taipei. "Now people are saying 'hey look, the U.S. government still supports us.'"

But some people are concerned it could lead to an arms race with China, Huang said.

The arms approved by the U.S. government for sale to Taiwan include torpedoes, technical support for early warning radar, anti-radiation missiles and missile components, officials from the two governments said.

Taiwanese officials indicated they would pursue the U.S. arms package. The defense ministry plans to start discussions "as soon as possible" about quantities, prices and delivery times, it said in a statement.

"President Trump has been in office for five months and just approved the first arms package for Taiwan," the foreign ministry in Taipei said. "That amply shows Taiwan's security is a priority."

Jennings reported from Taipei, Taiwan.

## 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. NEW TRAVEL RULES IN PLACE

A scaled-back version of Trump's travel ban takes effect, stripped of provisions that brought protests and chaos at airports worldwide yet still likely to generate a new round of court fights.

### 2. CHINA WARNS US ON WEAPONS DEAL

Beijing strongly protests the Trump administration's plan to sell \$1.4 billion worth of arms to Taiwan and demands that the deal be canceled.

### 3. WHAT'S A NO-NO ON THE JOB

If Trump were anyone else, he'd be fired, or at least reprimanded, for his latest tweets attacking a female TV host, workplace experts say.

### 4. IRAQI FORCES CLEAR KEY NEIGHBORHOOD IN MOSUL

The operations in the city once held by Islamic State militants come a day after Iraq's prime minister declared an end to the extremist group's self-proclaimed caliphate.

### 5. HOW GOP HOPES TO PUSH THROUGH HEALTH OVERHAUL

Top Senate Republicans may try preserving a tax boost on high earners in a bid to woo party moderates and rescue their sputtering efforts to repeal "Obamacare."

### 6. GERMAN LAWMAKERS OK SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The vote to legalize gay unions brings the country in line with many of its Western peers.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 22 of 45

## 7. DETAILS ON DEADLY SHOOTINGS EMERGING

A district attorney in Louisiana is releasing his office's report on an attack by a gunman who killed three law enforcement officers and wounded three others last summer in Louisiana's capital.

## 8. FOR DUTERTE, A STORMY FIRST YEAR IN POWER

He's known as "Duterte Harry" after the Clint Eastwood movie character. But the Philippine president's critics contend that he's as much a criminal as a crime-fighter.

## 9. LEADING FRENCH FEMINIST POLITICIAN DIES AT 89

Simone Veil, a survivor of Nazi death camps, was a prominent proponent of Europe's integration who spearheaded abortion rights.

## 10. BASEBALL'S ALL-STAR ROSTERS STILL TAKING SHAPE

Rookie sensation Aaron Judge and perennial slugger Bryce Harper have secured their spots, but there's a logjam at both first and third base in the National League.

## China flexes military muscle in Hong Kong during Xi's visit

By **KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press**

HONG KONG (AP) — President Xi Jinping inspected troops based in Hong Kong on Friday as he asserts China's authority over the former British colony, where anti-China sentiment has been on the rise since Beijing took control 20 years ago.

Xi rode in an open-top jeep past rows of soldiers lined up on an airstrip on his visit to the People's Liberation Army garrison. He called out "Salute all the comrades" and "Salute to your dedication" as he passed 3,100 soldiers arranged in 20 formations.

Armored personnel carriers, combat vehicles, helicopters and other pieces of military hardware were arrayed behind the troops.

It was a rare display of the Chinese military's might in Hong Kong, where it normally maintains a low-key presence. China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, is expected to make a port call next month.

Xi, who's also chairman of the Central Military Commission, wore a buttoned-up black jacket in the steamy heat during his 10-minute review of troops at the Shek Kong base in Hong Kong's suburban New Territories. It's part of a visit to mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover, when Britain gave up control of the Asian financial hub to China on July 1, 1997.

Hong Kong was granted the freedom to run most of its affairs after it came under China's control under the "one country, two systems" principle. However, Beijing is in charge of the city's defense and foreign affairs. Troops deployed from the mainland are typically confined to bases scattered across town and at headquarters downtown. Hong Kongers aren't allowed to join up.

Apart from trying to drum up Chinese national pride, the military display also serves as a warning to groups expressing anti-China sentiment or pushing for independence, said Willy Lam, a political analyst at Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The message is that "when all else fails the PLA will always be the last resort. This, I think, would get people quite worried," Lam said. "The implications are quite scary."

Xi's three-day visit to mark the anniversary includes presiding at the inauguration Saturday of the city's new leader, Carrie Lam.

Security has been tight for his visit as authorities brace for protests.

Police arrested 26 people, including young activist leader Joshua Wong, after they climbed onto a giant flower sculpture symbolizing Hong Kong's "reunification" with China on Wednesday. The department said they were later released on bail without charge but are required to report back to police in September. Some were held for more than 30 hours.

Pro-democracy supporters fear Beijing is tightening its grip on Hong Kong and undermining guarantees of wide autonomy under "one country, two systems."

Nathan Law, a former student protest leader elected to Hong Kong's semi-democratic legislature last year, was among those arrested.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 23 of 45

The action at the statue "aimed to show that for the past 20 years, our human rights, our freedom, our democracy have deteriorated," Law told reporters Friday.

Another activist, Avery Ng of the League of Social Democrats, said authorities appeared to be increasingly using "thugs" in addition to regular police to intimidate and harass the opposition. Unknown men followed him and at least one other person after their release and refused to identify themselves when confronted, he said.

U.S. officials said they were concerned that China's Communist leaders weren't sticking to their promises. "Looking ahead to the remaining 30 years of 'one country, two systems,' we cannot allow Hong Kong to go the way of Beijing's failed authoritarianism," U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, said in a statement.

Associated Press writer Christopher Bodeen contributed to this report.

## Militant siege, drug killings mark Duterte's stormy 1st year

By **JIM GOMEZ** and **TERESA CEROJANO**, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — It's been a remarkably turbulent first year for Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose war on drugs has left thousands of suspects dead and prompted critics to call his rule a "human rights calamity." One accused him of crimes against humanity before the International Criminal Court.

A former state prosecutor, Duterte denies condoning extrajudicial killings and remains popular with the masses who embrace his unorthodox leadership style, profanity-laced outbursts and draconian bent in an Asian bastion of democracy. Last month, he declared martial law in the south to deal with an unprecedented siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants that continues to devastate Marawi city and alarm the rest of Southeast Asia.

A look at some of the issues that ruffled the first of his six years in office:

### ISLAMIC STATE-LINKED SIEGE

Duterte was with his top security officials on an official visit to Russia for talks with his idol, President Vladimir Putin, when an estimated 500 militants, some waving Islamic State group-style black flags, blasted their way on May 23 into Marawi, a mosque-dotted enclave of Islamic faith in the southern third of the predominantly Roman Catholic country.

Joined by dozens of foreign fighters, the attackers occupied buildings, set free more than 100 inmates before burning a jail, destroyed a cathedral and barricaded streets and three access bridges in 19 of 96 Marawi neighborhoods. Most of the more than 200,000 residents fled.

From Russia, Duterte declared martial law across the southern Philippines for 60 days and ordered a major offensive backed by airstrikes.

At least 303 militants, 82 soldiers and police and 44 civilians have been killed. A month and a half later, less than 100 gunmen were still holed up in four neighborhoods with more than 100 civilian hostages, according to the military.

Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict, said that weak law enforcement and a stalled government autonomy deal with a large Islamic rebel group, which could have helped ease Muslim restiveness, set the conditions for the militants to try to gain a foothold in the south.

### DRUG WAR

A former mayor of southern Davao city, where he earned the nickname "Duterte Harry" after the crime-busting Clint Eastwood movie character, Duterte expanded his anti-drug crackdown nationwide after winning the presidency.

During the campaign, he promised to rid the country of illegal drugs in three to six months and repeatedly threatened traffickers with death. But he missed the deadline and later declared he would fight the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 24 of 45

menace until his last day in office.

When then-President Barack Obama, along with European Union and U.N. rights officials, raised alarm over the mounting deaths, Duterte lashed at them, once telling Obama to "go to hell." Duterte's fiercest critic at home, Sen. Leila del Lima, was detained in February on drug charges she said were baseless.

Nearly 5,000 suspects have died so far, including 3,151 in reported gunbattles with police and 1,847 others in drug-related attacks including by motorcycle-riding masked gunmen, police said. Human rights groups have reported a higher death toll and called for an independent investigation of Duterte's possible role in the violence.

Duterte "has unleashed a human rights calamity on the Philippines in his first year in office," U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said. In April, a lawyer filed a complaint of crimes against humanity against Duterte and other officials in connection with the drug killings before the International Criminal Court. An impeachment complaint against the president was dismissed in the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte's allies.

## SOUTH CHINA SEA

More than a month into Duterte's presidency, the Philippines won a landmark arbitration case before a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated China's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea under a 1982 U.N. maritime treaty.

However, Duterte, aiming to turn around his country's frosty relations with China, refused to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the ruling. He promised he would take it up with Beijing at some point. Confronting China, which has dismissed the ruling as a sham, risks sparking an armed conflict that the Philippines would surely lose, Duterte contended.

Nationalists and critics blasted Duterte for what they see as a sellout to China. After a Beijing meeting between the two leaders, China allowed Filipino fishermen to return to the Chinese-controlled Scarborough Shoal, where Chinese coast guard ships had driven Filipinos away since 2012.

The Philippines has been the most vocal critic of China's aggressive behavior in the disputed waters until Duterte took power and reached out to Beijing, partly to secure funding for infrastructure projects.

His move has effectively de-escalated tensions in the busy sea, but critics have warned the president's friendly overtures to China may gradually erode the country's chances to demand that China comply with the ruling and relinquish its claims to waters regarded as the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

## VERBAL FLIP-FLOPS

Duterte has made U-turns on public pronouncements that have kept reporters and even Cabinet members guessing and clouded his policy direction.

He repeatedly declared last year that he would end military exercises with U.S. forces and drive them out of the south, where he says the American presence has helped fuel restiveness among minority Muslims. His defense secretary later said that the president had approved continuing joint exercises with the Americans, although the number of drills would be reduced and exclude mock assaults that have riled China.

Labeling himself a leftist, Duterte has declared he would chart a foreign policy independent of the United States, his country's longtime treaty ally. When asked how that policy could be affected by the U.S. military's deployment of a spy plane to help Filipino troops locate militants in Marawi, Duterte said he didn't seek America's help himself but gave his defense officials leeway to do everything to crush the siege.

Duterte also explained that he only had a feud with Obama but not with the American people and the State Department, adding that "as far as (President Donald) Trump is concerned, he's my friend."

He grudgingly thanked the Americans for the assistance in Marawi, which he said was helping save lives.

## Trump, Putin face high-stakes meeting in Germany next week

By KEN THOMAS and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Meeting face-to-face with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Donald Trump's "America First" policy will be put to the test if he opts to confront Russia over intelligence that Moscow meddled in the 2016 presidential election.

National security adviser H.R. McMaster said Thursday that Trump will meet with Putin along the sidelines of the annual Group of 20 meeting in Hamburg, Germany, part of an itinerary that will include meetings with several world leaders.

Trump will face the challenge of working with Russia toward common goals in Syria and Ukraine, while also potentially broaching allegations about Moscow's interferences in the U.S. elections and accusations that some of his associates may have had contact with Russian officials during the 2016 campaign and the transition.

All 17 U.S. intelligence agencies have agreed that Russia was behind last year's hack of the Democratic Party's email systems and tried to influence the 2016 election to benefit Trump.

Trump will be under pressure to side with the U.S. intelligence agencies and press Putin on the issue of election meddling, something he has thus far been reluctant to do. Trump's promise of closer cooperation with Russia has prompted concerns that the U.S. will have diminished leverage over global issues and he could be more sympathetic to Russia.

Trump has staunchly denied that he had any contacts with Russia during his campaign. Russian officials have denied any meddling in the 2016 election.

"Putin is all about optics and symbolism," said Julianne Smith, a National Security Council and Defense Department official under President Barack Obama. "He wants the meeting and the photo more than the discussion."

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies after the White House's announcement that Putin is expecting to meet with Trump in Hamburg. They "will meet at the summit in one way or another. We have said it before," he told state-owned RIA Novosti news agency.

McMaster and White House economic adviser Gary Cohn would not say whether the president intends to address accusations that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election, saying the agenda is "not finalized" for this or any other meeting.

"Our relationship with Russia is not different from that with any other country in terms of us communicating to them really what our concerns are, where we see problems with the relationship but also opportunities," McMaster said.

Many administration officials believe the U.S. needs to maintain its distance from Russia at such a sensitive time — and interact only with great caution.

Some advisers have recommended that the president instead do either a quick, informal "pull-aside" on the sidelines of the summit, or that the U.S. and Russian delegations hold "strategic stability talks," which typically don't involve the presidents, according to current and former administration officials.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss private policy matters by name.

The U.S.-Russian relationship deteriorated during Obama's eight years in office when the Obama administration slapped sanctions on Moscow over its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. Trump frequently said that he was hopeful of improving American ties with Russia.

But major disagreements remain over Ukraine and Syria, and Trump said in April that U.S.-Russian relations "may be at an all-time low."

Russia has sought to put itself on an equal footing with the U.S. since the collapse of the Soviet Union, extending its territory where it can, countering U.S. military action and positioning itself as a rival to the world's biggest economy.

McMaster said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is taking the lead on the discussions and "has been engaged in a broad, wide-range discussion about irritants, problems in the relationship but also to explore opportunities, where we can work together, areas of common interest. So it won't be different from our



discussions with any other country.”

Trump will kick off his second foreign trip in Warsaw, Poland, where he plans to deliver a major speech at Krasinski Square, the site of the memorial to the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Germans during World War II.

In Warsaw, Trump will meet with Polish President Andrzej Duda and attend a summit with a dozen European and Baltic leaders devoted to the Three Seas Initiative. The initiative is an effort to expand and modernize energy and infrastructure links in a region of Central Europe from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Adriatic and Black seas in the south.

In addition to Putin, Trump planned to meet with the leaders of several other countries during the G20, including the United Kingdom, Germany, China, South Korea, Mexico, Indonesia and Singapore, White House officials said.

Associated Press writer Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC> and Salama at <https://twitter.com/vmsalama>

## Travel ban takes effect but less chaos expected

By **MATTHEW LEE** and **ALICIA A. CALDWELL**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A scaled-back version of President Donald Trump’s travel ban took effect Thursday evening, stripped of provisions that brought protests and chaos at airports worldwide in January yet still likely to generate a new round of court fights.

The new rules, the product of months of legal wrangling, aren’t so much an outright ban as a tightening of already-tough visa policies affecting citizens from six Muslim-majority countries. Refugees are covered, too.

Administration officials promised that implementation this time, which started at 8 p.m. EDT (0000 GMT), would be orderly. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Dan Hetlage said his agency expected “business as usual at our ports of entry,” with all valid visa holders still being able to travel.

Still, immigration and refugee advocates are vowing challenge the new requirements and the administration has struggled to explain how they will make the United States safer.

Under the temporary rules, citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen who already have visas will be allowed into the United States. But people from those countries who want new visas will now have to prove a close family relationship or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or business in the U.S.

It’s unclear how significantly the new rules will affect travel. In most of the countries singled out, few people have the means for leisure travel. Those that do already face intensive screenings before being issued visas.

Nevertheless, human rights groups on Thursday girded for new legal battles. The American Civil Liberties Union, one of the groups challenging the ban, called the new criteria “extremely restrictive,” “arbitrary” in their exclusions and designed to “disparage and condemn Muslims.”

The state of Hawaii filed an emergency motion Thursday asking a federal judge to clarify that the administration cannot enforce the ban against relatives — such as grandparents, aunts or uncles — not included in the State Department’s definition of “bona fide” personal relationships.

U.S. District Court Judge Derrick Watson set a timeline for the motion.

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer met with customs officials and said he felt things would go smoothly. “For tonight, I’m anticipating few issues because, I think, there’s better preparation,” he told reporters at Los Angeles International Airport on Thursday night. “The federal government here, I think, has taken steps to avoid the havoc that occurred the last time.”

Much of the confusion in January, when Trump’s first ban took effect, resulted from travelers with previously approved visas being kept off flights or barred entry on arrival in the United States. Immigration officials were instructed Thursday not to block anyone with valid travel documents and otherwise eligible to visit the United States.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 27 of 45

Karen Tumlin, legal director of the National Immigration Law Center, said the rules "would slam the door shut on so many who have waited for months or years to be reunited with their families.

Trump, who made a tough approach to immigration a cornerstone of his election campaign, issued a ban on travelers from the six countries, plus Iraq, shortly after taking office in January. His order also blocked refugees from any country.

Trump said these were temporary measures needed to prevent terrorism until vetting procedures could be reviewed. Opponents noted that visa and refugee vetting were already strict and said there was no evidence that refugees or citizens of those six countries posed a threat. They saw the ban as part of Trump's campaign promise to bar Muslims from entering the United States.

Lower courts blocked the initial ban and a second, revised Trump order intended to overcome legal hurdles. The Supreme Court on Monday partially reinstated the revised ban but exempted travelers who could prove a "bona fide relationship" with a U.S. person or entity. The court offered only broad guidelines.

In guidance issued late Wednesday, the State Department said the personal relationships would include a parent, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States. It does not include other relationships such as grandparents, grandchildren, aunts and uncles. On Thursday, the State and Homeland Security departments had both expanded the range of bona fide relationships to include fiancés.

Business or professional links must be "formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course rather than for the purpose of evading" the ban. Journalists, students, workers or lecturers who have valid invitations or employment contracts in the U.S. would be exempt from the ban. The exemption does not apply to those who seek a relationship with an American business or educational institution purely for the purpose of avoiding the rules.

Refugees from any country will face similar requirements. But the U.S. has almost filled its quota of 50,000 refugees for the budget year ending in September and the new rules won't apply to the few remaining slots. With the Supreme Court set to consider the overall ban in October, the rules could change again.

The travel ban may have the biggest impact on Iranians. In 2015, the most recently available data, nearly 26,000 Iranians were allowed into the United States on visitor or tourist visas. Iranians made up the lion's share of the roughly 65,000 foreigners from the six countries who visited with temporary, or non-immigrant visas that year.

American journalist Paul Gottinger, said he and his Iranian fiancée applied for a visa nearly a year ago but are still waiting on a decision. Gottinger says they were to wed at a Japanese garden in his parents' home state of Minnesota this month but postponed the ceremony until August because they had not yet received the visa.

Now, he expects they will have to delay again.

"Every twist and turn of the courts, we're holding our hearts and our stomachs are falling to the floor," he said by phone from Turkey.

The new regulations are also affecting the wedding plans of Rama Issa-Ibrahim, executive director of the Arab American Association of New York.

She is Syrian-American and had planned to get married this fall. While her father in Syria may be able to get a visa, her aunts and uncles may well be blocked.

"I would love for them to be at this wedding, and unfortunately, they aren't going to be able to be here," she said, adding that the ceremony would be postponed.

Associated Press writer Amy Taxin and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles and Michael Noble in New York contributed to this report.

## Trump's crude tweets: Would anyone else be fired?

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If President Donald Trump were anyone else, he'd be fired, or at least reprimanded, for his latest tweets attacking a female TV host, social media and workplace experts say.

And if he were to look for a job, the experts say, these and past tweets would raise red flags for companies doing social media background checks, an increasingly common practice as tweets and Facebook posts become a daily, sometimes hourly part of our lives.

Of course, Trump is anything but typical.

Still, experts say it's a mistake to think that because the president is getting away with calling a man "Psycho Joe" and saying a woman was "bleeding badly from a face-lift" and had "low I.Q.," regular people would get away with it, too.

"Mr. Trump would be fired for his tweets of today, and nearly every day," said Mike Driehorst, a social media expert at the marketing agency Weaving Influence. "Most companies have a thin skin when it comes to public criticism and media reports."

Nannina Angioni, an employment attorney at the Los Angeles-based law firm Kaedian, said certain speech is protected, such as posts about a workplace grievance or organizing a union. But she said that if "you take to Twitter to call your boss a 'psycho' or say that your CEO has a 'low I.Q.' that could absolutely get you fired."

That applies even to chief executives.

"Any good outside crisis adviser would tell the company's board that they have no choice but to terminate the CEO," said Kara Alaimo, a public relations professor at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. "Today, more than ever before, citizens expect companies to espouse and uphold values."

### PLENTY OF EXAMPLES

In 2013, Justine Sacco, a 30-year-old public-relations executive for the internet company IAC, tweeted, "Going to Africa. Hope I don't get AIDS. Just kidding. I'm white!" Though it was on a personal account with only 170 followers, the tweet quickly went viral. She didn't learn she had become a top "trending topic" — not in a good way — as her phone was off during an 11-hour flight to South Africa. She was fired, of course.

Earlier this year, the New York Post fired football writer Bart Hubbuch for comparing the president's inauguration to the 9/11 attacks. He has since deleted the tweet and apologized.

A month later, a preschool teacher in Texas lost his job over a series of anti-Semitic posts, including a tweet that said "kill some Jews." Nancy Salem had also retweeted: "How many Jews died in the Holocaust? Not enough!" according to a news report at the time. Salem later apologized.

### BROAD RANGE OF POLICIES

What happens when workers send out crude, hateful or offensive tweets — especially if they fall in a gray area — can depend on where they work.

Many policies encourage common sense, such as refraining from posting private company information or speaking on behalf of the company unless authorized. Hate speech and offensive comments are also frowned upon.

"Customers, colleagues, supervisors, suppliers, competitors and others may have access to your posts," General Motors' policy states. "Offensive or inappropriate remarks are as out-of-place online as they are offline. Use the same set of standards as you do in the physical workplace."

Government agencies such as the General Services Administration prohibit "engaging in vulgar or abusive language, personal attacks of any kind, or offensive terms targeting individuals or groups." The White House didn't respond to requests for comment.

Coca Cola's policy, meanwhile, doesn't spell out that employees shouldn't harass others or post racist rants, yet such topics can be construed as falling under "common sense." The policy reads, "You are responsible for your actions. We encourage you to get online and have fun, but use sound judgment and common sense."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 29 of 45

The computer chip maker Intel also trusts employees to use their own judgment.

"What do our policies mean? They mean that we trust you," the guidelines state. "We bring smart people into the Intel family and we expect you to make smart decisions."

But as Sacco, Hubbuch and Salem learned, with trust comes responsibility and if you tweet first and think later, you could face dire consequences.

## GROWING SCRUTINY

As for the next job, Social Intelligence is one of a growing number of companies that screens social media accounts of prospective employees — similar to criminal background checks or credit reports.

Its president, Bianca Calhoun Lager, said the company has seen a "really big demand growth" since early 2016. Anecdotally, she said the attention on tweets and other social media during the 2016 elections may have contributed to the growth.

The company screens people's publicly available posts against a set of criteria such as potentially illegal or violent activity, or content that is sexually explicit, racist or intolerant. About 10 to 15 percent of the applicants screened get flagged, often for multiple incidents, suggesting a questionable post is more than a mistake.

Rather than wait for an employee to engage in conduct that can lead to firing, Lager said employers are increasingly protecting themselves from hiring people who might create a hostile workplace to begin with.

AP Business Writers Tali Arbel and Candice Choi in New York, Dee-Ann Durbin and Tom Krisher in Detroit and Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this story.

## Arizona summer camps evacuate as wildfires sweep US West

By **BOB CHRISTIE and ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press**

PRESCOTT VALLEY, Ariz. (AP) — An Arizona forest fire that shut down youth summer camps, forced thousands from their homes and came dangerously close to consuming a town was 43 percent contained by Thursday evening, authorities said.

About 1,400 evacuated residents of the community of Mayer were allowed to go home earlier in the day and Yavapai County Sheriff Scott Mascher estimated 2,000 other residents of other small communities remained out of their homes.

Campgrounds were also emptied and 1,400 children attending summer camps were bused out as the fire approached.

The fire, which has now burned about 45 square miles (116 sq. kilometers), was one of the top firefighting priorities in the U.S. after it rapidly grew while burning through a dense, rugged forest.

More than 800 firefighters were battling the blaze burning in the communities around Prescott, which draws a mix of desert dwellers escaping the heat, retirees and visitors to its famed Old West-themed Whiskey Row lined with bars.

Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey toured the fire zone about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Phoenix and thanked firefighters.

The flames crossed a road a day earlier and approached the town of Dewey-Humboldt, but officials said firefighters saved the community from devastation.

"When that fire jumped that road and started heading to Dewey-Humboldt, we thought it was gone," Mascher said. "I thought there was no stopping it."

Authorities estimated that the fire burned a handful of homes, but did not have an exact count.

The blaze also forced evacuations for children and campers in a cooler part of Arizona that many head to in the summer to escape the stifling heat.

About 1,400 children had to leave summer camps run by churches and the YMCA among others where children swim, ride horses and participate in outdoor games and activities. Several campgrounds — normally popular sites for the July Fourth weekend — were also forced to close.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 30 of 45

Authorities used school buses to transport children from the camps to the small mountain city of Prescott, where they re-connected with their parents, said Yavapai County Supervisor Tom Thurman. No camps burned, but county officials did not want to take risks.

"For the kids, we're just being proactive," Thurman said.

After spending two nights in a shelter for people evacuated from the fire, Tracey McCabe was looking forward Thursday to sleeping in her own bed after authorities lifted some evacuation orders and said improving weather conditions were helping them fight the fire.

McCabe was among several hundred residents in the town of Mayer, population 1,400, allowed to go home after fire officials determined their homes were no longer at risk from the fire that started Saturday. The cause was not known Thursday.

McCabe worried that her house might have had an orange tag placed on it by authorities to mark residents evacuated safely away from the fire zone.

"That means you're not there. It's an open invitation to thieves," she said.

Firefighters on Thursday were also battling wildfires in California, New Mexico, Utah and Washington state.

The Arizona blaze grew slightly overnight but fire officials said lower wind speeds would make it easier for firefighters to try to quell it.

Higher humidity also helped firefighters on Wednesday despite a temporary halt to aircraft operations because of an unauthorized drone flying in the area. Several helicopters and fire crews had to stop working for about 45 minutes to an hour because the drone posed a serious safety hazard. Authorities did not find the pilot.

In the town of Dewey-Humboldt, David Eastlack, his girlfriend and their three daughters woke up Wednesday to find ash falling "like snowflakes" and a warning from authorities to prepare for a possible evacuation.

Eastlack was working at a warehouse later that morning when officials arrived and told workers to go home, get their families and leave the town of about 4,000.

He raced home, loaded the family SUV with clothes and family pictures and headed for the evacuation center at a high school in the next town up the highway.

"We left everything else," Eastlack said. "If it got destroyed in the fire, it's just stuff. But we took the memories."

Ducey, Arizona's governor, noted that Friday marks the four-year anniversary of a wildfire that killed 19 elite firefighters in Yarnell, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southwest of Prescott Valley.

He praised "the elite status of those young men that we lost. And I wanna take that same type of spirit out as we fight this fire over the Fourth of July holiday weekend."

Elsewhere, hundreds of people forced from their homes by a Utah wildfire were expected to return even as the blaze grew.

Fire managers said Thursday at 25-mph (40-kph) wind gusts expanded the wildfire near the ski resort town of Brian Head to more than 91 square miles (236 square kilometers), though firefighters boosted its containment to 15 percent. The fire was ignited by someone using a weed-burning torch.

In Southern California, a wildfire burning on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base and in the city of San Clemente was about 10 percent contained. Officials there say higher humidity levels slowed the fire's pace.

Fires that flared dangerously close to homes in the Hollywood Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles and in the city of Burbank were knocked down.

Galvan reported from Phoenix. Associated Press writers Clarice Silber and Josh Hoffner in Phoenix and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Pope's top aide is charged in sex assault case in Australia

By NICOLE WINFIELD and KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis suffered a major blow when his top financial adviser, Cardinal George Pell, was charged in his native Australia with multiple counts of sexual assault from years ago, bringing a criminal case in the long-running abuse scandal inside the frescoed walls of the Vatican for the first time.

The 76-year-old Pell — the highest-ranking Vatican official ever implicated in the scandal — forcefully denied the accusations and took an immediate leave of absence as Vatican finance czar to return to Australia to defend himself.

"The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me," Pell told reporters Thursday in the Vatican press office. "News of these charges strengthens my resolve, and court proceedings now offer me an opportunity to clear my name."

The pope thanked him for his "honest" work and collaboration, and set about trying to ensure that the financial reforms he had entrusted to Pell would continue in his absence.

But the case creates a thorny image problem for the pope, who has already suffered several credibility setbacks in his promised "zero tolerance" policy about sex abuse in the worldwide scandal.

In 2014, Francis won cautious praise from victims' advocacy groups when he created a commission of outside experts to advise him and the broader church about the "best practices" to fight abuse and protect children.

But the commission has lost much of its credibility after its two members who were survivors of abuse left in frustration. Francis also scrapped the commission's signature proposal — a tribunal to hear cases of bishops who covered up for abuse — after Vatican officials objected.

That one of his top advisers now stands charged with abuse himself increases the pressure on Francis to get the abuse commission back on track and press ahead with the financial reforms that he was elected pope to enact.

"It's a big crisis for Pope Francis, because Cardinal Pell was the man he called from Sydney to Rome to reform the Vatican finances," noted Christopher Lamb, correspondent for the British Catholic magazine, *The Tablet*. "Pope Francis has said 'zero tolerance' for abusers, that he was going to sack bishops who cover up, but at the same time there have been number of cases where he's been accused of having not taken strong enough action."

Notably, Francis didn't force Pell to resign. He has said he would wait for Australian justice to run its course before making a judgment himself.

The developments also posed a new obstacle for Francis as he tries to overhaul the Vatican bureaucracy and bring its finances up to international accounting and transparency standards.

If the case drags on, he will be pressed to ensure that the economy secretariat can work effectively. Reforms already were strained by Pell's repeated clashes with the Italian-dominated bureaucracy, mired by delays, resistance and the complexity of bringing order to the Vatican's financial fiefdoms.

Just last week, one of Pell's top allies, the Vatican auditor general, resigned without explanation two years into a five-year term, raising questions about whether the reform effort was doomed.

The charges against Pell were announced Thursday in Melbourne by Victoria state Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton, who said the cardinal — Australia's senior Catholic — was ordered to appear in court July 26 to face multiple counts of "historical sexual assault offenses" — meaning offenses that generally occurred some time ago. Patton said there are multiple complainants against Pell, but he gave no other details.

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said the Holy See had learned with "regret" of the charges and that the work of Pell's office would continue in his absence, albeit only its "ordinary" affairs.

In a statement he read to reporters while sitting next to Pell, Burke said the Vatican respected Australia's justice system but recalled that the cardinal had "openly and repeatedly condemned as immoral and intolerable" acts of sexual abuse against minors.

He noted Pell's cooperation with Australia's Royal Commission investigation of sex abuse and that as a

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 32 of 45

bishop in Australia, he worked to protect children and compensate victims.

Pell said he intends to return to Rome eventually to resume his work as prefect of the Vatican's economy ministry.

The Vatican said Pell would not participate in any public liturgical events during his leave. The charges came while many of the world's cardinals were in Rome for a ceremony a day earlier to elevate five new cardinals, and Pell did not participate in a Mass in St. Peter's Square on Thursday.

For years, Pell has faced allegations that he mishandled cases of clergy abuse as archbishop of Melbourne and, later, Sydney. But more recently, Pell himself became the focus of a clergy sex abuse investigation, with Victoria detectives flying to the Vatican to interview him last year.

It is unclear what the criminal charges against Pell involve, but two men, now in their 40s, have said that Pell touched them inappropriately at a swimming pool in the late 1970s, when Pell was a senior priest in Melbourne.

Pell's actions as archbishop came under scrutiny in recent years by a government-authorized investigation into how the Catholic Church and other institutions have responded to the sexual abuse of children. The Royal Commission found shocking levels of abuse in Australia's Catholic Church, revealing that 7 percent of priests were accused of sexually abusing children in the past several decades.

Last year, Pell testified to the commission that the church had made "enormous mistakes" in allowing thousands of children to be raped and molested by priests. He conceded that he, too, had erred by often believing the priests over victims who alleged abuse. He vowed to help end a rash of suicides that has plagued church abuse victims in his hometown of Ballarat.

But he also became something of a scapegoat in Australia for all that went wrong with how the church handled the scandal.

Marie Collins, an Irish survivor of abuse who resigned from the pope's advisory commission in March, said Pell never should have been promoted to his Vatican job, given how he mishandled abuse cases in Australia. It was, she said in a statement, "a slap in the face to all those he had let down so badly, not only victims but Catholic people who have spent years now hearing assurance from the Catholic Church that it is taking the issue seriously."

Proving the charges may be difficult. The prosecution must prove the sex offenses occurred beyond a reasonable doubt, which can be difficult when so much time has passed, said Lisa Flynn, national manager of Shine Lawyers' abuse law practice in Australia.

It was unclear if Pell would face a church trial stemming from the accusations. The Vatican has clear guidelines about initiating a canonical investigation if there is a semblance of truth to sex abuse accusations against a cleric. In the case of a cardinal, it would fall to Francis himself to judge. Penalties for a guilty verdict in a church trial include defrocking.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher stood by Pell, calling him "a man of integrity in his dealings with others, a man of faith and high ideals, a thoroughly decent man."

He added that the archdiocese wouldn't be paying Pell's legal bills.

Anne Barrett Doyle of BishopAccountability.org, an online archive of clerical sex abuse documents, said she was surprised by the charges "simply because of their boldness."

"While Pell undeniably is the poster boy for the Australian church's wrongdoing, false allegations are relatively rare," she said in an email.

Gelineau reported from Sydney.

This story has been corrected to show Pell's court date is July 26, based on new information from court.

## House GOP backs bills to crack down on illegal immigration

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Warning of threats to public safety and national security, the Republican-led House on Thursday approved two bills to crack down on illegal immigration, a key priority for President Donald Trump.

One bill would strip federal dollars from self-proclaimed “sanctuary” cities that shield residents from federal immigration authorities, while a separate measure would stiffen punishments for people who re-enter the U.S. illegally.

The sanctuary measure was approved 228-195, while the bill to punish deportees was approved 257-167. Three Democrats joined all but seven Republicans to pass the sanctuary measure, while 24 Democrats backed the deportee bill. Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan was the only Republican who opposed the deportee bill.

The bills now go to the Senate.

Trump, who often railed against illegal immigration during his presidential campaign, hailed passage of the House bills and urged the Senate to act “save American lives.” Trump met at the White House this week with more than a dozen family members of those killed by people in the country illegally.

“Opposing these bills, and allowing dangerous criminals back into our communities, our schools and the neighborhoods where our children play, puts all of us at risk,” Trump said.

One of the bills, known as “Kate’s Law,” would impose harsher prison sentences on deportees who re-enter the United States. The bill is named after 32-year old Kathryn Steinle, who was shot and killed in San Francisco in 2015 by a man who was in the country illegally. Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, who pleaded not guilty to the crime, had been released by sheriff’s officials months earlier despite a request by immigration officials to keep him behind bars.

The second bill would bar states and localities that refuse to cooperate with immigration authorities from receiving certain Justice Department and Homeland Security grants, including some related to law enforcement and terrorism.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the two bills would help “avoid the kind of tragic circumstances that have totally involved the lives of the people who were at the White House ... speaking up for their loved ones.”

The sanctuary measure follows “a simple principle that if you’re going to receive taxpayer dollars from the federal government to keep people safe, that you’ve got to follow the law and keep them safe,” Goodlatte said.

Democrats said the bills were feel-good measures intended to make lawmakers look tough on crime.

“We’re not doing bumper stickers here. We are doing laws,” said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

She and other Democrats said the sanctuary measure was “about telling people how to police their cities” and telling local officials that “we in Washington, D.C., know better than you do.”

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said he appreciates Congress’ effort to “address the dangers of sanctuary cities and illegal immigrant offenders.”

At a news conference at the Capitol with House Speaker Paul Ryan, Kelly said his agency “will enforce the laws that are passed by Congress,” adding, “I am offended when members of this institution put pressure and often threaten me and my officers to ignore the laws they make.”

A spokesman said later that Kelly “will continue to push back against any attempt — pressure, threat or otherwise — to ignore the enforcement of immigration law.”

“Enforcement is not selective, occasional or arbitrary, it’s the law,” spokesman David Lapan said.

The Justice Department’s inspector general has identified California and major cities such as Chicago, New York and Philadelphia as locales with barriers to information-sharing among local police and immigration officials. The Trump administration warned nine jurisdictions in late April that they could lose coveted law enforcement grant money unless they document cooperation.

and Attorney General Jeff Sessions met with the families Thursday. Sessions said Steinle “would still be



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 34 of 45

alive today if only the city of San Francisco had put the public's safety first. How many more Americans must die before we put an end to this madness?"

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., said "Kate's Law" would not have had an impact on the Steinle case, noting that Steinle was killed in July 2015 by an immigrant who had been mistakenly released by the federal Bureau of Prisons.

The proposed bill "would not have kept Kate Steinle's killer off the streets," Gutierrez said. "Instead, we are voting on a bill to put other people — in different circumstances — in jail for longer periods of time. It is a bait-and-switch strategy: Use a horrible tragedy to sell a policy that would not have prevented that death, so that you put more immigrants in jail for longer periods of time."

Follow Matthew Daly: <https://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

## Trump gets it from all sides for trash-talking MSNBC hosts

By LAURIE KELLMAN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump launched a crude Twitter attack on the brains, looks and temperament of a female TV personality Thursday, drawing bipartisan howls of outrage and leaving fellow Republicans beseeching him: Stop, please just stop.

Trump's tweets aimed at MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski revived concerns about his views of women in a city where civility already is in short supply and he is struggling for any support he can get for his proposals on health care, immigration and other controversial issues.

"I heard poorly rated @Morning\_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore)," Trump tweeted to his nearly 33 million followers Thursday morning. "Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!"

The tweets served to unite Democrats and Republicans for once in a chorus of protest that amounted to perhaps the loudest outcry since Trump took office.

"Obviously I don't see that as an appropriate comment," said Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called Trump's tweets, "blatantly sexist." The president, she added, "happens to disrespect women ... it's sad."

Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma even linked the president's harsh words to the June 14 shootings of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise and three others.

"The president's tweets today don't help our political or national discourse and do not provide a positive role model for our national dialogue," Lankford said, noting that he had just chaired a hearing on the shootings.

On Trump's level of insult-trading, Brzezinski responded on Twitter by posting a photograph of a Cheerios box that included the phrase "made for little hands." People looking to get under the president's skin have long suggested that his hands appear small for his frame.

Trump's allies cast his outburst as positive, an example of his refusal to be bullied.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president was "pushing back against people who have attacked him day after day after day. Where is the outrage on that?"

"The American people elected a fighter; they didn't elect somebody to sit back and do nothing," she added.

First lady Melania Trump, who has vowed to fight cyberbullying while her husband is president, gave his tweets a pass.

"As the first lady has stated publicly in the past, when her husband gets attacked, he will punch back 10 times harder," her communications director, Stephanie Grisham, said in a statement.

As Trump welcomed South Korean President Moon Jae-in for a White House dinner Thursday evening, he did not respond to shouted questions from reporters about whether he regretted the tweet.

Some of the administration's most high-profile women — daughter and presidential assistant Ivanka

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 35 of 45

Trump, Counselor Kellyanne Conway and Deputy National Security Adviser Dina Powell — did not respond to requests for comment.

The White House has shown increasing irritation over harsh coverage of the president on Brzezinski and Scarborough's "Morning Joe," including commentary questioning Trump's mental state.

About two hours before his tweets, Brzezinski said on the show that "it's not normal behavior" for any leader to be tweeting about people's appearances or to be bullying, lying, undermining managers and throwing people under the bus. She said that if any business executive behaved the way Trump does, "there would be concern that perhaps the person who runs the company is out of his mind."

On Wednesday, she had mocked Trump after a story in The Washington Post said he had posted fake Time magazine covers of himself in some of his golf resorts.

"Nothing makes a man feel better than making a fake cover of a magazine about himself, lying every day and destroying the country," Brzezinski said.

Trump, who has a habit of throwing up distractions to deflect bad news, has been straining to advance his agenda lately, with the Senate this week coming up short in finding enough votes to begin debate on a bill to roll back President Barack Obama's health care law.

His demeaning broadside against a woman raised new complaints among critics who have long accused him of sexism and inflaming tensions in a deeply polarized nation. Trump also has consistently stoked a long-running feud with the press that has not hurt him with his base of roughly a third of the electorate.

But one expert rejected the idea that Trump's tweets about the MSNBC hosts amounted to a calculated push-back against the media.

"It's not a critique of the press. It's a diatribe. It's a rant," said Theodore L. Glasser, professor emeritus at Stanford University and an expert in mass media.

It wasn't the first time Trump has assailed a television personality who is a woman. In 2015, he went after then-Fox News Channel host Megyn Kelly when she questioned him at a debate. Trump said later that during the exchange, Kelly had "blood coming out of her wherever."

It's also far from the only time he's raised eyebrows with remarks about the physical attributes of women. Just this week in the Oval Office, Trump interrupted his phone conversation with the new prime minister of Ireland to remark on a "beautiful" Irish journalist in the room and take note of the "nice smile on her face."

The latest flare-up did nothing to improve Trump's chances of advancing the health care bill that formed a centerpiece of his campaign.

"This has to stop - we all have a job - 3 branches of gov't and media," tweeted Republican Susan Collins of Maine, a critic of the Senate GOP bill. "We don't have to get along, but we must show respect and civility."

Tweeted Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska, a frequent Trump critic: "Please just stop. This isn't normal and it's beneath the dignity of your office." Agreed South Carolina Republican Lindsey Graham: "Mr. President, your tweet was beneath the office and represents what is wrong with American politics, not the greatness of America."

Brzezinski and Scarborough, who are engaged, have known Trump for years and interviewed him numerous times during the campaign. But they have been highly critical of Trump since he took office.

They did meet with Trump at his Florida estate on New Year's Eve for what they described as a brief visit, and also spent time with the president and senior staff at the White House in February. But Brzezinski supporters disputed Trump's characterization of the Mar-a-Lago meeting, saying it was the president who repeatedly asked the couple to visit him. Brzezinski and Scarborough were staying in the area for the holidays.

NBC News spokeswoman Lorie Acio said in a statement, "It's a sad day for America when the president spends his time bullying, lying and spewing petty personal attacks instead of doing his job."

\_\_\_ Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace and Erica Werner contributed from Washington; Television Writer David Bauder contributed from New York.

\_\_\_ Follow Kellman and Lemire at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and <http://www.twitter.com/JonLemire>

## Iraqi leader declares end to IS caliphate but fight goes on

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — With anti-Islamic State group forces on the offensive in both the Iraqi city of Mosul and the Syrian city of Raqqa, Iraq's prime minister on Thursday declared an end to the extremist group's self-proclaimed caliphate.

But even as Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi made the bold assertion, deadly fighting continued in Mosul — filling field hospitals and forcing hundreds to flee.

"We are seeing the end of the fake Daesh state. The liberation of Mosul proves that," al-Abadi said on Twitter, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "We will not relent. Our brave forces will bring victory."

Across the border in Raqqa, coalition officials predicted a long, bloody battle ahead for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, whose fighters succeeded in completely encircling the militants' de-facto capital Thursday. U.S.-led coalition officials estimated that as many as 2,500 IS fighters remained in the city.

Beginning at dawn, Iraqi forces began a push deeper into Mosul's Old City, where IS fighters were making their last stand. The Iraqi troops moved slowly along foot paths strewn with rubble, twisted metal and downed power lines. Many front-line positions were only reachable by climbing in and out of homes, across roof tops and through holes blasted into concrete walls.

By early afternoon they had reached al-Nuri Mosque, at once a hugely symbolic win and a ruined prize. The site is where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made his only public appearance in July 2014, declaring the self-styled Islamic "caliphate" encompassing territories then-held by the extremists in Syria and Iraq.

But IS destroyed the mosque and its iconic leaning minaret last week, Iraqi and coalition officials said. The Islamic State group blamed a U.S. airstrike for the blasts, a claim rejected by a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition who said coalition planes "did not conduct strikes in that area at that time."

The fight for the Old City has seen some of the most difficult urban combat yet for Iraqi forces in the campaign against IS. Eight months into the Mosul offensive, IS now holds less than two square kilometers (0.8 square miles) of the city, but the advances have come at considerable cost.

Damaged and destroyed houses dot the Old City neighborhoods retaken by Iraqi forces and the stench of rotting bodies rises from beneath collapsed buildings.

"There are hundreds of bodies under the rubble," said special forces Maj. Dhia Thamir. "But they are all Daesh."

Special forces Maj. Gen. Sami al-Aridi acknowledged that civilians have been killed by airstrikes and artillery in the recent fighting. "Of course there is collateral damage, it is always this way in war," he said. "The houses are very old, so any bombardment causes them to collapse completely."

U.S.-led coalition spokesman Col. Ryan Dillon told reporters at the Pentagon that "the Old City still remains a difficult, dense, suffocating fight — tight alley ways with booby traps, civilians, and (IS) fighters around every corner."

Still, he said he expected victory to be "imminent," predicting it would come "in days rather than weeks."

Even after Mosul is retaken, however, IS still controls significant pockets of territory in Iraq that Iraqi forces say will require many more months of fighting to liberate.

Some 300 IS fighters remain holed up inside the last Mosul districts the militants hold, along with an estimated 50,000 civilians, according to the United Nations.

The civilians who managed to escape Thursday fled on foot in waves. Soldiers shouted at men to lift their shirts to show they were not wearing explosives and rummaged through the few possessions people carried with them: identify papers, family photos, baby formula, diapers and clothing.

Nearly 1,000 civilians fled the Old City on Thursday, according to Col. Ali al-Kenani, an Iraqi intelligence officer at a west Mosul screening center. Families covered in dust huddled in the shade of half-destroyed storefronts waiting for flat-bed trucks to move them to camps.

"We saw so many bodies stuck under the rubble as we fled," said Muhammed Hamoud who escaped the Old City with his wife and two children. "One man was still alive. He yelled for us to help him. We were able to dig him out, but he was so badly injured we had to leave him. We couldn't carry him with us."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 37 of 45

While Iraqi forces have had periods of swift gains during the Mosul operation, combat has largely been grueling and deadly for both security forces and civilians. Clashes have also displaced more than 850,000 people according to the International Organization for Migration.

At a small field clinic not far from the front, medics were treating casualties in waves. An entire family suffering from shrapnel wounds from a mortar round was brought in a military vehicle as another Humvee rushed up to the clinic's doors with a body on the hood.

"What do we have?" a doctor yelled as a team scrambled to pull on plastic gloves and ready a cot.

"A martyr," the driver said. The medics stopped prepping bandages and began removing their gloves. The soldier was already dead.

Associated Press writers Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad, Balint Szlanko and Salar Salim in Mosul, and Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## Venezuela prosecutor charging ex-national guard chief

By JORGE RUEDA, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's renegade chief prosecutor charged the former head of the country's national guard Thursday with systemically violating human rights during three months of anti-government protests that have left nearly 80 people dead.

Luisa Ortega Diaz's office announced the charges against Antonio Benavides Torres a day after the nation's Supreme Court declared it was barring her from leaving Venezuela and ordering her bank accounts frozen.

Ortega Diaz, a longtime loyalist of the socialist government who recently broke ranks with President Nicolas Maduro, said police and military officials are responsible for 23 protest deaths to date as well as 853 injuries.

"In a great number of these incidents, there is evidence of excessive use of force in repressing protests," Venezuela's Public Ministry said in a statement, citing the use of unauthorized firearms and torture of those apprehended.

The charges are likely to further escalate tensions between Maduro and Ortega Diaz, who has become one of the president's most vocal critics. She has filed numerous motions to the government-packed Supreme Court challenging Maduro's call for a special assembly to rewrite Venezuela's constitution, all of which have been rejected. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is proceeding with a complaint filed against her by socialist party lawmaker Pedro Carreno.

Maduro announced he was replacing Benavides Torres last week and instead assigning him as government head of the capital district.

Opposition protests demanding new elections and decrying Venezuela's triple-digit inflation, food shortages and worsening crime are continuing to rock the nation as Maduro pushes forward with his plan to draft a new constitution.

On a near daily basis, national guardsmen and police have launched tear gas and rubber bullets at demonstrators, some of whom have responded with rocks and firebombs. The United States, European Union, Canada and others have urged the government refrain from using force against protesters. But protests deaths and injuries have steadily risen, nearly doubling the number of people killed during Venezuela's last wave of political unrest in 2014.

The figures released by Ortega Diaz's office Thursday indicate police and military officers are responsible for about a quarter of the deaths.

Opposition leaders also blame armed pro-government groups known as "colectivos" for the violence, while Maduro's administration insists criminal gangs contracted by right-wing political groups are responsible for the bloodshed.

Benavides Torres was one of seven Venezuelan officials sanctioned by then U.S. President Barack Obama in 2015 for allegedly violating human rights against protesters during the 2014 demonstrations that left 43 people dead.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court issued a ruling broadening the powers of staunchly pro-government



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 38 of 45

ombudsman Tarek William Saab, allowing him to carry out criminal investigations that are the exclusive prerogative of Ortega Diaz.

A defiant Ortega Diaz said she wouldn't recognize the ruling, which she portrayed as a brazen attempt to eliminate her position as Venezuela's top law enforcement official.

"These rulings are giving the power to investigate human rights abuses to people who possibly are violating those rights," she said.

The ruling came on the same evening that authorities say police investigator Oscar Perez stole a police helicopter and flew it over the Supreme Court and Interior Ministry while firing at the buildings. Maduro characterized it as a "terrorist attack."

Witnesses said the helicopter had hanging from its side a large banner referring to article 350 of the country's constitution, which empowers Venezuelans to disobey any regime that violates human rights.

There was relatively little damage to the buildings and no one was injured.

On his Instagram account, Perez, a police pilot and budding action movie actor, posted a video in which he read a manifesto calling for rebellion. He claimed to speak on behalf of a coalition of renegade members of the security forces, though there was no indication of a larger military involvement.

Authorities found Perez's helicopter in the northern state of Vargas on Wednesday afternoon and a nationwide manhunt continued for him Thursday.

---

Associated Press writers Fabiola Sanchez in Caracas and Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

## Science Says: Pregnant or trying? Don't let Zika guard down

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Zika virus may not seem as big a threat as last summer but don't let your guard down — especially if you're pregnant or trying to be.

While cases of the birth defect-causing virus have dropped sharply from last year's peak in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, Zika hasn't disappeared from the region and remains a potential threat.

It's hard to predict how much risk people face in locales with smoldering infection, or if cases might spike again. For now, pregnant women still are being urged not to travel to a country or area with even a few reported cases of Zika, because the consequences can be disastrous for a fetus' brain .

"It's part of the new reality," said Dr. Martin Cetron of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those trying to conceive, and their partners, are advised to check with their doctor on how long to wait after visiting a location with active Zika infection.

There are lingering questions, too, about Zika's risk beyond pregnancy, enough that U.S. scientists just began studying babies in Guatemala to learn if infection after birth also might damage the brain.

The challenge is getting those messages to the people who most need it when Zika is fast receding from the public's radar — even as money may be drying up to track the virus and the babies it injures.

### UNCERTAINTY AS MOSQUITO SEASON GETS IN FULL SWING

In the past month, Puerto Rico and Brazil, hard hit by Zika last year, declared their epidemics over. But smaller numbers of infections continue around the region, according to the CDC and the Pan American Health Organization.

"Zika hasn't gone away," said CDC acting director Dr. Anne Schuchat. "We can't afford to be complacent."

The U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry counts 1,963 pregnant women in U.S. states who had lab tests showing Zika infection since officials began counting in 2016, and another 4,107 in U.S. territories.

Since the beginning of June, 271 pregnant women were added to the registry's Zika count, 80 of them in U.S. states and the rest residents of U.S. territories, although it's not clear when they became infected.

What about nonpregnant travelers? CDC has counted 140 cases so far this year in U.S. states, all of them who had symptoms. The vast majority of people who get Zika don't notice symptoms, yet still are potential spreaders of infection if mosquitoes back home bite them and then someone else. That hap-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 39 of 45

pened late last year in parts of South Florida and Texas, and local health officials remain on alert in case it happens again.

There is no treatment for Zika.

## ZIKA'S FULL HEALTH EFFECTS ARE UNKNOWN

Babies born to Zika-infected mothers can experience severe brain-related defects even if mom had no symptoms. Abnormally small heads, called microcephaly, are the most attention-getting defect. Babies also may have hearing or vision loss, seizures, trouble swallowing or restricted limb movement. Zika infection also can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth.

What's the risk? About 1 in 20 women with Zika so far have had babies with birth defects in U.S. territories, according to the latest pregnancy registry data. Risk was higher if mom was infected during the first trimester, but even third-trimester infections sometimes led to birth defects.

Another scary issue: Some babies appear fine at birth only to develop health problems later on. What if Zika can harm a newborn's still-developing brain like it does a fetal brain? After all, one way Zika does its damage is by attacking developing brain cells called neural progenitor cells, and babies retain many of those cells for months after birth.

To find out, the National Institutes of Health just funded a new study in Guatemala, where Zika still is spreading, to track the health of 500 newborns and 700 other children ages 1 to 5.

"Our concern is that a developing brain in early life can be impacted significantly," Dr. Flor Munoz of Baylor College of Medicine, who will help lead the study, said in a statement. "It's an important question to address not just for children that live in the endemic areas, but also for children who travel to these areas."

Back in the U.S., public health advocates worry that \$1.1 billion Congress approved last year to study and fight Zika is running out — including funding for a birth defects surveillance program intended to monitor affected babies' development and connect them to health services.

That surveillance is critical for knowing what's going on, said Dr. Oscar Alleyne of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. "Otherwise we're flying blind."

## WHERE'S THE VACCINE?

The NIH recently began the first large test of a potential vaccine, a study that aims to enroll 2,400 people in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and five Zika-prone countries. There are no signs of safety problems. But if Zika infections remain at low levels, it's likely to take more than one summer of shots to prove if the vaccine really protects.

This kind of virus "almost certainly is not going to disappear completely," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, recently told Congress.

Several other vaccine candidates are in earlier stages of testing. Further down the pipeline, the NIH also is researching whether it's possible to create a universal vaccine to protect against multiple "flaviviruses" including Zika, dengue, yellow fever and West Nile.

---

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Large study links key pesticide to weakened honeybee hives

BY SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A common and much-criticized pesticide dramatically weakens already vulnerable honeybee hives, according to a new massive field study in three European countries.

For more than a decade, the populations of honeybees and other key pollinators have been on the decline, and scientists have been trying to figure out what's behind the drop, mostly looking at a combination of factors that include disease, parasites, poor diet and pesticides. Other studies, mostly lab experiments, have pointed to problems with the insecticides called neonicotinoids, but the new research done in Britain, Hungary and Germany is the largest field study yet.

Researchers planted about 7.7 square miles (2,000 hectares) of fields of rapeseed, which is made into

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 40 of 45

cooking oil, called canola in America. Some of the fields were planted with seeds treated with the insecticide, others with untreated seeds. The researchers followed bees from the spring of 2015 when the seeds flowered to the following spring when new bees were born.

The bee hives in the Hungarian and British fields that used pesticide-treated seeds did worse surviving through the next winter, the researchers found. In Hungary, the honeybee colonies near treated fields had 24 percent fewer worker bees the next spring when compared to those near untreated crops, according to a study published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

But in Germany, the bees didn't seem harmed. Hives there were generally healthier to start and when scientists analyzed the pollen brought back to the hives, they determined that the German bees ate a far broader diet with much less of their nutrition coming from the pesticide-treated rapeseed plants, said study director Richard Pywell. Only about 10 percent of the German bee diet was from neonicotinoid-treated plants, compared to more than 50 percent in Hungary and England, he said.

When hives are weakened by disease, parasites or bad diet — as many hives are worldwide — then the neonicotinoids “pushes them over the edge,” said Pywell, a scientist at the Center for Ecology and Hydrology in England. So many of the British hives died, in both treated and untreated fields, that scientists couldn't calculate the specific effect of the insecticide, he said.

The same study also found that wild bees were also weakened by the insecticide, but in a bit different ways, Pywell said. And for wild and honeybees, one neonicotinoid brand seemed to cause greater harm.

Europe banned neonicotinoids, or neonics, in 2013 and researchers needed a special exemption to do their study. Another study in the journal, also finds problems with neonicotinoids in a study in Canada.

The European and Canadian studies show that neonicotinoids harm bees, but still may not quite be the leading cause of bee losses, said University of Maryland entomologist Dennis vanEngelsdorp, who wasn't part of the study.

“The problem remains complex, like cancer,” vanEngelsdorp said in an email.

Neonicotinoids makers Bayer and Syngenta paid for the European study but had no control over the results or the published paper, Pywell said.

Company officials pointed to the results in Germany and the lack of harm to hives there.



**FILE - In this May 27, 2015, file photo, volunteer Ben Merritt, a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati, checks honeybee hives for queen activity and performs routine maintenance as part of a collaboration between the Cincinnati Zoo and TwoHoneys Bee Co., in Mason, Ohio. A common and much-criticized pesticide dramatically weakens already vulnerable honey bee hives, according to a new massive in-the-field study in three European countries. For more than a decade, the populations of honey bees and other key pollinators have been on the decline. Other studies, mostly lab experiments, have pointed to problems with the insecticides called neonicotinoids, but the new research done in Britain, Hungary and Germany is the largest field study yet.** (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)



"The study shows that when hives are healthy and relatively disease free and when bees have access to diverse forage, neonics do not pose a danger to colony health," Bayer spokesman Jeffrey Donald wrote in an email.

In a statement, Syngenta's Peter Campbell, head of research collaborations, said the study "strongly suggests the effects of neonicotinoids are a product of interacting factors."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears and his work can be found here.

## Sinkhole swallows up car in downtown St. Louis; no injuries

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A man who scored what he thought was a prime parking spot in downtown St. Louis said he returned from a Thursday morning trip to the gym with his fiancée to find his car swallowed by a sinkhole.

Jordan Westerberg told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (<http://bit.ly/2tpTCZm>) that when the couple came back to his Toyota Camry shortly before 7 a.m. and didn't see the car, they figured it had been towed.

Street workers were gathered at the parking space, a tipoff that something was amiss. That's when Westerberg, 25, found the vehicle in the gaping hole — about 20 feet (6 meters) deep and 8 to 10 feet (2.5 to 3 meters) across — that took up the entire southbound lane of the street, next to a vacant building expected to feature apartments, office space and retail.

No injuries were reported.

"It's pretty crazy," said Westerberg, who lives in a loft downtown. "We could've been in the car. It's a compact car. It's not like it's heavy."

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the collapse, though an 8-inch, below-ground water main at the site appeared to have been broken for some time, given the amount of erosion.

Vincent Foggie, of the city's water division, said hole was missing mounds of dirt that normally support the road's asphalt-topped concrete. He called such voids large enough to swallow a vehicle a rarity in the city.

"We don't know what happened," Foggie said. "I have no idea where the dirt went."



**A St. Louis police officer looks over a large hole in 6th Street, Thursday, June 29, 2017, in St. Louis, that swallowed a Toyota Camry between Olive and Locust Streets. It isn't immediately clear what caused the collapse.** (Christian Gooden/St. Louis Post-Dispatch via AP)

Information from: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, <http://www.stltoday.com>



## US economic growth in Q1 upgraded to 1.4 percent

By **JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy got off to a lackluster start during the first three months of 2017, though it enjoyed more momentum than earlier estimates indicated.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic health, grew at an annual rate of 1.4 percent in the first quarter — better than a previous estimate of 1.2 percent and double the initial estimate of 0.7 percent. The upgrade reflects new-found strength in consumer spending and exports.

The result is weaker than 2.1 percent growth in the fourth quarter and matches the growth rate recorded the second quarter of 2016. It is still well below President Donald Trump's ambitious growth targets of the economy growing at more than 3 percent.

Analysts expect growth to accelerate in the second quarter, fueled by solid hiring and an uptick in consumer spending. Estimates from the Atlanta Federal Reserve expect that the economy expanded at an annual pace of 2.9 percent during the April-June quarter.

Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services, said the slow growth at the start of 2017 "will prove temporary." Faucher expects the economy to expand at a 2.2 percent pace for the entire year.

"The economy is expanding at a solid, if unspectacular, pace," Faucher said.

During the first quarter of the year, consumer spending grew at faster pace than earlier GDP estimates suggested. Spending on housing, health care and financial services, including insurance, rose much higher in the third estimate than the prior estimate. Consumer spending accounts for roughly 70 percent of all economic activity.

"Consumer spending still looks very soft early on this year, but the figures are not as weak as the earlier readings," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JPMorgan Chase.

The May report on consumer spending will be released Friday morning, providing a fuller sense of how consumers are faring in the current quarter.

The exports of U.S. goods also improved more than previously reported, contributing to the slightly faster growth.

Not all of the report was positive. Private investment in buildings and equipment slipped in the latest first-quarter estimate.

## Ex-TEPCO leaders plead not guilty in Fukushima nuclear trial

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — Three former executives of Tokyo Electric Power Co. apologized in court Friday for the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, but they pleaded not guilty to charges of professional negligence.

Tsunehisa Katsumata, the 77-year-old ex-chairman of TEPCO, and two former vice presidents said they don't think they bear criminal responsibility, because they couldn't predict the enormous tsunami that flooded the plant.

That issue is expected to be the crux of their trial, the first to consider whether officials of the utility can be held criminally responsible. TEPCO itself has not been charged. The trial got underway at Tokyo District Court and is likely to take more than a year.

A prosecutor told the court that the three defendants had access to data and studies anticipating the risk of a tsunami exceeding 10 meters (30 feet) that could trigger a loss of power and severe accidents.

"They continued running the reactors without taking any measures whatsoever," the prosecutor said. "If they had fulfilled their safety responsibilities, the accident would never have occurred."

The lawyers in a Japanese trial are generally not identified by name.

Three reactors had meltdowns, and radiation spread into surrounding communities after the nuclear plant north of Tokyo was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011. Tens of thousands of residents were forced to evacuate, and some areas remain uninhabitable more than six years later.

"I apologize for the tremendous trouble to the residents in the area and around the country because

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 43 of 45

of the serious accident that caused the release of radioactive materials," Katsumata said as he bowed slightly, lowering his head.

He and his co-defendants, Sakae Muto, 67, and Ichiro Takekuro, 71, said they couldn't foresee the disaster. "When I recall that time, I still think it was impossible to anticipate an accident like that," Muto said. "I believe I have no criminal responsibility over the accident."

Prosecutors considered the case twice, and dropped it both times, but a citizens' judicial panel overrode their decision and indicted the former executives. They are being tried by a team of lawyers appointed by the court.

The former officials are accused of not taking sufficient preventive measures despite being aware of the risk of a major tsunami at least two years before it happened.

Defense attorneys said in court the tsunami projection was not well-established and divided experts. They said the actual damage was much larger than projected, so if TEPCO had taken steps based on the projection, it would not have prevented the disaster.

The prosecution side started presenting more than 230 pieces of evidence including emails between safety officials and the two vice presidents that suggest increasing concern and a need to take additional tsunami measures at the Fukushima plant.

The three men are charged with professional negligence resulting in death and injury, including the deaths of more than 40 senior citizens during and after evacuation from a hospital, and injuries to 13 people including TEPCO employees during emergency work.

Government and parliamentary investigative reports have said that TEPCO's lack of a safety culture and weak risk management, including an underestimate of tsunami risks, led to the disaster. They also said TEPCO ignored tsunami protection measures amid collusion with regulators and lax oversight.

TEPCO has said it could have taken safety measures more proactively, but that a tsunami of the magnitude that crippled the plant could not be anticipated.

The criminal trial for the TEPCO executives was prompted by an appeal by more than 5,700 people from Fukushima and other parts of Japan, urging prosecutors to investigate and send the utility executives to court to determine who is responsible for the disaster.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>  
Find her work also at <https://www.apnews.com/search/mari%20yamaguchi>

## Asian shares drop, tracking Wall St losses, mixed data

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Shares slipped in Asia on Friday, tracking an overnight decline on Wall Street. Strong Chinese manufacturing data failed to lift benchmarks in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 1.1 percent to 20,000.88 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 0.9 percent to 25,730.74. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.4 percent to 2,384.97. The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.3 percent to 3,179.22 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 lost 1.4 percent to 5,739.60.

WALL STREET: Despite some encouraging news on the U.S. economy, as the Commerce Department said the nation's gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic health, increased at an annual rate of 1.4 percent in the first quarter, investors unloaded technology stocks as investors bet central bankers may be ready to lift rates. That spurred many traders to move out of growth sectors, like technology, and into value stocks, such as banks. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.9 percent to 2,419.70. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 0.8 percent to 21,287.03 and the Nasdaq composite lost 1.4 percent to 6,144.35.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "After yesterday's broad lift for Asian indices, markets are expected to pare back gains today as the positive sentiment subsides," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

CHINA MANUFACTURING: A survey showed China's manufacturing activity accelerated in June, helped by stronger foreign demand for Chinese goods. The monthly purchasing managers' index issued by the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 44 of 45

Chinese statistics bureau and an industry group on Friday rose to 51.7 from May's 51.2 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity expanding. The Federation of Logistics & Purchasing said it was the 11th straight month of improvement.

**JAPAN DATA:** Japan's factory output rose in May from a year earlier and the number of jobs per job seekers climbed to a 43-year high, reflecting labor shortages as the economy gains momentum thanks to stronger exports to the rest of Asia. Despite the high ratio of jobs to job seekers, at 1.49 to 1 the highest since February 1974, government said the unemployment rate rose to 3.1 percent from 2.8 percent in April as workers quit to seek new jobs in a labor-short market.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude rose 31 cents to \$45.24 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 19 cents to settle at \$44.93 a barrel on Thursday. Brent, the international standard, gained 36 cents to \$47.99.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar fell to 111.83 yen from 112.18 yen late Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1442 from \$1.1440. The British pound rose to \$1.3018 from \$1.2999. European currency markets have been volatile in recent days after leading central bankers appeared to hint at a turn in monetary policy soon.

## Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 30, the 181st day of 2017. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1997, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time over Government House in Hong Kong as Britain prepared to hand the colony back to China at midnight after ruling it for 156 years.

On this date:

In 1859, French acrobat Charles Blondin (blahn-DAN') walked back and forth on a tightrope above the gorge of Niagara Falls as thousands of spectators watched.

In 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

In 1892, small frogs rained down on Moseley, England, south of Birmingham. (According to an account quoted in the U.S. Agriculture Department's Monthly Weather Review for May 1917, the frogs, described as "almost white in color," were found "scattered about several gardens" and had "evidently been absorbed in a small waterspout" during a storm.)

In 1908, the Tunguska Event took place in Russia as an asteroid exploded above Siberia, leaving 800 square miles of scorched or blown-down trees.

In 1917, singer, actress and activist Lena Horne was born in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1936, the Civil War novel "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell was first published by The Macmillan Co. in New York.

In 1949, "The Missouri Waltz" became the official state song of Missouri.

In 1952, "The Guiding Light," a popular radio program, began a 57-year television run on CBS.

In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1966, the National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in Washington, D.C.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter announced he had decided against production of the Rockwell B-1 bomber, saying it was too costly. (However, the B-1 was later revived by President Ronald Reagan.)

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held 17 days.

Ten years ago: Two men rammed an SUV loaded with gasoline canisters into the main terminal at Glasgow (GLAS'-goh) Airport in Scotland, failing to set off an explosion, but seriously burning one of the suspects; the attack came a day after two cars rigged as bombs were found and defused in London.

Five years ago: Islamist Mohammed Morsi became Egypt's first freely elected president as he was sworn

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 30, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 351 ~ 45 of 45

in during a pair of ceremonies. An international conference in Geneva accepted a U.N.-brokered peace plan calling for creation of a transitional government in Syria, but at Russia's insistence the compromise left the door open to Syria's president being a part of it. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir died at age 96. Yaroslava Shvedova (yar-al-SLAH'-vah SHVEH'-doh-vah) of Kazakhstan became the first player in a Grand Slam tournament to win every point of a set on her way to beating French Open runner-up Sara Errani 6-0, 6-4 in the third round of Wimbledon.

One year ago: Saying it was the right thing to do, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that transgender people would be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces. President Barack Obama signed a rescue package for financially strapped Puerto Rico, which was facing more than \$70 billion in debt and a major payment due the next day. Rodrigo Duterte (doo-TEHR'-tay) was sworn as president of the Philippines.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lea Massari is 84. Actress Nancy Dussault (doo-SOH') is 81. Songwriter Tony Hatch is 78. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 73. Actor Leonard Whiting is 67. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 66. Actor David Garrison is 65. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 64. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 61. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 58. Actress Deirdre Lovejoy is 55. Actor Rupert Graves is 54. Boxer Mike Tyson is 51. Actor Peter Outerbridge is 51. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 48. Actor Brian Bloom is 47. Actor Brian Vincent is 47. Actress Monica Potter is 46. Actress Molly Parker is 45. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 38. Actor Tom Burke is 36. Actress Lizzy Caplan is 35. Rock musician James Adam Shelley (American Authors) is 34. Country singer Cole Swindell is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Fantasia is 33. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 32.

Thought for Today: "I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate." — Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, English dramatist (1855-1934).