

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 1 of 45

## Sat., July 01, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 1- Mosquito control tonight
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- Keys to the city handed over to Block
- 4- Lowary's retirement party
- 5- School gets lots of coats of wax
- 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

Saturday, July 01



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 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**

**Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping**  
Simple Solutions for YOU  
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 2 of 45

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

“In about the  
same degree as  
you are helpful,  
you will be  
happy.”

-Karl Reiland

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 3 of 45



**After 36 years as the city's finance officer, Anita Lowary (right) hands the "keys to the city" over the new finance officer, Hope Block. The keys were handed over Friday at 5 p.m., Lowary's last day. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**



**Anita and John Lowary load up the flowers, plants and gifts after the retirement party that was held of Anita on Friday at City Hall. (Photo by Paul Kosel)**

# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 4 of 45



Marie Marlow (right), the finance officer from Britton, was the first guest at Lowary's retirement party held Friday at City Hall. At the end of the day, Lowary said she was very surprised at the number of people who came to wish her well.

When asked if retirement had set it yet, she said only Friday morning did it really kick in. "My alarm went off and John said 'How did it feel to have to wake up the alarm for the last time?'"

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 5 of 45



The janitorial staff at the Groton Area School have been busy at the high school getting everything ready for school in September. Here Head Custodian Mike Nehls is applying a coat of wax to the floor. He said once the old wax is stripped off, it can take at least six coats of wax to get the floor done. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 6 of 45

## Today in Weather History

July 1, 1928: A powerful, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 6 miles west of Miller, Hand County, destroying farms near the start of the path. All buildings were leveled to the ground, including two homes. A checkbook from one home was found 10 miles away. Estimated property damaged was set at \$50,000.

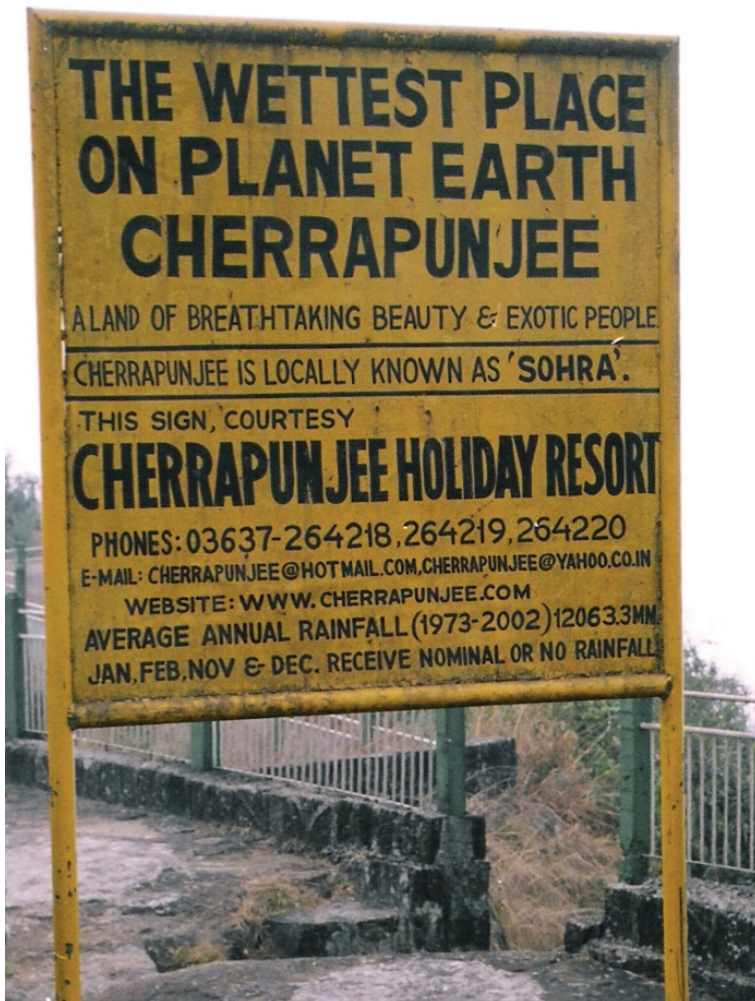
July 1, 1955: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast near Bowdle. Two barns were destroyed. A small girl and a pony were reportedly carried a quarter mile without injury. A tornado was also spotted in Emmons County in North Dakota, causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

July 1, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in late June causing widespread flooding. The flood waters slowly receded through July 10th. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the homes were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs.

July 1, 2006: With continued little or no rainfall along with much above average temperatures, a drought expanded and intensified through July across central and north central South Dakota. Severe (D2) to an extreme (D3) drought early in July worsened to an extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) across all of the areas by the middle of July and remained there until the end of the month. Rainfall was 1.50 inches to 2.25 inches below normal for the month and from 7 to 8 inches below average for the year. Soil moisture was 4 to 5 inches below normal, and lakes and river flows were well below normal. Crops and pastures were devastated due to the extreme dryness and burn bans were in effect across all of the areas. Many ranchers had







to sell off much of their cattle. Throughout July, periodic high winds, low relative humidity values, along with many lightning storms resulted in several fires across central and north central South Dakota. Tens of thousands of acres of pastureland and cropland were burned by the fires. Hundreds of firefighters worked throughout the month to contain the flames. The governor of South Dakota declared a statewide emergency and the United States Department of Agriculture declared all of the counties drought disasters. Swan Lake, in north central South Dakota between Lowry and Hoven, had completely dried up from the long period of dryness. The last time this happened to the lake was 30 years prior in 1976. Also, Lake Oahe at Pierre was four feet above its all-time low.

1861: Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, India measured 366 inches of rain during the month of July 1861. From August 1, 1860, to July 31, 1861, Cherrapunji received a record-breaking 1,041.75 inches of precipitation.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 7 of 45

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Independence Day
						
Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny
High: 88 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 89 °F

## Mild Dry & Breezy Today

**Highs in the 80s to Low 90s**

**Southwest Winds Early  
Gusts to 30mph**

**Becoming Northwesterly  
Through The Afternoon**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 7/1/2017 4:59 AM Central

Published on: 07/01/2017 at 5:03AM

Winds will become more westerly ahead of a weak weather system that looks to pass through the area mostly dry. The enhanced mixing ahead of this system will result in warm temperatures, breezy winds and low afternoon humidity which will result in high fire danger across much of the area.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 8 of 45

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.6 F at 4:59 PM

Low Outside Temp: 51.8 F at 6:28 AM

High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 5:18 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1911

Record Low: 41° in 1995

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.10

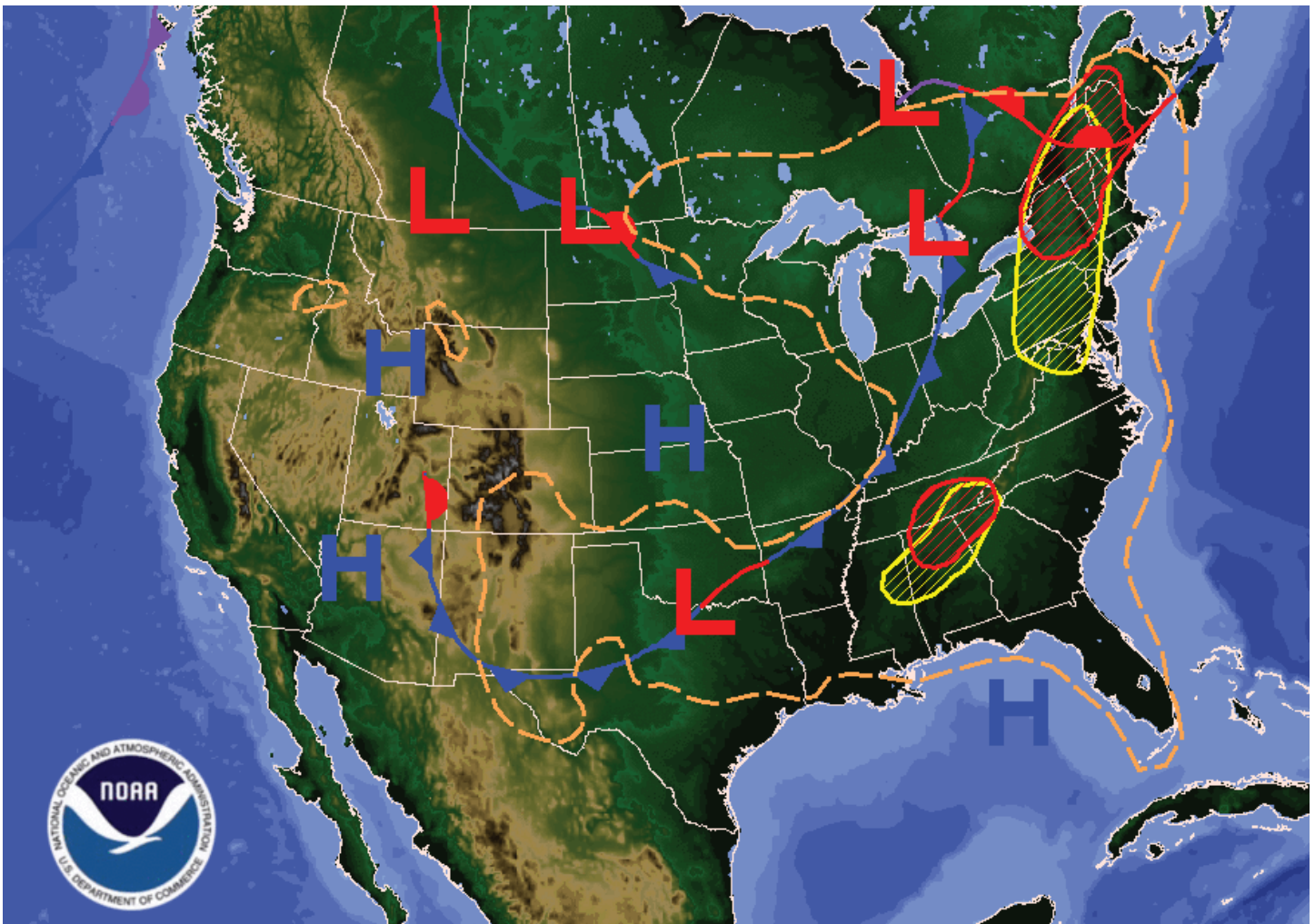
Precip to date in July: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 10.94

Precip Year to Date: 5.77

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 01, 2017, issued 4:35 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Santorelli 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

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 9 of 45



## AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Someone has rightly said that when we speak a person's name we call that one into existence. For example, we can go an entire day without someone mentioning our name. No one has recognized that we are even alive. Does that mean that we do not exist? No. It means that we have not been "called into existence" or "recognized". We have been "overlooked" so to speak.

David began Psalm 18 by recognizing God and proclaiming his love for his Lord: "I love You, Lord, my strength!" This simple statement quickly describes David's dependence on God, his intimate relationship with God and his devotion to God. God, David said, was the source of his strength. Whatever he did was done through the strength that God gave him. And He received that strength when he called God "into existence."

Often we think of "strength" as our ability to "lift" something or "endure" something as an athlete does in a contest. But David was not thinking of that type of strength. He goes on to describe his Lord as a rock, a fortress, a deliverer, a shield, his strength and the horn of his salvation. All of these words that describe God come from a military setting and help us to see that David, in this psalm, saw God as the One who protected him and made him the victor in all of his battles. They are "in His name."

When David called on God, something happened: he was delivered or saved from all of his enemies. That also happens when we call on the Lord. "Everyone," the Bible says, "who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Call on Him now to be delivered and saved!

Prayer: Lord, we love You and thank You for being our Savior and shield, our protector and provider. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 18:1 I love you, LORD, my strength.

## News from the Associated Press

### **South Dakota technical institute considers offering housing**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — For the first time, Western Dakota Technical Institute students could have the option of living on campus.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2scUMIj>) reports that officials have unveiled tentative plans to buy several modular homes to install on school property. The Rapid City school is the only one of the state's four technical colleges that doesn't have on-campus housing.

Brian Watland is the institute's vice president for finance and operations. He says the missing feature often comes up in the admissions office's conversations with parents and students.

Milestone Energy Services approached the institute with a proposal to use the company's modular homes to meet that need. The homes are divided into six bedrooms that are completely furnished with desks, beds and cabinetry.

Institute officials haven't decided on number of units they're interested in purchasing or where they'd be located.

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

### **City planning in South Dakota paves way for more progress**

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A community planning project that began in a South Dakota city in 2009 has been so successful that a similar initiative in the town will likely kick off two years earlier than expected.

The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2sIkWkz>) reports that the city of Mitchell already has accomplished much of what the community plan, called Focus 2020, hoped to achieve in a decade.

Mitchell City Administrator Stephanie Ellwein says it's time for the city to make new goals. She plans to request to establish a larger community vision session in this fall's budget hearings for 2018.

Ellwein says the process would be a collaborative effort similar to the one that took place for Focus 2020. The plan ranged from large to small goals, from minimizing algae at Lake Mitchell within 20 years to a plan to televise City Council meetings.

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

### **Mug shot, ethics and lobbying laws take effect**

By **JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A bundle of new laws that passed during the 2017 legislative session went into effect Saturday, including provisions making some mug shots public records and restricting politicians from pocketing cash in their campaign accounts.

Here's a look at some of the new laws:

#### **ETHICS AND LOBBYING**

After repealing a voter-approved government ethics overhaul, lawmakers approved laws intended to replace pieces of the initiative. But measure supporters say they fall short of what the voters passed. Among the provisions that took effect are an annual limit on gifts that legislators and other public officials can accept from lobbyists and a prohibition on private lobbying for many officials for two years after leaving state government.

The new State Government Accountability Board will be able to investigate statewide officeholders and executive branch employees on allegations including bribery and theft of public funds.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 11 of 45

## ADOPTION

Broad new legal protections to faith-based organizations that refuse based on their religious beliefs to place children in certain households took effect. The law says that child-placement agencies can't be required to provide services that conflict with "sincerely-held" religious beliefs. It says the state can't "discriminate" against agencies that exercise such convictions.

## MUG SHOTS

The law makes booking photographs for felonies a public record under state law. Law enforcement agencies aren't required to provide such a photo that's more than 6 months old.

## CAMPAIGN FUNDS

South Dakota is leaving the short list of states that allow politicians to pocket the money in their campaign accounts. Part of a wide-ranging campaign finance law, the new personal use provisions say that politicians can only use contributions for campaign-related purposes, expenses incident to being a current or former public official or donations to charities or other political campaigns.

## OVERDOSE IMMUNITY

People who call in drug overdoses to authorities or medical responders can get one-time protections against arrest or prosecution for drug crimes if they report the overdose, remain at the scene and cooperate with officials.

## ABORTION

The penalty for performing abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy and beyond is increasing from a misdemeanor to a felony.

## WATER BUFFERS

New incentives for people to install buffer strips between agricultural land and waterways went into effect. The law offers property tax breaks for those who turn land into buffer strips of vegetation to help trap fertilizer, pesticide and sediment before they reach water.

## MARIJUANA OIL TREATMENT

The law is meant to allow people in South Dakota with a prescription to use a non-intoxicating compound found in marijuana if it's approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

## South Dakota woman still recovering from Lennox shooting

By PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader

LENNOX, S.D. (AP) — Waves of reality hit Kathy Steever, unrelenting reminders of a new normal. She wakes, and she is not at home.

She can't feel her arms or legs. She is isolated from her family and learning to rebuild a life after nearly losing it to a mad gunman.

She knows her life is forever changed by the bullet that ripped into her neck and broke a vertebrae inches from her brain. But she wants to heal. She wants to go home.

"I see myself as getting up, whether it's with a walker or whatever," Kathy, 48, said. "To me, it's just a matter of time."

A doctor told her to get used to the wheelchair. She repeats his concerns in a quiet tone, voice filled with resistance.

Kathy is a survivor.

A shooter injured Kathy and killed one of her co-workers at Sioux Steel Co. offices in Lennox before taking his own life. More than two years later, Kathy is still recovering.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 12 of 45

She was honored for her determination this spring by the health care workers in Lincoln, Neb., who eventually freed her from the feeding tube and ventilator.

The physical therapist who nominated her for the award said Kathy survived when others might falter. "I nominated Kathy because to me she's heroic, she's strong," said Janelle Hansen, who works for Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals. "She's such an inspiration to us around here."

Kathy tells her husband she wants to return to the family's farm west of Tea and be in the same house as her two young children.

Todd Steever knows he can't provide the level of care she needs.

"Plans for the future are hard to make when I don't know if she'll ever get to come home," Todd told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2td6WAr>). "I know that's her goal."

Kathy doesn't dwell on the man who changed everything.

She was celebrating her birthday when a driver came into the office in the morning to argue about his pay. She was planning to leave early to pick up her son and take him to the dentist.

"I had brought cake for everyone," said Kathy, who worked in the office for Sioux Steel's trucking division.

Kathy was at her desk when Jeffrey DeZeeuw, 51, returned with a gun. DeZeeuw shot and killed a dispatcher in the same office, 45-year-old Jon Richter. Kathy was shot in the neck before another co-worker intervened, diving at DeZeeuw and trying to take away his gun.

The shooter fled and eventually died by suicide after setting fire to his semitrailer, police said. Law enforcement found his body next to the burned out trailer, about three miles from the scene of the shooting.

That night, the waiting room at Sanford was so full of friends and family the crowd overflowed into the hall. Todd said there were about 200 people there for Kathy.

There was no specific return to reality.

Kathy was responsive at Sanford Health, but she doesn't remember being in the hospital.

Instead, there were moments at Madonna that eventually coalesced into consciousness.

"I don't know exactly how I was, or what day," Kathy said. "I don't think I knew exactly what was going on."

She remembers sitting in a strange cafeteria and wondering where she was and how she got there. Her family told her she had been shot, Kathy said.

She was on a feeding tube and a ventilator for months. Part of her recovery at the Lincoln rehabilitation hospital was daily therapy sessions designed to help her improve both mentally and physically. Hansen worked with Kathy five days a week for an hour and a half.

"Kathy was always willing to do the work," Hansen said. "She never told me no. She never said, 'oh I don't want to do that today.'"

She made it back to the area from Lincoln last fall, but the 17 miles between Sioux Falls and Lennox may prove to be Kathy's longest road yet.

Her room at Good Samaritan Sioux Falls Village is automated in part thanks to the Amazon Alexa. A note near the TV tells staff that Kathy likes to watch "Survivor" on Wednesday evenings.

A bulletin board on the wall is covered in pictures of her with her family before the shooting. Then, there are pictures of her in the hospital, and of her son, Levi, running in cross country matches.

"My kids are growing up and I miss everything they do," Kathy said.

Todd now runs the farm and brings the kids to their after-school responsibilities. This week it was four softball practices, two cross country practices and a band practice.

Like his wife, he doesn't think about the gunman.

"What good does that do me?" Todd said. "I didn't know him."

He takes life one day at a time, living with the reminder that, at any moment, it can change on a dime. Or it can end. Todd said he was also friends with Richter.

"I think about the guy who was killed," Todd said.

The community watched in horror on the day of the shooting. Following the event, the company tried to help employees who had lived through the trauma, CEO Scott Rysdon said. Sioux Steel offered counseling

services to its employees and hosted fundraisers and events for the families.

For some employees, it was too difficult to return.

"I didn't understand the ramifications of that when it's happening," Rysdon said about the aftermath. "You throw the life preserver out and you try to save everybody. Eventually, you come to the realization that it's just not possible."

Kathy fights her battle with her own body and relishes what may seem like small victories. She smiles as she rolls her shoulders back and forth — that's something she couldn't do before.

There are other victories, including the feeding tube and ventilator she left behind. She used to suffer from hallucinations. Sometimes, she can move her pinky and thumb.

But still, Kathy's hope clashes with reality. She asked for her laptop and Nook e-reader only to realize she couldn't use them.

"There are days I'll walk in and she'll say, 'I'm grabbing your arm, how come you're not responding?'" Todd said.

Even as she reminds herself of what the doctors said — she'll never walk again, she should get used to the wheelchair, accept paralysis — she can't abandon belief. That her hands will respond when she wills them to grab her husband. That she will stand and walk and finally go home.

"I keep telling myself, that's not reality," Kathy said. "But to me it is."

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

## Northeastern South Dakota dairy operations staying strong

By SHANNON MARVEL, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Much of the state's fluid dairy product goes toward cheese production. That, and several other factors, have contributed to helping dairy producers in northeast South Dakota stay the course in today's turbulent dairy economy.

Warner Dairy, located near Warner, is a 2,000 dairy cow operation.

Manager Jacob Achen said dairy products that have a longer shelf life helps to keep the dairy market more stable.

"There's a pretty good demand for cheese," Achen told the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2t3BocM>). "Powdered whey and whey concentrate products are very popular right now especially for export products — we haven't gotten into that yet. But that's what's helping out the dairy market too, especially products with a longer shelf life. That's what's really helped a lot in the last couple of years."

Achen said Warner Dairy, which employs around 20 people, sells its product to DairiConcepts in Pollock to be processed into cheese.

"All of our milk goes to cheese. It's just the market that we're in. There's just more of a population for it," Achen explained.

According to Tracey Erickson, SDSU Extension Dairy Field Specialist, the number of dairy farms in the state has shrunk yet the number of cows on each operation has increased.

Achen echoed Erickson on the number of farms in the area.

"The ones that are left are doing something right," Achen said. "We have a good market for milk, good communities that support us and a good government that helps make sure that we continue to provide for the people."

Erickson said the decreasing number of dairy farms is attributed to producers needing to meet the bottom line which has become more difficult throughout the years.

But the challenges of South Dakota's dairy producers are akin to those throughout the country, she said.

"Some of the challenges are not necessarily the excessive milk glut. Dairy is a global market," Erickson said. "When Canada decided that they no longer wanted to accept concentrated milk in Wisconsin, we had producers in Wisconsin scrambling to find a processor. The Interstate 29 corridor dairy plants are cheese producer plants. A lot of our product goes toward cheese production when you compare it to milk."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 14 of 45

There are some pros that the dairy plants along Interstate 29 are able to enjoy that other areas do not. "Our producers here are fortunate in the feed costs are fairly low in comparison to other parts of the country so that improves the bottom line a lot," Erickson said. "They're closer to the plants and also the higher quality feed are typically raised in these areas. Having those good roadways and systems is critical along with the ability to raise high feed stuffs. Access to plants, of which most of them are located in that corridor because you still have to truck the milk from the farm. Being close to a population base, roadway systems, all these things come into play and that's why the I-29 corridor is becoming more appealing to people in the dairy industry."

The more fluid the dairy product, the more volatile the market, Erickson added.

"Fluid milk in comparison to cheese, that's an even more volatile market because of its shelf life. We aren't going to ship milk as far as we would cheese or yogurt," she said.

Jason Mischel, vice president of Valley Queen Cheese in Milbank, said for the last 10 years the dairy industry has walked a fine line to balance the supply and demand of milk.

He added that even cheese processing plants are not immune to changes in the dairy market.

"Because milk is highly perishable, it must be processed immediately after it is produced. When a supply imbalance of as little as 1 percent occurs, it can wreak havoc on markets," Mischel said.

"Added to that complexity is the industry's growing dependence on export markets," he said. "We are currently in a cycle nationally where milk supply has been growing faster than consumption and faster than exports can take up the excess supply. Dairy markets can be extremely cyclical and, at the moment, these factors are putting downward pressure on milk prices."

Valley Queen Cheese employs 250 people and makes a variety of natural, American-style cheese, including cheddar, Colby Monterey Jack, pepper jack and others.

Mischel said it's not the oversupply of milk that is the elephant in the room, but the increasing need for more dairy processing plants.

"With current manufacturing capacity and milk production, supply and demand are in relative balance. The cautionary note, though, is that milk production is growing at more than 5 percent annually with additional production capacity ready to build," Mischel said. "Processing capacity is not growing at the same rate. New processing capacity on a grand scale is very expensive to build relative to financial returns.

"The dairy industry nationally — not just locally — is wrestling with how to solve this complex supply and demand issue."

Procuring a legal workforce is a struggle dairy plants and operations are facing within the corridor, Erickson said.

"Finding people to work on the dairies is becoming quite challenging because not a lot of people are interested in that form of a job," Erickson said. "Even though they're offering fair and competitive wages, milking cows and feeding animals isn't at the top of people's list."

Sister Theresa Ann Wolf with the Benedictine Multicultural Center at Harmony Hill said the group supports the immigrant workers.

"We do what we can to help immigrants to become integrated in the community, so a lot of the immigrants come here to study English and a lot of them that come here work on dairies," Wolf said. "That is a reality that most dairies are struggling and looking for workers and part of that is South Dakota needs immigrant workers, and the environment especially since (President) Trump took office, is not favorable. It has not been good for our economy. Immigrants are frightened."

Wolf said immigrants have difficulties regularizing their documentation, and because they are unable to attain the right documentation, they become very vulnerable to deportation.

"South Dakota needs immigrant workers, the economy simply cannot function without them," Wolf said. "Generally it can be a very hostile environment immigrants. Sometimes they leave out of fear because they're so afraid of being arrested and the dairies are left without any workers. Historically, white people will not do that kind of work," Wolf said.

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

10-38-51-55-64, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 5

(ten, thirty-eight, fifty-one, fifty-five, sixty-four; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$158 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

## South Dakota family unhappy with memorial fountain changes

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Relatives of a former South Dakota mayor say they're unhappy with the renovation of a water fountain that memorializes him.

The work at the Henry Hesse memorial fountain was revealed Monday at the Center of the Nation Visitor Center and Tri-State Museum in Belle Fourche, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2sYFc1s>) reported.

The circular rock fountain was built in 1984 as a memorial for the former Belle Fourche mayor who served from 1974 to 1977. The renovation added a 5-foot-by-9-foot black cowboy hat centerpiece.

Officials at the center said the hat pays homage to the city's Western roots, but Hesse's son said his family, which donated the fountain several years ago, wasn't consulted.

"The family is just disappointed because nobody contacted us about the changes," Oz Hesse said. "We're not pointing fingers or blaming anybody or anything like that — we want it to be solved peacefully and reasonably. We want good things for Belle Fourche because our family has been here all our lives and we want that to continue."

Oz Hesse said the family has a meeting scheduled with the city to resolve the issue. The museum's director, Kristi Thielen, declined comment, saying the situation is the city's responsibility now.

Public Works Director Dirk Hoffman and Mayor Gloria Landphere also declined comment.

At the time of his death in 1977, Henry Hesse was in the middle of fighting a possible pollution threat to the city's water supply as a result of the housing sprawl in the Spearfish area.

"He was committed to finding a workable answer to the problem of protecting the city's water supply against possible contamination by people who do not believe they are a threat or simply do not care," his obituary read. "The mayor was determined that the city would throw all of its resources into this battle."

\_\_\_ Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>



**This Wednesday, June 28, 2017 photo, shows the refurbished and augmented its Henry Hesse Memorial water fountain outside The Center of the Nation Visitor Center and Tri-State Museum in Belle Fourche, S.D. The cowboy hat-shaped water fountain has become a hot topic in the community. Officials say it's intended to pay homage to the town's Western roots. But some in the community don't like it.** (Lacey Peterson/Black Hills Pioneer via AP)

## Deceased South Dakota woman leaves \$4.2M to town she loved

WEBSTER, S.D. (AP) — A piano teacher who died last year left behind more than her teaching legacy in her South Dakota town, to the tune of \$4.2 million for high school scholarships, youth programs, the library and a local church.

Phyllis Hansee, who died at age 98, helped set up the endowments to help the city of Webster through the South Dakota Community Foundation, said Tom Sannes, the attorney for Hansee's estate.

"It's an amazing gift," Sannes told The Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2txhV8F>). "It's going to be a game-changer in the community for decades to come."

Hansee began teaching piano lessons in 1953, when she moved back to Webster to manage her father's farming interests after his death. Sannes said Hansee was an only child and had no children of her own, but that she was a fixture at local children's sporting events and high school activities.

"All the students she had over the years really became her children," said Adrienne McKeown, one of Hansee's former students.

McKeown also is the director of the University Alumni Foundation at Augustana University, which will receive \$10,000 of the endowment. The funding includes a scholarship for a Webster Area High School graduate who chooses to attend the university in Sioux Falls.

Other gifts will go to St. John's Lutheran Church in Webster, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops in Webster, and the high school music department, among other groups.

"It just provides resources they need to continue to make improvements in the community now and into the future," said Stephanie Judson, president of the South Dakota Community Foundation.

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

## Krebs won't share South Dakota voter data with Trump panel

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Republican secretary of state, Shantel Krebs, won't share voter information with President Donald Trump's commission that's investigating alleged voter fraud in the 2016 elections, her spokesman said Friday.

The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity on Wednesday gave secretaries of state about two weeks to provide about a dozen points of data. That request includes names, party affiliations, addresses and voting histories of all voters. It also includes birthdates, the last four digits of voters' Social Security numbers and any information about felony convictions and military status.

Krebs spokesman Jason Williams said in an email to The Associated Press that she "will not share voter information with the commission."

Several Democratic secretaries of state had already said they would refuse to share the data. Trump has alleged, without evidence, that millions voted illegally in the 2016 elections. Democrats and voting rights groups have called the commission a sham.

Much of the data the commission is seeking is public information in South Dakota — for a fee. The state-wide voter registration file, which contains information from voter registration cards and voting histories, is available to anyone for \$2,500 for an electronic copy or \$5,500 for a paper printout. It can't be used for commercial purposes, but that doesn't include campaigns or polling.

Krebs is running for South Dakota's lone U.S. House seat in a state where Trump got 61.5 percent of the vote, and where registered Republicans outnumber registered Democrats by about 255,000 to about 169,000.



## South Dakota resident killed in northeast Nebraska ATV crash

ST. HELEN, Neb. (AP) — A person has died from injuries received in the crash of an all-terrain vehicle in northeastern Nebraska.

The Cedar County Sheriff's Office says 21-year-old Jessi Anderson, of Yankton, South Dakota, was on a four-wheeled ATV Thursday afternoon that failed to negotiate a t-intersection in a rural area, just west of St. Helen and southeast of Yankton.

Investigators say Anderson was thrown from the ATV and pronounced dead at the scene. The accident remains under investigation by the Cedar County Sheriff's Office.

## Nebraska State Patrol head fired; probe findings sent to FBI

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Gov. Pete Ricketts fired the head of the Nebraska State Patrol on Friday amid an internal review that was launched after officers were accused of changing their story about a crash that killed a South Dakota driver who was fleeing from a trooper.

The review found evidence that high-ranking patrol staffers interfered with the agency's internal investigations, Ricketts said at a hastily called news conference.

Ricketts said he had fired Col. Brad Rice as the patrol's superintendent and placed six other employees on paid administrative leave. He also said his administration turned over its findings to the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office. He declined to discuss in detail what the review found, citing the potential criminal investigation.

"We will not tolerate that breach of integrity in the Nebraska State Patrol or any of my organizations," Ricketts said at a Capitol news conference.

Ricketts ordered a review of the patrol's policies and procedures following criticism last week of how the agency handled an October crash that killed Antoine LaDeaux as the 33-year-old Pine Ridge, South Dakota, man was fleeing from a state trooper in Sheridan County, Nebraska.

State Sen. Ernie Chambers, of Omaha, called on Ricketts to fire Rice after the Omaha World-Herald reported allegations that state patrol officers changed their story about what caused the crash.

A trooper initially reported that he had bumped the fleeing vehicle in an attempt to safely end the chase, and the vehicle swerved off the road. LaDeaux was ejected from the vehicle and died at the scene.

Later, state patrol officers said LaDeaux caused the crash by swerving into the patrol vehicle, which caused him to lose control. A grand jury eventually cleared the trooper, Tim Flick, of wrongdoing after the patrol presented jurors with both versions of what happened.

State Sen. Adam Morfeld, of Lincoln, called on lawmakers to conduct an independent investigation of the patrol.

"Nebraskans deserve and demand accountability and trust in our state's top law enforcement agency," he said.

Ricketts said he has appointed Maj. Russ Stanczyk as the patrol's interim superintendent and will begin a search right away to find a permanent replacement.

The governor said he relieved Rice of his duties Friday morning after Jason Jackson, the state's chief human resources officer, gave him the findings of an investigation that included personnel interviews and a review of use-of-force case reports. Jackson said he did not talk to Rice directly during his review.

"I rely on my directors to give me information," Ricketts said. "In this case, (Rice) did not live up to my expectations."

Ricketts declined to elaborate. Calls to a phone number listed as Rice's rang unanswered.

Jackson's review was supposed to have lasted several weeks, but Ricketts said the initial findings prompted him to act sooner.

Jackson said he is still reviewing the patrol's policies and procedures to identify any additional problems. He said his review didn't focus on the use-of-force incidents, but on how the patrol handled the internal investigations that followed.

"That's where irregularities emerged," he said.

One of the six officers placed on leave was Lt. Col. Thomas Schwarten, the patrol's second in command, who normally would have been placed in charge in Rice's absence. Jackson and Ricketts declined to identify the others, citing their due-process rights as state employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement.

Rice's firing also follows a union survey of state troopers last week that found widespread dissatisfaction among rank-and-file employees with the agency's management. Ricketts said the survey played no role in his decision to fire Rice.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

## Federal declaration opens up drought aid in Upper Midwest

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Some federal aid is being made available for drought-stricken farmers and ranchers in the Upper Midwest.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is designating 15 North Dakota counties as primary natural disaster areas. That paves the way for emergency loans for producers in those counties and 19 contiguous counties in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

Perdue also has expanded grazing on Conservation Reserve Program land in the three states.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 25 percent of North Dakota in extreme drought. The worst areas are in the western part of the state. Small portions of north central South Dakota and eastern Montana also are in extreme drought.

The drought conditions are harming crops, causing many ranchers to sell off cattle, and prompting bans on open burning and fireworks.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

### Capital Journal, Pierre, June 26

### Allow for federal fund drought relief

The Hughes County Commission declared a natural disaster draught emergency Monday, hoping to generate federal and state money to help farmers who have lost crops due to the ongoing draught.

Brian Stewart, director of the Farm Service Agency, reported that 300 farmers in the county have been impacted by the dry conditions, which were created by the area receiving just 61 percent of normal precipitation this year.

Pierre has received 1.86 inches of rain this month, which is .57 inches below the 30 year norm for the first 19 days of June, and just 6.31 inches of moisture since Jan. 1, down 33 percent from normal.

Stewart calculated wheat farmers in the county have lost at least \$16 million in lost crops (3.32 million bushels of winter wheat) since March 1 because of the draught and a late frost. He predicted that even with additional rainfall, many of the remaining crops are too far gone to be saved.

The draught disaster declaration by the commission claims the draught is a natural disaster beyond the capabilities of the county and state, asking for federal assistance, hoping to make emergency loans available. It will be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue for action by Congress.

It's no secret that farmers and ranchers have been having a tough time lately. Low prices and extreme weather conditions have made their profession even more perilous than usual. Our hope is that Congress will take swift action, providing farmers relief in the way of low interest loans to help them recover from this natural disaster.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 19 of 45

## **Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, June 29** **New council faces ongoing challenges**

Now that Rapid City has a historic City Council — for the first time five women will be on the 10-member board — let's hope it will energize city government to tackle our lingering challenges in an open and vigorous manner.

For the past two years, city government has done little more than propose new rules through ordinances, settle lawsuits, hire consultants and add positions to city government or increase pay for vacant positions. In the meantime, the Public Works and Legal and Finance committee members all too often made no recommendation on proposed ordinances, preferring to withhold their votes until later.

The low point for the committee process was Tuesday when three of the five council members — Ritchie Nordstrom, Charity Doyle and Brad Estes — on the Public Works Committee failed to show up for a regular meeting, which was then canceled for lack of a quorum. It makes it hard for elected officials to complain about low voter turnout when they don't show up for meetings, a key part of their job description.

So, perhaps, it is time for a new dynamic on a City Council that has the final say on a \$160-million annual budget and makes decisions that can have a profound impact on our pocketbooks and quality of life.

On Tuesday, Laura Armstrong secured the final seat on the new council after trouncing Ron Sasso, a former council member, by a 68 to 32 percent margin in a runoff election. The first-time council member joins Doyle, Lisa Modrick, Darla Drew, Amada Scott and fellow newcomer Becky Drury as the first five women to serve simultaneously on the council; Nordstrom, John Roberts, Steve Laurenti, Jason Salamun and Chad Lewis round out the council that will be sworn in on July 3 after which they will be confronted by a host of issues that should be addressed in a timely manner.

The fate of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center and the President's Plaza project remain up in the air where they have been for another two years. Although Mayor Allender may disagree, many residents would like to see the city adopt a residential street-improvement program. The local economy — not counting new convenience stores — is stagnating even as the cost of housing is in an upward trajectory. The problems with homelessness and downtown loitering and pandering don't appear to be going anywhere.

The city needs to address these issues and bring some sort of closure to the civic center and President's Plaza projects. The new City Council, however, should just not dutifully await proposed solutions from city staff or even the mayor's office. It needs to make its voice heard and help chart a path for the future. We ask that the council members be bold and wish them good luck in doing so.

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## **Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, June 26** **Taking politics out of redistricting**

Old ideas never go away. That seems to be true in South Dakota, where an effort is being made again to create nonpartisan primary elections for state legislative candidates, as well as to create an independent commission that would oversee the redrawing of legislative districts every 10 years.

If these things seem familiar to South Dakotans, they should. Majorities of voters rejected the ideas during last year's ballot bonanza, when 10 initiatives and referendums were up for votes. Of course, if you can't clearly recall them, it might be they were lost in that blizzard of ballot action.

While it would seem the nonpartisan primary election idea is going to be a tough sell — the parties, particularly the dominant GOP, aren't real keen on this — we'd like to again offer a nod to the notion of having an independent commission in charge of redrawing legislative districts.

The premise would work like this: instead of having the Legislature (that is, the party in control of the Legislature) in charge of redistricting every 10 years, an independent commission would instead be given the task. The nine-person commission would include no more than three members apiece from both the Democrat and Republican parties. By doing this, the redistricting process would, in theory, be done in nonpartisan fashion, with the shadow of possible political opportunism removed from the process.

This makes a great deal of sense, because the mechanics of an election should not be determined by those who stand to directly benefit from that election.

In other words, why should political parties have the opportunity to rearrange the boundaries of a district in order to improve its own chances? That basically allows politicians to set the rules of the game they're playing.

But democracy isn't a game. The mechanics of elections should be above political influence and be about the people, not about the parties.

One argument that was made against the proposal of an independent commission last year is that many of those who would be making these decisions wouldn't be subject to a vote of the people.

But that's also the point. Collectively, the commission wouldn't be a political mechanism to orchestrate political advantage. It would establish boundaries based on logical delineations, not political calculus.

Whether this idea will make the ballot remains to be seen, and if it does, the odds that voters will reverse themselves seem long.

But the idea has merit. Politicians should not be at the levers of running elections, for partisan temptations will always be present and often acted upon, unfortunately. An independent board would at least attempt to take that aspect out of the matter.

## **Drought in South Dakota hasn't worsened much over past week**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Drought conditions in South Dakota haven't worsened much over the past week.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 2 percent of the state being in extreme drought, the same as last week. The area is in north central South Dakota.

Another 29 percent of the state is rated in severe drought, up from 18 percent a week ago.

Most of the rest of South Dakota is either in moderate drought or abnormally dry.

Drought conditions are harming crops and also have prompted many ranchers to sell off cattle.

## **Yankton Sioux plans marijuana meeting**

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The Yankton Sioux Tribe plans to hold a general council meeting to discuss legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational use and hemp manufacturing.

The tribe has posted a notice for the July 21 meeting at the Fort Randall Casino Bingo Hall near Pickstown. The Yankton Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2sYMMct>) reports tribal chairman Robert Flying Hawk has recently stated he's open to legalizing medical marijuana, but not recreational marijuana.

Marijuana is still illegal at both the state and federal levels in South Dakota. However, a policy outlined by the U.S. Justice Department opened the door to tribal marijuana as long as the same guidelines used by the states that have legalized marijuana are followed.

The Santee Sioux legalized it on tribal land in 2015.

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

## **Man held in kidnapping of Chinese scholar who is feared dead**

**By HERBERT G. McCANN and MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — A man has been charged with kidnapping a visiting University of Illinois scholar from China who authorities believe to be dead after she disappeared three weeks ago. A federal criminal complaint alleges the suspect's phone was used to visit an online forum in April called "Abduction 101."

Yingying Zhang, the 26-year-old daughter of a working-class factory driver from China, disappeared June 9, just weeks after arriving at the Urbana-Champaign campus in central Illinois where she was doing research in agricultural sciences and was expected to begin work on her doctorate in the fall. Friends and family described her as extremely bright, hardworking, caring and devoted to her parents.

Some 5,600 Chinese students are enrolled at the university — more than at any other college in the nation — and Zhang's disappearance fed anxieties of families of Chinese students studying in the U.S.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 21 of 45

Federal authorities say Brendt Christensen, of Champaign, Illinois, was charged Friday, the same day he turned 28. A criminal complaint accuses him of abducting Zhang shortly after she stepped off a bus near the university campus. Video shows her getting into the front seat of a black Saturn Astra.

According to the 10-page affidavit filed in federal court by FBI Special Agent Anthony Manganaro, Christensen was under surveillance Thursday when agents overheard him explaining he had kidnapped Zhang. Authorities say agents believe Zhang is no longer alive based on that and other facts their investigation uncovered.

Asked if authorities had any leads as to where Zhang's body might be located, the spokesman for the FBI Springfield office, Bradley Ware, declined comment.

Christensen's LinkedIn profile posted online states he is a Ph.D. candidate in physics at the university and a graduate teaching assistant there since 2013. His name appears on the department's website though an associate chancellor, Robin Kaler, said Saturday she couldn't immediately confirm he is enrolled. The LinkedIn profile also says he graduated with bachelor's degrees in math and physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013.

Christensen remained in custody pending an initial federal court appearance, set for Monday in Urbana. Illinois Chancellor Robert Jones said in a statement the campus community is saddened by the news that Zhang is believed dead.

"This is a senseless and devastating loss of a promising young woman and a member of our community," Jones said. "There is nothing we can do to ease the sadness or grief for her family and friends, but we can and we will come together to support them in any way we can in these difficult days ahead."

The federal charging document says one of the threads on the forum that Christensen's smartphone visited online in April — months before Zhang went missing — was entitled, "Perfect abduction fantasy." Another was about "planning a kidnapping."

According to Manganaro's affidavit, investigators determined there were 18 vehicles registered in Champaign County similar to the one Zhang got in.

One of those, belonging to Christensen, was first seen in an apartment complex parking lot on June 12 — days after Zhang went missing — and investigators questioned him. The affidavit stated that investigators noted Christensen couldn't recall what he was doing the day Zhang disappeared. They searched the vehicle but didn't remove anything.

Investigators later determined the car in the video had a sunroof and cracked hubcap, like Christensen's car, according to the affidavit. When investigators interviewed Christensen again, he acknowledged driving around the University of Illinois campus and giving a ride to an Asian woman who said she was late for an appointment.

Christensen said the woman panicked after he apparently made a wrong turn and he let her out in a residential area.

The court document indicates a search of Christensen's car indicates the area where Zhang was believed to have been sitting had been cleaned.

Christensen was placed under continuous surveillance June 16. On Thursday he was captured on an audio recording explaining how he took Zhang to his apartment and held her against her will. The affidavit says the woman remains missing.

Zhang's father, Ronggao Zhang, traveled to Illinois from Nanping, China, to be closer to the search. On Thursday, he took part in a walk with students and university staff to the corner where his daughter was last seen.

Zhang graduated last year with a master's degree in environmental engineering from one of China's elite schools, Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. She had been doing research on crop photosynthesis, which included using drones to study fields. Friends and family said she dreamed of one day landing a professorship and helping her parents financially.

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Associated Press writer Sara Burnett contributed to this report.

## Little Rock police: 25 people shot at nightclub

By **ANDREW DeMILLO** and **TAFI MUKUNYADZI**, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Police say 25 people were shot after gunfire rang out Saturday at a rap show at a downtown Little Rock nightclub, prompting pleas from top leaders to curb the growing violence in Arkansas' capital city.

Police said the shooting at Power Ultra Lounge was the result of a dispute among clubgoers and not an active shooter or terror-related incident. Little Rock police said Saturday that 25 people were shot and three others suffered unrelated injuries. All were expected to survive, police said.

Police early Saturday cordoned off the block as crime-scene technicians gathered evidence from inside and outside the club. Glass from the club's second story windows littered the ground, along with empty drink cups.

Little Rock Police Chief Kenton Buckner told reporters that "some sort of dispute broke out between people inside" the club and that there are "probably multiple shooting suspects."

A video posted online by a club patron, Darryl Rankin, showed a packed house for Finese 2Tymes, a performer from Memphis, Tennessee. About a half-minute into a break in the raucous concert, several bursts of gunfire rang out — more than 24 shots in an 11-second period.

Rankin told The Associated Press that he was recording the show on Facebook Live when gunfire erupted and that one of his friends is now at a hospital with a bullet "stuck in his spine."

Courtney Swanigan said she was near the front of the club with her sister when gunfire erupted about an hour into the show. They were not injured. She didn't know what led to the shooting, but she said she saw someone onstage with a handgun amid the melee.

"I just closed my eyes, got down on the ground and put my hands on my head," Swanigan said.

The shooting follows a week in which there have been about a dozen drive-by shootings in Little Rock, though there's no indication the events are linked.

"Little Rock's crime problem appears to be intensifying," Gov. Asa Hutchinson said in a statement. "Every few days it seems a high profile shooting dominates the news, culminating with this morning's event. I have spoken this morning with Mayor Stodola and I have offered both my heart felt concern over this senseless violent tragedy and state assets as needed to address the continued threat of violence in our community."

Early Saturday, Raida Bunche waited outside the club after she had heard from a friend that her son had been at the club. Later Saturday morning, she said she found out her son ran out once the shooting began and was unharmed.

"I'm sick of all the killing and I'm tired of all the shooting, the kids getting hurt," Bunche said.

Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control officials suspended the club's alcohol license hours after the shooting occurred and set a hearing for July 10.

The club's Facebook page promoted Friday night's show with a poster depicting a man pointing what appears to be a gun at the camera. A call to a number listed for Finese 2Tymes' booking agent wasn't immediately returned Saturday.

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola said on Facebook that more information would be released at a news conference Saturday afternoon.

"My heart is broken this morning — my prayers are with the victims of this tragedy," he wrote. He went on to add, "We are committed to doing everything possible to bring safety to our city. We need everyone to help."

In May, one person was killed and six people were hurt in a mass shooting at a downtown concert in Jonesboro, Arkansas, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northeast of Little Rock. In that case, two men were charged with first-degree murder and six counts of first-degree battery.

Arkansas lawmakers earlier this year approved a measure expanding where concealed handguns can be carried, including bars if allowed by owners, for licensees who undergo additional training. The law takes effect in September, but the training likely won't be available until early next year.

This story has been updated to correct the name of the nightclub to Power Ultra Lounge instead of Power Lounge and to correct spelling of mother's name who waited outside club to Raida Bunche.

## Nevada launches sales of legal recreational marijuana

By REGINA GARCIA-CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada became the fifth state in the U.S. with stores selling marijuana for recreational purposes, opening a market early Saturday that is eventually expected to outpace any other in the nation thanks to the millions of tourists who flock to Las Vegas.

People began purchasing marijuana shortly after midnight, just months after voters approved legalization in November and marking the fastest turnaround from the ballot box to retail sales in the country.

Hundreds of people lined up at Essence Cannabis Dispensary on the Las Vegas Strip. People were excited and well-behaved as a lone security guard looked on. A valet was available to park the cars of customers.

A cheer erupted when the doors opened.

Those 21 and older with a valid ID can buy up to an ounce of pot. Tourists are expected to make nearly two of every three recreational pot purchases in Nevada, but people can only use the drug in a private home.

It remains illegal to light up in public areas, including the Las Vegas Strip, casinos, bars, restaurants, parks, convention centers and concert halls — places frequently visited by tourists. Violators face a \$600 fine.

And driving under the influence of marijuana is still illegal.

Despite the limits on where people can get high and restrictions on where the industry can advertise, dispensaries worked furiously to prepare for the launch. They stamped labels on pot products, stocked up their shelves, added security and checkout stations, and announced specials.

Desert Grown Farms hired about 60 additional employees. Workers in scrubs, hair nets and surgical masks slapped stickers on sealed jars this week as others checked on marijuana plants or carefully weighed buds.

"It would be a good problem to have if I couldn't meet my demand," said CEO Armen Yemenidjian, whose Desert Grown Farms owns the only dispensary that is selling recreational pot on the Las Vegas Strip, across the street from the Stratosphere hotel.

Some dispensaries took to social media to spread the word or tried to draw in buyers with special events. Some planned to give away free marijuana to their first 100 customers or throw parties with barbecues and food trucks later in the afternoon.

Some facilities are in strip malls, while others, in stereotypical Las Vegas fashion, are in neighborhoods shared by strip clubs.

Nevada joins Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Alaska in allowing adults to buy the drug that's still banned by the federal government.

## Doctor who shot 7 at NYC hospital had made threats to kill

By COLLEEN LONG and LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It took two years, but Dr. Henry Bello made good on his threats.

After he was forced to resign as a family medicine doctor amid sexual harassment allegations, he told colleagues he would be back to kill them.

On Friday, Bello returned to Bronx Lebanon Hospital with an AM-15 assault rifle tucked under his white lab coat and opened fire in his old department, killing one doctor and critically wounding six other people at the hospital, according to law enforcement officials.

Bello then shot himself, and staggered, bleeding, into a hallway where he collapsed and died with the rifle at his side, officials said. A photo showed the doctor on a blood-spattered floor as police stood over him.

Now, detectives are trying to piece together what prompted Bello to snap two years after he was forced out, and whether he was hunting for someone in particular when he went to the 16th floor and started shooting.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 24 of 45

"There are many, many details that we're still putting together," Mayor Bill de Blasio said, adding that terrorism was not involved in the attack. "This was a horrible situation unfolding in a place that people associated with care and comfort, a situation that came out of nowhere."

His former co-workers described a man who was aggressive, loud, and threatening.

"All the time he was a problem," said Dr. David Lazala, who trained Bello as a family medicine doctor. When Bello was forced out in 2015, he sent Lazala an email blaming him for the dismissal.

"We fired him because he was kind of crazy," Dr. Maureen Kwankam told the Daily News. "He promised to come back and kill us then."

The Daily News reported Saturday that it had received an email purportedly from Bello about two hours before the rampage.

"This hospital terminated my road to a licensure to practice medicine," the email said. "First, I was told it was because I always kept to myself. Then it was because of an altercation with a nurse."

He also blamed a doctor for blocking his chances at getting a chance to practice medicine.

People described a chaotic scene as gunfire erupted, spreading terror throughout the medical facility as employees locked themselves inside rooms and patients feared for their lives after hearing an announcement warning of someone in the building with a weapon.

"I thought I was going to die," said Renaldo Del Villar, a patient who was in the third-floor emergency room getting treatment for a lower back injury.

Shortly after receiving a 911 call about an active shooter, police officers went floor by floor, their guns drawn, looking for the gunman. Fifteen minutes later they confirmed he was dead in the building.

Bello may have doused himself with an accelerant like gasoline and tried to set himself on fire before shooting himself, officials said. Sprinklers extinguished the fire.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the still-unfolding investigation and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

According to New York State Education Department records, Bello graduated from Ross University and had a limited permit to practice as an international medical graduate to gain experience in order to be licensed. The permit was issued on July 1, 2014, and expired last year on the same day. Family medicine doctors handle more routine cases, such as coughs and sprained ankles.

Bello also worked as a pharmacy technician at Metropolitan hospital in Manhattan because he was having a hard time getting licensed as a physician, but quit the job in 2012 and filed for unemployment, according to the lawyer who represented him on appeal in 2014. He lost his case. One former colleague at Metropolitan said he would frequently argue with nurses and bristled at being told what to do, but his attorney in the unemployment action said that's not the man he knew.

"I'm absolutely shocked," attorney David Wim said. "He was such a nice gentleman. He was very humble, very polite, very respectful."

Wim said he even jokingly suggested to his assistant that she date the doctor, who was unmarried.

But Bello had a history of aggressive behavior. In unrelated cases, the doctor pleaded guilty to unlawful imprisonment, a misdemeanor, in 2004 after a 23-year-old woman told police Bello grabbed her, lifted her up and carried her off, saying, "You're coming with me." He was arrested again in 2009 on a charge of unlawful surveillance, after two different women reported he was trying to look up their skirts with a mirror. That case was eventually sealed.

It was not immediately clear if the hospital was aware of his criminal history when he was hired.

Two surgeons at the hospital told the AP that all six victims were in critical condition, but they were expected to survive. Medical staff at the hospital immediately treated all the patients in its emergency department. The victims largely suffered gunshot wounds to the head, chest and abdomen, they said. The most seriously wounded was shot in the liver, said the surgeons, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to speak publicly.

Employees and their loved ones scrambled for information in the horrifying moments immediately after the shooting.



The 120-year-old hospital has one of the busiest emergency rooms in New York City. It is about a mile and a half north of Yankee Stadium.

In 2011, two people were shot at Bronx Lebanon in what police said was a gang-related attack.

Associated Press writers Steve Peoples and Karen Matthews contributed to this report.

## Trump jumps into health debate \_ repeal now, replace later

By ERICA WERNER and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has barged into Senate Republicans' delicate health care negotiations with a suggestion bound to muddle things: If you can't cut a deal on repealing the Obama-era law, then repeal it right away and then replace it later.

Trump is trying to revive an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months ago as impractical and politically unwise.

And it's likely to further complicate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's task as he struggles to bridge the divide between moderates and conservatives. Senators have left Washington for the Fourth of July break without voting on a bill as planned.

"If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL, and then REPLACE at a later date!" Trump wrote on Friday.

The president tweeted that message shortly after Nebraska Republican Sen. Ben Sasse appeared on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" to talk about a letter he had sent to Trump making that exact suggestion: a vote on repealing former President Barack Obama's health law followed by a new effort at a working out a replacement.

Trump is a known "Fox & Friends" viewer, but Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., also claimed credit for recommending the tactic to the president in a conversation earlier in the week.

"Sen. Rand Paul suggested this very idea to the president," said Paul spokesman Sergio Gor. "The senator fully agrees that we must immediately repeal Obamacare and then work on replacing it right away."

Either way, Trump's suggestion has the potential to harden divisions within the GOP as conservatives like Paul and Sasse complain that McConnell's bill does not go far enough in repealing Obama's health care law while moderates criticize it as overly harsh in kicking people off insurance rolls, shrinking the Medicaid safety net and increasing premiums for older Americans.

McConnell told reporters after an event Friday in his home state of Kentucky that the health care bill remains challenging but "we are going to stick with that path."

"It's not easy making America great again, is it?" McConnell said.

McConnell has been trying to strike deals with members of both factions in order to finalize a rewritten bill lawmakers can vote on when they return to the Capitol the second week of July. Even before Trump weighed in, though, it wasn't clear how far he was getting. Trump's tweet did not appear to suggest a lot of White House confidence in the outcome.

"McConnell's trying to achieve a 50-vote Venn diagram between some very competing factions," said Rodney Whitlock, a veteran health policy expert who worked as a Senate GOP aide during passage of the Democrats' Affordable Care Act.

"So what the president tweeted takes one side of that Venn diagram and pushes it further away, and actually puts on the table an option that will probably drive that group away from seeking compromise with the other side of the Venn diagram."

A McConnell spokesman declined to comment on Trump's tweet.

Even before Trump was inaugurated in January, Republicans had debated and ultimately discarded the idea of repealing the overhaul before replacing it, concluding that both must happen simultaneously. Doing otherwise would invite accusations that Republicans were simply tossing people off coverage and would roil insurance markets by raising the question of whether, when and how Congress might replace Obama's law once it was gone.

The idea also would leave unresolved the quandary lawmakers are struggling with now, about how to

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 26 of 45

replace Obama's system of online insurance markets, tax subsidies and an expanded Medicaid with something that could get enough Republican votes to pass Congress. House Republicans barely passed their version of a replacement bill in May, and the task is proving even tougher in the Senate, where McConnell has almost no margin for error.

Moderates were spooked as the week began with a Congressional Budget Office finding that McConnell's draft bill would result in 22 million people losing insurance over the next decade, only 1 million fewer than under the House-passed legislation which Trump privately told senators was "mean." But conservatives continue to insist that the bill must go further than just repealing some of the mandates and taxes in Obama's law.

"It's distressing to see so many Republicans who've lied about their commitment to repeal," Ken Cuccinelli, president of the Senate Conservatives Fund, said in a conference call Friday.

Underscoring the fissures within the GOP, conservative group leaders on that call welcomed Trump's suggestion but said it didn't go far enough because it could open the door to a subsequent bipartisan compromise to replace Obama's law. At the same time, a key House Republican, Rep. Kevin Brady, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, rejected Trump's suggestion, contending that it "doesn't achieve what President Trump set out to do."

"I really think the Senate's approach — certainly in the House — of not simply repealing but to start to put into place the elements that can make health care affordable, that's what the president set out to do," Brady said in an interview on C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" program.

This story has been corrected to reflect that McConnell said during an appearance in Kentucky on Friday night, "It's not easy making America great again, is it?" The quote that has been replaced in the story had used "American" instead of "America."

## China's Xi: No tolerance for subversion in Hong Kong

By **KELVIN CHAN** and **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping warned Saturday that any activities in Hong Kong seen as threatening China's sovereignty and stability would be "absolutely impermissible," employing some of his harshest language yet against burgeoning separatist sentiment in the territory.

In a speech marking 20 years since the city became a semi-autonomous Chinese region after its handover from Britain, Xi pledged Beijing's support for the "one country, two systems" blueprint, under which Hong Kong controls many of its own affairs and retains civil liberties including free speech.

However, he said Hong Kong had to do more to shore up security and boost patriotic education, in a veiled reference to legislation long-delayed by popular opposition.

And he appeared to put on notice a new wave of activists pushing for more autonomy or even independence, saying challenges to the power of China's central government and Hong Kong's leaders wouldn't be tolerated.

Any attempt to challenge China's sovereignty, security and government authority or use Hong Kong to "carry out infiltration and sabotage activities against the mainland is an act that crosses the red line, and is absolutely impermissible," Xi said, moments after presiding over the inauguration of Hong Kong's new leader, Carrie Lam.

Hong Kong has been roiled by political turmoil that brought tens of thousands of protesters onto the streets in 2014 demanding democratic reforms. Those calls were ignored by Beijing and Xi indicated there would be no giving ground in the future, frustrating many young people and deepening divisions.

"Making everything political or deliberately creating differences and provoking confrontations will not resolve the problems," Xi said, adding that Hong Kong "cannot afford to be torn apart by reckless moves or internal rifts."

Hours after Xi flew home to Beijing, thousands of pro-democracy supporters gathered for a march through the city's shopping and financial districts to demand greater political openness and oppose China's creeping influence in their city.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 27 of 45

Young activists have formed new groups promoting independence or a local Hong Kong identity separate from the mainland, alarming Beijing.

Meanwhile, incidents such as the secret detentions of five Hong Kong booksellers on the mainland have stirred fears that Beijing is undermining the "one country, two systems" blueprint.

Xi's speech "was a mixture of reassurance and warning," as he signaled that the system in place since 1997 won't change, said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, an expert on Chinese politics at Hong Kong Baptist University. "At the same time, there was a strong warning to the localists and the pro-independence people."

Cabestan said it was clear that Xi's priority is for Lam, to revive efforts to bring in long-delayed national security legislation, which pro-democracy activists fear will be used to suppress dissent, and patriotic national education in schools, which parents fear is a cover for pro-Communist "brainwashing."

They're two polarizing issues that have the potential to mobilize big crowds to take to the streets.

"We are heading towards troubled times," said Cabestan. "I don't think he's going to give up. If he doesn't give up it means there will be more problems."

While former colonial master Britain and other Western democracies have expressed concerns about Beijing's actions in Hong Kong, China has increasingly made clear that it brooks no outside criticism or attempts at intervention.

Xi said China had made it "categorically clear" in talks with Britain in the 1980s that "sovereignty is not for negotiation."

"Now that Hong Kong has returned to China, it is all the more important for us to firmly uphold China's sovereignty, security and development interests," he said.

Activists scoffed at Xi's remarks.

The idea that there's a force in Hong Kong sabotaging China or challenging its sovereignty is "ludicrous," said Avery Ng of the League of Social Democrats, a small pro-democracy party. He said Xi used nationalist pride "to alienate any opposition voices that call for democracy and universal suffrage both inside China and in Hong Kong."

Members of Ng's group attempted to march to the speech venue with a mock coffin symbolizing the death of the city's civil liberties, but were met by police and pro-China flag-waving counter-protesters in a brief standoff.

Lam became Hong Kong's fifth chief executive since 1997 and the first female to hold the post. The career civil servant and her Cabinet swore to serve China and Hong Kong and to uphold the Basic Law, the territory's mini-constitution.

In a speech that ran a fraction of Xi's 32-minute address, Lam reviewed the dynamic financial center's achievements and challenges, pledged to support central government initiatives and declared that "the future is bright."

There was other symbolism hinting at the balance of power.

Lam took her oath of office and delivered her address in Mandarin, China's official language, save for a few lines at the end in Hong Kong's Cantonese dialect. The official transcript of Xi's speech was printed in the mainland's simplified characters instead of Hong Kong's traditional complex characters.

Even the Chinese flag displayed behind Xi as he spoke was noticeably larger than Hong Kong's beside it. "It speaks volumes to me who is the boss, who is calling the shots," said Cabestan.

Lam prevailed over a much more popular rival in a selection process decried by many as "fake democracy," with only 777 votes from a 1,200-seat panel of mostly pro-Beijing elites. Hong Kong has more than 3 million registered voters.

Participants in the pro-democracy march largely dismissed Lam as a loyal bureaucrat, but said the change in leadership introduced a new measure of uncertainty.

That, combined with Xi's visit, had sharpened the mood for this year's march, said one veteran participant, retiree David Tse. "Things are much more tense. It's much more uncertain," he said.

Organizers estimated the number of participants at 60,000, about half of last year's figure. The pro-democracy movement lost considerable momentum after Beijing turned a cold shoulder to the 2014 protests. Police estimated that 14,500 took part, down about 5,000 from their estimate last year.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 28 of 45

Many participants said they were marching in support of imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, who has been diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer. Liu's face featured on countless signs held aloft by marchers who called on China to release him to seek treatment abroad.

University student Sean Law said Liu's fate showed what the party was capable of in suppressing its foes. Commenting on Xi's speech, Law said it showed the president's "ignorance" about Hong Kong. "He wants to spread China's ideas, but he doesn't understand Hong Kong and has little contact with the people of Hong Kong. His visit is meaningless," Law said.

## World leaders bid farewell to late German chancellor Kohl

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Current and past world leaders gathered Saturday to bid farewell to the late Helmut Kohl, recalling the former German chancellor as a man who was instrumental in uniting Europe and bringing about reconciliation between former adversaries on the continent.

Kohl, who died June 16 at the age of 87, was the first person to be honored with an official memorial event by the European Union in the French city of Strasbourg.

EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said the ceremony at the European Parliament's seat, close to the border with Germany, was Kohl's own choice, describing him as "a German patriot and at the same time a European patriot."

During his 16-year term as Germany's leader, stretching from 1982 to 1998, Kohl spearheaded his country's reunification and the creation of Europe's common currency, the euro.

"Helmut Kohl gave us the chance to be involved in something bigger than ourselves," said former U.S. President Bill Clinton, citing Kohl's willingness to put international cooperation before national interests at key moments in history.

Kohl was widely regarded as having skillfully overcome the fears of Germany's neighbors when an end to the country's decades-long division into a communist east and a democratic west first became a realistic possibility in the late 1990s.

Drawing on his friendships with several world leaders, often forged over hearty meals, Kohl assured the Allied nations that had beaten Nazi Germany in World War II that his country no longer aspired to dominate others.

His successor, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said Kohl's vision and persistence had paid a historic dividend.

"Without Helmut Kohl the lives of millions of people who lived behind the (Berlin) Wall until 1990 would have taken a completely different course, including mine," said Merkel, who grew up in communist East Germany. "Thank you for the opportunities you gave me."

EU Parliament President Antonio Tajani said Kohl deserved "a place of honor in the European pantheon" for unhesitatingly extending the hand of friendship to fledgling democracies in Eastern Europe following the fall of the Iron Curtain.

French President Emmanuel Macron noted that it was his predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, and Kohl, two men who had experienced the suffering of war on opposing sides, who were able to "overcome the terrible memories of their generation."

Several speakers recalled the poignant gesture of reconciliation in 1984, when Mitterrand and Kohl held hands during a ceremony at a World War I cemetery in Verdun, France.

Following the memorial event in Strasbourg, which was attended by over 800 dignitaries, Kohl's coffin draped with the flag of the European Union was taken to the German city of Speyer for a requiem Mass and military honors.

He will be buried in a private ceremony at a cemetery in the city.

## More time allowed for review of new transgender enlistments

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is giving the military chiefs another six months to conduct a review to determine if allowing transgender individuals to enlist in the armed services will affect the “readiness or lethality” of the force.

Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said Mattis made the decision Friday. The delay in allowing the enlistment of new recruits does not affect transgender troops who are already serving openly in the military.

“After consulting with the service chiefs and secretaries, I have determined that it is necessary to defer the start of accessions for six months,” Mattis said in a memo that was sent Friday to the service chiefs and secretaries and was obtained by The Associated Press. “We will use this additional time to evaluate more carefully the impact of such accessions on readiness and lethality.”

In the memo, Mattis said he believes the department must measure “each policy decision against one standard” — whether it affects the ability of the military to defend the nation.

Mattis’ decision formally endorses an agreement hammered out last week by the leaders of the four military services, which rejected Army and Air Force requests for a two-year wait. And it reflects the broader worry that a longer delay would trigger criticism on Capitol Hill, officials familiar with the talks told the AP.

The request for a delay was sent to Mattis for a final decision last week.

Mattis said the review by the services must be completed by Dec. 1, and he noted that his approval of a delay “does not presuppose the outcome of the review.” He said the additional time will ensure he has “the benefit of the views of the military leadership and of the senior civilian officials who are now arriving in the department.”

Mattis’ decision was met with divided reaction.

Stephen Peters, Human Rights Campaign spokesman and a Marine veteran, said, “Each day that passes without the policy in place restricts the armed forces’ ability to recruit the best and the brightest, regardless of gender identity.”

Aaron Belkin, director of the California-based Palm Center, said the delay will only force applicants to lie in order to join the military. “That makes no sense because, as predicted by all of the research, transgender military service has been a success,” he said.

But Jerry Boykin, a retired Army lieutenant general and executive vice president of the Family Research Council, hailed Mattis’ decision.

“The Pentagon is right to hit the brakes on a policy that will fail to make our military more capable in performing its mission to fight and win wars,” Boykin said.

Transgender service members have been able to serve openly in the military since last year, when then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter ended the ban, declaring it the right thing to do. Since Oct. 1, transgender troops have been able to receive medical care and start formally changing their gender identifications in the Pentagon’s personnel system.

But Carter also gave the services until July 1 to develop policies to allow people already identifying as transgender to newly join the military, if they meet physical, medical and other standards, and have been stable in their identified genders for 18 months.

The military chiefs have argued they need more time to study the issue and its effects on the readiness of the force before taking that step.

According to officials familiar with the internal discussions, the chiefs believe the extra six months would give the four military services time to gauge if currently serving transgender troops are facing problems and what necessary changes military bases might have to make.

They said Navy officials were ready to begin enlistment in July but asked for a one-year delay, largely to accommodate a request from the Marine Corps for more time. The Navy secretary also oversees the Marine Corps. The Army and Air Force wanted a two-year delay to further study the issue, they said.

Already, there are as many as 250 service members who are in the process of transitioning to their preferred genders or who have been approved to formally change gender within the Pentagon’s personnel

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 30 of 45

system, according to several defense officials.

Officials said there was a broad recognition that allowing transgender individuals to enlist affects each service differently. They described the biggest challenge as the infantry. They said the discussions aimed at a solution that would give recruits the best chance of succeeding, while ensuring the services maintain the best standards for entry into the military.

Key concerns include whether currently enlisted troops have had medical or other issues that cause delays or problems with their ability to deploy or meet physical or other standards for their jobs. Military leaders also want to review how transgender troops are treated, if they're discriminated against or if they have had disciplinary problems, the officials said.

The officials were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The military services have various ways of counting the number of transgender troops currently serving. The Pentagon has refused to release any data. But officials said there are more than 80 service members across the Army, including the National Guard and Reserve, who have been approved to change their gender identities in the personnel system or are in the process of transitioning. Others said there are about 160 sailors in the Navy who are in the process of gender transition, and about "a handful" of Marines have come forward to seek medical care involving gender transition. The Air Force refused to release any numbers.

A Rand Corp. study found that there are between 2,500 and 7,000 transgender service members in the active-duty military, and another 1,500 to 4,000 in the reserves.

## Chinese scholar believed dead; man charged with kidnapping

By **HERBERT G. McCANN** and **MICHAEL TARM**, Associated Press

A man was charged Friday with kidnapping a visiting University of Illinois scholar from China who authorities believe to be dead after she disappeared three weeks ago. A federal criminal complaint alleges the suspect's phone was used to visit an online forum in April called "Abduction 101."

Yingying Zhang, the 26-year-old daughter of a working-class factory driver from China, disappeared on June 9, just weeks after arriving at the Urbana-Champaign campus in central Illinois where she was doing research in agricultural sciences and was expected to begin work on her doctorate in the fall.

Some 5,600 Chinese students are enrolled at the university — more than at any other college in the nation — and Zhang's disappearance fed anxieties of families of Chinese students studying in the U.S.

Federal authorities say Brendt Christensen, who turned 28 on Friday, of Champaign, Illinois, is charged in a criminal complaint with abducting Zhang shortly after she stepped off a bus near the university campus. Video shows her getting into the front seat of a black Saturn Astra.

According to the 10-page affidavit filed in federal court by FBI Special Agent Anthony Manganaro, Christensen was under surveillance Thursday when agents overheard him explaining he kidnapped Zhang. Authorities say based on that and other facts uncovered during the investigation, agents believe Zhang is no longer alive.

Asked Friday night if authorities had any leads on where Zhang's body might be located, the spokesman for the FBI Springfield office, Bradley Ware, declined comment.

Illinois Chancellor Robert Jones said in a statement the campus community is saddened by the news Zhang is believed dead.

"This is a senseless and devastating loss of a promising young woman and a member of our community," Jones said. "There is nothing we can do to ease the sadness or grief for her family and friends, but we can and we will come together to support them in any way we can in these difficult days ahead."

The federal charging document says one of the threads on the forum that Christensen's smartphone visited online in April — months before Zhang went missing — was entitled, "Perfect abduction fantasy." Another was about "planning a kidnapping."

According to Manganaro's affidavit, investigators determined there were 18 vehicles similar to the one

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 31 of 45

Zhang got in that were registered in Champaign County.

The vehicle belonging to Christensen was first observed in an apartment complex parking lot on June 12 — just days after Zhang went missing — and investigators questioned him. The affidavit stated that investigators noted Christensen couldn't recall what he was doing on the day Zhang disappeared. They searched the vehicle but didn't remove anything.

Investigators later determined the car in the video had a sunroof and cracked hubcap, like the vehicle belonging to Christensen, according to the affidavit. When investigators interviewed Christensen again, he admitted to driving around the University of Illinois campus and giving a ride to an Asian woman who said she was late for an appointment.

Christensen said the woman panicked after he apparently made a wrong turn and he let her out in a residential area.

The court document indicates a search of Christensen's car indicates the area where Zhang was believed to have been sitting had been cleaned.

Christensen was placed under continuous surveillance on June 16, and on Thursday he was captured on an audio recording explaining how he took Zhang to his apartment and held her against her will. The affidavit says the woman remains missing.

Friends and family said Zhang dreamed of one day landing a professorship and being able to help her parents financially. She saved some of her income as a researcher to buy items for her mother and father including a microwave and a cellphone.

Those who knew Zhang described her as bright and outgoing. She played guitar and sang in a band called "Cute Horse" in China. One of her favorite songs was "The Rose," a hit in 1980 for American singer Bette Midler.

Zhang's boyfriend has said that she was also cautious and wouldn't normally get into a car with a stranger unless duped or forced.

Zhang graduated last year with a master's degree in environmental engineering from one of China's elite schools, Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. She had been doing research on crop photosynthesis, which included using drones to study fields, the university's communications office has said.

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This story has been corrected to show that Christensen's age is 28, not 27.

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McCann and Tarm reported from Chicago.

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Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm>

## Trump voting commission will get limited state voter data

By ADAM KEALOHA CAUSEY and HOLLY RAMER, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A request for detailed information about every voter in the U.S. from President Donald Trump's voting commission is getting a rocky reception in the states.

Some of the nation's most populous states, including California and New York, are refusing to comply. But even some conservative states that voted for Trump, such as Texas, say they can provide only partial responses based on what is legally allowed under state law.

Given the mishmash of information Trump's commission will receive, it's unclear how useful it will be or what the commission will do with it. Trump established the commission to investigate allegations of voter fraud in the 2016 elections, but Democrats have blasted it as a biased panel that is merely looking for ways to suppress the vote.

New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner, a Democrat who is a member of Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, defended the request Friday. He said the commission expected that many states would only partially comply because open records laws differ from state to state.

"If only half the states agree, we'll have to talk about that. I think, whatever they do, we'll work with

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 32 of 45

that," said Gardner, adding that the commission will discuss the survey at its July 19 meeting.

He said he has received calls from unhappy constituents who said they didn't want Trump to see their personal information.

"But this is not private, and a lot of people don't know that," he said.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders blasted the decision by some governors and secretaries of state not to comply.

"I think that that's mostly about a political stunt," she told reporters at a White House briefing.

It's not just Democrats bristling at the requested information.

Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, a Republican serving his third term, said in a statement he had not received the commission's request.

If he does receive it?

"My reply would be: They can go jump in the Gulf of Mexico, and Mississippi is a great state to launch from," he said. "Mississippi residents should celebrate Independence Day and our state's right to protect the privacy of our citizens by conducting our own electoral processes."

In a federal court case after a contentious U.S. Senate primary in Mississippi in 2014, a group called True the Vote sued Mississippi seeking similar information about voters. Hosemann fought that request and won.

No state election official planned to provide the commission with all of the information requested — even Kansas, where commission vice chairman Kris Kobach is secretary of state. He sent the letter asking for the names, party affiliations, addresses, voting histories, felony convictions, military service and the last four digits of Social Security numbers for all voters.

A spokeswoman for Kobach's office said the last four digits of Social Security numbers are not publicly available under Kansas law and would not be handed over. That was the case in many other states, noted in statements from top election officials and responses to queries from reporters for The Associated Press.

Officials in 10 states and the District of Columbia said they would not comply at all with the request. Those states are California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia.

Oklahoma, where nearly two-thirds of the vote in the November presidential election went to Trump, will provide nearly all the commission's request, save for one bit of information: Social Security numbers.

"That's not publicly available under the laws of our state," said Bryan Dean, spokesman for the Oklahoma State Election Board.

Dean said the commission's request will be treated like any other from the general public. The election board will tell the panel to fill out an online form asking for the information. Oklahoma's voter roll is routinely provided to political campaigns, the press and other groups that ask for it.

The letter from the presidential commission gives secretaries of state about two weeks to provide the voter data and other information, including any evidence of fraud and election-related crimes in their states. It also asks for suggestions on improving election security.

Some Democratic officials have refused to comply with the data request, saying it invades privacy and is based on false claims of fraud. Trump, who created the commission through executive order in May, lost the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton but has alleged without evidence that up to 5 million people voted illegally.

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Ramer reported from Concord, New Hampshire. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in Washington, D.C.; Roxana Hegeman in Wichita, Kansas; Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Kyle Potter in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this report.

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## Science Says: Hot dogs minus added nitrites may be no better

By CANDICE CHOI, AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Backyard cooks looking to grill this summer have another option: hot dogs without “added nitrites.”

Are they any healthier?

Oscar Mayer is touting its new hot dog recipe that uses nitrite derived from celery juice instead of artificial sodium nitrite, which is used to preserve the pinkish colors of processed meats and prevents botulism. Kraft Heinz, which owns Oscar Mayer, says sodium nitrite is among the artificial ingredients it has removed from the product to reflect changing consumer preferences. The change comes amid a broader trend of big food makers purging ingredients that people may feel are not natural.

But nitrites are nitrites — and the change makes little difference — according to those who advise limiting processed meat and those who defend it.

Kana Wu, a research scientist at Harvard’s school of public health, said in an email that it is best to think of processed meat made with natural ingredients the same as those made with artificial nitrites.

Wu was part of a group that helped draft the World Health Organization report in 2015 that said

processed meats such as hot dogs and bacon were linked to an increased risk of colon cancer. She notes WHO did not pinpoint what exactly about processed meats might be to blame for the link.

One concern about processed meats is that nitrites can combine with compounds found in meat at high temperatures to fuel the formation of nitrosamines, which are known carcinogens in animals. It’s a chemical reaction that can happen regardless of the source of the nitrites, including celery juice.

But the U.S. Department of Agriculture caps the amount of artificial nitrites that can be added to meats to prevent excessive use, said Andrew Milkowski, a retired Oscar Mayer scientist who consults for the meat industry. Meat makers also add ingredients to processed meat like bacon that help block the formation of nitrosamines, he said.

Though the terms nitrates and nitrites are used interchangeably, the meat industry says it’s mainly sodium nitrite that companies currently use to cure meats such as hot dogs, cold cuts and bacon.

For Oscar Mayer hot dogs, the packages now list ingredients like celery juice that has been treated with bacterial culture. That turns the naturally occurring nitrates in celery juice into nitrites that serve a similar



**In this Wednesday, June 28, 2017, photo, Oscar Mayer classic uncured wieners are for sale at a grocery store in New York. Oscar Mayer is touting its new hot dog recipe that uses nitrite derived from celery juice instead of artificial sodium nitrite, which is used to preserve the pinkish colors of processed meats and prevents botulism. Kraft Heinz, which owns Oscar Mayer, says sodium nitrite is among the artificial ingredients it has removed from the product to reflect changing consumer preferences. The change comes amid a broader trend of big food makers purging ingredients that people may feel are not natural.** (AP Photo/Candice Choi)

purpose.

While the nitrites derived from celery juice are no better, the switch may nevertheless help address negative consumer perceptions, said Milkowski, who also teaches at the University of Wisconsin's department of animal sciences.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest agrees nitrites from natural sources aren't that different from artificial nitrites in processed meats. But the group has cited the WHO report in calling for a cancer warning label on processed meats, regardless of how they're made. It also says nitrite-preserved foods tend to be high in salt and should be limited or avoided anyway. The American Cancer Society also suggests limiting processed and red meat, citing a variety of reasons.

The meat industry has contested the WHO's finding, saying it is based on studies that show a possible link but don't prove a cause, and that single foods shouldn't be blamed for cancer. Many health experts also say there's no reason to worry about an occasional hot dog or bologna sandwich.

And while natural preservatives may not make hot dogs any healthier, they fit with the growing preference for ingredients like celery juice that people can easily recognize.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," said Kristin Kirkpatrick, a dietitian at the Cleveland Clinic.

An interesting wrinkle worth noting is that federal regulations require processed meats without added nitrites or nitrates to be labeled as "uncured" and to state that they have no nitrates or nitrites added — except those naturally occurring in the alternative ingredient. That's the language you'll now find on Oscar Mayer hot dog packages, though the products previously only had added nitrites.

The meat industry has contested the required language of meat being "uncured," because it says the products are still cured, albeit with nitrites derived from other ingredients.

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## **GOP bill would let churches endorse political candidates**

**By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Churches should have the right to endorse political candidates and still keep their tax-free status, say House Republicans targeting a law that prohibits such outright politicking from the pulpit.

Republicans repeatedly have failed to scrap the law preventing churches and other nonprofits from backing candidates, so now they are trying to starve it. With little fanfare, a House Appropriations subcommittee added a provision that would deny money to the IRS to enforce the 63-year-old law to a bill to fund the Treasury Department, Securities and Exchange Commission and other agencies.

The subcommittee passed the bill Thursday.

Republicans say the law is enforced unevenly, leaving religious leaders uncertain about what they are allowed to say and do.

"I believe that churches have a right of free speech and an opportunity to talk about positions and issues that are relevant to their faith," said Rep. Jim Renacci, R-Ohio.

Some Democrats say the measure comes too close to mixing church and state. They say religious leaders already have First Amendment rights, just like anyone else. But if they want to get political, they don't have a constitutional right not to pay taxes.

Some also worry that the measure could upend the system of campaign financing by allowing churches to use their tax-free status to funnel money to political candidates.

Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., recalled a speech that former President John F. Kennedy gave to religious leaders when he was running for president.

"He said the pope wouldn't tell him what to do, and the people in that audience shouldn't be telling people on Sunday morning who to vote for," Neal said. "I don't think churches should be endorsing."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 35 of 45

Many nonprofit groups want to avoid politics. In April, 4,500 nonprofit groups signed onto a letter to congressional leaders asking them to preserve the law.

The law prohibits tax-exempt charitable organizations such as churches from participating directly or indirectly in any political campaign to support or oppose a candidate. If the IRS determines that a group has violated the law, it can revoke its tax-exempt status.

The law doesn't stop religious groups from weighing in on public policy or organizing in ways that may benefit one side in a campaign.

The bill specifically forbids the IRS from spending money to enforce the law against "a church, or a convention or association of churches," unless the IRS commissioner signs off on it and notifies Congress.

The bill doesn't mention other types of non-profit groups, or even synagogues or mosques, said Nick Little of the Center for Inquiry, which promotes secularism.

"All they care about is the Christian groups, and in particular, it will end up as the extreme religious right Christian groups," Little said. "If this goes through, this would add just another way in which unregulated dark money could be used."

Religious leaders have been weighing in on political issues for generations, whether it's the debate over abortion or advocating for the poor. But periodically, the IRS has stepped in when religious leaders explicitly endorse or oppose candidates.

The law is called the Johnson Amendment after former President Lyndon Johnson, who introduced it in 1954 when he was a Democratic senator from Texas. Johnson was upset because a few nonprofit groups attacked him as a communist in a Senate campaign.

The law was signed by a Republican president — Dwight Eisenhower — but Republicans have been attacking it in recent years.

House Republicans have pledged to repeal the law as part of a tax overhaul. President Donald Trump signed an executive order in May discouraging the IRS from enforcing the law.

Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Ohio, says the law has been enforced unevenly.

"Some churches, including my own, have been very concerned about appearing political in any way shape or form," Tiberi said. "Churches I went to that were primarily in Democrat areas, that I would go to because I had a Democrat district, the local candidates on the Sunday mornings before the election would be introduced, would speak from the pulpit about the campaign and why the congregation should vote for them."

The full Appropriations Committee will consider the measure after the July 4th congressional recess.

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

## Summer looms with GOP stuck on health care, budget, taxes

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are stuck on health care, can't pass a budget, and hopes for a big, bipartisan infrastructure package are fizzling. Overhauling the tax code looks more and more like a distant dream.

The GOP-led Congress has yet to salt away a single major legislative accomplishment for President Donald Trump — and a summer of drift may lead to a logistical nightmare this fall.

Instead, Trump's allies appear both divided and indecisive, unable to deliver on his agenda while letting other must-do congressional business — chiefly their core responsibilities of passing a budget and spending bills, and keeping the government solvent — slide onto an already daunting fall agenda that is looking more and more like it'll be a train wreck.

Friday brought more bad news for Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and other House leaders as 20 GOP moderates signaled a revolt on the budget, penning a letter to Ryan announcing their opposition to an emerging plan to force cuts to government agencies and benefit programs such as food stamps. The letter, authored by Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., warned that without an agreement with Democrats on increasing

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 36 of 45

agency spending, moderates will be "reticent to support any budget."

"It's looking like they're very disorganized. They got obviously a lot of conflict over spending preferences and it's not just a two-way conflict," said top House Budget Committee Democrat John Yarmuth of Kentucky. "It's just a tough Rubik's Cube they're trying to solve."

So it's not just the Senate effort to repeal and replace Democrat Barack Obama's health care law that's foundering. The annual congressional budget measure — a prerequisite to this fall's hoped-for tax effort — is languishing as well, as are the 12 annual spending bills that typically consume weeks of House floor time each summer.

But GOP leaders say all is going well. Ryan told a Wisconsin radio host on Thursday that "it's the most productive Congress since the mid-'80s" and issued a news release Friday titled "Despite What You May Hear, We Are Getting Things Done." The release cites a bipartisan Department of Veterans Affairs accountability measure and 14 bills repealing Obama-era regulations as Congress' top achievements.

"It would be hard to fault the average American for thinking all that's going on in Washington these days is high-drama hearings and partisan sniping," Ryan said. "But amid the countdown clocks and cable news chatter, something important is happening: Congress is getting things done to help improve people's lives."

In the first year of a presidency, the annual August congressional recess is a traditional point to take stock. By that point, Obama had signed an economic recovery bill and President George W. Bush had won his landmark tax cuts, while President Bill Clinton was celebrating a hard-fought budget package.

Trump has no comparable successes to trumpet — but his allies in Congress say they're not worried.

"We laid out an agenda in November and December, and we're needing to get there," said House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions, R-Texas. "And we can effectively get there. The questions that confound us are those that we can answer ourselves. And we will."

And as Republicans are stalled on health care, the budget and infrastructure, there are several other problems that need to be taken care of, including increasing the nation's borrowing authority, preventing a government shutdown, and lifting budget "caps" that are hobbling efforts to beef up the military.

Unlike health care, the debt limit and a deal to fix the spending caps — a leftover from a failed 2011 budget deal — can only be resolved with Democratic help. However, they promise to consume political capital and valuable time and energy, and there's no political pay-off, other than forestalling disaster.

First, Congress is off on vacation to return in July for a three-week session. Then comes the traditional monthlong August recess.

After Labor Day comes a four-week sprint to October and the deadline to avert a government shutdown with a temporary spending bill — and to forestall a disastrous default on U.S. obligations by lifting the debt limit, which is a politically toxic vote for many Republicans.

Sentiment is building among some lawmakers to shorten the recess to make progress on the unfinished work that is piling up. On Friday, 10 GOP senators, led by David Perdue of Georgia, sent Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a letter citing delays on health care, the budget, a stopgap spending bill and the debt limit as reasons to consider canceling some or all of the recess.

"If we successfully navigate those priorities, we can finally get to our once in a generation opportunity on tax reform," the letter said. "Growing the economy, repairing our infrastructure, and rebuilding our military are all dependent on accomplishing the tasks before us."

## Warren Buffett to buy 700 million shares in Bank of America

By KEN SWEET, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway said Friday it will amass a 700-million-share stake in Bank of America, making Buffett the largest shareholder in two of the nation's largest banks.

Berkshire said that it will convert warrants it purchased in Bank of America back in 2011, when the bank was struggling following the financial crisis, into common shares in the bank. The stake in the bank will make Berkshire the largest shareholder in Bank of America, exceeding mutual fund giant Vanguard.

Buffett said in his annual shareholder letter that he would convert his warrants in Bank of America to

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 37 of 45

common stock if the bank were ever to raise its annual dividend above 44 cents a share, which the bank did this week. This week, the bank announced it would raise its annual dividend to 48 cents a share starting in the third quarter.

After the bank raises the dividend, Buffett will convert his warrants at a price of \$7.14 a share, which is significantly below the stock's current price of about \$24 a share. If Buffett were to sell his acquired stake in the bank, Berkshire would walk away with a profit of \$12 billion.

Buffett is also the largest shareholder in Wells Fargo, a stake that has drawn some controversy following Wells Fargo's sales practices scandal.

## Germany legalizes same-sex marriage after Merkel U-turn

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German lawmakers voted Friday to legalize same-sex marriage, a move widely supported across the country that brings Germany in line with many of its Western peers. Chancellor Angela Merkel voted against the measure, but paved the way for its passage by allowing members of her conservative party to vote according to their conscience.

Lawmakers voted 393-226 to legalize "marriage for everybody," with four abstentions. Underlining the delicate political tightrope that Merkel walked, the "no" votes came entirely from her conservative bloc, although some prominent party members, including Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen and her chief of staff Peter Altmaier, voted for it.

"This is a historic day," said Greens lawmaker Volker Beck, who leapt to his feet to applaud once the result was announced and was showered with confetti by supporters.

"It is really an amazing victory," said Beck, who has campaigned around Europe for gay rights.

Gay couples outside the chancellery, not far from parliament, kissed and hugged after the decision was announced, waving rainbow flags and carrying signs saying "Marriage for everybody."

"We've been happily married for eight years, but we could never call it that," said 38-year-old Shoshana Brandt, standing alongside her partner and their son. "We are happy and proud that we are now equal and we can live our love."

After years of lukewarm opposition to gay marriage following her party's line, Merkel said Monday that lawmakers could take up the issue as a question of "conscience," allowing members of her conservative coalition to individually vote for it if they wanted.

That prompted her center-left rivals to call for a quick vote on the issue, adding it to the agenda Friday on parliament's last regular session before Germany's Sept. 24 national election.

Berlin Christian Democrat Jan-Marco Luczak, one of 75 lawmakers from Merkel's bloc who voted for the measure, urged his fellow party members to join him.

"It would be absurd to try and protect marriage by preventing people to marry," he told lawmakers in the debate ahead of the vote.

Many applauded Merkel's comments that opened the way for the vote, but Social Democrat lawmaker Johannes Kahrs noted that the chancellor has been a longtime opponent of gay marriage.

"Many thanks for nothing," he said bluntly.

Germany has allowed same-sex couples to enter civil partnerships since 2001, but has not granted them full marital rights, which include the possibility of jointly adopting children, even though gay marriage enjoyed some 80 percent support, according to recent polls.

More than a dozen countries in Europe have legalized gay marriage, all in the western part of the continent, and Germany had been the largest where it was not yet legal. Almost a dozen others have some sort of same-sex unions or civil partnerships, according to the Pew Research Center.

Amnesty International praised the law as a "victory for equality."

"Germany has become the 23rd country to recognize same-sex marriage and has sent a clear message to the world that gay and lesbian people should be entitled to the same rights as everyone else, and to full and equal protection of the law," Amnesty's Europe director John Dalhuisen said.

The new law won't take effect for several months because it still needs to pass the upper house of

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 38 of 45

parliament and be approved by the president, although those are formalities. It is also expected to face legal challenges.

Merkel told reporters later that her vote against the measure was based upon her reading of the country's law concerning marriage but added that she did think gay couples should be able to adopt.

Germany's constitution is vague, saying only that "marriage and the family shall enjoy the protection of the state," but Merkel said that for her, "marriage as defined by the law is the marriage of a man and a woman." Still, she urged all views to be respected.

"It was a long, intensive, and for many also an emotional discussion. That goes for me personally too. And I'm hopeful not only that there will be respect for either side's opinions, but that it will also bring about more peace and cohesion in society," she said.

All of Merkel's potential coalition partners after the September election, including the center-left Social Democrats of her challenger, Martin Schulz, have been calling for same-sex marriage to be legalized.

Analysts have suggested that by opening the door to gay marriage, Merkel removed yet another issue that her opponents could have used against her in an election year — a nod to her pragmatic approach to politics.

In her nearly 12 years as chancellor, Merkel has moved her party to the center and away from conservative orthodoxy, speeding up Germany's exit from nuclear power and ending military conscription, among other moves.

Frank Jordans contributed to this report.

## **Nike to start selling sneakers through online giant Amazon**

NEW YORK (AP) — Nike said it will sell some of its sneakers through e-commerce giant Amazon, part of a plan to make its swoosh-branded products available in more places online.

Shoppers can already find Nike goods on Amazon, but they are sold by third-party sellers. Nike said the new partnership with Amazon will help it better control its brand's presentation on the site. Only a small selection of shoes, clothing and accessories will be available at first. But Nike may sell more products on the platform if the test is successful.

"We're in the early stages, but we really look forward to evaluating the results," said Nike CEO Mark Parker, in a conference call late Thursday.

Earlier this month, Nike said it would slash 1,400 jobs in a restructuring aimed at selling more shoes directly online. It already has deals with Amazon's rivals in China and Europe, and Nike is making its sneaker-selling apps available in more parts of the world. In addition to the Amazon deal, Nike also partnered with Instagram to make it easier for users to buy sneakers through the photo-sharing app.

Selling directly through Amazon could give Nike greater access to millennials, analysts from Nomura said on Friday. Those analysts also said Nike may be able to better control prices on Amazon and help reduce the number of counterfeits being sold.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. did not respond to a request for comment Friday.

Nike also reported better-than-expected earnings and revenue for the previous quarter on Thursday, and the Beaverton, Oregon-based company said it expects revenue to rise in the current year.

Shares of Nike Inc. jumped \$4.43, or 8 percent, to \$57.60 in morning trading Friday.

## **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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 39 of 45

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.

"We can't disregard the importance of strengthening our military capabilities just because we are at peace now," Tsai said Friday. "The best way to stop battle is to always be well prepared for battle. We will continue to enhance our strength and maintain peace."

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.

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.

## Nevada launches sales of legal recreational marijuana

By REGINA GARCIA-CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada became the fifth state in the U.S. with stores selling marijuana for recreational purposes, opening a market early Saturday that is eventually expected to outpace any other in the nation thanks to the millions of tourists who flock to Las Vegas.

People began purchasing marijuana shortly after midnight, just months after voters approved legalization in November and marking the fastest turnaround from the ballot box to retail sales in the country.

Hundreds of people lined up at Essence Cannabis Dispensary on the Las Vegas Strip. People were excited and well-behaved as a lone security guard looked on. A valet was available to park the cars of customers.

A cheer erupted when the doors opened.

Those 21 and older with a valid ID can buy up to an ounce of pot. Tourists are expected to make nearly two of every three recreational pot purchases in Nevada, but people can only use the drug in a private home.

It remains illegal to light up in public areas, including the Las Vegas Strip, casinos, bars, restaurants, parks, convention centers and concert halls — places frequently visited by tourists. Violators face a \$600 fine.

And driving under the influence of marijuana is still illegal.

Despite the limits on where people can get high and restrictions on where the industry can advertise, dispensaries worked furiously to prepare for the launch. They stamped labels on pot products, stocked up their shelves, added security and checkout stations, and announced specials.

Desert Grown Farms hired about 60 additional employees. Workers in scrubs, hair nets and surgical masks slapped stickers on sealed jars this week as others checked on marijuana plants or carefully weighed buds.

"It would be a good problem to have if I couldn't meet my demand," said CEO Armen Yemenidjian, whose Desert Grown Farms owns the only dispensary that is selling recreational pot on the Las Vegas Strip, across the street from the Stratosphere hotel.

Some dispensaries took to social media to spread the word or tried to draw in buyers with special events. Some planned to give away free marijuana to their first 100 customers or throw parties with barbecues and food trucks later in the afternoon.

Some facilities are in strip malls, while others, in stereotypical Las Vegas fashion, are in neighborhoods shared by strip clubs.

Nevada joins Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Alaska in allowing adults to buy the drug that's still banned by the federal government.

## Companies still hobbled from fearsome cyberattack

By FRANK BAJAK and RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Many businesses still struggled Friday to recover hopelessly scrambled computer networks, collateral damage from a massive cyberattack that targeted Ukraine three days ago.

The Heritage Valley Health System couldn't offer lab and diagnostic imaging services at 14 community and neighborhood offices in western Pennsylvania. DLA Piper, a London-based law firm with offices in 40 countries, said on its website that email systems were down; a receptionist said email hadn't been restored by the close of business day.

Dave Kennedy, a former Marine cyberwarrior who is now CEO of the security company TrustedSec, said one U.S. company he is helping is rebuilding its entire network of more than 5,000 computers.

"It hit everything, their backups, servers, their workstations, everything," he said. "Everything was just nuked and wiped."

Kennedy added, "Some of these companies are actually using pieces of paper to write down credit card numbers. It's crazy."

The cyberattack that began Tuesday brought even some Fortune 1000 companies to their knees, experts say. Kennedy said a lot more "isn't being reported by companies who don't want to say that they are hit."

The malware, which security experts are calling NotPetya, was unleashed through Ukraine tax software,



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 41 of 45

called MeDoc. Customers' networks became infected downloading automatic updates from its maker's website. Many customers are multinationals with offices in the eastern European nation.

The malware spread so quickly, worming its way automatically through interconnected private networks, as to be nearly unstoppable. What saved the world from digital mayhem, experts say, was its limited business-to-business connectivity with Ukrainian enterprises, the intended target.

Had those direct connections been extensive — on the level of a major industrial nation — “you are talking about a catastrophic failure of all of our systems and environments across the globe. I mean it could have been absolutely terrifying,” Kennedy said.

Microsoft said NotPetya hit companies in at least 64 nations, including Russia, Germany and the United States. Victims include drug giant Merck & Co. and the shipping company FedEx's TNT subsidiary. Trade in FedEx stock was temporarily halted Wednesday.

One major victim, Danish shipping giant A.P. Maersk-Moller, said Friday that its cargo terminals and port operations were “now running close to normal again.” It said operations had been restored in Spain, Morocco, India, Brazil, Argentina and Lima, Peru, but problems lingered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Elizabeth, New Jersey; and Los Angeles.

An employee at an international transit company at Lima's port of Callao told The Associated Press that Maersk employees' telephone system and email had been knocked out by the virus — so they were “stuck using their personal cellphones.” The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to speak to reporters.

Back in Ukraine, the pain continued. Officials assured the public that the outbreak was under control, and service has been restored to cash machines and at the airport.

But some bank branches remain closed as information-technology professionals scrambled to rebuild networks from scratch. One government employee told the AP she was still relying on her iPhone because her office's computers were “collapsed.” She, too, was not authorized to talk to journalists.

Security researchers now concur that while NotPetya was wrapped in the guise of extortionate “ransomware” — which encrypts files and demands payment — it was really designed to exact maximum destruction and disruption, with Ukraine the clear target.

Computers were disabled there at banks, government agencies, energy companies, supermarkets, railways and telecommunications providers.

Ukraine's government said Thursday that the FBI and Britain's National Crime Agency were assisting in its investigation of the malware.

Suspicion for the attack immediately fell on hackers affiliated with Russia, though there is no evidence tying Vladimir Putin's government to the attack.

Relations between Russia and Ukraine have been tense since Moscow annexed the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. Pro-Russian fighters still battle the government in eastern Ukraine.

U.S. intelligence agencies declined to comment about who might be responsible for the attack. The White House did not immediately respond to questions seeking its reaction to the attack.

Experts have blamed pro-Russian hackers for major cyberattacks on the Ukrainian power grid in 2015 and 2016, assaults that have turned the eastern European nation into the world's leading cyberwarfare testing ground.

A disruptive attack on the nation's voting system ahead of 2014 national elections is also attributed to Russia.

Robert M. Lee, CEO of Dragos Inc. and an expert on cyberattacks on infrastructure including Ukraine's power grid, said the rules of cyberespionage appear to be changing, with sophisticated actors — state-sponsored or not — violating what had been established norms of avoiding collateral damage.

Besides NotPetya, he pointed to the May ransomware dubbed “WannaCry,” a major cyberassault that some experts have blamed on North Korea.

“I think it's absolutely reprehensible if we do not have national-level leaders come out and make very clear statements,” he said, “that this is not activity that can be condoned.”

Satter reported from Paris. Associated Press writers Franklin Briceno in Lima, Peru, and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

## Federer, Nadal drawn for Wimbledon final, 11 years after 1st

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Like a couple of old friends gathering for a reunion, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal could face each other in the Wimbledon final more than a decade after their first such meeting.

The draw at the All England Club on Friday established plenty of intriguing matchups along the way, too, including what appears to be a particularly tricky path for three-time champion Novak Djokovic, who's been struggling for much of the past 12 months or so.

Djokovic will start against big-hitting Martin Klizan, and then could face another power player in the third round: 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, who stunned the Serb at the Rio Olympics last year. Get past that, and Djokovic might play the mercurial Gael Monfils or Fernando Lopez, who is coming off a grass-court title at Queen's Club. His quarterfinal foe could be Dominic Thiem, who eliminated Djokovic in straight sets at the French Open.

Other potential men's quarterfinals are seven-time champion Federer against 2016 runner-up Milos Ranic, who beat Federer in last year's semifinals; two-time winner Nadal against 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic; and defending champ Andy Murray against three-time major titlist Stan Wawrinka.

If the seedings hold, Federer would meet Djokovic in the semifinals, with Nadal taking on Murray. That quartet has combined to win each of the past 14 titles at Wimbledon; Federer beat Nadal in the 2006 and 2007 finals, then lost to him in the 2008 title match.

Federer turns 36 on Aug. 8, and Nadal just turned 31, but both are back to playing quite well this year. They met in the Australian Open final in January, won by Federer, and Nadal earned his record 10th French Open title in June.

Murray's spot at No. 1 in the ATP rankings is up for grabs this fortnight: He, Nadal, Wawrinka or Djokovic could all leave the All England Club with the top spot.

The WTA No. 1 ranking, which currently belongs to Angelique Kerber, also could change hands at tournament's end. Four other women have a chance to take it: Karolina Pliskova, Simona Halep, Elina Svitolina and Caroline Wozniacki, who already has spent time at No. 1.

The potential women's quarterfinals are Kerber vs. Svetlana Kuznetsova in a matchup between a pair of two-time major champions; 2016 U.S. Open runner-up Pliskova vs. two-time U.S. Open finalist Wozniacki; Svitolina vs. Dominika Cibulkova; and Halep vs. Johanna Konta, Britain's best hope for its first women's champion since Virginia Wade in 1977.

Konta withdrew from a grass-court tuneup in Eastbourne on Friday after hurting herself during a fall a day earlier, when she pulled off two big victories in one day after rain had jumbled the schedule, beating Kerber and French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Five-time Wimbledon champion Venus Williams, seeded 10th in her 20th appearance at the tournament, was drawn to face Elise Mertens of Belgium in the first round. A publicist for Williams said that the former No. 1 will play at Wimbledon after a police report in Florida said the tennis star caused a car crash in early June that led to the death, two weeks later, of a passenger in another vehicle.

Williams and Petra Kvitova, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, are the only two past champions in the women's field: Williams' sister, Serena, is taking the rest of the year off because she is pregnant, while Maria Sharapova is injured.

Victoria Azarenka, a former No. 1 and two-time Australian Open champion, is appearing in a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in more than a year after giving birth to her first child. Her first-round match should be interesting — it's against 18-year-old CiCi Bellis, an up-and-coming Californian. The winner could eventually take on Halep in the fourth round.

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AP Sports Writer Chris Lehourites contributed to this report.

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

More AP tennis coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis>

## Industrial companies lead US stock indexes mostly higher

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Wall Street closed out the final day of the second quarter with slight gains after a broad rally faded in the last few minutes of trading Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index eked out tiny gains, while the Nasdaq composite closed essentially flat.

Industrial stocks and consumer-focused companies led the gainers. Energy stocks also rose as crude oil prices closed higher for the seventh straight day. Utilities, technology and health care companies were among the biggest decliners.

Trading was mostly subdued ahead of the Independence Day holiday next week, though many investors seized on the final trading day of the quarter and the previous day's market slide to buy more shares or close out positions and book profits.

"Overall we're ending this quarter with a strong market, even though technology has taken a hit, other sectors have moved up," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

The S&P 500 index rose 3.71 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,423.41. The Dow gained 62.60 points, or 0.3 percent, to 21,349.63. The Nasdaq lost 3.93 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,140.42. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks gave up 0.84 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,415.36.

Bond prices fell. The 10-year Treasury yield rose to 2.30 percent from 2.27 percent late Thursday.

The major stock indexes got off to a shaky start early Friday, but soon veered higher and held course for much of the day. A last-minute flurry of selling nudged the Nasdaq and Russell 2000 slightly into the red.

The Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq ended the week in negative territory. This was also the worst week of the year for the Nasdaq and the third loss in the last four weeks for the tech-heavy index.

The market's snapshot at the halfway mark for 2017 is more encouraging, however.

The S&P 500 index, the broadest measure of the stock market, is up 8.2 percent this year, while the Dow is up 8 percent. The Nasdaq has racked up a gain of 14.1 percent. The Russell 2000 is up 4.3 percent.

Strong corporate earnings and revenue have underpinned the market's gains this year. Expectations among investors that President Donald Trump and the Republican-led Congress would slash taxes, boost federal spending on infrastructure and enact other business-friendly policies have also helped drive stocks higher.

Investors appeared to temper those expectations in recent weeks as the Trump administration hit legislative snags in its bid to pass a health insurance overhaul.

On Thursday, S&P Global Ratings noted that sentiment on Wall Street, which had been strong following Trump's election, has begun to soften.

"Now, we no longer believe the federal government will be able to push through even a small infrastructure-spending package, and we expect only moderate tax cuts to be passed early next year as midterm elections approach," wrote Beth Ann Bovino, S&P Global's U.S. chief economist.

Remarks from central bank officials in Europe earlier this week helped set the tone for the market, spurring speculation among investors that global interest rates could move higher. That sent bond yield sharply higher and helped lift shares in banks. Traders also sold off technology stocks. The sector had its worst week this year.

Even so, technology still leads all other sectors. It's up 16.4 percent this year, followed by health care and consumer discretionary stocks. Energy stocks are the biggest laggard at the midpoint of the year, down 13.8 percent. Phone companies are also in the red.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 44 of 45

On Friday, investors sized up the latest company earnings and deal news.

The Commerce Department said consumer spending grew just 0.1 percent in May, less than the last couple of months. Personal income grew by a healthy 0.4 percent, but spending only rose 0.1 percent.

Athletic apparel maker Nike had its best day in almost two years Friday. Its shares jumped 11 percent after a strong quarterly report. Nike also said it's testing a program to sell sneakers directly through Amazon.com. Nike shares were the biggest gainer in the S&P 500, adding \$5.83 to \$59.

Specialty contractor Quanta Services was the biggest gainer in the industrials sector, rising \$1.04, or 3.3 percent, to \$32.92.

Parkway vaulted 12.3 percent after the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board agreed to buy the commercial real estate investment trust for about \$1.13 billion. Parkway rose \$2.51 to \$22.89.

Hain Celestial climbed 8.6 percent after activist investor Engaged Capital disclosed a 9.9 percent stake in the organic food maker. Hain shares added \$3.06 to \$38.82.

American Outdoor Brands slid 7.4 percent after the firearms maker issued weak forecasts for the current quarter and the fiscal year. Shares in the company, which changed its name from Smith & Wesson earlier this year, fell \$1.78 to \$22.16.

Crude oil prices closed higher for the seventh straight day. Benchmark U.S. crude gained \$1.11, or 2.5 percent, to settle at \$46.04 a barrel in New York. Brent, the international standard, rose \$1.14, or 2.4 percent, to close at \$48.77 a barrel in London.

In other energy futures trading, wholesale gasoline picked up 4 cents to \$1.51 per gallon. Heating oil added 3 cents to \$1.48 per gallon. Natural gas was little changed at \$3.04 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Among metals, gold fell \$3.50 to settle at \$1,242.30 per ounce. Silver slipped 3 cents to \$16.63 per ounce. Copper gained 2 cents to \$2.71 per pound.

The dollar rose to 112.54 yen from 112.07 yen late Thursday. The euro gave up some of its gains from earlier in the week. The euro weakened to \$1.1422 from \$1.1432. The pound rose to \$1.3017 from \$1.2991.

Major stock indexes in Europe closed lower Friday.

Germany's DAX and the CAC 40 in France each lost 0.7 percent. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares slid 0.5 percent.

In Asia, trading was mixed. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 0.8 percent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 0.9 percent. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.2 percent, while Australia's S&P ASX 200 lost 1.7 percent. Shares in Southeast Asia were mostly lower.

## Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2017. There are 183 days left in the year. This is Canada Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

On this date:

In 1535, Sir Thomas More went on trial in England, charged with high treason for rejecting the Oath of Supremacy. (More was convicted, and executed.)

In 1916, during World War I, France and Britain launched the Somme Offensive against the German army; the 4 1/2-month battle resulted in heavy casualties and produced no clear winner. Dwight D. Eisenhower married Mary ("Mamie") Geneva Doud in Denver.

In 1934, Hollywood began enforcing its Production Code subjecting motion pictures to censorship review.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1957, the International Geophysical Year, an 18-month global scientific study, began.

In 1961, Diana, the princess of Wales, was born in Sandringham, England. (She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris at age 36.)

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, July 01, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 001 ~ 45 of 45**

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1980, "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem of Canada.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan nominated federal appeals court judge Robert H. Bork to the Supreme Court, setting off a tempestuous confirmation process that ended with Bork's rejection by the Senate.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment. The Warsaw Pact formally disbanded.

In 1997, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony. Actor Robert Mitchum died in Santa Barbara, California, at age 79.

In 2002, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, the International Criminal Court, came into existence. A Russian passenger jet collided with a cargo plane over southern Germany, killing all 69 people, including 45 schoolchildren, on the Russian plane and the cargo jet pilots.

Ten years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Kennebunkport, Maine, for an overnight visit at the Bush family estate and talks with President George W. Bush. Princes William and Harry celebrated the life of their mother, Princess Diana, on what would have been her 46th birthday with a concert they'd organized at London's Wembley Stadium. Golfer Cristie Kerr won the U.S. Women's Open, closing with a 70 to finish at 5-under 279 for a two-shot victory.

Five years ago: Syria's main opposition groups rejected a new international plan that called for a transitional government because the compromise agreement did not bar President Bashar Assad from participating. Voters in Mexico returned the Institutional Revolutionary Party to power. Spain won its third straight major soccer title, beating Italy 4-0 in the European Championship final in Kiev, Ukraine. Tiger Woods won the AT&T National at Congressional in Bethesda, Maryland, closing with a 2-under 69 for the 74th win of his career.

One year ago: New laws targeting abortion took effect in about one-fifth of the states, initiating another wave of restrictions just days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas measure that had led to the closing of several clinics. U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch said she regretted meeting with former President Bill Clinton while his wife, Hillary, was under federal investigation for her emails, telling a conference in Colorado, "I certainly wouldn't do it again."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Olivia de Havilland is 101. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 86. Actress Jean Marsh is 83. Actor Jamie Farr is 83. Actor David Prowse is 82. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 81. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 76. Actress Genevieve Bujold is 75. Rock singer-actress Deborah Harry is 72. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 67. Actor Daryl Anderson is 66. Actor Trevor Eve is 66. Actor Terrence Mann is 66. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52's) is 66. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 66. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 65. Actress Lorna Patterson is 61. Actor Alan Ruck is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 57. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 56. Country singer Michelle Wright is 56. Actor Andre Braugher is 55. Actor Dominic Keating is 55. Actress Pamela Anderson is 50. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 47. Rock musician Franny Griffiths (Space) is 47. Actor Henry Simmons is 47. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 46. Actress Julianne Nicholson is 46. Actress Melissa Peterman is 46. Rock musician Bryan Devendorf (The National) is 42. Actor Thomas Sadoski is 41. Actress Liv Tyler is 40. Bluegrass musician Adam Haynes (Dailey & Vincent) is 38. Actress Hilarie Burton is 35. Actress Lynsey Bartilson is 34. Actress Lea Seydoux (LEE'-uh say-DOO') is 32. Actor Evan Ellingson is 29. Actors Steven and Andrew Cavarro are 25. Actress Storm Reid is 14.

Thought for Today: "Americans are benevolently ignorant about Canada, while Canadians are malevolently well-informed about the United States." — J. Bartlet Brebner, Canadian historian (1895-1957).