

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 1 of 78

Sat., July 8, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Outdoors Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- Mosquito control done last night
- 4- Century Club announces oldest living South Dakotan
- 5- Sen. Mike Rounds' Weekly Column
- 6- Still not time to treat Ash Trees for EAB - yet
- 7- Rondell Robins 4-H Meeting
- 7- GDI News/Clean/Fit Ad
- 8- Rep. Kristi Noem's Weekly Column
- 9- What's Happening at the Granary?
- 10- School Board Agenda
- 12- City Council Agenda
- 13- West Nile Update
- 15- Sen. John Thune's Weekly Column
- 16- Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 17- Today in Weather History
- 18- Today's Forecast
- 19- Yesterday's Weather
- 19- Today's Weather Info
- 19- National Weather Map
- 20- Daily Devotional
- 21- News from the Associated Press

Official Notices

- Groton Area School Book**
- Brown County Official Notices Book**
- Groton City Official Notices Book**
- Other Official Notices Book**
- Claremont Town Official Notices Book**
- Frederick Area School Book**

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

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 8

Jr. Legion: Tourney in Groton. (Redfield vs. Groton at 2 p.m., Milbank vs. Redfield at 4 p.m., Groton vs. Milbank at 6 p.m.)

U12: at Clark, 3 p.m., 1 game

U10 W/B: at Clark, 2 p.m., 1 game

Sunday, July 9

St. John's Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

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

First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.

Legion: hosts Claremont, 2 p.m., DB

Monday, July 10

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

Groton School: School board meeting, 7 p.m.

Groton City: City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Groton Community Center

Jr. Teener: at Redfield, 6 p.m., DH

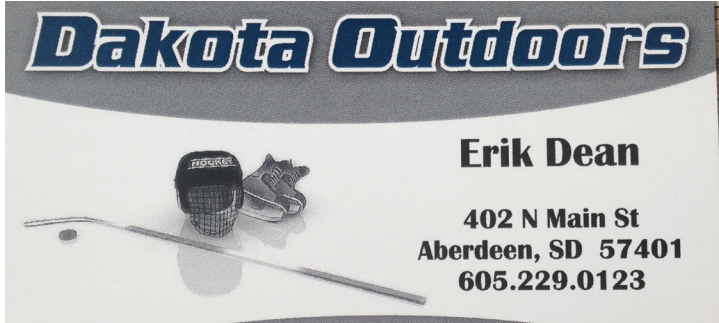
U12: vs. Kusler at Manor Park, Aberdeen, 6 p.m., DH

U8R/B: at Britton, 2 p.m., DH

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

United Methodist: PPRC meeting in Groton, 7 p.m.

Olive Grove: Kid's Lessons



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

“Nobody can give
you wiser advice
than yourself.”

- Cicero



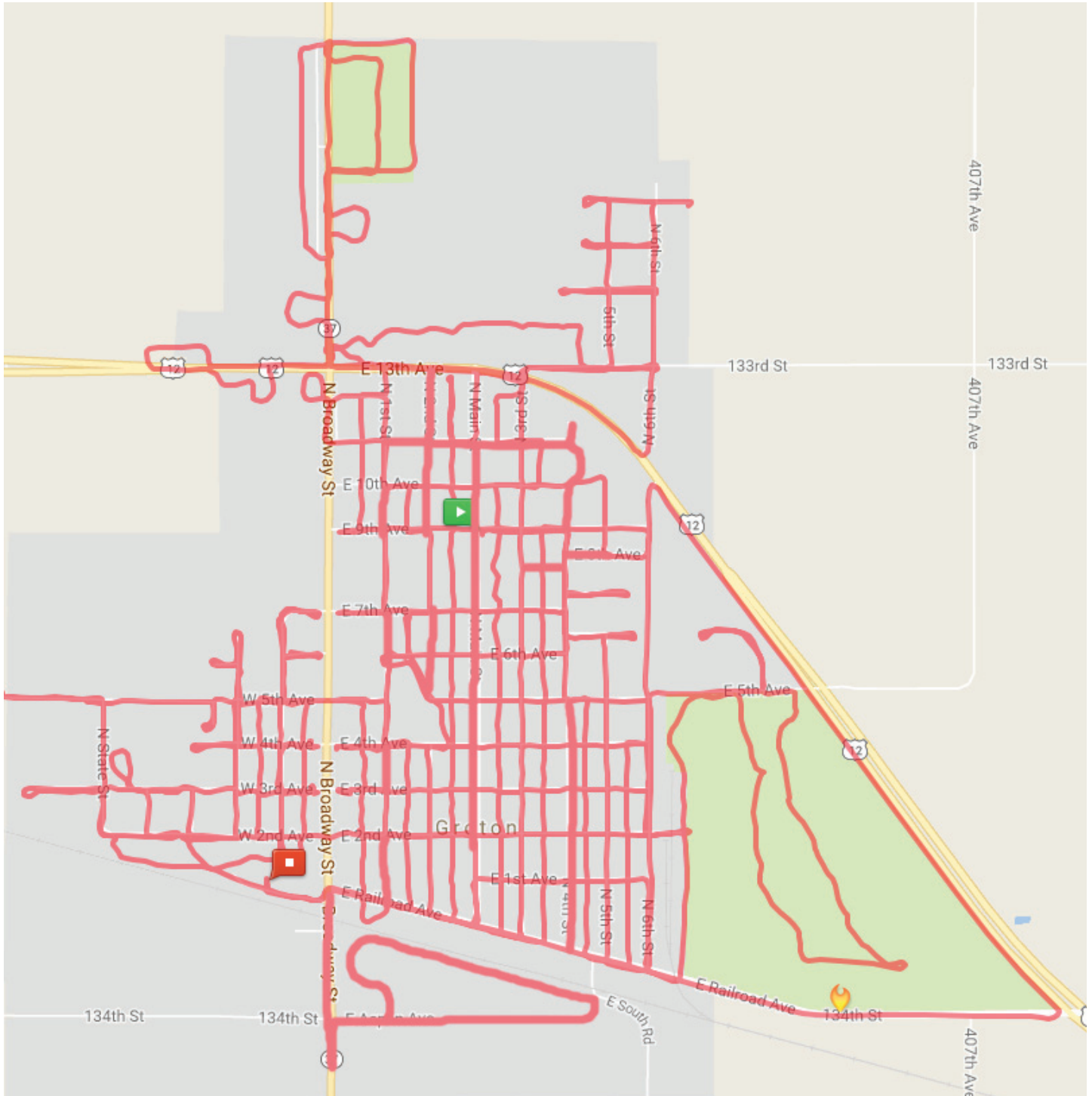
Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 3 of 78

Mosquito Control done last night

The City of Groton did mosquito control throughout the city last night. There was an ENE breeze at 3 mph and the temperature was 66 degrees. Twelve gallons for Evolver was used. Streets, avenues and alleys were done last night.



Century Club Announces Oldest Living South Dakotan

SIOUX FALLS, SD (July 7, 2017) The South Dakota Health Care Association's Century Club, along with KELOLAND Television, is pleased to announce Virginia Mills as the 2017 Centenarian of the Year! Virginia is 107 years old, and the oldest member of the Century Club!

"Congratulations to Virginia on being honored as our Centenarian of the Year," said LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator. "Her lifetime of experience is an inspiration for all of us."

Virginia was born in Sioux Falls in June of 1910. She was raised in Rutland, along with eight siblings. In 1938, she moved to Watertown where she has lived ever since. In Watertown, she met the man who would become her husband, Earl. Both Virginia and Earl worked for Rosem's Motors. Later, Virginia also worked for Davey's Furniture as an interior designer. Earl passed away in 1982. Virginia currently resides at Cedar View Assisted Living in Watertown.



Virginia has two sons, Russ and Gordon, as well as six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Throughout her life, Virginia has enjoyed playing basketball (she is a member of the South Dakota High School Girls Basketball Hall of Fame), reading, and playing bridge and other card games. She has been a member of First Methodist Church for over 75 years. Her favorite foods include "pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy and desserts, of course." Staff at Cedar View say Virginia is "witty" and a "sweetheart."

She attributes her long life to "keeping busy with my family and work that I enjoyed." She also adds that her parents always kept her "on the straight and narrow."

The Century Club was created by the South Dakota Health Care Association to recognize South Dakotans age 100 or older, both for their longevity and their contributions to our state. Over 1,500 South Dakotans have been inducted into the Century Club since its founding in 1997. The Century Club is, as its name states, a Club. Therefore, there may be older people in the state that have not yet been inducted by a family member or loved one into the Century Club.

The Century Club is open to any resident of South Dakota upon the celebration of his or her 100th birthday. There are no dues and each inductee receives a specially designed certificate and membership card. Once a year, the current oldest living Century Club Member is recognized as the "Centenarian of the Year." Submit names for the Century Club by visiting www.sdhca.org and downloading a Century Club application or call LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator, at 1-800-952-3052.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 5 of 78



'Peace Through Strength'

Defending freedom and democracy around the world is no easy task. It requires strong leadership, a commitment to investing in our military and an unbreakable alliance among our allies.

While attending the G-20 summit with other global leaders in Germany this month, President Donald Trump is able to further promote 'Peace Through Strength,' a central idea to his America First foreign policy agenda. 'Peace Through Strength' is the notion that a strong military presence can preserve peace. It has been used successfully by leaders throughout history, most famously by President Ronald Reagan, who used this approach of deterring aggression to end the Cold War in the 1980s.

In recent years, the drawdown of the U.S. military, largely due to sequestration, has threatened our military strength and global dominance. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), I have been opposed to arbitrary constraints on our defense budget. In not spending enough on defense and neglecting the advances other nations are making, we are putting our nation's fighting ability and security at risk and weakening global alliances. I am glad to see President Trump and Defense Secretary James Mattis understand the need to wisely invest more in our defense and rebuild our armed forces.

When budget caps and the threat of sequestration went into effect in 2011, we had more than 560,000 active duty soldiers in the U.S. Army. By the end of this year, that number will shrink to approximately 480,000. Our Navy and Air Force are also vastly underequipped. Yet today, threats to our nation continue to increase at an alarming rate. Most recently, North Korea likely was successful in launching an inter-continental ballistic missile potentially capable of reaching U.S. soil. Meanwhile, Iran continues to develop ballistic missiles and support terrorism. In Syria, the ongoing civil war continues to escalate.

Russian aggression has intensified as well. Not only does Russia continue to violate the territorial integrity of Ukraine, after annexing Crimea, they also brazenly engage in cyberattacks against their neighbors as well as the U.S., as exemplified by their efforts during our 2016 election. As Chairman of the SASC Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, I am deeply troubled by the attempts by our adversaries to use cyber activities to delegitimize our democracy, influence our public discourse and ultimately undermine our national security. I am pleased that this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which recently passed SASC unanimously, takes important steps to rebuild our military and helps address the challenges our military leaders have laid out before us.

Prior to attending the G-20 summit in Germany, President Trump made a stop in Poland. During his speech in Warsaw, he declared that "Americans know that a strong alliance of free, sovereign and independent nations is the best defense for our freedoms and for our interests." The president also renewed America's pledge to confront and defeat the growing threats to the West through an unbreakable alliance with our allies. These principles, coupled with rebuilding our armed forces, will allow us to promote 'Peace Through Strength' and keep Americans safe.

Still Not Time to Treat Ash Trees for EAB—Yet

PIERRE, S.D. – The recent find of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Alta, Iowa, has renewed interest in the invasive insect. However, the borer has still not been found in South Dakota and residents are advised to hold off on treating their ash trees.

“Our foresters are receiving inquiries from tree owners and tree companies about starting to treat their trees for the emerald ash borer,” says Greg Josten, state forester for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. “While the insect was recently found in a tree within 60-80 miles of communities in Union County, treatments for South Dakota trees are still premature.” (**Download Josten audio here**)

South Dakota Department of Agriculture forest health specialist Dr. John Ball advises that standard protocol is not to begin treatments, sprays or injections until the insect has been detected within 15 miles of your tree. “It may be several years or more before people need to consider protecting their ash trees.” (**Download Ball audio here**)

There are many insecticides and treatment methods that provide excellent protection from the borer and can even be used to kill an existing infestation in a tree. Lists of treatment options will be made available to the public and commercial applicators when EAB is detected in a South Dakota county or a county adjacent to the state.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit SDDA online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter. SD Ag Chat podcasts can be found <http://sdda.sd.gov/news>. You may subscribe to SD Ag Chat, free of charge, through Google Play Music, iTunes or from <https://sdagchat.podbean.com/>.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 7 of 78

Rondell Robins

The June meeting of the Rondell Robins was held on the 29th of June in Stratford at the Community Hall. Jessica Pullman led Flag Pledge and Chandler Pullman led 4-H pledge.

Roll Call was answered by Aspyn Frink, Dawson Frink, Jessica Pullman, Chandler Pullman, Christine Crouch, and Ashley Crouch. The question was "What part do you have in the Children's play"

Secretary report: approved with the correction of correct spelling of a members last name.

Treasure report: \$325.49. A motion to made to pay bill for Wal-Mart, Kessler's, and Runnings by Christine Crouch, and 2nd by Ashley Crouch

Old Business: Walking in the Stratford 4th of July parade and throwing candy. Also serving food for the Children's play in Stratford, we thought it went well.

New Business: we will be making a group project on 22nd of July at one of leader's house.

Bills and correspondence: the bill for the food we bought to serve at the children play. Also had a bill for the supplies needed for our group project. The motion to pass the bill was made by Aspyn Frink, and 2nd by Christine Crouch.

Our next meeting will be held in Aberdeen on the 22nd.

Respectfully Submitted

Aspyn Frink

GDI News/Clean/Fit Downtown Groton

NEWS

PAPER

Subscribe to the E-Weekly Groton Independent - only \$10 for 1 year (E edition only). Email office@grotonsd.net to subscribe. We'll send you an invoice.

BALLOONS

Large selection of Mylar Balloons for nearly any occasion.

9¢ Copies

Make B/W copies for 9¢, 8½x11 or 8½x14, 1 side, 14¢ double side. Color available

M-F: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. to Noon

CLEAN

Laundromat

Open 24/7

Small Washers - \$2.25

Large Washers: \$4.

Dryers - 25¢

POP MACHINE

20 oz. bottles of Coke, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper and Water only \$1.75; 20 oz. Blue Powerade is \$2. 16 oz. Monster Drink is \$2.75.

FIT

Fitness Center

Open 24/7

Monthly Rates

Student: \$26.63

Single: \$31.95

Couple: \$53.25

Family: \$63.85

Featuring...

Free weights, machines, Nu-Steps, Ellipticals, Treadmills.

Blue Cross of Minn. insurance offers \$20/month health benefit

Main Office: 21 N Main

605/397-NEWS (6397)

office@grotonsd.net



Cracking Down on Illegal Immigration

Just over two years ago, while walking on a pier in San Francisco with her dad, Kate Steinle was shot and killed by an illegal immigrant with a criminal past and a record of deportations.

I firmly believe the federal government has limited constitutional responsibilities, but establishing justice and insuring domestic tranquility are among the few authorities that were engraved into our founding document's first sentence. In recent decades, however, the federal government has fallen through on these responsibilities when it comes to enforcing our immigration laws, and the loss of Kate is just one example of the consequences for that.

Kate's killer had already been deported five times when he opened fire on July 1, 2015. Certainly, more must be done to secure our border, including building a more robust wall and giving border patrol agents the resources and technologies needed to create a more impenetrable barrier. And without question, the laws already on the books need to be better enforced.

But I also believe our laws could be stronger too.

Shortly before the two-year anniversary of Kate's murder, I joined the House in passing Kate's Law, which would significantly toughen the punishment for illegal immigrants who re-enter the country. While I believe we could go even farther with these punishments, Kate's Law is a good first step.

San Francisco, where Kate's murder took place, is also one of more than 300 so-called "sanctuary cities" that openly refuse to turn over criminal illegal immigrants to federal law enforcement.

Kate's killer had seven felony convictions at the time of the murder. Less than four months before Kate's death, he was turned over to San Francisco authorities for an outstanding drug warrant. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement asked that he be kept in custody until immigration agents could get there, but because San Francisco is a sanctuary city, he was released. This should never have happened. So, in addition to Kate's Law, I helped pass the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, which cracks down on sanctuary cities like San Francisco by withholding valuable federal grants from them.

While the Senate will debate the legislation next, President Trump has already announced his support for both bills.

This is just the beginning. I've also cosponsored the SMART Act, which would authorize additional personnel and new technologies to help secure the border, and I've backed legislation to help stop the drug trafficking that's contributed to South Dakota's drug abuse and violent crime increases.

Kate should have never lost her life on that pier in 2015. Her killer should have never been in this country – let alone, running free within it. We have to be stronger when it comes to enforcing the laws on the books, but we also have a constitutional responsibility to make sure the laws on the books are strong enough to keep our families and communities safe.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 9 of 78

What's Happening at the Granary?

"The Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Memories"

Come take a stroll through an iconic piece of material culture that impacted our nation in many ways. See how a piece of cloth can hold many different meanings for generations.

June 1st - Sept. 30th, 2017

Granary Rural Cultural Center
40161 128th St.
Groton, SD 57445
605.715.7117
printable map found at
www.granaryfinearts.org

Gallery Hours:
Thurs. & Fri. 1-7 pm (June - Aug.)
Sat. & Sun. 1-4 pm (June - Sept.)



Artists' Collective Exhibition "Create! On the Prairie"

at the GRANARY
Rural Cultural Center
Located in rural Groton, South Dakota

June 1 - September 30, 2017

Physical Address: 40161 128th St Groton
Located 5 miles N of US Hwy 12 between Aberdeen & Groton
Printable map at GranaryFineArts.org



Showing the Works of Regional and Local Artists in the Heart of the Prairie!

OPEN HOURS:

June - August: Thurs & Fri 1 - 7 pm; Sat & Sun 1 - 4 pm
September Only: Sat & Sun 1 - 4 pm

The Granary is an extension of The South Dakota Historical Society

Granary Rural Cultural Center

LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 23, 2017

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

At The GRANARY - Rural Groton

Fun for All Ages! Reenactment, Demonstrations, Kids Activities, Music,
Entertainment & More! CONCESSIONS BY: THE BRASS KETTLE

COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME - GET A PRIZE!

FREE ADMISSION

NEW!

Don't Miss It! Hear His Story!
PRESIDENT TEDDY ROOSEVELT
Played by Arch Ellwein



Preserve your prairie for South Dakota. Submitting Original
the aAffiliate of the National Business for the Historical

THE GRANARY
The Arts & Culture Campus of Dacotah Prairie Museum
www.dacotahprairiemuseum.com
Granary Website: granaryfinearts.org

PHIL BAKER



JULY 13, 2:30-3:30PM

MUSIC! GAMES! DANCING!

DOOR PRIZES • CONCESSIONS • FREE POPCORN
(MODERN RESTROOMS ON SITE, BRING A LAWN CHAIR OR A BLANKET)

Granary Rural Cultural Center
40161 128th St • Groton, SD 57445
605.715.7117

printable driving directions at: www.granaryfinearts.org
The Granary is a member of the Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, SD

GRANARY RURAL CULTURAL CENTER

MUSIC & OLD TIME ICE CREAM SOCIAL

"A GOOD OLE TIME! Y'ALL COME!"

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT:
Mary Schaffer-Losure & Dave Losure
FLYING PIG FIDDLE & BANJO

"A Concert & Barn Dance"
SUNDAY • JULY 16, 2017 • 1-4 pm
At The GRANARY - Rural Groton • FREE ADMISSION

BYOLC - BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR
FOR ALL AGES!



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 10 of 78

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

July 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of June 12, 2017 and June 26, 2017 school board meetings as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...*as fiscal agent.*

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Approval of June 2017 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approval of June 2017 School Lunch Report.
4. Approval of June 2017 School Transportation Report.
5. Elementary Project Progress Report
6. Approve Elementary Project Change Orders
 - a. CCO#1: Data/Phone Cabling
 - b. CCO#7: Add GWB to Plaster and Block Walls
 - c. CCO#3: Add Roof Drains
7. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. **Building, Grounds, & Transportation:** Lars Hanson, Marty Weismantel, Merle Harder
 - b. **Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum:** Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. **Negotiations:** Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
8. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

ADJOURN

.....

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order with members present.
2. Installation of incumbent board members, Steve Smith and Grant Rix followed by election of president and vice president as well as appointments to the various "ad hoc" committees.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **8:00 PM – DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING – Revenue & Expenditures – Line Items**
2. Approve July 2017 District bills for payment.
3. Designate legal counsel/school attorney...Rodney Freeman of Churchill, Manolis, and Freeman of Huron.
4. Designate Groton Independent as official legal newspaper for FY18.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 11 of 78

5. Designate Business Manager as custodian of all district accounts.
6. Authorize Business Manager to continue existing funds and establish new accounts and to invest and reinvest funds in local institutions which serve the greatest advantage to the District.
7. Authorize Business Manager to publish staff salaries.
8. Designate official bank depository...First State Bank.
9. Adopt Groton Area School District Policy Manual with such revisions as previously approved.
10. Adopt Special Education Comprehensive Plan.
11. Authorize office personnel to administer Agency Funds & NSLP (school lunch) funds, with oversight by business office management.
12. Authorize superintendent to administer or direct federal programs, with Consolidated Application (Title programs) and related ESSA compliance issues assigned to building principals.
13. Appoint superintendent to act as Asbestos Compliance Officer.
14. Authorize superintendent or designee to close school in emergency situations or inclement weather.
15. Authorize superintendent or designee to institute NSLP & School Breakfast Agreement.
16. Adopt Food Safety Plan, HACCP-Based Standard Operating Procedures.
17. Authorize superintendent or designee to institute ASBSD school bus mutual assistance pact.
18. Authorize business manager to transfer petty cash and incident payment funds (SDCL 13-18-16/17).
19. Approve peripheral sports and other volunteer school workers such as chain gang, line judges, Booster Club/PAC workers, assistant coaches, volunteer coaches, volunteer drivers, school board members etc. to be included in the school's worker's compensation insurance coverage.
20. Acknowledge receipt of Public School Exemption #18-01.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set date and time for regular school board meetings.
2. Appoint board member to serve as voting member of the North Central Special Education Cooperative Governing Board for 2017-2018 school year.
3. Set salaries for board members...**presently at \$50/meeting; \$75/meeting for chairman; mileage as applicable**
4. Set rate for substitute teachers for 17-18 school year...recommend \$100/day [Currently \$100/day].
5. Set rate for substitute bus drivers for 17-18 school year...recommend \$65/day [Currently \$60/day].

6. Establish activity admission & school lunch prices for 2017-2018.		<u>Recommendations</u>
Admission:	Adult - \$5; Doubleheader - \$6	No Change
	Adult 10-punch ticket - \$45	No Change
	Adult All-Activities Pass - \$75	No Change
	1 st -12 th grade - \$4	No Change
	1 st -5 th grade activity ticket - \$25	No Change
	6 th -12 th grade activity ticket - \$30	No Change
Breakfast	JrK-5 - \$2.00; 6-12 - \$2.50; Adult - \$2.75	\$0.15 Increase
Lunch	JrK-5 - \$2.75; 6-12 - \$3.25; Adult \$4.00	\$0.15 Increase
Milk	JrK-5 - \$5.90/month or \$23.60/sem or \$47.20/year	No Change

7. Set rate for OST services for 17-18 school year [Recommend No Change].
8. Approve price quotes for 2017-2018 bakery products (Dean Foods).
9. Approve price quotes for 2017-2018 dairy products (Bimbo Bakery).

10. Approve academic lane change for Joel Guthmiller from BS+15 to BS+30.
11. Approve resignation from Carla Kjelden, Elementary Librarian.
12. Other items, as may be appropriate or as deemed necessary.

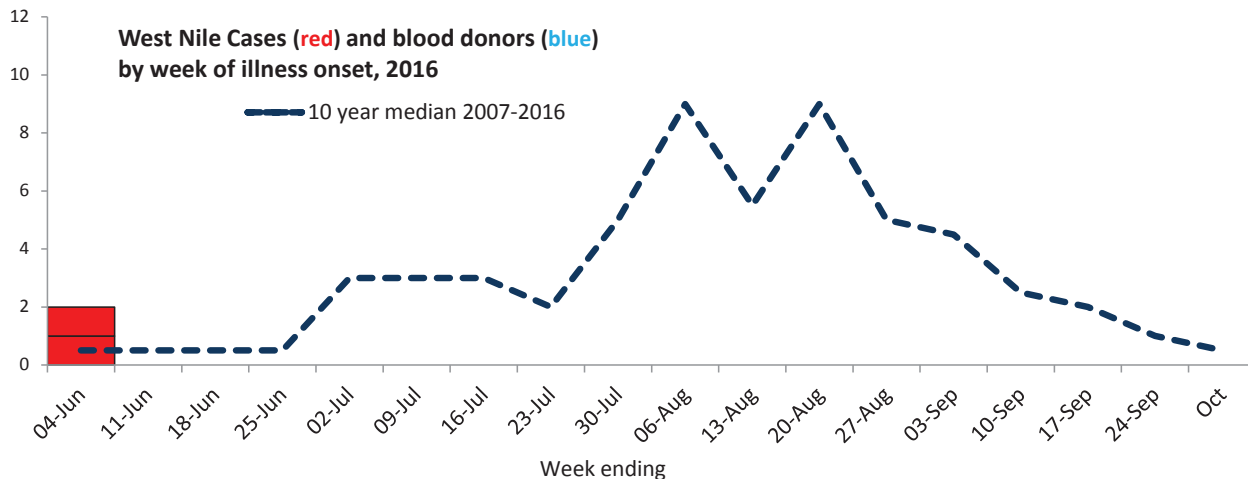
ADJOURN

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda **July 10, 2017 at 7:00pm** **Groton Community Center**

1. Minutes
2. Financial Report
3. Bills
4. 7:15 Allen Walter ordinance 4-2-1
5. 7:30 department reports: Terry, Shawn, Dwight, Stacy
- o Possible pickup for electric
6. Hire Chuck \$9.00
7. Newspaper Quotes
8. Appoint newspapers and banks
9. Results of clean up
10. Move Contingency
11. Flood Zone Remapping Training
12. Pool Prints
13. Jail
14. Executive Session – Personnel – 1-25-2 (3)

West Nile update: South Dakota, 7 July 2017

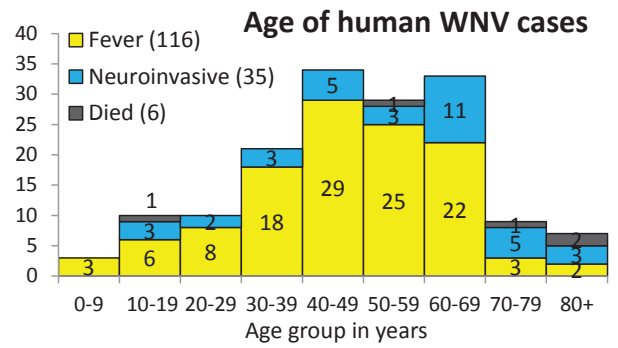
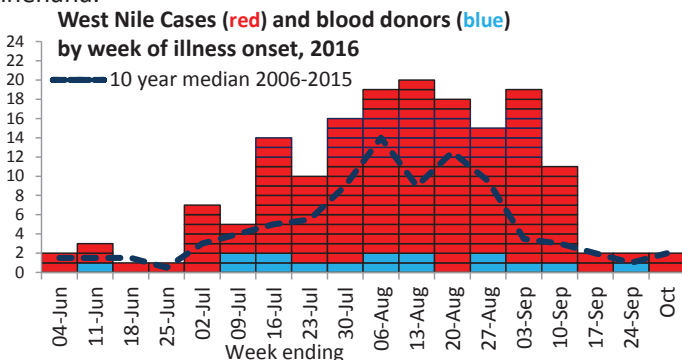
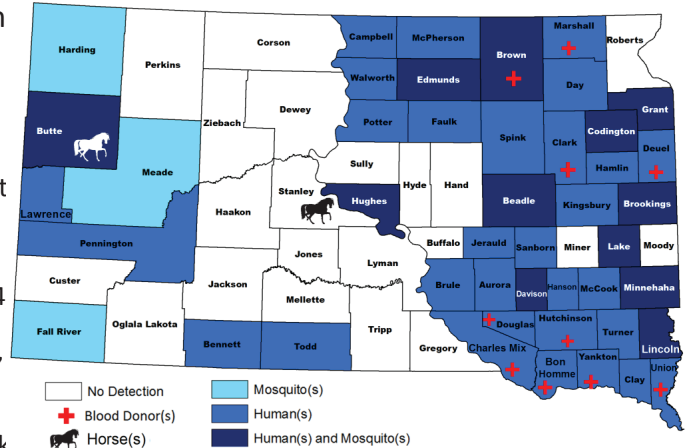
- **2 human cases of West Nile virus disease** have been reported to the South Dakota Department of Health.
- **Deaths: 0.**
- **Viremic blood donors: 3 pending.**
- **Counties with human WNV cases:** Davison, Lincoln.
- **Counties with WNV positive mosquito detections:** Brown and Lincoln.



SD Department of Health phone 800-592-1861
SD Department of Health: <http://westnile.sd.gov>
SDSU WNV risk assessment: <http://mosquito.sdstate.edu>
CDC West Nile: www.cdc.gov/westnile

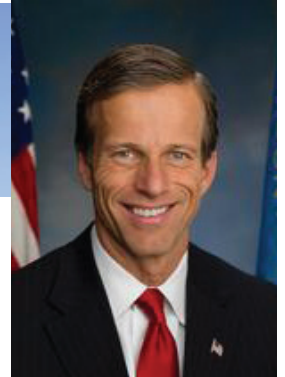
West Nile update: South Dakota, 2016 Final

- **151 human cases of West Nile virus disease** have been reported to the SD Department of Health.
- **Illness:** 23% neuroinvasive disease, 77% WNV fever, 33% hospitalized.
- **Deaths:** 6.
- **Viremic blood donors:** 16.
- **Counties with human WNV cases:** Aurora 3, Beadle 7, Bennett Bon Homme 3, Brookings 6, Brown 16, Brule 2, Campbell, Charles Mix 8, Clark 4, Clay, Codington 4, Davison 3, Day 2, Deuel, Douglas 3, Edmunds, Faulk 2, Grant, Hamlin 4, Hanson 2, Hughes, Hutchinson 5, Jerauld 2, Kingsbury 2, Lake 4 Lawrence 2, Lincoln 10, Marshall 3, McCook 3, McPherson, Minnehaha 20, Pennington 2, Potter 2, Sanborn, Spink 9, Todd, Turner 3, Union, Walworth, Yankton 2.
- **Counties with viremic blood donors:** Bon Homme 2, Brown 2, Charles Mix, Clark, Deuel, Douglas, Marshall, Minnehaha, Spink Union, Yankton 3.
- **Counties with WNV positive horses:** Stanley, Butte.
- **Counties with WNV positive mosquito detections:** Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Codington, Davison, Edmunds, Fall River, Grant, Harding, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Meade and Minnehaha.



SD Department of Health phone 800-592-1861
 SD Department of Health: <http://westnile.sd.gov>
 SDSU WNV risk assessment: <http://mosquito.sdstate.edu>
 CDC West Nile: www.cdc.gov/westnile

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Walk and Chew Gum

Earlier this year, the Senate dedicated a lot of its time to considering the president's nominees to various posts within the federal government, which is normal for the beginning of any new administration. As the administration continues to fill out, there will surely be more for us to consider. We've spent a lot of time on health care reform this year, too, and rightfully so. Obamacare is collapsing, and we're working hard to enact reforms that would reduce costs and increase access to care. Looking ahead, tax reform is on the horizon, and I've been laying the groundwork in several areas that would help South Dakota families and businesses.

One of the first pieces of legislation I introduced this Congress was my bill to repeal the death tax, which can hit family-run farms and ranches, in particular, at the worst possible time. According to the American Farm Bureau, thousands of South Dakota farms and ranches would be subject to the death tax today. Burying this onerous tax once and for all would give folks greater peace of mind as they continue the hard work of keeping their operations open and functioning.

In March, I reintroduced bipartisan legislation that would improve and modernize S corporations – a technical term for a popular type of business, usually a small business, which benefits from a simpler and more flexible structure under the tax code. There's more than 4 million S corporations in cities and towns around the country, including thousands in South Dakota. My bill would reform this part of the tax code so it does an even better job of working for small businesses and not against them.

America is home to some of the most generous people in the world, which is why I recently joined forces with a bipartisan group of senators to reintroduce a bill that would make it far easier for public charities, foundations, and other tax-exempt organizations to do the important work of serving those in need. The Charities Helping Americans Regularly Throughout the Year Act – or CHARITY Act – is a great example of common-sense, bipartisan legislation that would really help the American people.

I've perhaps spent the most time this year, though, working on a significant piece of legislation that would spur growth for new and existing businesses in South Dakota, including farms and ranches. My INVEST Act, short for the Investment in New Ventures and Economic Success Today Act, would help accelerate cost recovery on start-up and investment expenses for prospective business owners, as well as equipment, inventory, and certain other purchases for existing business owners. The faster we can get money back into folks' hands, the faster we can get the economy growing at a stronger rate, which means growing businesses in our communities, new jobs, and wage growth for hard-working South Dakotans.

Congress can walk and chew gum at the same time, which is why I've spent a lot of time getting a head-start on these bills. All of them would be prime measures to include in a comprehensive tax reform package. And there's more work under way right now to make sure tax reform results in a tax code that works for American businesses and consumers. My hope is that once we've wrapped up our debate on health care reform, we take up tax reform. I've been working with my colleagues on the Finance Committee all year as we've prepared to take it up. When we do, I'll be ready.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 16 of 78



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Matching Students with Workforce Needs

Last week, I was honored to begin a one-year term as chairman of the Western Governors Association. The WGA includes governors of 19 western states – those to the north and south of South Dakota, and every state to the west. Each WGA chair selects a policy initiative to focus on during the chair's one-year term. Over the next 12 months I will focus on workforce development.

South Dakota has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. Although this is a sign of a strong economy, it creates a challenge for our businesses. Many struggle to attract skilled workers in high-need fields such as engineering, information technology, healthcare and the construction trades. The shortage of skilled workers limits businesses' ability to grow and serve more customers.

At the same time, too many young people are unaware of the opportunities that are available to them. More and more good jobs require training beyond a high school diploma. Despite this, only about two-thirds of South Dakota high school graduates go on to further education at a university or technical institute. Although South Dakota is one of the best in the nation in this regard, there is room for improvement.

Among those who do pursue additional education after high school, many are unaware of which educational pathways lead to skills or credentials which are in demand and qualify a person for good jobs. We need to do a better job of career counseling. Of course, I want our young people to follow their dreams as they choose schools and careers, but I also want them to have their eyes open as they make those choices.

In recent weeks, I have met with a number of leaders of South Dakota school districts, to ask them how we can address this issue. They agreed that one approach is to offer more job-based training in high school. This can take the form of internships, apprenticeships or hands-on learning at the school.

For example, in Yankton, many seniors are able to complete their classwork in the morning, so that they can work three hours each afternoon at a paid, work-based internship. In Harrisburg, the high school will begin to offer an "early college" model that allows students who complete their high school coursework to begin to take introductory college classes, using the state's dual credit program. Madison High School has partnered with several large employers to create work experiences that award credits that transfer to a technical institute.

I fully support efforts like this, and I have told school superintendents that the state will do what it can to support these efforts, even if some state rules must be waived or modified. These programs give young people real work experience, so they are more prepared to enter the workforce. In many cases, students get credit toward their high school and technical institute or university education. And students get the opportunity to explore different occupations, to better identify a career that they might pursue after high school – or find that a career is not interesting or suitable for them.

Last month, I was among several governors who attended a White House roundtable discussion about workforce development. The discussion included President Trump, Ivanka Trump, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, U.S. Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta and U.S. Small Business Administration Director Linda McMahon. The governors present represented every part of the country, and we all face similar challenges. I appreciate the federal focus on this issue, and I hope the Western Governors Association initiative will also contribute. Still, in the end, these are issues that will be solved locally, as school leaders and business leaders join together to do what is right for their communities.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 17 of 78

Today in Weather History

July 8, 1922: Two tornadoes occurred near the southern border of South Dakota, with one at St. Charles in Gregory County, and the other on the south shore of Lake Andes, in Charles Mix County. The distance apart was about 30 miles. The tornado in Gregory County missed the town of Lake Andes. However, it destroyed about 29 cottages and five large barns. Fifteen people were injured, but no one was killed.

July 8, 1951: An F2 touched down in open country and moved northeastward, passing three miles northwest of Corona in Roberts County. Thirteen buildings were destroyed on a farm with only the house left standing. Three cows and 20 pigs were killed.

July 8, 2009: A tornado passed through the city of Dickinson, ND, on the far south side, mainly just south of the Heart River. From their eyewitness accounts, and from video obtained from the Dickinson Police Department, it is likely that this was a rain-wrapped tornado, and very difficult if not impossible to see. The tornado occurred before sunset, yet it was described as being as dark as night during the event. Over 450 structures were damaged, of which nearly 100 were declared destroyed or beyond repair. Numerous vehicles were damaged or destroyed; some were on their roofs. From that, it was determined that peak wind speeds in the tornado were on the order of 150 mph.

July 8, 2011: Historical releases on the Oahe Dam of 160,000 CFS kept the Missouri River from Pierre to Chamberlain at record flood levels throughout July. Extensive sandbagging and levee building had been done earlier to hold back the river. Residents in the Pierre, Fort Pierre, and Oacoma areas continued to be the most affected by the river. Many homes, along with roads, crop, and pastureland remained flooded throughout the month. The Missouri River at Pierre continued from 5 to 6 foot above flood stage throughout July. The Missouri River at Chamberlain reached a record stage of 75.1 feet on July 8th. Flood stage at Chamberlain is 65 feet. The flooding on the river began in late May and continued into August.

July 8, 2013: A thunderstorm complex moving across central and north central South Dakota produced gusty winds up to 70 mph. These strong winds brought down several tree branches around the area with Dewey County the hardest hit location. In Timber Lake, downed tree branches fell on houses and vehicles causing damage.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)





1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 18 of 78

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Hot	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 89 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 96 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 89 °F

Hot Temperatures Continue through the Weekend

Highs Today: 85 – 95°

Highs Sunday: 90 – 105°

**EXTREME FIRE DANGER SUNDAY
WEST RIVER**



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr



NWSAberdeen

Created: 7/8/2017 5:29 AM



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 07/08/2017 at 5:38AM

Hot temperatures are expected this weekend with highs on Sunday climbing into the lower 90s to 105 degrees. The hot temperatures will combine with a dry airmass and breezy northerly winds to promote very high to extreme fire weather conditions Sunday afternoon.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 19 of 78

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.7 F at 4:41 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 53.1 F at 6:07 AM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 11:58 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1936

Record Low: 43° in 1905

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 0.86

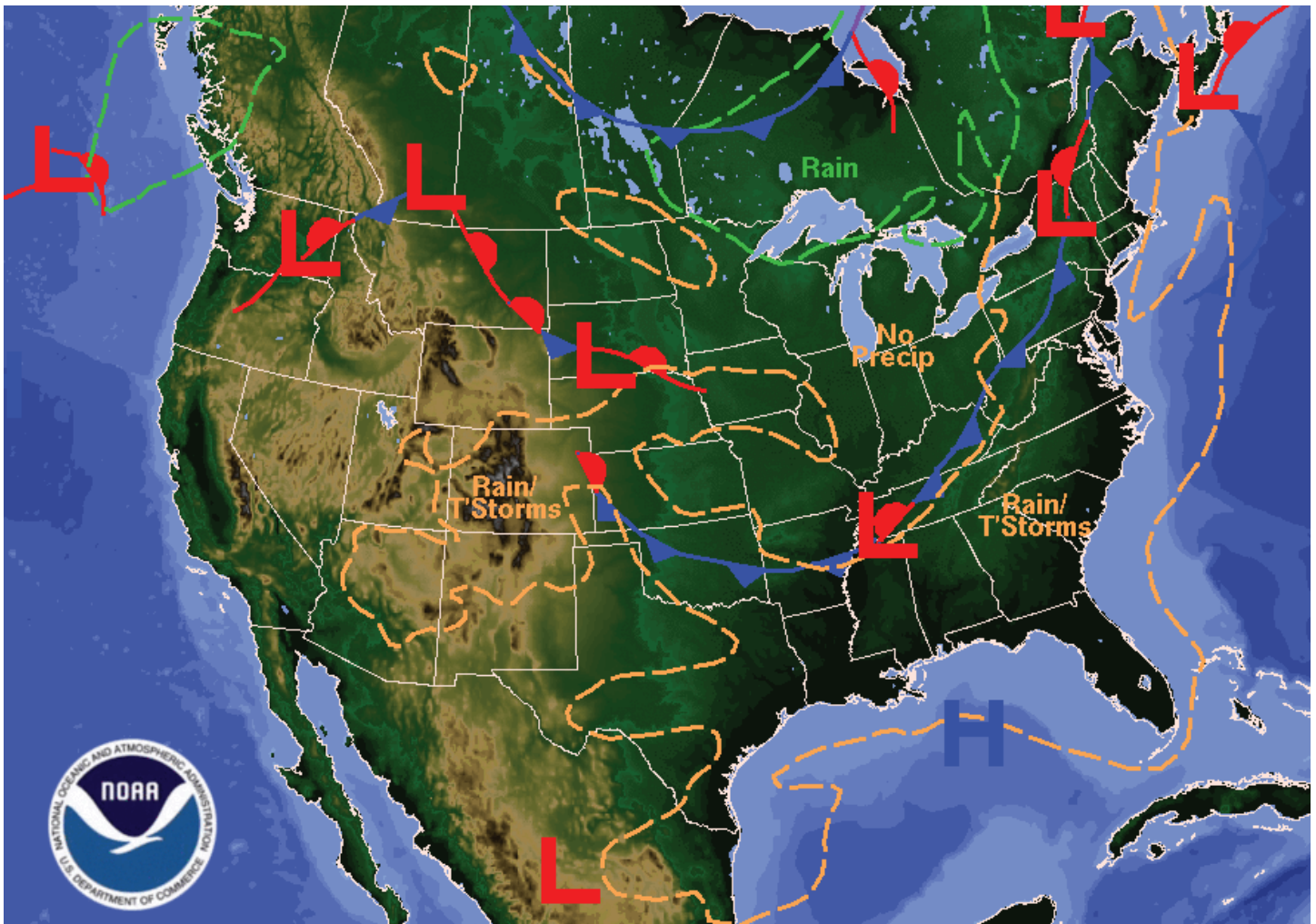
Precip to date in July: 0.17

Average Precip to date: 11.70

Precip Year to Date: 5.94

Sunset Tonight: 9:23 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:54 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 08, 2017, issued 4:55 AM EDT

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center

Prepared by Reinhart 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 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 20 of 78



FACING THE UNKNOWN

Imagine, if you can, leaving your loved ones behind as you depart for a war zone. Think, if it is possible, how you would feel if you were told you had stage-four cancer and there was no treatment to help prolong your life. Consider, if you will, what you would do if you discovered that your loved one had abandoned you.

While we hear of these tragedies impacting on others, few of us would welcome or want them to invade our lives or the lives of our loved ones. But what happens if they do? The Psalmist gives us comfort if or when we must embrace the unwelcome tragedies of life.

"In times of trouble may the Lord answer your cry," he writes. Not hear your cry, nor think about your cry nor put your cry on His waiting list. But may He answer your cry.

Life is filled with unexpected tragedies. One moment everything is the way we had planned it to be and the next moment things are upside down. Often we are faced with unforeseen temptations that present choices we never thought we would have to face. But we do not face life alone. We have the protection of God, the power of the risen Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit to rescue us from defeat.

We cannot avoid the trials or tragedies of life. Nor do we need to face them alone. God is there to protect and defend us. Victory is ours when our lives are in God's hands.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, that Your ear is open to our cry and Your strength available when we need help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 20:1 May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota woman uses business to make social impact

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — In September 2015, the limp body of Syrian refugee Alan Kurdi, 3, washed up on a Turkish beach off the Mediterranean Sea.

The image captured by photographers and shared by several media outlets shocked people around the world.

And it had a lasting effect on one Aberdeen resident who is now using her business — Kozy Kittos — to make a social impact.

Amber “Kitto” Beckham enlisted in the Air Force six months before graduating from Central High School in 2005. While stationed in Turkey, she saw people fleeing Lebanon.

“At that point in time . I didn’t understand what was happening. I was so fresh into the military, and I guess the world,” she said.

Years later, the image of Alan hit home. Beckham’s air force base in Turkey was where she met her husband, Tim. The shore on which Alan was found shared the sea in which they swam.

Then, earlier this year, dozens of people were killed and hundreds were injured when warplanes with sarin attacked a residential area in Syria, which shares a border with Turkey.

It was then that Beckham, through tears, started reflecting on her own experience in the military and finally came to understand what she had witnessed.

“To hear the stories of these children and these stories of being bombed . how is this even possible in this day and age? And why is this happening?” she said.

Beckham was raised with a do-what-you-can, serve-when-you-can mentality, she told the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2uKOqN7>).

She had been out of the military since 2009. Even so, she knew there was a way to help. And that was to stop doing business as usual and instead work to make a difference in the lives of refugees.

Beckham started Kozy Kittos — which is named after her maiden name — in 2014. Since, she’s sold her blankets in local stores and at events such as Arts in Park, as well as through an Etsy store.

This year, however, there was no booth in the park and the Etsy store went dark.

But the sewing machine is still threaded, and sewing blankets is still Beckham’s respite.

Since May, she has made at least 30 blankets that she plans on shipping to refugees through the organization Carry the Future. The blankets — made for what Beckham now refers to as Operation Kozy Kittos — will be packaged in a box with other necessities. For some on the receiving end, the box will serve as a baby’s crib, she said.

Carry the Future was started by one woman who saw mothers fleeing war-torn countries struggling to carry their children.

Beckham attributes much of her success to her mother-in-law who died from cancer in March. Not only did she teach Beckham how to sew, but she also bought Beckham her first sewing machine.

She also watched a few online videos and remembered a lesson or two from her 10th-grade sewing class with Natalie Geffre.

Her own parents were influential too. They made a point to give back when possible, she said, ultimately instilling and a desire for helping others.

She’s hoping receiving a blanket will spark sunshine to otherwise dim conditions of refugees.

“The world is a hard place. They see that (blanket) and they have someone across the world in South Dakota that cares about their child. I think that speaks volumes,” she said.

Kids remember their blankets, she said.

Beckham’s blanket traveled with her all around the world, through deployments, and has since been made into two quilts for her daughters, Emmy, 3, and Kloey, 15 months.

"You want that sense of home and a small blanket can make a big impact," she said. Beckham hopes to have 100 blankets shipped by the end of the summer. She plans to ship the first batch this week.

She started her business to make a profit but decided making a difference is more important.

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

Sioux Falls Irish gift shop celebrates 20 years

By JEREMY J. FUGLEBERG, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — There wasn't much to Mrs. Murphy's Irish Gifts the day before it opened in downtown Sioux Falls on that summer day.

Dick Murphy had painted its walls and added trim to the back of the store to give it a cozy cottage appearance. There wasn't much stuff for sale, but it was time.

Twenty years ago, Dick and his wife Sandy opened the doors.

"I think we made \$300 that first day, and we were thrilled," Sandy Murphy said.

"We set that as our benchmark," Dick Murphy said. "If we could sell \$300 a day, that meant we could consider ourselves a successful business."

From those humble beginnings, the Murphy's have shepherded the Irish gift store into a downtown mainstay, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2tNjkHb>) reported. They've had a front-row seat as active participants in the revival of downtown Sioux Falls as it has flourished into a shopping and entertainment hub for the city.

Today's downtown was still a gleam in the eyes of business owners and visionaries when the Murphy's moved from a temporary Empire Mall kiosk to their downtown location. But there was a latent strength, the Murphy's recalled from behind their store counter.

"It was a strong neighborhood of businesses," Dick Murphy said. "They were not just hobby businesses. These were people who had a vision for what downtown was going to be."

The Murphy's found a home in the Carpenter Building, then under renovation by owners David and Carol Dyke. The building was built as a hotel in 1912 but needed some work.

"It was an old building that had great guts to it but needed some loving attention," Dick Murphy said.

There were still obstacles in the way of a changing downtown. Business owners banded together, fighting back against a downtown turned evening drag strip — the infamous Loop, centered on 10th and 11th streets. Loiterers hung out in parking lots and storefronts, driving away visitors and presenting an inhospitable front door for Sioux Falls.

"Right from the start we were concerned we wouldn't get there if we didn't take care of some things," Dick Murphy said.

But with strong downtown leadership and political leadership who bought into the vision for downtown Sioux Falls, a shifting mosaic of development started coming together.

"Everybody was very supportive," Sandy Murphy said.

The Murphy's highlighted the work of Mayors Gary Hanson and Dave Munson, city planner Steve Metli and particularly the tireless efforts of Carol Pagones, leader of Main Street Sioux Falls and then Downtown Sioux Falls Inc.

"She had a strong connection to the visionaries," Dick Murphy said.

The Murphy's have seen neighbors move down the street or away and new people move in, driven by visionaries of all types eager to see downtown Sioux Falls come into its own. The newcomers who have come into the mix are looking to the Carpenter Building as a good model, as illustrated by the under-construction Washington Square nearby.

"We were the businesses on the ground floor, other types of businesses living above that," Dick Murphy said. "You're seeing that as a popular model, used as an example going on in this city and others, to create a place for just that."

The vision for downtown is never complete, though. Dick Murphy said he worries about maintaining a downtown balance of entertainment options and small shops like Mrs. Murphy's.

"That's the biggest concern I have now," he said. "You want to keep this balance of shops, and people living downtown and businesses of a larger scale such as our banking industry and those types of businesses that have created a nice balance.

"You need a little bit of everything to make it work for people who are part of our community. I feel strongly about that. You don't want to lose that balance."

But as Mrs. Murphy's moves into its third decade, the Murphys say they're proud of their place in a downtown renaissance that is moving into adulthood.

Dick Murphy said the couple was walking downtown with some friends and noticed people walking the streets and enjoying themselves. He's heard people say there's vibrancy to downtown, and he was seeing it in real time.

"I felt that. I really sensed what they were talking about, as something that has finally taken hold," he said. "There's a vibrancy about the downtown that exists. And we're still part of that. We're so glad to be able to share in the way people think of our town."

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

South Dakota voter information app links to Krebs' campaign

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Friday that an icon in the state's voter information app that directed users to the Facebook page of her campaign for Congress was an oversight.

The Republican House hopeful said it was fixed Friday morning after she learned about it the night before. Krebs said she doesn't know how long the app linked to the Facebook account or how it occurred, saying it likely happened during her transition into office after the 2014 election. She has used the account for several political campaigns.

"It's clearly an oversight," Krebs said. "We had a lot going on when I walked into this office."

The app rolled out under former Secretary of State Jason Gant. Its features include letting registered voters look up their polling place from their phone or tablet, and it prominently displays Facebook and Twitter icons that didn't appear to be functional Friday afternoon.

Krebs is competing with Dusty Johnson in the Republican primary for South Dakota's lone House seat. They are campaigning to succeed GOP U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who is running for governor.



In this Friday, Jan. 6, 2017 file photo, South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs speaks about changes she's proposing to state campaign finance laws in Pierre, S.D. South Dakota Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Friday, July 7, 2017 that an icon in the state's voter information app that directed users to the Facebook page of her campaign for Congress was an oversight. (AP Photo/James Nord, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 24 of 78

Johnson said he doesn't know exactly what happened, but he said elected officials have an obligation to keep state time and resources separate from political activities.

Sara Rabern, a spokeswoman for Attorney General Marty Jackley, said in an email that a newly formed government watchdog board can receive ethics complaints about statewide officeholders and executive branch employees. The board can investigate complaints and refer alleged crimes to the state Division of Criminal Investigation, Rabern said.

The conservative blog South Dakota War College first reported the news.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-09-11-28-60, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 5

(two, nine, eleven, twenty-eight, sixty; Mega Ball: ten; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$186 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$140 million

The Latest: Trump: 'something has to be done' with N.Korea

By The Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's second official visit to Europe (all times local):

4:14 p.m.

President Donald Trump says he told the Chinese president that "something has to be done" about North Korea.

Trump and President Xi Jinping met Saturday in Hamburg, Germany, days after Trump tweeted about his frustration over China's inaction.

Trump told Xi "I appreciate the things that you have done" with North Korea. North Korea's latest missile launch has prompted global calls for action.

The U.S. recently blacklisted one Chinese bank accused of illicit dealings with North Korea and is penalizing a Chinese shipping company and two Chinese individuals accused of facilitating illegal activities by the North.

Trump says he also discussed "trade and trade imbalances" with Xi and aims to reach an arrangement that is more "equitable" and "reciprocal."



Ivanka Trump listens during the Women's Entrepreneurship Finance event at the G20 Summit, Saturday, July 8, 2017, in Hamburg. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

3:20 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 25 of 78

A photograph of President Donald Trump's daughter sitting in her father's seat during an official event at the Group of 20 world leaders' summit is raising eyebrows.

A White House official says Ivanka Trump took her father's seat briefly on Saturday when the president stepped out of the room.

The official said Ivanka Trump had been sitting in the back of the room, and moved forward when the president of the World Bank began discussing topics affected by a new women's entrepreneurship fund she spearheaded.

The official said that when other leaders stepped out, their seats were also briefly filled by others.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity to describe a private meeting.

The photo was posted on Twitter by Svetlana Lukash, a Russian official attending the summit.

- By Ken Thomas

3:12 p.m.

The White House says President Donald Trump and his Indonesian counterpart "underscored their resolve to defeat terrorist networks in South Asia."

A statement Saturday following Trump's meeting with President Joko Widodo in Hamburg, Germany, stressed the "importance of isolating terrorists from financial and ideological support."

The two leaders pledged to "coordinate closely on other threats to international security, including North Korea's nuclear and missile programs."

2:50 p.m.

President Donald Trump says he and the Japanese prime minister have been discussing North Korea's latest missile launch, calling the country a "problem and a menace."

Trump met with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Saturday on the sidelines of the G-20 summit of developing and industrialized nations.

Trump says they are "discussing many things" and adds that Abe is "very, very focused on what's going on with respect to North Korea."

Trump also says they have made "a lot of progress" on trade-related issues.

Trump and Abe dined together, along with the South Korean president, the night they arrived in Hamburg, Germany. The three leaders issued a joint statement calling for "early adoption" of a new United Nations Security Council resolution and additional sanctions to demonstrate to North Korea "that there are serious consequences for its destabilizing, provocative, and escalatory actions."

2:30 p.m.

President Donald Trump has squashed speculation that he won't be visiting London after all this year.

Trump met Saturday in Germany with British Prime Minister Theresa May during an international summit in Germany. Asked about the invitation, Trump replied that he will be going to London. He says details remain to be worked out.

May was the first world leader to visit Trump at the White House. She brought an invitation from the queen for Trump to come to London this year on a state visit.

But opposition to the idea mounted quickly, first from Britons who called the invitation premature. Later on, London's mayor called for the invitation to be rescinded after Trump criticized the mayor's response to a deadly terrorist attack in the city.

1:15 p.m.

President Donald Trump says he hopes to take U.S. relations with Singapore to a "much bigger" level.

Trump commented at the top of a meeting with Singapore's prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong (lee haz-ee-en lahng). The leaders are attending an international summit in Germany.

Trump described the relationship between the countries as "very close" and said they expect to do "excellent things together." He also said they currently have a "very big" relationship and predicted that "it

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 26 of 78

will probably get much bigger" under his leadership.

Lee said he also hoped to do many more things with the U.S.

11:40 a.m.

A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin is addressing conflicting accounts of discussions between Putin and President Donald Trump over Russia's meddling in the U.S. election.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had told reporters after Friday's meeting that Trump accepted Putin's assurances that Moscow didn't meddle in the 2016 U.S. presidential election — an account that appeared at odds with that of U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Asked about the conflict on Saturday, Dmitry Peskov joked, "Trust Lavrov. I don't work for Tillerson."

Peskov demurred when pressed by reporters about the tone and other topics discussed by the two presidents when they met the previous day.

Trump has said he believes that Russia may have hacked the emails of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton staffers, but that other countries have been involved as well.

Trump and Putin's highly anticipated meeting was scheduled to last only 30 minutes, but extended for more than two hours.

11:27 a.m.

President Donald Trump says he plans to do "lots of deals" with Indonesia as he sits down with the country's president.

Trump tells reporters at the start of a meeting with President Joko Widodo that the two have become friends and says: "We're going to be doing a lot of deals together."

He said the U.S. and Indonesia currently have a limited trade relationship, but says: "We will start doing a lot of trading with Indonesia."

Jokowi offered Trump "warm greetings" from his "millions of fans" in Indonesia and said they all want to know when Trump will visit.

Trump responded: "We'll get there, we'll get there. It's a place I'd like to go."

11:23 a.m.

Denmark's development minister Ulla Toernaes (OU-la TEUR-nes) says Danes will donate 69 million kroner (\$10.6 million) over three years to the new women's entrepreneurship fund that World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced Saturday.

The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative has raised more than \$325 million from governments including the U.S., Germany, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Toernaes says that, "support for female entrepreneurs is a major factor in promoting women's sexual and reproductive rights."

She adds that means "women can become full members of business community."

Toernaes was part of a European call to support international groups that perform abortions or provide information about abortion services after President Donald Trump cut off U.S. funding to groups that did so.

10:16 a.m.

President Donald Trump is praising his daughter, Ivanka, and acknowledging the challenges he's added to her life.

In a rare, self-deprecating moment, the president said Saturday during remarks in Hamburg, Germany that he's been proud of his eldest daughter from "day one."

He says, "If she weren't my daughter it would be so much easier for her," adding with a laugh: "That might be the only bad thing she has going, if you want to know the truth."

The candid aside came as Trump was speaking at the launch of a new women's entrepreneurship fund that Ivanka Trump helped bring together.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 27 of 78

Ivanka Trump moved to Washington to work as a senior adviser to her father and has faced pressure from critics who'd hoped she'd be able to push him to adopt more moderate policies.

10:03 a.m.

President Donald Trump is praising a new women's entrepreneurship fund spearheaded by his daughter and the World Bank that will help women access capital, financing and other support.

Trump says that his administration is making a \$50 million commitment to the effort at an event held alongside the Group of 20 world leaders' summit in Hamburg, Germany.

He says the group will help eliminate barriers for women to launch businesses and transform "millions and millions of lives."

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced Saturday that the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative had raised \$325 million from governments including the U.S., Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Canada.

Trump says that, "Empowering women is a core value that binds us together."

9:45 a.m.

First Daughter Ivanka Trump and the World Bank are rolling out a new fund that aims to help female entrepreneurs access capital, financing and other support.

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim says the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative fund has so far raised \$325 million from various governments. He hopes to leverage that into a multibillion-dollar fund.

The money will go toward improving access to capital and markets, providing technical assistance, training and mentoring, pushing public policy and investing in projects and programs that support women and women-led businesses.

Kim says, "this is not a cute, little project," and says it will drive economic growth.

He's speaking at a panel on women's entrepreneurship that coincides with the meeting of Group of 20 leaders in Hamburg, Germany.

9:22 a.m.

President Donald Trump is meeting Britain's head of government on the sidelines of an international summit in Germany.

Trump said Saturday that he and Prime Minister Theresa May have had "tremendous talks" and developed a "special relationship."

Trump also says they are working on a trade deal that will be "great for both countries," but he provided no details.

The two leaders have met several times since Trump took office and collaborate on a number of issues, from security to trade.

Trump and May are sitting down for a meeting Saturday while attending the G-20 summit of industrialized and developed nations.

9:12 a.m.

President Donald Trump will meet with a long list of world leaders Saturday as he wraps up his second trip abroad.

Trump will hold meetings with British Prime Minister Theresa May, President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Xi Jinping of China.

He'll also attend a women's entrepreneurship finance event and participate in various sessions with fellow Group of 20 leaders.

The second day of the summit of world leaders that has been overshadowed by violent riots between anti-globalization activists and police is expected to include talks on global trade, climate change and

international terrorism.

Trump is set to return to Washington Saturday evening.

This story has been corrected to reflect that it was a spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, not Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who addressed conflicting accounts of discussions between Putin and President Donald Trump over Russia's meddling in the U.S. election Saturday.

The Latest: All G-20 nations but US reaffirm Paris accord

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — The Latest on the Group of 20 summit (all times local):

4:05 p.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says 19 members of the Group of 20 have reaffirmed the Paris climate accord as "irreversible."

Merkel said Saturday that the summit's final statement "takes account" of the U.S. position rejecting the climate deal.

That leaves the United States as the odd one out after President Donald Trump announced his intent to withdraw the U.S. from the agreement. The Paris accord aims to lower emissions of the greenhouse gases scientists say cause global warming.

Merkel called the U.S. position "regrettable."

Officials did reach a common statement including Trump about the other contentious issue at the summit, trade.

The statement retains the G-20's longstanding rejection of protectionism. But it also acknowledged that trade must be mutually beneficial and that countries can use "legitimate" trade defenses to protect workers and industries against being taken advantage of by trade partners.

3:05 p.m.

Tens of thousands of peaceful protesters are taking to the streets on a third day of demonstrations against the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, where violent riots have overshadowed some protest events.

About 20,000 protesters, including families, socialists, Kurdish groups and anarchists waving flags and shouting anti-capitalist slogans, marched through the city as G-20 leaders were inside the summit grounds tackling contentious issues like climate change, trade and terrorism.

Thousands of police officers were accompanying the marches, but many had removed their helmets and watched as protesters sang, danced and played music.

The gathering Saturday afternoon came after aggressive riots overnight in the city's Schanzenviertel neighborhood, which is only a few hundred meters (yards) away from the summit grounds.

2 p.m.

President Vladimir Putin says Russia will meet its obligations under the Paris climate agreement.

Speaking at a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the Group of 20



French President Emmanuel Macron, left, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, center, and German chancellor Angela Merkel meet at the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017. (Tobias Schwarz/Pool Photo via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 29 of 78

summit in Hamburg, Putin said that "we honor the Paris agreement." He added that Russia has made decisions related to the implementation of the deal and intends to implement them.

Macron hailed Putin's pledge as "very important."

Russia, the world's fifth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, was among the 195 countries that signed the 2015 Paris agreement but it delayed its ratification for at least two years.

Russia's carbon emissions reduction goals are very modest, and it also insisted that it be given the maximum potential credit for carbon adsorbed out of the atmosphere by vast Siberian forests.

1:25 p.m.

Germany's top security official is denouncing the rioting in Hamburg during the Group of 20 summit and saying that it is "the opposite of democratic protest."

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said Saturday after rioters set up street barricades, looted supermarkets and attacked police with slingshots: "These were unbounded violent excesses out of a desire for destruction and brutality."

He added that "completely uninhibited attacks against people and objects, looting and arson by anarchists from Germany and Europe, have nothing to do with political motives or protest."

De Maiziere said that police and judicial authorities must take a tough stance against such crimes, and it is good that arrests were made.

Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city and has a strong militant scene. But de Maiziere said that "any criticism of the location of the meeting misjudges cause and effect."

12 p.m.

Police say a German man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder for allegedly using a laser pointer to temporarily blind pilots of a police helicopter patrolling the skies during the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg.

Police said in a statement Saturday that the 27-year-old man, whose name wasn't released in line with German privacy law, blinded the two crew members of the Libelle 2 helicopter so badly while they were up in the air that they had to stop working because they couldn't see. The incident happened Thursday.

Following intensive investigations, police arrested the suspect in his Hamburg apartment Saturday and also found the laser pointer.

Thousands of anti-globalization activists and police have been clashing for two consecutive days as G-20 leaders meet.

10:55 a.m.

Russia President Vladimir Putin has met with Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit, hailing his contribution to Syria peace efforts.

Putin said at the start of their meeting in Hamburg that Erdogan's stance "has made it possible to improve the situation in Syria."

Erdogan similarly praised Putin's role and noted that efforts by Russia and Turkey "set a clear example for the international community."

Russia, Turkey and Iran have made a deal in May to set up de-escalation zones in Syria, but specifics related to their boundaries and monitoring mechanisms are yet to be determined.

In a separate development, Russia and the U.S. made a deal to declare a cease-fire in southwestern Syria beginning Sunday. The agreement also involved Jordan.

10:40 a.m.

The leaders of Germany, France and Russia have met to discuss the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The German government said in a brief statement that Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 30 of 78

that a cease-fire that's part of a 2015 peace agreement must be "implemented comprehensively."

Merkel and then-French President Francois Hollande brokered that agreement, reached in Minsk, Belarus, but it has proved hard to implement. Germany and France have led diplomatic efforts to keep in a lid on the conflict in eastern Ukraine together with Russia and Ukraine, which is not a member of the G-20. Saturday's meeting brings new French leader Macron on board the process.

10:35 a.m.

Officials at the Group of 20 summit say leaders haven't reached an agreed statement on climate change — one of the most contentious topics at talks after the U.S. said it would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

European Union officials who briefed reporters on draft final statement say the document contained a general commitment to fighting climate change, and then a separate paragraph that "took note" of the U.S. decision to withdraw.

A third paragraph then affirmed the support of the 19 other members for the Paris deal. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the draft before it's agreed.

Officials debated language pushed by the U.S. in which it proposed to help other countries use fossil fuels more cleanly. That ran into objections.

—By David McHugh

9:50 a.m.

European Union officials say that leaders of the Group of 20 countries have agreed to keep their markets open to foreign trade. But the group's draft statement also says that trade needs to be mutually beneficial and that countries can take steps to protect their markets.

EU officials at the summit in Hamburg said that the draft trade language keeps the traditional G-20 condemnation of protectionism, or keeping out foreign competitors with unfair import taxes or regulations. But countries also agreed to fight "all unfair trade practices" and recognize "legitimate trade defense instruments." The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the draft text before its release.

Trade has been a hotly discussed issue at the summit, as new President Donald Trump pushes his "American First" agenda. Trump has focused on making trade fair as well as free and has criticized trade relationships where the other countries sell more to the U.S. than they buy.

G-20 officials were still haggling over final language on climate change in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement.

— By David McHugh

9:15 a.m.

Activists from the environmental Greenpeace group have scaled a bridge in Hamburg, where the Group of 20 summit is taking place, and unfurled a banner saying, "G-20: End Coal."

The group said in a statement that 65 activists participated in the protest early Saturday demanding from international G-20 leaders to act quickly to phase out coal and speed up global climate action.

Fighting global warming is one of the major issues on the G-20 agenda, but negotiations are proving to be difficult since the U.S. left the international Paris climate agreement a few weeks ago.

Greenpeace's Susanne Neubronner said, "the millions of people threatened by climate change or already suffering its impact expect the G-20 leaders to accelerate their efforts to reduce their emissions."

8:55 a.m.

International leaders are set to convene for a second day of talks on global trade, climate change and international terrorism at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg that has been overshadowed by violent riots between anti-globalization activists and police.

The summit's host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said the negotiators, including President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, European and Asian leaders, "still have a great deal of work ahead

of them" to formulate the summit's closing communique planned for Saturday. Merkel told leaders Friday they must be prepared to make compromises as she worked toward a summit outcome that everyone present could accept.

Other the topics on the agenda include the leading economic countries partnership with Africa, migration and health.

Trump pledges \$50 million to help women entrepreneurs

By JILL COLVIN and GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday the U.S. would contribute \$50 million to a new World Bank fund conceived by his daughter that aims to help women entrepreneurs access capital and other support.

Ivanka Trump joined World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on the sidelines of the Group of 20 world leaders' summit in Hamburg, Germany, to launch the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative.

Kim said the fund had raised more than \$325 million so far for projects and programs to support women and women-led businesses by improving access to capital and markets, providing technical assistance, training and mentoring, and pushing public policy. The fund grew out of conversations between Ivanka Trump and Kim early in Trump's administration.

"This is not a cute little project," Kim said during a panel discussion, arguing the effort would spur real economic growth.

President Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and German Chancellor Angela Merkel also spoke at the event, where Trump said the fund would help eliminate barriers for women to launch businesses, help transform "millions and millions of lives," and "provide new hope to these women from countless communities all across the world."

"The critical investments we're announcing today will help advance the economic empowerment of women around the world," he said.

The commitment comes as the Trump administration has proposed dramatic cuts to diplomatic and development funding in line with the president's "America First" foreign policy doctrine. His proposal would cut money for the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development by more than 31 percent in the budget year beginning in October. He's also banned federal dollars from going to international groups working on issues such as HIV, AIDS and maternal and child health if they perform abortions or even provide information on the procedure.

The president has been criticized for crude remarks he's made about women over the years, including a recent tweet focusing on a television news host's appearance. Trump's senior staff is dominated by men,



World Bank president Jim Yong Kim and Ivanka Trump, daughter of the U.S. President Donald Trump attend the Women's Entrepreneur Finance Initiative launch event held in conjunction with the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017. (Michael Kappeler/Pool Photo via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 32 of 78

despite the considerable influence of Ivanka Trump, who serves as a senior White House adviser.

In addition to the U.S., Germany and Canada, the new fund has also received contributions from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Australia, China, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, and South Korea.

During his 2016 campaign, Trump frequently criticized rival Hillary Clinton's ties to her family's Clinton Foundation, which received millions in donations from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and several other Mideast nations for charitable work.

During an October general election debate in Las Vegas, Trump demanded that Clinton "give back the money you've taken from certain countries that treat certain groups of people so terrible."

He said then: "Saudi Arabia giving \$25 million, Qatar, all of these countries. You talk about women and women's rights? So these are people that push gays off ... buildings. These are people that kill women and treat women horribly. And yet you take their money."

Officials stressed that Ivanka Trump will not have an operational or fundraising role with the fund, which will be run by a governing committee of contributors.

Trump also took the opportunity to praise Ivanka Trump, who at one point Saturday was spotted sitting in her father's seat at an official G-20 event after he had left the room.

Trump said he'd been proud of her since "day one," and offered a rare, self-deprecating assessment of the challenges he's added to her life.

"If she weren't my daughter, it would be so much easier for her," he said with laugh, adding: "That might be the only bad thing she has going, if you want to know the truth."

Ivanka Trump has faced sustained criticism from opponents of her father who'd hoped she would be able to push him to adopt more moderate policies. Many have labeled her "complicit" in his agenda.

Colvin reported from Washington.

US bombers join jets from Japan, SKorea for training mission

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Two U.S. bombers flew to the Korean Peninsula to join fighter jets from South Korea and Japan for a practice bombing run as part of a training mission in response to North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs, officials said Saturday.

U.S. military officials described the mission Friday as a defensive show of force and unity from the three allied nations and said it demonstrated "the ironclad U.S. commitment to our allies."

"North Korea's actions are a threat to our allies, partners and homeland," Gen. Terrence O' Shaughnessy, U.S. Pacific Air Forces commander, said in a statement from Pacific Air Forces. "Let me be clear: If called upon we are trained, equipped and ready to unleash the full lethal capability of our allied air forces."



In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers, left and second from left, fly with South Korean and U.S. fighter jets over the Korean Peninsula, South Korea Saturday, July 8, 2017. Two U.S. bombers flew to the Korean Peninsula to join fighter jets from South Korea and Japan for a practice bombing run as part of a training mission in response to North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs, officials said Friday.

(South Korea Defense Ministry via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 33 of 78

The U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers from Andersen Air Force Base on the island of Guam conducted a 10-hour sequenced bilateral mission with South Korean and Japanese fighter jets, the statement said.

"U.S. bombers and Republic of Korea fighters are just two of many lethal military options at our disposal," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Bergeson, U.S. Forces Korea deputy commander. "This mission clearly demonstrates the U.S.-ROK alliance remains prepared to use the full range of capabilities to defend and to preserve the security of the Korean Peninsula and region."

When the B-1Bs reached the Korean Peninsula, they were joined by South Korean F-15 fighter jets and U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jets. The B-1Bs practiced what officials called "attack capabilities" by releasing inert weapons at the Pilsung Range.

As the bombers returned to Guam, they flew over the East China Sea with F-2 fighter jets of the Koku Jieitai, or Japan Air Self-Defense Force, the statement said.

"The U.S.-Japan alliance and the relationship between our militaries are stronger than they have ever been," said Lt. Gen. Jerry P. Martinez, U.S. Forces Japan commander. "We continue to train with our Japanese allies to ensure we are ready to defend ourselves from attack."

President Donald Trump and the leaders of South Korea and Japan, who met during the G-20 summit in Germany, issued a joint statement condemning the North's recent test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile and calling it a global threat that demanded "maximum pressure" in response.

A day earlier in Poland, Trump said the U.S. was considering "some pretty severe things" in response to North Korea's actions. While he offered no specifics, he has not ruled out military action.

North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said its intercontinental ballistic missile is meant to overcome U.S. hostility and enable the North to "strike the very heart of the U.S. at any given time."

Associated Press writer Douglass K. Daniel in Washington contributed to this report.

G-20 leaders reach deal on trade, struggle on climate

By DAVID McHUGH and GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Leaders of the world's top economic powers reaffirmed their support Saturday for free trade but tempered their statement by acknowledging countries could defend their home companies and markets against unfair practices.

The Group of 20 summit came up with compromise language on trade, although officials struggled to find common ground on another contentious issue, fighting climate change. In the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to leave the Paris climate agreement, the group agreed in a draft statement to "take note" of the U.S. withdrawal while the other 19 reaffirmed support of the Paris deal to limit emissions of greenhouse gases scientist say are behind global warming, leaving the U.S. as the sole outlier.

Officials at the summit, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity



Leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, and their partners attend a concert at the Elbphilharmonie concert hall on the first day of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Friday, July 7, 2017. (Kay Nietfeld/

Pool Photo via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 34 of 78

because they weren't authorized to discuss the final statement before its release, said that the language had been generally agreed on except for part of the climate section. The draft could still change before its final release later Saturday.

The talks at the two-day summit in Hamburg competed for attention with violent clashes between anti-globalization activists and police.

Climate and trade were two of the most contentious issues, in part due to the assertive stance taken on both by Trump. He has said trade must be fair as well as open and must benefit American companies and workers. He has focused on trade relationships where other countries run large surpluses with the U.S., meaning they sell more to U.S. consumers than they buy from American companies.

The G-20 typically denounces protectionism, or the use of unfair means to keep out foreign competitors and protect domestic workers and companies. That stance has been kept, but it has been expanded to include references to the use of "legitimate trade defense instruments" when a country is faced with subsidized or otherwise unfair competition from a trade partner. Defensive measures are sometimes allowed under the current global trade rules supervised by the World Trade Organization.

The host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said after the first day of meetings Friday that discussions on trade were very difficult and that differences on climate change were clear.

The G-20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, France, Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the U.S. and the European Union. The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Guinea, Senegal, Singapore and Vietnam are also attending.

Saturday's sessions come after a second night of trouble elsewhere in Hamburg, as rioters set up street barricades, looting supermarkets and attacking police with slingshots and firebombs. Hundreds of officers went into buildings in the Schanzenviertel neighborhood to arrest troublemakers.

Medicaid cut in GOP health bill worries the nursing home set

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Amy Bernard and her brother kept their mother out of a nursing home as long as they could, until Parkinson's and dementia took their toll and she was seriously injured in a fall.

Bernard is happy with her mother's nursing home care, but it comes at a steep price: \$7,000 per month, an amount that would be way beyond the older woman's means if not for Medicaid, which picks up \$3,000 of the tab.

Which is why Bernard and many other Americans like her are watching the health care debate on Capitol Hill with trepidation.

The Senate Republicans' plan to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act would cut projected Medicaid spending over the next decade by 25 percent.

Supporters of the bill say nursing home subsidies would not suffer significant cuts, but opponents say they



Chuck Schwarz, left, holds hand with his wife Cathy at Heritage Woods of South Elgin, Friday, June 30, 2017, in South Elgin, Ill. Medicaid Americans 65 and older and the disabled make up about a quarter of Medicaid recipients but account for two-thirds of its expenditures. (AP Photo/Nam

Y. Huh)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 35 of 78

are inevitable. The uncertainty is frustrating to those who rely on them.

In the case of Bernard's 83-year-old mother, retired teacher Franceen Golditch, the \$4,000 that she receives each month from her pension and Social Security goes almost entirely to the nursing home.

"Without Medicaid supplementing, I don't know what would happen," said Bernard, a self-employed graphic artist in Boynton Beach, Florida. She added: "I have a house and kids to support myself. I honestly have no answer."

While the federal-state Medicaid program is most often associated with poor children and single mothers, almost two-thirds of its spending goes to the elderly and the disabled, even though they make up just 1 in 4 recipients.

The reason: Well over half the nation's 1.3 million senior citizens in nursing homes receive Medicaid. The burden is expected to balloon as the 74 million surviving baby boomers — those born between 1946 and 1964 — get older. They are 52 to 71 now.

In part because of the Medicaid cuts, the GOP bill lacks the votes to pass in the Senate, which is expected to take up the measure again after Congress' weeklong July Fourth recess.

The bill would cut Medicaid's projected budget over the next 10 years by a combined \$772 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That would decrease the amount projected to be spent federally on Medicaid during that time to about \$4.2 trillion.

Even with those cuts, nursing home patients would continue to receive significant assistance because federal Medicaid spending would grow by 20 percent over the next decade from its current level, said Zach Hunter, a spokesman for the GOP-led House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which helped write the House version of the bill.

Meanwhile, he said, federal regulations would be eased, giving states more flexibility to tailor their programs.

The proposed changes are "an important step towards strengthening the Medicaid program and ensuring vital funds go to the most vulnerable," Hunter said. He said the bill makes provisions, for example, for possible medical advances such as drugs for Alzheimer's or other diseases of the aged.

Joe Baker, president of the Medicare Rights Center, an advocacy group that opposes the bill, said substantial cuts eventually would hurt those who rely on nursing home assistance.

"You can't say you are going to save a lot of money on kids and pregnant women because there isn't a lot of money there to save," Baker said. "Look at the population that is costing you a lot and, frankly, that is older adults and older adults who are 85-plus."

Medicare, the federal health insurance program that primarily covers people 65 and older, does not cover long-term nursing home care.

To qualify for Medicaid nursing-home coverage, unmarried senior citizens in most states must have incomes of less than \$2,205 per month, including Social Security and pensions. Some states have a lower limit. The threshold is higher for married couples. Single people also must have drained their assets below \$2,000, though there is an exemption for home equity.

People with higher incomes can become eligible if their medical and nursing home expenses are too heavy. That is why Golditch is covered.

In 45 states and the District of Columbia, Medicaid also covers some senior citizens who are in assisted living centers or need home health aides.

Chuck Schwarz, who suffered a stroke in 2014, said Illinois' Medicaid program allows him and his wife of 60 years, Cathy, to stay at an assisted living complex in South Elgin, about 40 miles from Chicago. She has Alzheimer's, and Schwarz said being able to visit her daily has kept them both alive. Medicaid pays about 85 percent of their \$9,785 monthly bill.

"I don't know if I will be affected by the cuts or not. I may not be. If they do, I don't know what I would do," said Schwarz, an 82-year-old retired salesman and former Navy commander. "We have pretty much exhausted our savings. We didn't expect to live this long."

Daniel Reingold, CEO of the nonprofit that runs New York City's 1,000-bed Hebrew Home at Riverdale,

a nursing home, said Medicaid cuts will reduce the quality and amount of care for the aged and sick. He said nursing homes will reduce staff and might send their residents to the hospital for some medical procedures, at a higher cost to the government.

"It is a short-sighted view," he said.

Follow Terry Spencer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/terrysten>

Foreign experts see Chinese Nobel laureate; prognosis grim

By GILLIAN WONG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — American and German specialists saw imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo on Saturday and confirmed that he is in the final stages of terminal liver cancer, the hospital treating him said.

China allowed the two doctors to travel to the northeastern city of Shenyang to see the country's most prominent political prisoner following international criticism of Beijing's handling of Liu's illness and calls for him to be treated abroad.

The First Hospital of China Medical University said in a statement on its website that the two foreign experts "fully affirmed" Liu's treatment plan so far, but that Liu's prognosis was grim.

"But the patient is suffering from advanced liver cancer that has metastasized to his entire body and is at the end stage," the hospital said. Liu has accumulated a large amount of abdominal fluid, the statement said, calling his condition "quite serious."

The hospital said the experts were Dr. Markus W. Buchler of Heidelberg University in Germany and Dr. Joseph Herman of the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas.

It was impossible to independently verify the hospital's description of Buchler's and Herman's views on Liu's illness. A source familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of discussions confirmed that the American and German experts had seen Liu and spoken to his family.

Shang Baojun, Liu's former lawyer and a close friend, said that during the consultation with the foreign experts, Liu was "clear-headed and communicated smoothly, and could even speak English."

"He again expressed a desire to go abroad for treatment, preferably in Germany, though the U.S. would also be fine, and his family members said the same," Shang told The Associated Press. "We sincerely hope this request will be approved."

The experts' visit comes as Liu's illness has taken a turn for the worse. Chinese doctors said Friday that they have stopped using cancer-fighting drugs so as not to overwhelm his severely weakened liver.



In this image taken from Jan 6, 2008, video footage by AP Video, Liu Xiaobo looks at documents in his home in Beijing, China. According to a statement Friday, July 7, 2017, on the website of the First Hospital of China Medical University, the Chinese medical team charged with treating imprisoned Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo has stopped using cancer-fighting drugs so as not to overwhelm his severely weakened liver, raising concerns that China's most prominent political prisoner is critically ill. (AP Video via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 37 of 78

On Saturday, the hospital said that the doctors may review MRI scans and further assess Liu's liver function before deciding on whether to use radiation therapy, immunotherapy and other treatments.

"We will continue to provide nutritional support, pain relief and other forms of supportive care to improve the patient's quality of life as much as possible," the hospital's statement said.

In a sign of the seriousness of Liu's decline, his younger and older brothers and their wives were being allowed to see him, Shang said. At the hospital, Liu has been mostly accompanied by his wife and her brother, both of whom have been largely unreachable by the outside world due to restrictions by Chinese authorities.

Beijing activist Hu Jia, a family friend, said the relatives' visit was a sign that the authorities have acknowledged Liu's rapid deterioration.

"I think the authorities are in crisis mode. They too are not sure if Liu Xiaobo will pass away soon because his condition is quite obviously worsening," Hu said.

"They don't want to bear too great a responsibility in this respect," he said, referring to the act of allowing Liu to be with his brothers at a critical stage. "The authorities think by doing this they could at least be accountable to the outside world and say Liu was with his loved ones at the very end."

Liu's two brothers, who were traveling from their homes in southern and northeastern China, were being closely monitored by state security agents along the way — making it difficult to maintain contact with them, Hu said.

Beijing has come under criticism from Western governments for not fully releasing Liu, who was diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer in May while serving an 11-year sentence for inciting subversion by advocating sweeping political reforms that would end one-party rule. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, the year after he was convicted and jailed by a Chinese court.

The office of the United Nations human rights chief on Friday also expressed concern about Liu's condition and noted that the Chinese government has provided no further information to the U.N. office for more than 24 hours.

Spokeswoman Liz Throssell said at a briefing in Geneva that the U.N. should be granted access to both Liu and his wife.

China's foreign ministry had no immediate response to a request for comment Saturday.

Anti-G-20 activists riot for second night in Hamburg

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Anti-globalization activists rioted violently for a second night as Hamburg hosted Group of 20 leaders, setting up street barricades, looting supermarkets and attacking police with slingshots and firebombs on Saturday.

Police said riots were extremely aggressive in the early hours of Saturday in the city's Schanzenviertel neighborhood, which is only a few hundred meters (yards) away from the summit grounds. Hundreds of officers went into buildings to arrest rioters wearing black masks from rooftops while being attacked with iron rods and Molotov cocktails. Thirteen activists were arrested when special units stormed one building.

About 500 people looted a supermarket in the neighborhood as well as smaller stores. Cars were torched and street fires lit as activists built barricades with garbage cans and bikes.

Laura Zeriadtke watched the full-scale clashes unfold from her street-level apartment window and witnessed about 30 black-clad anarchists tearing down a construction fence across from her home and using it as a shield to push back riot police.

"It was a civil war," Zeriadtke said, adding that there were many teenagers among the rioters.

The city's mayor, Olaf Scholz, called on the rioters to halt the violence.

"I'm appealing to the violent protesters to stop what they're doing and to withdraw and to no longer commit any violent crimes," Scholz said. "I'm very concerned about the destruction ... and the brutality against our police officers."

Hamburg, Germany's second-largest city, has a strong radical left scene. Many critics had warned well before the summit that its dense streets would be almost impossible to control and clashes would be likely.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 38 of 78

But, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said, "any criticism of the location of the meeting misjudges cause and effect."

"These were unbounded violent excesses out of a desire for destruction and brutality," de Maiziere said. He added that police and judicial authorities must take a tough stance against such crimes and that the arrests were appropriate.

World leaders have come together in the northern German port city for two days to tackle contentious issues including terrorism, climate change and trade.

Most protesters expressed their views peacefully, asking for quick action on climate change and solutions to the migration crisis. But a few thousand rioters, some of them from elsewhere in Europe, created havoc in the city. They've battled riot police for two consecutive days, expressing rage against capitalism and globalization and called for open borders to let all refugees enter Europe.

Their anger was not so much focused against President Donald Trump or other leaders, but directed against police as symbols of authority.

"This was organized and long-prepared criminal violence as we have never witnessed it before," city official Andy Grote told reporters.

Police arrested 143 people, and 122 activists were temporarily detained. More than 200 officers have been injured since the start of the protests Thursday night. Police and firefighters said they did not have information about how many protesters and other civilians were hurt.

A 27-year-old German man was arrested early Saturday on suspicion of attempted murder for allegedly using a laser pointer to temporarily blind pilots of a police helicopter patrolling from above the city.

Later, special units raided a culture center that's known to be a meeting point for violent protesters. Officers confiscated illegal firecrackers, but didn't make any arrests.

Even one of the organizers of the more radical leftist protests distanced himself from the overnight riots in Schanzenviertel.

"We have the impression that ... some kind of militancy was taken to the streets, that people get a high on it," Andreas Blechschmidt, of the alternative culture center Rote Flora at Schanzenviertel, told public broadcaster NDR. "We think that's politically and substantially wrong."

Police called on witnesses of the riots to upload photos and video footage on their server to help with the investigation and prosecution of violent activists.

The epicenter of the overnight mayhem was near the Bok Asian restaurant. Cook Hongching Laapha looked out of a shattered window into the street where garbage had burned so hot it left the asphalt melted and pitted.

"There was nothing until 9 p.m. when we closed, then it got so bad. There was a huge fire," he said. "We really don't know what to do."

Ludwig Geiss, a 65-year-old long-time resident of the area, said that he'd gotten used to the many pro-



A man looks through the broken window of a shop in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017. Anti-globalization activists have rioted for a second night as Hamburg hosts the Group of 20 leaders, setting up street barricades, looting supermarkets and attacking police with slingshots and petrol bombs. (Daniel Bockwoldt/dpa via AP)

tests in the alternative neighborhood, but had never experienced anything like the G-20 chaos.

"I know the scene, but what happened yesterday ... puts it all in the shadows," Geiss said as he was evaluating the damage outside his apartment. "I'm not staying here another night."

But on Saturday morning, the scene was calm and quiet. City cleaners quickly took to the streets sweeping up rubble and using heavy construction equipment to haul away the leftovers of barricades and fires.

Elsewhere in Hamburg, peaceful protesters started new marches holding up red balloons and dancing through the streets to live music.

Activists from the environmental Greenpeace group scaled a bridge and unfurled a banner saying, "G-20: End Coal."

Fighting global warming is one of the major issues on the G-20 agenda, but negotiations are proving to be difficult since the U.S. left the international Paris climate agreement a few weeks ago.

Later on Saturday, around 20,000 protesters marched through the city again under the slogan "borderless solidarity," but they remained peaceful.

Kirsten Grieshaber contributed to this report from Berlin.

Trump labels North Korea a 'problem and menace' at summit

By KEN THOMAS and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — President Donald Trump assailed North Korea as a "problem and menace" Saturday as he met with Asian allies on the sidelines of an international summit to build consensus on next steps after the North's recent test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

"Something has to be done about it," Trump said as he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping. In a separate meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Trump said the two were tackling "the problem and menace of North Korea."

Abe, speaking through a translator, noted that the security situation in the Asia Pacific region has become "increasingly severe" due to North Korea's push to develop its ballistic missile and nuclear program. Abe said he wanted to "demonstrate the robust partnership as well as the bonds" between Japan and the U.S. on the issue.

North Korea's successful test launch of an ICBM was a major milestone in its long-term effort to build a missile that could carry a nuclear warhead to attack the United States.

The extensive slate of meetings with Abe, Xi, British Prime Minister Theresa May and others came on the final day of the annual Group of 20 summit, which has been marked by violent demonstrations by anti-globalization activists.

North Korea has been a major topic of discussion, and the White House said earlier that the U.S., South



President Donald Trump, second left, meets Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, at the G20 Summit, Saturday, July 8, 2017, in Hamburg, Germany. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 40 of 78

Korea and Japan were pressing for additional measures against North Korea to demonstrate the "serious consequences" for its latest provocations.

The three nations have been calling for "early adoption" of a new U.N. Security Council resolution and additional sanctions to demonstrate to Pyongyang the consequences of its actions.

Bringing China on board is a key part of the plan. The White House has tried to pressure Beijing to rein in the North, a major trading partner, to halt Kim Jong Un's development of nuclear weapons before they have the ability to threaten the U.S. homeland.

The administration wants China to fully enforce international sanctions intended to starve Pyongyang of revenue for its nuclear and missile programs. But Trump has been frustrated by the amount of progress.

Earlier in the week, he vented on Twitter that trade between China and North Korea had grown nearly 40 percent at the start of 2017. "So much for China working with us - but we had to give it a try!"

Trump officials said later that the president hadn't given up on the relationship.

Trade was also a key part of the discussions. The Trump administration is investigating the possibility of putting new barriers on steel imports based on national security considerations, a move that could target China, which has flooded international markets with cheap steel exports.

Meeting with May, the British leader, Trump pointed to their "special relationship," and said the two countries were working on a trade agreement.

May was the first foreign leader to visit Trump at the White House and he told her he would soon "be going to London" once details were worked out. Independent trade negotiations between the two countries are a possibility as Britain exits the European Union — a move Trump has supported.

Earlier, Trump said Saturday he had a "tremendous meeting" with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, his first comments on the high-profile talks with the Russian leader. Trump raised the issue of Russia's meddling in the 2016 elections and discussed plans for a cease-fire agreement in Syria.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Trump and Putin had a "robust and lengthy" discussion about Russian election interference but Putin denied any involvement. His Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, said Trump had accepted Putin's assurances that Russia didn't meddle in the U.S. election — a characterization that the U.S. disputed.

"I think the president is rightly focused on how do we move forward from something that may be an intractable disagreement at this point," said Tillerson, who took part in the meeting along with Lavrov.

Russian officials sought to address the conflicting accounts. Asked about the discrepancies on Saturday, Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov joked, "Trust Lavrov. I don't work for Tillerson."

Trump also joined a women's entrepreneurial finance event, a project spearheaded by his daughter and senior adviser Ivanka Trump.

Ivanka Trump and the World Bank rolled out a new fund that aims to help female entrepreneurs access capital, financing and other support. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative fund had so far raised \$325 million from various governments.

Trump lauded his daughter's efforts to help female entrepreneurs, joking that "if she weren't my daughter, it would be so much easier for her."

Trump planned to return to Washington on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the annual G-20 meetings. He won't be stateside for long: The president is scheduled to return to Europe next week to attend Bastille Day celebrations in Paris.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Vivian Salama in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Superville at <https://twitter.com/dsupervilleAP> and Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

The Latest: IS forces in Mosul mount attack

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — The Latest on developments in Iraq:

Despite clinging to only a sliver of territory in Mosul, Islamic State militants managed to launch a counterattack Friday that reversed days of Iraqi army territorial gains in just a matter of hours. It's a setback that underscores the fragility of the Iraqi security forces despite years of U.S.-led coalition training as well as the instability likely to follow the city's liberation.

The surprise attack illustrated the resilience of the extremists who, though controlling less than a square kilometer (half-mile) of territory, have maintained the ability to conduct both conventional military counterattacks and insurgent strikes.



Iraqi civilians flee through the rubble of destroyed houses in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, Tuesday, July 4, 2017. As Iraqi forces continued to advance on the last few hundred square kilometers of Mosul held by the Islamic State group, the country's Prime Minister said Tuesday the gains show Iraqis reject terrorism. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

3:30 p.m.

The Pentagon says U.S.-led coalition airstrikes have killed a total of 603 civilians since the air campaign against the Islamic State group was launched in 2014.

The report released on Friday says coalition strikes between April 19 and May 23 that were assessed during the month of May killed 119 civilians.

The report says nearly half of all those civilian deaths occurred in or near Mosul, but did not further specify locations. The coalition defines a credible casualty assessment as one that "more likely than not" resulted in civilian deaths.

The report added that in each case "all feasible precautions were taken and the decision to strike complied with the law of armed conflict."

Allegations of civilian casualties have spiked in Iraq and Syria in recent months as military operations against IS in Iraq's Mosul and also Syria have accelerated.

2:05 p.m.

An Iraqi officer says a "major" Islamic State group counterattack is taking place along the northern edge of Mosul's Old City.

The attack has pushed Iraqi Army forces back some 75 meters (82 yards) and is threatening recent gains in other Old City fronts, he says.

The officer said the attack was launched just after noon Friday and estimated it was carried out by 50 to 100 IS fighters.

A doctor at a medic station said he received more than a dozen wounded Iraqi soldiers.

Both men spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Iraqi security forces have retaken almost all of Mosul — Iraq's second largest city — from IS militants who overran it in 2014.

While IS-held territory shrunk to less than one kilometer squared, the group continues to remain capable of launching counterattacks against Iraqi forces and insurgent attacks deep inside government-held territory.

By Susannah George in Mosul.

1:05 p.m.

The U.N.'s migration agency says it has suspended some operations in two camps near the embattled Iraqi city of Mosul that host nearly 80,000 displaced Iraqis due to security concerns.

The International Organization for Migration announced Friday the temporary suspension at the Qayara air strip emergency site and the Haj Ali camp amid sporadic violence and gunfire.

IOM spokesman Joel Millman said local staffers were instructed to stay home and not enter the camps following a curfew and restrictions on movement imposed by Iraqi authorities.

He said six water-tanker trucks sent by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration were prevented from entering the Haj Ali camp, where temperatures have reached the low 50s Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in recent days.

Government forces are trying to oust Islamic State fighters from Mosul.

This item has been corrected to indicate that IOM says some, not all, operations at the camps are suspended.

Escaped inmate may have used wire cutters delivered by drone

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A South Carolina inmate broke out of a maximum-security prison using wire cutters apparently flown in by drone, officials said Friday, describing a new and devilishly hard-to-stop means of escape.

Convicted kidnapper Jimmy Causey, 46, was recaptured at a Texas motel before daybreak, more than two days after bolting to freedom in a plot worthy of a Hollywood script. It was the second time in 12 years that he escaped.

This time, he used a smuggled-in cellphone to coordinate the delivery of the breakout tools, investigators said. Then, with dusk approaching on the Fourth of July, he cut through four fences and left a dummy in his bed that fooled his guards. He got an 18-hour head start.

When he was caught, he had about \$47,000 in cash, an ID card and two guns, authorities said.

"We believe a drone was used to fly in the tools that allowed him to escape," South Carolina Corrections Director Bryan Stirling said. He said investigators were still trying to confirm that, and he didn't elaborate on why they believe a drone was involved.

But an official aerial photo of the prison shows rings of tall fences and an expanse of more than 50 yards between the prison perimeter and the cellblocks, making it unlikely someone could have thrown or catapulted tools to him.

Kevin Tamez, a 30-year law enforcement veteran who consults on prison security as managing partner of the New Jersey-based MPM Group, said he wasn't aware of any other U.S. prison escapes aided by drones.

Tamez said that delivering something heavy such as wire or bolt cutters via drone would require a sophisticated plan and a powerful machine.



Jimmy Causey is seen in this undated photo from authorities in Williamson County, Texas. Authorities said Friday, July 7, 2017, that Causey was on the run more than two days after using wire cutters that were probably dropped from a drone as part of an elaborate escape plan that also included cellphones smuggled into prison, guns and at least \$47,000 in cash. (Williamson County Jail via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 43 of 78

"They have to land for you to get the contraband off of them," he said. "They can't drop it like a bomb." Tamez said there is no easy way for prisons to protect against the use of small, unmanned aircraft, other than hiring more guards to watch the fences.

Stirling said the state is spending millions to install netting at prisons to prevent people from throwing things over, but confessed that won't stop drones.

"Now they're going to fly over the nets," he said. "So what do we do next?"

A tip led Texas Rangers to a motel room in Austin where Causey was found sleeping around 4 a.m. Friday, authorities said. Texas officials released a photo of a handgun, shotgun, four cellphones and stacks of cash found with Causey about 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) from the Lieber Correctional Institution prison near Charleston.

Prison officials are investigating how his 8 p.m. disappearance Tuesday went unnoticed until 2 p.m. the next day.

"Everyone who assisted him — we intend on bringing them to justice as well," State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel said.

Later Friday, Corrections officials said one Lieber employee had been fired in connection with Causey's disappearance, providing no other details.

Causey was sentenced to life behind bars 13 years ago for holding a lawyer at gunpoint. Authorities said he believed the defense attorney did not do enough to keep him out of prison in the 1990s.

In his first escape, from a different South Carolina prison in 2005, he and another inmate hid in a garbage truck that was leaving the maximum-security institution. They were arrested three days later after a woman delivering pizza to a motel called police.

Drones have been used to deliver contraband such as drugs and cellphones to prisons across the U.S., including two cases in recent years from South Carolina. In May, two men were arrested for trying to fly knives, marijuana and phones into a medium-security state prison. Another man is serving a 15-year sentence after officials found a crashed drone outside a maximum-security institution in 2014.

Authorities in Britain said two inmates there escaped from prison last year by cutting through window bars using a saw and wire cutters that were believed to have been flown in via drone.

Advanced technology and highly motivated prisoners can be a dangerous combination.

"You have nothing to do but sit on the edge of your bunk and figure out ways to get past the system," Tamez said. "You can't get complacent with them. These guys aren't stupid."

Associated Press writer Diana Heidgerd in Dallas contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to say Causey was loose for 18 hours before prison officials noticed.

Hiring surged last month in a sign of US economic vitality

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hiring surged in June in a surprising show of U.S. economic vitality eight years into the recovery from the Great Recession. Pay gains remain weak, though, a stark reminder of one of the economy's key shortcomings.

Employers added 222,000 jobs last month, and hiring in the previous two months was revised much higher. Job gains have now averaged nearly 180,000 a month this year, only slightly below last year's pace.

Unemployment ticked up to 4.4 percent from 4.3 percent, but mostly for a good reason: More Americans started looking for work, a sign of confidence in the economy.

Last month, economists worried that hiring would slow as employers struggled to fill jobs from a dwindling supply of unemployed workers. Friday's data suggests companies are still finding plenty of people to hire.

That has given economists greater confidence the economy still has room to run.

"This balanced pace should enable the current economic expansion to be maintained much beyond the historical norm," Russell Price, senior economist for Ameriprise Financial, said.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 44 of 78

The current expansion is the third-longest on record.

So far, the job market and economy look broadly the same as they did last year, though President Donald Trump has boasted that his policies are accelerating hiring and growth.

The economy's durability appears to be benefiting more people. The unemployment rate among blacks fell in June to its lowest level in 17 years, at 7.1 percent. The gap with whites, whose rate was 3.8 percent, persisted. The rate among Latinos dropped to 4.8 percent, the lowest in 11 years.

Even with June's strong hiring, average hourly pay rose just 2.5 percent from a year earlier. The last time the unemployment rate was this low, wages were rising by roughly 4 percent. Normally, as the number of unemployed dwindles, employers raise pay to attract job seekers.

Economists offer a number of explanations for why that dynamic hasn't yet kicked in.

One factor: The influx of job seekers last month — who had previously been on the sidelines, not counted as unemployed — might have offset some upward wage pressures. Employers had more applicants to choose from.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said many workers are too cautious to push for raises, partly because of the lingering effects of the Great Recession, when nearly 9 million people lost their jobs. And some businesses have decided they can't raise prices enough to afford meaningful pay raises.

That cycle of limited wage gains and low prices has kept inflation in check.

John McAuliffe, chief executive of Sylvan Learning, a company that offers tutoring to students from kindergarten through high school, is hiring more teachers and expanding. Yet it is cutting costs to maintain profits, rather than raising prices.

The company has opened 10 new locations since March, creating about 100 jobs, mostly part-time.

"More people have the ability to afford tutoring for their children," McAuliffe says.

But the company sees little need to raise pay.

"A lot of teachers look for supplemental income," he said. "We've always been able to find them."

Economists forecast the economy will expand at roughly a 2 percent pace this year, about the same as it has grown since the recession ended.

The economy appears resilient enough for the Federal Reserve to keep raising its benchmark interest rate. In a report to Congress on Friday, the Fed signaled its belief that the economy is on a firm footing.

Many business owners are seeing greater confidence among their customers.

Mark Dix, a general contractor in Knoxville, Tennessee, said he has seen a jump in demand for the renovation, painting and home construction services he provides. He employs 15 people.

"I would hire another half-dozen people today if I could find the skilled labor," he said.

Drug use is a problem among many people he considers for jobs, Dix said. And some men in the area rely on disability benefits, he added.

The June jobs report showed broad hiring across numerous industries. Health care posted the biggest



In this Monday, May 22, 2017, photo, a "Now Hiring" sign welcomes a customer entering a Best Buy store in Hialeah, Fla. U.S. employers added a robust 222,000 jobs in June, the most in four months, a reassuring sign that businesses may be confident enough to keep hiring despite a slow-growing economy. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

job gain — 59,100 — despite uncertainty around health care legislation in Congress.

AP Economics Writer Josh Boak contributed to this report.

3rd mistrial in case of ex-cop accused of killing black man

By JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS, Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — For the third time in less than a year a jury deadlocked on Friday and forced a mistrial in the murder case of a white former Oklahoma police officer accused of killing his daughter's black boyfriend, astonishing prosecutors and frustrating the boyfriend's family.

Judge Sharon Holmes declared the mistrial after four hours of jury deliberations over the fate of former Tulsa police officer Shannon Kepler. He was accused of fatally shooting 19-year-old Jeremy Lake in August 2014, not long after Lake started dating Kepler's then-18-year-old daughter, Lisa.

Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler said he was shocked that a mistrial was declared after such short jury deliberations.

"I've never encountered a dynamic like this in 25 years of practice," Kunzweiler said after the mistrial was declared. "In my opinion, there should be some compulsion placed on jurors to reach a verdict."

Defense attorney Richard O'Carroll did not return a telephone message seeking comment.

Holmes had instructed jurors that they could convict Kepler of first-degree murder or the lesser charge of manslaughter. Manslaughter carries a sentence of four years to life in prison, while the sentence on a first-degree murder conviction is life in prison.

The jury deadlocked 6-6, but Kunzweiler said it was unclear if the breakdown was six for conviction and six for acquittal or six for murder and six for the lesser charge of manslaughter.

Kepler, who retired from the force after he was charged, was a 24-year-police veteran who said he was trying to protect his daughter, who had run away from home and was living in a crime-ridden neighborhood. Defense attorney Richard O'Carroll said Lisa had been in and out of a homeless shelter after her father prohibited her from bringing men into his house.

Kepler told investigators he was acting in self-defense because Lake was armed, but police didn't find a weapon on Lake or at the scene. Lake's aunt said her nephew was reaching out to shake Kepler's hand to introduce himself when Kepler fired.

Pam Wilkins, Lake's aunt, said his extended family is deeply frustrated by the third mistrial.

"But I'm not giving up hope," she said. "We're believing in God and justice for Jeremy."

Jurors in Kepler's previous two trials, in November and February, deadlocked 11-1 and 10-2 in favor of



Shannon Kepler walks with his wife, Gina, while his attorney, Richard O'Carroll, puts his arm around him after a hung jury verdict was announced at the Tulsa Country Courthouse, Friday, July 7, 2017, in Tulsa, Okla. A third mistrial was declared Friday in the murder case of Kepler, a white former Oklahoma police officer accused in the off-duty fatal shooting of his daughter's black boyfriend. (Ian

Maule/Tulsa World via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 46 of 78

guilt and Judge Sharon Holmes was forced to declare mistrials. Although they couldn't agree on the murder charge, jurors in the first trial convicted Kepler of recklessly using his firearm.

Lake's killing was among a series of fatal shootings of black people by Tulsa-area law enforcement officers in recent years.

On June 9, two white Tulsa County deputies and a black Tulsa police officer shot and killed Joshua Barre, a mentally ill black man who wielded two large knives as he walked down a Tulsa street. A deputy tried to subdue Barre with a stun gun just outside a convenience store, but it had no effect. Fearing for the customers' safety, the deputies and police officer opened fire, killing him as he tried to enter the store.

A jury on May 17 found white Tulsa police officer Betty Jo Shelby not guilty of first-degree manslaughter in the Sept. 16, 2016, death of Terence Crutcher, 40, shot shortly after Shelby arrived on a street to find Crutcher's SUV stopped in the middle of the road. Shelby testified that she was afraid because Crutcher didn't obey her commands and appeared to reach inside his SUV. Prosecutors told jurors that Shelby overreacted, noting that videos from a patrol car dashboard and a police helicopter showed Crutcher had his hands in the air and did not have a weapon.

In 2016, former Tulsa County volunteer sheriff's deputy Robert Bates was sentenced to four years in prison for second-degree manslaughter in the April 2015 death of Eric Harris, 44, who was unarmed and restrained. Bates, who is white, has said he confused his stun gun with his handgun. That shooting led to the temporary suspension of the reserve deputy program after a report found poor training of the volunteer officers, a lack of oversight, and cronyism. Bates is appealing his conviction.

The shooting involving Kepler was four days before a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson on Aug. 9, 2014.

Michael Brown's killing touched off months of protests and became a catalyst for the Black Lives Matter movement, which decries police violence against minorities and calls for greater transparency from law enforcement officials, especially in cases that involve officer-involved shootings.

This version of the story removes the incorrect age of Robert Bates in the 3rd paragraph from the bottom.

'Finally here': Refugee reaches US ahead of travel ban rules

By JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Ali Said fled war-torn Somalia two decades ago after his right leg was blown off by a grenade. Last year, the father of seven was shot in his other leg by robbers while living in a Kenyan refugee camp.

Said rolled his wheelchair up to a desk in an office hours after arriving in California from Kenya, saying he felt unbelievably lucky: He and his family are among the last refugees allowed into the United States before the Trump administration's latest travel ban rules kick in.

"Until this moment, in this interview, I still don't believe that I'm in the United States," Said told The Associated Press through a translator Thursday at the International Rescue Committee's office in San Diego, smiling while his two sons hung at the back of his wheelchair.

"So during the flight, we all were saying that we are in a dream and it's not true yet until we finally landed at LAX, and we all said to each other: 'Yeah, we're finally here. We made it,'" he said.

The U.S. refugee program will be suspended Wednesday when a cap of 50,000 refugee admissions for the fiscal year — the lowest in a decade — was expected to be reached, according to the U.S. State Department.

Once the cap is hit, only refugees who have a relationship with an immediate family member or ties to a business in the United States will be eligible for admission during the 120-day suspension, State Department guidelines say.

Those guidelines come after the Supreme Court partially reinstated President Donald Trump's executive order banning citizens of six mainly Muslim countries and refugees from coming into the U.S.

The high court's ruling allowed for an exemption: Those with a "bona fide" relationship to the United

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 47 of 78

States. Under State Department guidelines, that connection was defined as an immediate family member such as a parent, spouse, child, sibling or a business.

Said is aware of the difference a week could have made. He, his wife and children, ages 2 to 15, have no ties to the U.S. beyond the refugee resettlement agency, which the U.S. government says is not sufficient.

"I was afraid our case would be closed," he said. "It would have been a rough life."

He said refugees at the Kakuma refugee camp where he lived have talked every day about the travel ban since it was first issued in January.

It was blocked several times by U.S. courts before the Supreme Court partially reinstated it in June. The Trump administration says the travel ban is necessary to keep Americans safe and to allow the federal government to review the vetting process for refugees and others.

Advocates say the ban will close the doors on many of the most vulnerable.

A record 65 million people are displaced by war and persecution worldwide, according to the U.N. refugee agency. It selects the most at-risk refugees to be recommended to governments for resettlement, typically including victims of gender-based violence, LGBT refugees, members of political opposition groups and people with medical issues.

But the new requirements could mean many of those refugees could be passed over for those who have an immediate family member already in the United States.

"This is part of the disconnect now," said David Murphy, executive director of the International Rescue Committee's San Diego office. "We identify families based upon need and now they have to have a U.S. tie."

Said, who spent eight years being vetted for refugee resettlement, had feared he would never leave Kakuma, a 25-year-old camp that is home to about 172,000 refugees.

About a year ago, robbers broke into his home at the camp and tried to rape his wife, he said.

Said, who was on crutches after losing his right leg to a grenade explosion in 1993, was shot in his good leg while fighting off the men. A neighbor who came to their aid shot one of the robbers to death. Said's children were home at the time.

The shooting left him with a fractured hip, and it still has not healed. He plans to get medical help now that he is in the United States.

They will spend the next three months working closely with the International Rescue Committee, taking English classes, getting adjusted culturally and finding an apartment.

The family will get \$10,125 in one-time federal assistance to cover the costs of rent, food and other expenses for nine people to get settled — though they must start paying back their airfare to the U.S. government within six months after their arrival.

Said says he looks forward to his future now.



Ali Said, of Somalia, left, waits at a center for refugees with his two sons Thursday, July 6, 2017, in San Diego. Said, whose leg was blown off by a grenade, says he feels unbelievably lucky to be among the last refugees allowed into the United States before stricter rules kick in as part of the Trump administration's travel ban. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

On his first night in his new country, Said and his family said they slept peacefully in a San Diego motel. But the feelings of happiness and relief are tinged with sadness, too.

"I don't like it that others like me won't be able to make it here," he said. "The life there is so hard. No matter how hard you work, you don't have enough to meet your basic needs."

Associated Press writers Alicia A. Caldwell and Matthew Lee in Washington contributed.

The Latest: Trump, Putin agree election issue is hindrance

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's second official visit to Europe (all times local):

2:45 a.m.

Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin agree on one aspect of Moscow's meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign: The issue has become a hindrance to better relations.

That's according to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who says the U.S. and Russian presidents had a "robust and lengthy" discussion about the interference, though Putin denied involvement.

Tillerson's Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, says Trump accepted Putin's assurances that Russia didn't meddle in the U.S. election.

U.S. lawmakers of both parties had demanded that Trump not shy away from the issue in his highly anticipated meeting with Putin. Trump has avoided stating unequivocally in the past that Russia interfered, even as investigations proceed into whether his campaign colluded with Russians who sought to help him win.



U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and his wife Melania arrive for concert on the first day of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Friday, July 7, 2017. The leaders of the group of 20 meet July 7 and 8. (AP Photo/

Markus Schreiber)

10:15 p.m.

Sen. Mark Warner says President Donald Trump shouldn't relax any sanctions against Russia as lawmakers investigate that nation's alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The Virginia Democrat, vice chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, says Trump had undermined his case on Russia interfering in the presidential race well before he met Friday with Vladimir Putin.

Warner says statements by the administration that Trump pressed Putin on Russia's efforts to influence the election "would have had much more force" if Trump hadn't previously expressed doubts about who was behind cyberattacks.

Warner says Trump also hurt his case by previously criticizing the integrity of U.S. intelligence agencies that attributed the meddling to Russia.

8:50 p.m.

House Speaker Paul Ryan says it's no surprise that Russian President Vladimir Putin is assuring President Donald Trump that Moscow didn't meddle in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 49 of 78

Ryan was asked at a news conference about Putin's comments made during a meeting with Trump on Friday on the sidelines of an international summit in Germany.

Ryan says he'd expect Putin "to deny what clearly he has done over the years, not just with the U.S. election but other elections throughout Europe."

The Wisconsin Republican says that "it comes as no surprise to me Vladimir Putin would deny what we know they did."

Ryan repeated that he doesn't believe Russian interference in the presidential election affected its outcome. But he says that "nevertheless, they tried."

8:10 p.m.

Russia's foreign minister says President Donald Trump has accepted Russian President Vladimir Putin's assurances that Moscow didn't meddle in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Sergey Lavrov made the claim to reporters following Trump and Putin's lengthy meeting on the sidelines of an international summit in Germany.

That account appears at odds with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's description of the meeting.

Tillerson said the president was "rightly focused on how do we move forward from what may be simply an intractable disagreement at this point."

U.S. intelligence officials have blamed Russia for election hacking and other efforts to influence the election to help Trump win.

8:02 p.m.

Russia's foreign minister says that Russian military police will monitor a cease-fire in southwestern Syria, under a Russia-U.S. deal.

Sergey Lavrov tells reporters after talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump in Germany that the lengthy talks were "very constructive." He says they touched on cybersecurity, Ukraine, North Korea and other issues.

Lavrov says the cease-fire deal was brokered by Russia, the U.S. and Jordan. He says Moscow and Washington will ensure the cessation of hostilities and humanitarian access.

A monitoring center will be set up in Jordan, and the Russian military police will oversee its implementation

7:55 p.m.

Leaders of the Group of 20 economic powers and their spouses have gathered at Hamburg's spectacular new Elbphilharmonie concert hall.

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump were seated next to French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte.

The leaders applauded the summit host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, as she took her place in the row behind the Trumps.

The leaders are hearing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conducted by American Kent Nagano.

Merkel and her husband, Joachim Sauer, are classical music fans. Sauer rarely accompanies the chancellor on official business but was on hand for the G-20 and to host the concert alongside Merkel.

7:53 p.m.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin had "positive chemistry" during their first meeting.

Trump and Putin met for more than two hours Friday at an international summit in Germany. It was only scheduled to last 30 minutes.

Tillerson says the meeting was "very constructive." He's adding that "there was so much to talk about" that neither leader "wanted to stop."

The top U.S. diplomat also says that first lady Melania Trump was sent into the meeting at one point to

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 50 of 78

“see if she could get us out of there “

But Tillerson says the meeting lasted another hour after the visit, joking that “clearly she failed.”

7:45 p.m.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says the Russians have asked the U.S. for proof and evidence of their alleged interference in the 2016 election, which Russia denies.

Tillerson says the ask was made during a lengthy meeting in Germany between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He said the president pressed Putin on the issue and that they’d agreed to follow-up meetings.

That includes a new working group on cybersecurity and election interference.

Tillerson says that “the meeting was very constructive” and that the two leaders “connected very quickly.”

7:44 p.m.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says that President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin “had a pretty good exchange” as to how to handle the threat of North Korea.

But Tillerson added Friday after the leaders’ meeting that the Russians “see it a little different than we do.”

The top U.S. diplomat is noting that Russia’s ultimate goal mirrors what the United States wants: the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

He says the differences are the tactics used to achieve that goal. He isn’t elaborating.

Tillerson also says that, despite Trump’s recent tweet to the contrary, the U.S. has not “given up hope” that China will help with North Korea.

Trump and Putin met for more than two hours at an international summit in Germany.

7:35 p.m.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says the Trump administration sees no long-term role for the Assad family and the Assad regime in Syria.

Tillerson tells reporters at a briefing in Hamburg, Germany, that “how” Syrian President Bashar Assad “leaves is yet to be determined.” But he says he thinks there will be a transition away from the Assad government.

The United States and Russia announced an agreement Friday for a cease-fire in southwest Syria set to take effect July 9.

Tillerson describes the deal as the first indication of the Trump administration and Russia being able to work together in Syria.

7:27 p.m.

President Donald Trump opened his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin by raising concerns about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson tells reporters that Trump pressed Putin on the issue during their more than two-hour meeting on the sidelines of a summit of world leaders in Germany.

Tillerson says Putin denied any involvement during his more than two-hour meeting with Trump.

Tillerson says he thinks the president “is rightly focused on how do we move forward from something that may be an intractable disagreement at this point.”

7:10 p.m.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says he had a long conversation with President Donald Trump, and says that “many issues have piled up, including Ukraine, Syria, some bilateral and other issues.”

He says he and Trump also spoke about “fighting terrorism and cybersecurity” during their two-plus-hour meeting

Putin made the comments at the beginning of a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 51 of 78

offered apologies to Abe for running late after his meeting with Trump stretched far longer than originally scheduled.

6:32 p.m.

Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin spent more than two hours meeting Friday on the sidelines of a world leaders' summit.

State Department spokesman RC Hammond says that the meeting in Hamburg, Germany lasted two hours and 16 minutes.

It had originally been scheduled for just 30 minutes.

6:15 p.m.

A meeting between Presidents Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin that was supposed to last a half-hour has stretched to more than 90 minutes.

Trump had originally been scheduled to depart the meeting site of the Group of 20 world leaders in Hamburg, Germany at 4:20 p.m. local time following his meeting with Putin.

But Svetlana Lukash, a Russian official accompanying Putin at the talks, said the meeting that began around 4 p.m. local time was still ongoing at 5:50 p.m.

The longer-than-scheduled meeting comes as US. officials say the United States and Russia have reached an agreement for a cease-fire in southwest Syria that is set to take effect on Sunday.

5:44 p.m.

Hillary Clinton's former campaign chair is telling President Donald Trump to "Get a grip" and get his "head in the game."

John Podesta says on Twitter: "Dude, get your head in the game. You're representing the US at the G20."

Trump had tweeted earlier Friday that "Everyone" in Hamburg, Germany "is talking about why John Podesta refused to give the DNC server to the FBI and the CIA. Disgraceful!"

Trump is attending a summit of world leaders in the country.

Podesta said he saw Trump's tweet during a stop on a cross-country road trip with his wife.

He says, "God only knows what you'll be raving about on twitter by the time we get to Utah."

5:05 p.m.

President Donald Trump emphasized the importance of renegotiating a longstanding continental trade agreement in a meeting with his Mexican counterpart.

The White House said in a statement Friday that Trump and President Enrique Pena Nieto discussed ways "to help workers in both countries" as part of the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The statement says the leaders also discussed regional challenges, including drug trafficking, illegal migration, and the crisis in Venezuela. It does not say whether they discussed Trump's proposed U.S.-Mexican border wall.

A readout from the Mexican government said the two men underscored "the importance of modernizing" NAFTA in a way that "results in tangible benefits for the economies and societies of North America."

Trump and Pena Nieto met on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany.

5:02 p.m.

President Donald Trump's oldest son is complaining about the loud camera clicks that made it hard to hear his father and Russian president Vladimir Putin's brief remarks to the press ahead of their highly-anticipated meeting.

Donald Trump Jr. asks on Twitter: "With all the Cameras clicking away rapid fire you can't actually hear what they're saying? How many pictures do you need of the same scene?"

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 52 of 78

Professional news photographers typically take dozens or hundreds of shots of the same event to capture a variety of angles and facial expressions.

Trump and Putin are meeting at the Group of 20 world leaders' summit in Germany.

Reporters and photojournalists were allowed in the room for about two minutes to capture the scene. Trump's son is a frequent critic of the press.

4:20 p.m.

President Donald Trump appeared informal and relaxed; Russian President Vladimir Putin was steely.

The first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders was the spotlight of an international summit in Hamburg, Germany, Friday, amid tensions between the two countries over Russian involvement in the U.S. presidential election.

Trump said that his discussions with Putin are "going very well."

Speaking through a translator, Putin said they had spoken over the phone several times on "important bilateral and international issues," but that phone calls are "never enough." He said a face-to-face meeting is important to fostering "positive relations."

Trump says, "We look forward to a lot of very positive things happening for Russia and the United States."

4:10p.m.

After months of anticipation and intrigue, President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin are sitting down for their first meeting.

The two exchanged brief pleasantries earlier Friday on the sideline of the G-20 summit of industrialized and developing nations.

Up front, Trump said he anticipates "a lot of positive things happening, for Russia, for the United States."

Their first sit-down meeting is expected to last for about 30 minutes and touch upon several complex issues, from the Syrian conflict to Russia's provocations in Ukraine.

However, the meeting also falls under the shadow of accusations that Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election — and Trump is under pressure to raise those concerns with Putin in their first meeting.

Trump, on Thursday, said he believes Russia may have interfered in the election, but he said that he believes other countries may have been involved as well.

3:28 p.m.

President Donald Trump was on the far left fringe at the Group of 20 summit — of the leaders' group photo, that is.

Trump's position as an outlier was merely a matter of protocol. Pride of place goes to the so-called G20 troika, consisting of current host German Chancellor Angela Merkel flanked by the host of the next meeting, Argentina's Mauricio Macri, and the host of the last one, China's Xi Jinping.

Trump wound up out on the wing between Indonesian President Joko Widodo and French President Emmanuel Macron. He has even less seniority than Trump does after being elected in May.

2:50 p.m.

President Donald Trump is hailing Mexico's president as his "friend" in their first face-to-face meeting since Trump took office.

Trump met with President Enrique Pena Nieto on the sidelines of an international summit in Hamburg, Germany, on Friday.

Pena Nieto was scheduled to be among Trump's first international White House guests but abruptly canceled the visit after a public spat over Trump's proposed border wall.

Trump maintains that he will build the border wall to keep drugs and criminals out of the U.S. — although those plans still remain unclear. He said Friday that he "absolutely" wants Mexico to pay for the wall.

Pena Nieto insists Mexico will not pay for the wall.

Trump said, "it's great to be with my friend the president of Mexico"

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 53 of 78

Pena Nieto said he hopes to continue a "flowing dialogue."

1:28 p.m.

Anti-globalization protesters are keeping U. S. first lady Melania Trump from joining the spouses of world leaders attending an international summit in Germany.

Mrs. Trump's spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, says Hamburg police haven't cleared the first lady to leave the government guest house where she and President Donald Trump spent the night because of the protesters.

Spouses typically get together while leaders are in meetings during international summits like these.

Friday's program for the spouses included a boat ride, lunch and a tour of a climate control center.

Mrs. Trump tweeted that she was thinking of those who were hurt during protests that began Thursday. She says she hopes everyone stays safe.

Anti-globalization activists have set dozens of cars ablaze and tried to block leaders' delegations from entering the grounds of the Group of 20 summit. Police have said at least 111 officers were hurt during Thursday's clashes.

1:18 p.m.

President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin's first encounter at a leaders' retreat in Hamburg, Germany was caught on tape.

The two leaders were seen shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries ahead of their planned formal, sit-down meeting in video posted to Facebook by the German Cabinet.

As officials gathered around a table, Trump outstretched his hand to Putin and then patted his elbow. Both men smiled.

Another brief video clip shows Trump casually patting Putin on the back as they stand side by side.

1:07 p.m.

President Donald Trump is participating in a photo-op with other world leaders at an international summit in Germany.

Trump stood in the first row as the Group of 20 world leaders posed for their official "family portrait." It's a longstanding tradition.

Trump was spotted speaking with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on his way into the event.

He later stood next to and chatted with French President Emmanuel Macron. Trump will be visiting Paris next week in honor of Bastille Day.

Russian President Vladimir Putin stood on the opposite side of the stage.

12:12 p.m.

President Donald Trump was spotted chatting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May as he sat down with fellow world leaders for a discussion on fighting terrorism at a German summit.

Merkel and Trump sat next to each other and exchanged pleasantries at the opening session of the Group of 20 leaders' summit Friday.

Trump also chatted with May, who was seated immediately to his left. Russian leader Vladimir Putin sat several seats away.

Trump has alienated some U.S. allies with his decision to pull the U.S. out of an international climate agreement and his tough talk on trade.

Indians' Francona has heart procedure, out of All-Star Game

By TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Terry Francona's heart, of all things, has kept him away from baseball.

Cleveland's passionate and driven manager underwent a procedure Thursday to correct an irregular heartbeat that sidelined him for a few games and will prevent him from managing in the All-Star Game next week.

The 58-year-old Francona had been experiencing dizziness, fatigue and a rapid heart rate for several weeks. He had a cardiac ablation at the Cleveland Clinic, where he continues to recover after being admitted Tuesday.

He is resting comfortably and is expected to be discharged in a "day or two," the Indians said Friday. The plan is for him to resume managing after the All-Star break. Cleveland begins its unofficial second half of the season July 14 in Oakland to start a six-game trip.

Francona's condition had been weighing on the Indians for weeks, even affecting their play. But now that doctors have pinpointed his problem and he's been treated, those feelings have eased.

"Just happy it sounds like he's got it figured out and taken care of," All-Star reliever Andrew Miller said. "That's what we want, him to be healthy. He's so generous with everything, whether it's his time or his money or the way he treats people. Hopefully, he's taking care of himself right now. Selfishly, we want him back. He's a big part of the mood in the clubhouse and the way things go."

Francona was twice forced to leave in the middle of games last month after falling ill. He was admitted to the hospital this week after doctors detected an arrhythmia from a monitor he has been wearing for several weeks.

With Francona unable to manage the All-Stars in Miami next week, the job will fall to Indians bench coach Brad Mills. Mills has been filling in while Francona has been out and will manage an AL team featuring five Indians players. Mills will be assisted by Cleveland's staff and Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash, who previously worked for the Indians.

"If T's not going to be there, I think the staff is ready to kind of step up and all share in those duties, and we're all excited about it," Mills said.

Francona and his staff earned the opportunity to lead the All-Star team after guiding Cleveland to the World Series last season, the team's first since 1997.

Francona was forced to leave two games last month when he became lightheaded. He had tests following both episodes and team president Chris Antonetti said this week that doctors had ruled out any major health issues.

Francona also missed a game in Washington last August after he experienced chest pains. During a series last weekend in Detroit, Francona wasn't feeling well again and he was admitted to the hospital July 4 because of abnormal heart readings.

Doctors performed an ablation in which a tube is inserted through the leg and guided to the heart. Damaged tissue is then treated with heat, cold or radio energy to help prompt regular heartbeats.

Antonetti had been adamant to Francona about putting his health first. He acknowledged that Francona can be stubborn and perhaps not the ideal patient. However, after speaking with him on Friday, Antonetti



Carolyn Donnell signs a "Get Well" card for Cleveland Indians manager Terry Francona before a baseball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Indians, Friday, July 7, 2017, in Cleveland. Francona underwent a procedure Thursday to correct an irregular heartbeat that sidelined him for a few games and will prevent him from managing in the All-Star Game next week.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

said Francona accepted the team's short-term plans.

"It took some dialogue to get there," Antonetti said. "But I think as Tito said, 'I want to get back to doing what I love and what matters most and that's managing the Cleveland Indians and what would put me in the best position to do that for the second half of the season?'"

"And I think as we walked through that it made sense for him to get a few days, get out of the hospital and recover. Not go to Miami. Not be on late flights and have all the obligations that go around the All-Star Game because that way when he's managing Friday, he's in a really good spot."

In his fifth season with Cleveland, Francona is hugely popular with his players and fans, who affectionately refer to him as "Tito," his father's name.

Before Friday night's game against Detroit, fans at Progressive Field signed large get-well cards the Indians intend to present to Francona, who has led the Indians to a winning record in his previous four seasons.

Francona joined the Indians in 2013 after spending one year as a TV commentator following a messy departure in Boston, where he took the Red Sox to two World Series titles in eight seasons.

<https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Ex-Gitmo inmate gets apology, millions from Canada

By ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — A former Guantanamo Bay prisoner who pleaded guilty to killing a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan received an apology and a multimillion-dollar payment from the Canadian government after a court ruling said his rights were abused.

A government statement Friday said details of the settlement with Omar Khadr were confidential, but an official familiar with the deal said previously that it was for 10.5 million Canadian dollars (\$8 million). A different official confirmed the money had been given to Khadr. Both insisted on speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to discuss the deal publicly.

The government and Khadr's lawyers negotiated the deal last month based on a 2010 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that Canadian officials violated his rights at Guantanamo.

"On behalf of the government of Canada, we wish to apologize to Mr. Khadr for any role Canadian officials may have played in relation to his ordeal abroad and any resulting harm," said a statement from Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale and Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland.

The Canadian-born Khadr was 15 when he was captured by U.S. troops following a firefight at a suspected al-Qaida compound in Afghanistan that resulted in the death of an American special forces medic, U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Christopher Speer. Khadr, who was suspected of throwing the grenade that killed Speer, was taken to Guantanamo and ultimately charged with war crimes by a military commission.



Former Guantanamo Bay prisoner Omar Khadr, 30, is seen at a home in Mississauga, Ont., on Thursday, July 6, 2017. The federal government has paid Khadr \$10.5 million and apologized to him for violating his rights during his long ordeal after capture by American forces in Afghanistan in July 2002. (Colin Perkel/The Canadian Press via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 56 of 78

He pleaded guilty in 2010 to charges that included murder and was sentenced to eight years plus the time he had already spent in custody. He returned to Canada two years later to serve the remainder of his sentence and was released in May 2015 pending an appeal of his guilty plea, which he said was made under duress.

Khadr lawyer Dennis Edney issued a statement lauding Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the settlement and criticizing the administration of his predecessor, Stephen Harper.

"Omar Khadr was abandoned in a hellish place called Guantanamo Bay for 10 years, a place internationally condemned as a torture chamber," Edney said.

News that Khadr would receive millions first leaked earlier this week and sparked anger among many Canadians who consider him a terrorist.

Opposition Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer called the decision "disgusting" and said he would have avoided a settlement. He accused Trudeau of rushing to give Khadr the money so Speer's widow would not have her claim for the money heard in court.

Cameron Ahmad, a spokesman for the prime minister, vehemently denied the timing of the settlement had anything to do with the widow's claim.

Khadr spent 10 years at Guantanamo, and his case received international attention after some dubbed him a child soldier. He was the youngest and last Western detainee held at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada found Canadian intelligence officials obtained evidence from Khadr under "oppressive circumstances," such as sleep deprivation, during interrogations at Guantanamo Bay in 2003, and then shared that evidence with U.S. officials.

Khadr's lawyers filed a 20 million Canadian dollars wrongful imprisonment lawsuit against the Canadian government, arguing it violated international law by not protecting its own citizen and conspired with the U.S. in its abuse of Khadr.

Goodale said Friday the Khadr case has deeply divided Canadians but said the settlement is unrelated to what happened in Afghanistan.

"It's about the acts or the omissions of the Canadian government after Mr. Khadr was captured and detained. Those are facts are not in dispute, and there is no doubt about how the Supreme Court views them. The government of Canada offended, quote, the most basic standards of the treatment of detained youth suspects," Goodale said.

"Reaching a settlement was the only sensible course," he added, saying that not settling would surely have cost taxpayers far more.

The Canadian government informed Trump administration officials of the settlement before it was announced.

The widow of Speer and another American soldier blinded by the grenade in Afghanistan filed a wrongful death and injury lawsuit against Khadr in 2014 fearing Khadr might get his hands on money from his wrongful imprisonment suit. A U.S. judge granted them \$134.2 million in damages in 2015.

Lawyers for the Speer family and the injured soldier, Sgt. Layne Morris, filed an application in Canadian court last month with the hope that any money paid by the Canadian government to Khadr would go to the widow and Morris. Morris and Don Winder, the lawyer for the Speer family and Morris, did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Khadr said in an interview with The Canadian Press that he hopes to fade into the background and become a nurse.

"I have a lot of experience with pain, and I have an appreciation of pain. With my past, I don't know who's going to be comfortable with hiring me," he said.

"I just want to be the next person on the road that you don't look twice at ...," Khadr added.

His lawyers have long said he was pushed into war by his father, Ahmed Said Khadr, whose family stayed with Osama bin Laden briefly when Omar Khadr was a boy. Khadr's Egyptian-born father was killed in 2003 when a Pakistani military helicopter shelled the house where he was staying with senior al-Qaida operatives.

IS claims attack in Egypt's Sinai that killed 23 soldiers

By ASHRAF SWEILAM and MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP) — Islamic militants attacked a remote Egyptian army outpost in the Sinai Peninsula with a suicide car bomb and heavy machine gun fire on Friday, killing at least 23 soldiers in the deadliest attack in the turbulent region in two years.

After nightfall, the Islamic State group issued a claim of responsibility, saying in an online statement that it had carried out the attack as the Egyptian army was preparing an assault on IS positions in Sinai.

The coordinated attack suggested the Sinai-based militants are among the region's most resilient, after IS in Iraq and Syria, where the so-called caliphate is now witnessing its demise. And it underscored the struggles Egyptian forces face in trying to rein in the insurgency.

Egypt has for years battled militants in Sinai, where the jihadis have exploited the vast arid and underdeveloped region and its disgruntled Bedouin population as an ideal incubator for Islamic militancy even before the IS affiliate has emerged at the forefront of the insurgency.

Friday's assault began in the early morning, when a suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint at a military compound in the village of el-Barth, southwest of the border town of Rafah.

Dozens of masked militants then descended on the site in 24 Land Cruiser SUVs and opened fire on the soldiers with machine guns, according to security officials.

The shooting lasted nearly half an hour, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because of regulations. The troops at the compound were estimated to have numbered about 60.

When the attack subsided, the militants apparently looted the checkpoint, snatching weapons and ammunition before fleeing, the officials said. A number of militants were killed in the shootout, indicating the soldiers had fought back, and some of their vehicles were abandoned at the scene.

The suicide blast at the start of the attack likely disabled the checkpoint's military communications system, prompting one of the officers to use his own cellphone to record an audio message and send it to a colleague via WhatsApp, seeking help and asking for prayers. The message was later widely circulated on social media.

"This might be the last seconds in my life," a man's voice calmly says in the recording. "Quickly, oh men, anyone who knows how to reach the command center, notify them to use artillery as we are still alive."

He then praises God and ends by saying "we will either avenge them or die," referring to his fallen col-



This file photo posted on a file sharing website Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, by the Islamic State Group in Sinai, a militant organization, shows a deadly attack by militants on an Egyptian police checkpoint in el-Arish, north Sinai, Egypt. Egyptian officials say at least 10 security troops have been killed when a car bomb struck a military checkpoint followed by heavy gunfire in northeastern Sinai Peninsula. The officials say the Friday, July 7, 2017 attack started when a suicide car bomber rammed his vehicle into the checkpoint in southern Rafah village of el-Barth, followed by heavy shooting by dozens of masked militants on foot. Arabic reads, "Walking around the building at the fire station after searching and taking control." (Islamic State

Group in Sinai, via AP, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 58 of 78

leagues.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the United States strongly condemns the Sinai attack and continues "to stand with Egypt as it confronts terrorism."

The security officials initially put the death toll at 10 but later told The Associated Press that more bodies were pulled from under the rubble of a nearby building that was used as a rest house for troops.

According to the IS statement, a second car bomber was used in the attack to strike an army convoy sent as a reinforcement to the embattled soldiers. The authenticity of the IS claim could not be verified but it was circulated by IS supporters online and by the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites.

Earlier, Egyptian army spokesman Tamer el-Rifai confirmed the attack on his official Facebook page, saying that 26 army personnel were killed or wounded. He didn't provide a breakdown.

He said the army on Friday foiled attacks that targeted a number of other checkpoints in the Rafah area and that 40 militants were killed. Local Sinai residents, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear for their safety, said they saw Apache helicopters carrying out airstrikes across Rafah after the attack. On his page, al-Rifai posted photographs of allegedly slain militants, dressed in military uniforms, typically worn by IS extremists.

The Defense Ministry posted a video on its official website showing aircraft taking off and striking vehicles and positions allegedly belonging to the militants who carried out Friday's attack.

The attacked checkpoint was set up two months ago to cut a key militant supply line between the outskirts of Rafah, where the district is known to have a heavy IS presence, and central Sinai, where militants have found safe havens in the mountains, according to tribal leader Hassan Khalaf of the Swaraka, one of Sinai's largest tribes.

The security officials said some senior officers had expressed opposition to the location of the checkpoint, arguing that it provided no real cover for the troops. The nearest army compound was an hour's drive away, leaving the checkpoint with only the support of local armed tribesmen from the Tarabeen, with their own small checkpoints nearby.

The area was also the site of fierce battles in the spring between the tribesmen and militants.

Despite the insurgency, IS has so far not succeeded in seizing territory in Sinai but maintains a strong presence in the western and southern areas of Rafah, on the outskirts of the town of Sheikh Zuweid, and even inside the residential areas of Sinai's largest city, el-Arish.

Over the past months, IS has focused its attacks on Egypt's Christian minority and carried out at least four deadly attacks that killed dozens, prompting army chief-turned-President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to declare a state of emergency in the country.

The restive northern Sinai has been under a state of emergency since October 2014, after Islamic militants killed more than 30 soldiers in a single attack. There was a significant decline in attacks this year in Sinai, with the one major assault killing eight policemen in el-Arish in January.

On July 1, 2015, IS carried series of attacks, killing over 50 soldiers in Sinai. IS said at the time that it attacked some 15 army and police positions and staged three suicide bombings. However, the army denied the high death toll.

The Sinai attack came as the Islamic State group is fast losing its once vast territory in Syria and Iraq. The group's offshoot in Libya has been uprooted in months-long battles in the central city of Sirte, while its branch in Yemen has failed to seize territories or compete with its al-Qaida rivals.

Faced with the challenge in Sinai, the Egyptian government has accused several Arab and Muslim countries of financing and providing safe haven to Islamic militants — including Qatar, Turkey, and the Hamas group in neighboring Gaza Strip.

Hamas, which is seeking to improve relations with Cairo, quickly condemned Friday's attack.

"We considers it a criminal, terrorist, and cowardly attack that doesn't target Egypt only, but the security and stability of the entire Arab nation," Hamas' spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said.

___Michael reported from Cairo.

US, Russia announce Syria cease-fire after Trump-Putin talks

By JOSH LEDERMAN, VIVIAN SALAMA and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — The United States and Russia struck an agreement Friday on a cease-fire in southwest Syria, crowning President Donald Trump's first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. It is the first U.S.-Russian effort under Trump's presidency to stem Syria's six-year civil war.

The cease-fire goes into effect Sunday at noon Damascus time, according to U.S. officials and the Jordanian government, which is also involved in the deal.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who accompanied Trump in his meeting with Putin, said the understanding is designed to reduce violence in an area of Syria near Jordan's border that is critical to the U.S. ally's security.

It's a "very complicated part of the Syrian battlefield," Tillerson told reporters after the U.S. and Russian leaders met for more than 2 hours on the sidelines of a global summit in Hamburg, Germany.

Of the agreement, he said, "I think this is our first indication of the U.S. and Russia being able to work together in Syria."

For years, the former Cold War foes have been backing opposing sides in Syria's war. Moscow has staunchly backed Syrian President Bashar Assad, supporting Syrian forces militarily since 2015. Washington has backed rebels fighting Assad. Both the U.S. and Russia oppose Islamic State militants and say they're focused on rooting out the extremist group.

The potential pitfalls for the cease-fire are clear — not least the challenge of enforcing it.

Russia Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russian military police would monitor the new truce. But Tillerson said that was still being worked out. A senior U.S. State Department official said the two countries were close to a deal on that issue and hoped to finalize it in the coming days, raising the prospect it could take effect Sunday with no clear sense of who is policing it.

That the deal was announced before all the details were ironed out was a clear indication of how eager the U.S. and Russia were to cast their leaders' first meeting as a success. Officials said the deal had been in the works for weeks or months, but came together in time for the meeting.

The deal marks a new level of involvement for the Trump administration in trying to resolve Syria's civil war.

Trump ordered some 60 cruise missiles to be fired at a Syrian air base in April after accusing Assad's forces of a deadly chemical weapons attack. But his top military and national security advisers pointedly said they had no intentions of intervening to oust Assad. And they stopped short of endorsing Russian-led or U.N. peace mediation efforts between Assad's government and rebel groups.

Israel also is part of the agreement, one U.S. official said, who like others wasn't authorized to speak



U.S. President Donald Trump, right, greets Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, prior his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, during the G20 summit in Hamburg Germany, Friday July 7, 2017. (Mikhail Klimentyev, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 60 of 78

publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity. Like Jordan, Israel shares a border with the southern part of Syria and has been concerned about a spillover of violence as well as an amassing of Iranian-aligned forces in the south of the country.

Jordanian government spokesman Mohammed Momani confirmed the accord in a statement that made no reference to Israel's participation. Syrian government forces and its allies will stay on one side of an agreed demarcation line, and rebel fighters will stick to the other side. The goal is also to enable aid to reach this area of Syria, Momani told state media. U.S. officials said the U.S., Russia and Jordan had only agreed on that demarcation line last week, clearing the way for a cease-fire to be worked out.

The deal is separate from an agreement that Russia, Turkey and Iran struck earlier this year to try to establish "de-escalation zones" in Syria with reduced bloodshed. The U.S., wary of Iran's involvement, stayed away from that effort. Follow-up talks this week in Kazakhstan were unable to produce agreement on finalizing a cease-fire in those zones.

Previous cease-fires in Syria have collapsed or failed to reduce violence for long, and it was unclear whether this deal would be any better.

Tillerson said the difference this time is Russia's interest in seeing Syria return to stability. It's an argument top U.S. officials such as former Secretary of State John Kerry cited regularly amid his failed efforts to end a conflict that has killed as many as a half-million people, contributed to Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II and allowed IS to emerge as a global terror threat.

Tillerson also repeated the U.S. position that a "long-term role for the Assad family and the Assad regime" is untenable and voiced his belief that Russia might be willing to address the future leadership of Syria, in tones reminiscent of Kerry. Up to now, Assad has rejected any proposals that would see him leave power, contributing to an impasse that has prolonged Syria's suffering.

Earlier in the week, Syria's military said it was halting combat operations in the south of Syria for four days, in advance of the new round of Russian-sponsored talks in Kazakhstan. That move covered the southern provinces of Daraa, Quneitra and Sweida. Syria's government briefly extended that unilateral cease-fire, which is now set to expire Saturday — a day before the U.S. and Russian deal was to take effect.

The U.S.-Russian cease-fire has no set end date, one U.S. official said, describing it as part of broader discussions with Moscow on lowering violence in Syria.

The agreement may also reflect Iran's increasingly prominent role in Syria.

Washington has been resistant to letting Iranian forces and their proxy militias gain strength in Syria's south, a position shared by Israel and Jordan. Friday's deal could help the Trump administration retain more of a say over who fills the power vacuum left behind as the Islamic State is routed from additional territory in Syria.

In recent weeks, U.S. forces have shot down a Syrian aircraft that got too close to American forces, as well as Iranian-made drones. A renewed government offensive against Western-backed rebels and Islamic militants in the contested province of Daraa also is sparking tensions, and Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters have shifted south to join the fight.

Israel has also struck Syrian military installations on several occasions in the past few weeks after shells landed in the Israeli-controlled side of the Golan Heights. Ahead of the deal, media reports in Israel have suggested unease at any arrangement that relies on Russia policing areas near its frontier.

Implications for Syria aside, the deal marks the biggest diplomatic achievement for the U.S. and Russia since Trump took office. Trump's administration has approached the notoriously strained relationship by trying to identify a few limited issues on which the countries could make progress, thereby building trust for a broader repair of ties.

Lederman and Salama reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Zeina Karam in Beirut, Lebanon, contributed to this report.

On Twitter, reach Josh Lederman at <https://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>, Vivian Salama at <https://twitter.com/vmsalama> and Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

For Trump and Putin, a warm handshake and a long meeting

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — It began with one of the most closely watched diplomatic handshakes in decades and ended way later than expected.

What transpired between President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin during the two hours and 16 minutes in between will be dissected for days.

The public got only a quick glimpse of the two men toward the top of Friday's much-anticipated meeting, leaving the opening handshake ripe for analysis.

It was friendly and simple — no undue handshake drama.

That's not always a given with Trump. He had raised eyebrows when he didn't shake hands with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during an Oval Office photo opportunity earlier this year. And his clenched, jaw-straining clasp with French President Emmanuel Macron was seen as a test of masculinity and presidential power.

Putin and Trump were seated before the cameras were invited in on Friday.

The Russian leader sat back in his chair, a look of steely resolve on his face. Trump seemed relaxed, his hands in a triangle below his knees, his mouth offering a hint of a smile.

As the clicking of photographers' shutters filled the room, the two men leaned in, shared a small laugh and eyed the press, whom both have at times deemed their enemy.

The tableau in the Hamburg meeting room: Trump, Putin, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and a pair of translators.

Trump spoke first, saying that he and Putin were having "very good talks."

"We look forward to a lot of very positive things happening for Russia, for the United States and for everybody concerned," Trump said, turning toward Putin. "And it's an honor to be with you."

Putin, using a translator, agreed, saying that "a phone conversation is never enough."

"I am delighted to be able to meet you personally, Mr. President," Putin said.

With that, the press was soon ushered out — shouted questions about Russian interference in last year's election unanswered.

Tillerson said Trump went straight to the matter of Russian interference in the election; Putin, in turn, denied involvement.

According to Lavrov, Trump accepted that denial. But U.S. officials differed with that account.

The two men "had a very robust and lengthy exchange on the subject," Tillerson said. "The president pressed President Putin on more than one occasion regarding Russian involvement."

Tillerson also said there was a difference of opinion over tactics to be used to halt the threat posed by North Korea.

But largely, according to the secretary of state, the men "connected quickly."

"Just about everything got touched on to one degree or another," Tillerson said, adding that, "Neither



President Donald Trump shakes hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit, Friday, July 7, 2017, in Hamburg. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

one of them wanted to stop.”

As time dragged on, officials at one point dispatched first lady Melania Trump to enter the room and try to help wrap things up.

“We went another hour after she came to see us. So clearly she failed,” Tillerson joked at later briefing.

Lemire reported from New York.

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

Smiles and thumbs up from woman charged with killing family

By KATE BRUMBACK and KATHLEEN FOODY, Associated Press

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — A woman charged with killing four of her young children and her husband smiled and flashed a double thumbs up to news cameras during her first court appearance Friday in metro Atlanta before telling a judge she doesn't want an attorney.

Also, an immigration official said the woman, who is from Mexico, entered the U.S. illegally.

Isabel Martinez, 33, appeared before Gwinnett County Magistrate Court Judge Michael Thorpe a day after police said she stabbed the five to death and seriously injured another child at her home. The surviving 9-year-old girl remained hospitalized with serious injuries.

Before the hearing began, Martinez sat with other inmates and posed for cameras — smiling, giving the thumbs up, putting her hands in a prayer position and spreading her arms out wide.

As Thorpe listed the charges — five counts of malice murder, five counts of murder and six counts of aggravated assault — Martinez smiled, shook her head “no” and wagged her finger at him.

“Ma’am, I’m going to caution you to cut out the display for the cameras,” he said. “It’s really not a good idea, probably not to your benefit.”

When Thorpe said she had a right to an attorney, she replied through a Spanish-language interpreter that she doesn't want one. She later added that her attorney will always be the people “that we’re fighting for” and her faith.

“You are the hope of the world, each one of you,” she said in Spanish, appearing to address the news cameras. “It doesn't matter what color you are because God loves us all.”

Thorpe advised Martinez to hire a lawyer or allow one to be appointed.

Meanwhile, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox said in an email Friday that Martinez — whom he identified as Maria Isabel Garduno-Martinez — is from Mexico and entered the U.S. illegally. This is her first encounter with immigration authorities, and it's not clear how long she has



Isabel Martinez gestures towards news cameras during her first court appearance Friday, July 7, 2017, in Lawrenceville, Ga. Martinez is charged with killing four of her children and their father. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 63 of 78

been in the U.S., Cox said.

Local officials called the killings "horrendous."

"What prompts a person to take the life of such innocent children and her spouse is something we may never understand," Gwinnett County police said in a statement.

Psychologists and others who study cases of mothers killing their children say it's not as uncommon as people might believe. But media coverage often focuses on dramatic cases, such as Andrea Yates, who was found not guilty by reason of insanity for the 2001 drowning deaths of her five children in her suburban Houston home.

Other cases get less attention, as when a woman kills a newborn or in children's deaths blamed on neglect, said Cheryl Meyer, a psychology professor at Wright State University in Ohio and co-author of two books on mothers who have killed children based on about 1,000 cases during the 1990s.

In cases when mothers kill intentionally, Meyer said there is often another influence, such as mental health issues or the loss of a close loved one.

"We like to classify these women as pariahs, that they aren't at all like us," Meyer said. "I found that was not the case."

Some neighbors in the small, largely Hispanic neighborhood in Loganville, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) east of Atlanta, said the Spanish-speaking family had moved to the community recently. The children seemed happy playing with other neighborhood kids, they said.

Victoria Nievs said Martinez had recently suffered the death of her father.

Police believe the 911 call reporting the stabbings was made by Martinez. Gwinnett County Police Cpl. Michele Pihera said the caller was speaking Spanish, which initially made it difficult for 911 operators to communicate with her.

The four children killed were identified as Isabela Martinez, 10; Dacota Romero, 7; Dillan Romero, 4; and Axel Romero, 2. Their slain father was Martin Romero, 33, Pihera said.

Foody reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Jonathan Landrum Jr. and Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Germany hosts 'difficult' G-20 talks on trade, climate

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Talks on global trade at the Group of 20 summit proved very difficult and differences on climate change also were clear, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Friday, as police and protesters clashed throughout the day in the summit's host city of Hamburg.

Merkel told leaders of the G-20 economic powers that they must be prepared to make compromises as she worked toward a summit outcome that everyone present could accept.

That is a challenging task at a time when President Donald Trump's "America First" rhetoric and decision last month to withdraw from the Paris accord against climate change have caused widespread concern.

Negotiators "still have a great deal of work ahead of them" to formulate a passage on trade in the summit's closing communique, Merkel said after the first day of meetings.

She added that most participants called for "free but also fair trade" and underlined the significance of the World Trade Organization, though she didn't specify which ones did not support the trade language.

"The discussions are very difficult, I don't want to talk around that," Merkel said.

The German leader said most summit participants backed the Paris climate accord. Speaking separately, French President Emmanuel Macron spoke of "the common engagement which we must take, we must defend, at a moment when it is called in question by certain people."

"It will be very interesting to see how we formulate the communique tomorrow and make clear that, of course, there are different opinions in this area because the United States of America regrettably ... wants to withdraw from the Paris accord," Merkel said.

Germany has been keen to preserve the G-20's tradition of making decisions by consensus. Merkel has

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 64 of 78

rejected calls from some to push for a strong "G-19" statement — without the U.S. — on climate change.

Opening discussions earlier in the day, Merkel told fellow leaders that there are "millions of people following us with their concerns, their fears and their needs, who hope that we can make a contribution to solving the problems."

"We all know the big global challenges, and we know that time is pressing," she said. "So solutions can only be found if we are prepared to compromise ... without, and I say this clearly, bending ourselves too much out of shape. We can of course also name differences."

The leaders did make a joint statement on fighting terrorism, an issue on which there are few differences. They called for ensuring that there are "no 'safe spaces' for terrorist financing anywhere in the world" and pledged to work with internet providers and app administrators to combat the web's use for terror propaganda and financing.

Merkel noted that the countries at the summit represent two-thirds of the world's population, four-fifths of the globe's gross domestic product and three-quarters of world trade.

The G-20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, France, Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

Also attending are the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Guinea, Senegal, Singapore and Vietnam.

Merkel said the threat posed by North Korea's missile tests was brought up at Friday's meetings by the leaders of South Korea and other countries in the region, and all hoped that "the U.N. Security Council will find an appropriate answer" to Pyongyang's violation of U.N. resolutions.

The summit was also a forum for a flurry of bilateral meetings, including Trump's first encounter with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Outside the security cordon around the downtown congress center, anti-globalization activists set dozens of cars ablaze and tried unsuccessfully to block national delegations from entering the summit.

The city already had boosted its police with reinforcements from around the country and had 20,000 officers on hand to patrol Hamburg's streets, skies and waterways. Another 900 were called in to cope with the clashes.

Merkel thanked them for their work.

"I have every understanding for peaceful demonstrations," she said. "But violent demonstrations endanger human lives, they endanger people themselves, they put police officers and security forces in danger, put residents in danger, and so that is unacceptable."



From left: US President Donald Trump, China's President Xi Jinping, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Argentina's President Mauricio Macri and Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull turn around for photographers at the start of the first working session of the G20 meeting in Hamburg, northern Germany, on Friday, July 7, 2017. (John

MacDougall/Pool Photo via AP)

The Latest: G-20 leaders, spouses dine on local delicacies

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — The latest on the Group of 20 summit in Germany (all times local):

10:40 p.m.

Leaders at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, have been served local delicacies at a festive dinner at the northern port city's philharmonic following a concert with music by Beethoven.

The German government said in a statement late Friday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.S. President Donald Trump and other leaders and their spouses dined on turbot fillet from the North Sea with spinach followed by fillet and cheeks from Friesian beef.

For dessert, the guests could choose cheese or raspberries.



Leaders and their partners attend the G-20 summit dinner after a concert in the Elbphilharmonie concert hall in Hamburg, Germany, Friday, July 7, 2017. (Alex Schmidt/Pool Photo via AP)

9:55 p.m.

Hamburg police say 196 officers have been injured during two days of clashes with anti-globalization activists who are protesting the Group of 20 summit in the German port city.

City officials did not provide a comparable figure for injured protesters. Hamburg's fire department said Friday that ambulances had transported 60 civilians to the city's hospitals, including 11 people who were severely injured when they fell off a wall after fleeing from riot police.

While most of the thousands of demonstrators convening for the G-20 were peaceful, some lit fires Friday night on streets in the city's Schanzenviertel neighborhood.

In the nearby St. Pauli district, thousands of people danced in the streets to techno and live hip-hop music as the international leaders of the G-20 nations listened to a classical concert at the city's philharmonic under heavy police protection.

8:00 p.m.

As international Group of 20 leaders assemble at a landmark philharmonic for dinner and to listen to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a massive police presence is keeping protesters outside the Hamburg concert hall at bay.

Six helicopters are hovering in the sky, three large police patrol boats and several smaller ones are guarding the waters around the philharmonic located on a peninsula in the harbor.

Around 200 police officers stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the bridge leading to the concert house, where American conductor Kent Nagano was to lead an orchestra in Beethoven's Nine, the European Union's anthem.

The leaders and their spouses were getting together for a festive dinner afterward.

Police and anti-globalization activists have been clashing in Hamburg for a second day in violent skirmishes across the city.

7:50 p.m.

Leaders of the Group of 20 economic powers and their spouses have gathered at Hamburg's spectacular

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 66 of 78

new Elbphilharmonie concert hall. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump are sitting next to French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife, Brigitte.

The world leaders applauded the summit host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, as she took her place in the row behind the Trumps. The leaders are hearing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conducted by American Kent Nagano.

Merkel and her husband, Joachim Sauer, are classical music fans. Sauer, who rarely accompanies the chancellor on official business, was on hand for the G-20 and to host the concert alongside Merkel.

7:10 p.m.

The Group of 20 leaders and their partners will spend their evening at a spectacular new landmark that dominates Hamburg's harbor — the Elbphilharmonie concert hall, with its wave-shaped roof and shiny glass facades.

The leaders are to hear Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, conducted by American Kent Nagano.

Built on top of a former cocoa and coffee warehouse jutting out into the harbor of Germany's second-biggest city, the Elbphilharmonie boasts a main concert hall that can seat 2,100 people, none more than 30 meters (100 feet) from the conductor.

It has been praised for its impressive acoustics.

The Elbphilharmonie opened only six months ago. Construction started in 2007 and was originally supposed to be finished in 2010. The cost to taxpayers climbed from an initially planned 77 million euros to 789 million euros (\$897 million).

6:30 p.m.

Leaders of the Group of 20 countries have agreed to push internet service providers to implement new technology and training to detect and remove extremist content from the web.

They also agreed at their meeting in Hamburg, Germany to work together and consult on new terrorist threats to air travel.

The promises were contained in a statement on countering terrorism issued by the host German government. A proposed U.S. ban on laptops on flights from Europe to the United States led to tension with European officials earlier this year. The ban was not implemented.

The leaders said they would push for "lawful and non-arbitrary" access to suspect data when national security is threatened and added that they affirmed that "rule of law applies online as well as it does offline."

6:20 p.m.

Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni is warning that new protectionist trade measures could bring "contagion" that would slow the growth of the world economy.

Gentiloni told reporters at the Group of 20 summit on Friday that "we cannot waste this moment of recovery, giving signals of protectionism or of incorrect trade behavior."

He said that the "risk is of a contagion effect" that could "compromise a situation that is positive in Latin America, is positive in Europe and is positive in the United States."

He said that resorting to trade barriers could slow the current growth rate of 3.5 percent a year. Gentiloni said that protecting the middle class and domestic interests was "sacred" but had to be reconciled with maintaining global trade.

6:00 p.m.

Hamburg police say violent anti-globalization activists protesting the Group of 20 summit have forced their way into a closed train station bending open the iron gates.

Police tweeted that they had stationed one water cannon outside the Landungsbruecke station. Police also tweeted that they detained 22 Greenpeace activists who tried to swim through the Elbe river into the no-go zone where the Group of 20 summit is taking place.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 67 of 78

Violence between protesters and police officers seemed to escalate again on Friday afternoon with riot police chasing demonstrators up stairs, walls and grassy slopes and water cannons being deployed across the city. Police criticized protesters for throwing cobble stones and iron rods and directly targeting their officers.

5:50 p.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says most Group of 20 nations at the Hamburg summit have backed the Paris accord against climate change.

Merkel said Friday that "it will be very interesting to see how we formulate the communique tomorrow and make clear that, of course, there are different opinions in this area because the United States of America regrettably ... wants to withdraw from the Paris accord."

Trump announced last month that the U.S. would pull out of the Paris accord, putting it at odds with most other governments.

The G-20 summit ends on Saturday.

5:45 p.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is saying that violent protests are unacceptable as police and demonstrators skirmish in Hamburg.

Merkel on Friday thanked security forces for their work as the Group of 20 met behind a heavy police presence in the city.

She said: "I have every understanding for peaceful demonstrations, but violent demonstrations endanger human lives, they endanger people themselves, they put police officers and security forces in danger, put residents in danger, and so that is unacceptable."

5:35 p.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says discussions on trade at the Group of 20 summit are proving very difficult.

Merkel said that negotiators "still have a great deal of work ahead of them" to agree on how to formulate a passage on trade in the summit's closing communique.

She said that most participants called for "free but also fair trade" and underlined the significance of the World Trade Organization. She didn't specify who didn't, but concern about President Donald Trump's "America First" approach to trade and other issues has been running high.

Merkel said Friday that "the discussions are very difficult, I don't want to talk around that."

4:55 p.m.

Hamburg's fire department says 11 protesters were injured severely and had to be taken to the hospital after some of them fell from a wall during confrontations with the police.

The fire department wrote in a statement some of the protesters fell four meters (13 feet) and were badly injured. A dozen ambulances and 65 firefighters were called to the scene. As they arrived, more and more injured activists showed up for treatment.

The fire department says it treated 26 people and took 14 of them to the hospital. Eleven of those were severely injured. It was not immediately clear why they were trying to climb up the wall.

Protesters and police have been clashing in the city since Thursday. Thousands of activists have come together to protest the Group of 20 summit there.

4:45 p.m.

French President Emmanuel Macron is stressing the need for commitments to fight global warming as the Group of 20 holds its first summit since President Donald Trump announced he plans to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 68 of 78

Macron said on the sidelines of the G-20 summit Friday that he and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau would discuss "the common engagement which we must take, we must defend, at a moment when it is called in question by certain people."

Trudeau says he and Macron would discuss "our firm commitment to Paris" and "collective leadership" to counter climate change.

4:15 p.m.

Germany's justice minister has condemned violent clashes at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg that have injured 160 police officers and led to the detention of more than 40 protesters.

Justice Minister Heiko Maas told the daily Bild on Friday that the violent protests were a disservice to the big crowd of overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrators.

Maas said, "Every peaceful protest is welcome. But that is no free pass for unrestrained rampage."

The minister added that, "these extremist criminals don't belong in the streets, but into court. Whoever torches cars and injures police officers does not deserve any kind of tolerance."

Anti-globalization protesters have set cars ablaze and tried to block entry to the summit grounds. It is not clear how many activists have been injured in the clashes.

4:00 p.m.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin is calling for a careful and pragmatic approach in tackling tensions over North Korea.

Speaking Friday at the start of his meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, Putin emphasized the need for a level-headed approach.

He noted that while the problem linked with Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs is "very acute," it's "important not to lose self-control and act in a pragmatic, very accurate way."

The South Korean president emphasized that "the North Korean missile provocation has become a threat to the entire region."

Moon added that he was pinning great hopes on Putin to persuade Pyongyang to enter a dialogue.

3:35 p.m.

President Donald Trump was on the far left at the Group of 20 summit — in the leaders' group photo, that is.

Trump's position as an outlier was merely a matter of protocol. Pride of place goes to the so-called G20 troika, consisting of current host German Chancellor Angela Merkel flanked by the host of the next meeting, Argentina's Mauricio Macri, and the host of the last one, China's Xi Jinping.

Trump wound up out on the wing between Indonesian President Joko Widodo and French President Emmanuel Macron, who has even less seniority than Trump does after being elected in May.

1:35 p.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has told Group of 20 leaders that millions of people are hoping that they can help solve the world's problems.

Merkel said Friday she's sure that every leader will make an effort to achieve "good results."

But she added that "solutions can only be found if we are ready to compromise." All the same, Merkel said that leaders also should name their differences. Merkel was speaking at the start of a working lunch at which leaders will discuss global growth and trade.

1:10 p.m.

The pope is urging leaders of the Group of 20 nations to make the poor and refugees a priority of their summit.

Pope Francis said that "in the hearts and minds of leaders and in every phase of taking political measures, it is necessary to give absolute priority to the poor, refugees, those suffering, the displaced, those

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 69 of 78

excluded, without national, racial, religious or cultural distinction."

The pope also urged leaders to reject armed conflict, urging an end to "useless massacres." The goal of the G-20, the pope noted, "is to peacefully resolve economic differences."

Francis said that the leaders should "move to deep reflection" on the fact that the summit brings together 20 nations that represent 90 percent of the production of goods and services in the world, while those who suffer the most are less represented on the world stage.

11:35 a.m.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow will urge other nations in the Group of 20 to pool efforts more closely in the fight against terrorism.

Putin said Russia will issue a call to "jointly neutralize political, economic, social and ideological conditions allowing the expansion of terrorism." He added that "no nation can deal with this evil on its own and offer a reliable protection to its citizens."

Putin spoke after a meeting with the leaders of China, India, Brazil and South Africa.

The leaders of the so-called BRICS countries met just before the opening of the G-20 summit.

The Kremlin has said that Putin would also raise the need for closer anti-terror cooperation at his long-expected first meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump.

11:05 a.m.

Leaders of China, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa have met on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Germany, calling for a more open global economy.

In a communique following their meeting in Hamburg early Friday, the BRICS leaders voiced support for a "rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system."

They emphasized the need for increasing "the voice and representation" of the emerging markets and developing countries in global economic and financial institutions.

Speaking at the meeting, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke against global trade restrictions, saying that financial sanctions under political pretexts hurt mutual confidence and damaged the global economy — an apparent reference to Western sanctions against Russia.

The BRICS leaders also urged the international community to jointly work to implement the Paris climate agreement.

10:40 a.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is welcoming President Donald Trump and other leaders of the Group of 20 global economic powers to a two-day summit in Hamburg.

The meeting at the city's trade fair center opens Friday with a discussion on fighting terrorism — one of the least contentious subjects on an agenda that also includes global trade and climate.

The G-20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, France, Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United States and the European Union. Saudi Arabia's King Salman isn't attending, and his country is represented by Ibrahim al-Assaf, the minister of state.

Also attending the summit are the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Guinea, Senegal, Singapore and Vietnam.

9:45 a.m.

Hamburg police say they have used a water cannon to clear a blockade by protesters ahead of the opening of the Group of 20 summit.

Police said the incident happened on the banks of the Outer Alster lake, some distance from the trade fair grounds where the summit is being held, on Friday morning. They said they had repeatedly told a group of protesters to clear the road.

Officers repeatedly used water cannons, as well as pepper spray and batons, on Thursday evening amid clashes with violent protesters.

9 a.m.

The Group of 20 summit is getting underway in Hamburg, with terrorism, global trade and climate change among the issues on the agenda as leaders gather under tight security.

The host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, says she hopes to find “compromises and answers” on a range of issues at the two-day meeting of leading economic powers opening Friday. While there’s little disagreement on fighting terrorism, prospects of finding common ground on climate change and trade look uncertain.

The meeting opens after skirmishes Thursday evening between police and violent protesters elsewhere in the port city, Germany’s second-biggest. Police said that at least 76 officers were hurt, one of whom had to be taken to a hospital with an eye injury after a firework exploded in front of him.

IS attack underscores fragility of Iraqi security forces

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Despite clinging to only a sliver of territory in Mosul, Islamic State militants managed to launch a counterattack Friday that reversed days of Iraqi army territorial gains in just a matter of hours — a setback that underscores the fragility of the Iraqi security forces despite years of U.S.-led coalition training as well as the instability likely to follow the city’s liberation.

The offensive began just after noon, when 50 to 100 IS fighters began firing on units of the Iraqi army’s 16th Division charged with holding the northwest frontline in the Mosul’s Old City neighborhood. The attack broke through the army’s first line of defense and the rest of its lines soon crumbled.

The surprise attack illustrated the resilience of the extremists who, though controlling less than a square kilometer (half-mile) of territory, have maintained the ability to conduct both conventional military counterattacks and insurgent strikes.

Hassan, a 45-year-old soldier with the 16th Division, described the close-fought battle inside the rubble-strewn alleyways of the Old City.

“Daesh started to attack us from everywhere. We were so close to them that we even fought with hand grenades,” he said referring to IS by its Arabic acronym.

“We have lots of martyrs and wounded soldiers, but we can’t evacuate them. It was epic,” Hassan said, giving only his first name in line with military regulations.

The initial wave of Iraqi army casualties began arriving within an hour at a field hospital a few hundred meters (yards) from the front, carried on stretchers by medics on foot through the Old City’s perilous terrain.

The neighborhood’s narrow roads, once passable on motorcycles, are now covered with rubble and downed power-lines, and the footpaths that lead in and out of the Old City wind through houses, across rooftops, beside airstrike craters and down into basements.



Iraqi Special Forces soldiers walk to the frontline as Iraqi forces continue their advance against Islamic State militants in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, Wednesday, July 5, 2017. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 71 of 78

At least five soldiers were killed and 25 wounded, said a doctor at the field hospital. The Iraqi military was forced to pull back about 75 meters (80 yards), behind a row of buildings along one of the Old City's few main roads, said an Iraqi officer overseeing the Mosul operation who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Similar IS counterattacks over the past month point to the difficult road ahead.

In late June, some 200 IS soldiers dressed in fatigues that resembled the Iraqi military's Shiite militia allies launched an offensive on two neighborhoods along Mosul's western edge. Iraqi army units crumbled and Iraq's special forces had to be dispatched to the area along with coalition surveillance and air support. The reallocation of resources stalled the Old City push, then in its early days.

In mid-June more than 100 IS fighters launched a large-scale counterattack from the Old City's southern front on Federal Police units stationed there, killing 11, seizing armored vehicles and weapons.

Meanwhile, south of Mosul, IS has successfully retaken a pocket of territory declared liberated months ago.

"The attack started two days ago. Daesh took Imam Gharbi village," said Salah Hassan Hamid, the mayor of Qaryara, a nearby town. He said policemen and tribesmen allied with the Iraqi military were sent in, but clashes were still ongoing and only half the village had been brought back under government control.

Two Iraqi journalists were killed and IS took a number of local residents hostage, the mayor added.

Following that attack, the U.N.'s migration agency suspended operations at two nearby camps — the Qayara air strip emergency site and the Haj Ali camp — where nearly 80,000 displaced Iraqis live. The fighting prevented six water-tanker trucks from entering the Haj Ali camp, where temperatures reached 122 degrees in recent days, agency spokesman Joel Millman said.

Despite the setbacks, coalition spokesman U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon said the counterattacks were costing IS large numbers of fighters and not having an impact on the overall operation to defeat the militant group.

Once Mosul is liberated, Dillon said, Iraqi security forces "can completely focus on not just a conventional fight but also on security and holding that ground."

However, Patrick Martin of the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based research group, said the IS offensives show the security forces allocated to Mosul once Iraq's special forces and police leave are inadequate.

"Regardless of how you defeat ISIS (in Mosul), the city is going to face a threat of ISIS resurgence," he said, using an alternative acronym for the Islamic State group.

"Two undersized Iraqi army units, police and tribal fighters. . It's just not enough to stave off a concerted IS attempt to re-infiltrate," he said.

Associated Press writers Salar Salim in Mosul and Balint Szlanko in Irbil, Iraq, contributed to this report.

Expectations low, NYC commuters brace for a 'summer of hell'

By DAVID PORTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A massive two-month repair project will launch Monday at the country's busiest train station, temporarily exacerbating the daily commuting struggle during what New York's governor has predicted will be a "summer of hell."

But it's only a stopgap measure against a root problem it won't solve: that one of the world's great cities increasingly seems unable to effectively transport its workforce.

At Penn Station, crowds of commuters fuming at frequent afternoon delays already wedge into narrow stairways down to the tracks, all for the privilege of standing in the aisles of packed trains for a 45-minute ride home. In the mornings, it can take 10 minutes just to climb a flight of stairs to the concourse.

The summer's accelerated repair work, prompted by two derailments this spring, will close some of the station's 21 tracks and require a roughly 20 percent reduction in the number of commuter trains coming in from New Jersey and Long Island. Amtrak also is reducing the number of trains it runs between New York and Washington and diverting some trains from Albany across town to Grand Central Terminal.

"We're all dreading it," said Maura McGloin, who commutes daily from Woodbridge, New Jersey, about

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 72 of 78

25 miles away. "I'd rather have my teeth pulled out."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said in May that "it will be a summer of hell for commuters." Around the same time, he wrote a letter to President Donald Trump asking for federal help and appealing to Trump's New York roots.

Penn Station is just one symptom of a larger illness. With an aging subway system subject to a recent state-of-emergency order by Cuomo, and a 67-year-old bus terminal called "appalling" and "functionally obsolete" by officials of the agency that runs it, the New York area's transportation systems embody America's inability, or unwillingness, to address its aging infrastructure.

While Trump has talked of a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment plan, it's short on details. Meanwhile, the Republican's budget proposes a change that could jeopardize federal funding

for a project to build a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River between New York and New Jersey, seen as critical to the region's economic vitality.

Penn Station is a destination in itself, but it is also a hub for transfers, greeting about 600,000 passengers a day with low ceilings and dim lighting in what is essentially the basement of Madison Square Garden.

Commuter rail lines snake in from New Jersey to the west and Long Island to the east. Busy subway lines run through it, and it's the city's only Amtrak stop. Delays are common, and commuters often tweet photos with captions that can't be repeated here.

Amtrak owns and operates the station, as well as surrounding tracks and equipment. New Jersey Transit and Long Island Rail Road have used Twitter to pin blame for delays on the government-owned railroad.

This spring, two minor derailments at the station caused major headaches.

One, caused by aging ties that allowed a track to split apart, closed eight tracks and disrupted service between Boston and Washington for four days. During a separate hourslong delay caused by a disabled train, police shocked an unruly person with a stun gun, leading to a stampede over fears of a shooting.

On Thursday night, there was another minor derailment at the station. No injuries were reported.

Rail commuters will suffer this summer's overcrowding and reduced service with the knowledge that the repairs won't add train capacity or eliminate problems like overhead wire failures in the tunnel that cause regular delays.

That won't happen until the completion of a \$12.9 billion project to build a new Hudson River tunnel and overhaul the 107-year-old tunnel, damaged by 2012's Superstorm Sandy.

Amtrak officials have said its two tubes will need to be closed for repairs within the next 15 years, possibly sooner. Without a new tunnel, rail service would be reduced by an estimated 75 percent, from 24 trains to six during peak periods.

"New York City is basically this invention for creating human prosperity, and what makes it work is the access for the millions of people who live around the city," said Tom Wright, president of the Regional Plan Association, an urban planning think tank.



In this Friday, June 30, 2017 photo, commuters walk by a board with train information for the Long Island Rail Road at New York's Penn Station. A massive two-month repair project will launch Monday, July 10 at the country's busiest train station, temporarily exacerbating the daily commuting struggle during what New York's governor has predicted will be a "summer of hell." (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 73 of 78

"Without these tunnels, without Penn Station bringing in hundreds of thousands of people from the east and west, New York can't continue to grow jobs," he said. "Without that connectivity, I really think we would see a national recession."

A 2014 report by the Federal Railroad Administration estimated that the loss of the Northeast Corridor, Amtrak's busiest line, for one day could cost nearly \$100 million in impacts and productivity losses.

The tunnel project won an accelerated environmental permitting process under former President Barack Obama, and a preliminary report was released Thursday. Early construction wouldn't begin until late 2018, officials said, and that probably will depend on the federal government putting up half the money, as agreed to under Obama. But Trump's budget proposal recommends a change to a federal grant program that could jeopardize that funding.

The years of neglect are evident throughout the Northeast Corridor, connecting Washington, D.C., and Boston.

Amtrak says it has an \$11.6 billion backlog for basic infrastructure projects — tracks, signals, electrical systems and more. That's on top of an estimated \$26.5 billion in backlogged projects considered essential, a list that includes a new \$4.5 billion tunnel in Baltimore to replace one that dates to the 1870s.

On the bright side, some other large-scale projects are pushing ahead.

A new, \$4 billion Tappan Zee Bridge, a major Hudson River crossing north of the city, will open this year. And last fall, Cuomo announced plans for a long-delayed project to transform a historic post office near Penn Station into a new train hall by 2020 that should ease crowding. The plans also call for widened corridors and raised ceilings in Penn Station.

While not a final solution, this summer's Penn Station work should give commuters a measure of reliability.

"What commuters have every right to expect and should expect is that as we go through the next period of months, that we gradually take away some of the problems that have been causing delays in the station over the past number of years," Amtrak CEO Wick Moorman said this week.

Marybeth Tregarthen, 52, has commuted from Bay Shore, on Long Island, for about four years, and has found her own antidote to being stuck regularly at Penn Station.

"Sometimes I just jump on any train heading out of the city, even if it's not my branch," she said, "just to escape from New York."

Associated Press writer Frank Eltman in Mineola, New York, contributed to this report.

Solid June jobs report gets tech and consumer stocks jumping

By **MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks climbed Friday after the government said hiring grew at a stronger pace in June. Technology and consumer-focused companies led the way as investors were glad to see a positive sign for the economy.

The Labor Department said American employers added 222,000 jobs last month. That was more than analysts had expected, and it came just a day after a survey that showed weaker job creation by private companies. Stocks regained much of the ground they lost Thursday. Technology companies jumped and retailers like Amazon and McDonald's traded higher. Bond yields climbed and the dollar got stronger. Gold fell.

"The data itself shows a pretty strong labor market," said Sean Lynch, co-head of global equity strategy for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute. He said it "probably lays to rest some of the worries (that) we were taking a step back from an economic standpoint."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index picked up 15.43 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,425.18. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 94.30 points, or 0.4 percent, to 21,414.34. It fell 158 points a day earlier. The Nasdaq composite rose 63.61 points, or 1 percent, to 6,153.08. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 15.02 points, or 1.1 percent, to 1,415.84.

The government said more people looked for work in June, which pushed the unemployment rate slightly

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 74 of 78

higher. The government also raised its estimates of job gains in April and May. However average wage growth remained modest. Still, companies that would benefit from better economic growth, like banks and industrial companies, made strong gains.

Facebook added \$2.62, or 1.8 percent, to \$151.44 and Microsoft rose 89 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$69.46 as technology companies made the biggest gains Friday. They have done better than any other industrial group within the S&P 500 this year.

Despite Friday's gains, technology stocks have had a bad month. The Nasdaq composite closed at an all-time high June 8 and the S&P 500 technology index closed at a 17-year-high. Since then the tech index has dropped 4 percent, its worst one-month stretch since Britain voted to leave the European Union last June. Apple and Alphabet, Google's parent company, have both fallen almost 8 percent in that time, while chipmaker Nvidia is down 10 percent and smaller chip and chip equipment companies have taken even sharper losses.

"If the markets are to go higher, it's got to come from somewhere other than technology," said Lynch. McDonald's rose \$3.18, or 2.1 percent, to \$156.27. Amazon picked up \$13.62, or 1.4 percent, to \$978.76 and Netflix advanced \$3.93, or 2.7 percent, to \$150.18. Homebuilder D.R. Horton added \$1.30, or 3.8 percent, to \$35.79.

Stocks dropped Thursday after ADP, a payroll processor, released a survey that showed sluggish hiring by private businesses. Investors have been worried that rising interest rates in the U.S., and possibly in Europe, will affect economic growth, while the end of stimulus measures by the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank could affect stocks, as they have helped support stock markets since the financial crisis in 2008-09.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil lost \$1.29, or 2.8 percent, to \$44.23 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell \$1.40, or 2.9 percent, to \$46.71 per barrel in London. Analysts said investors are focused on the strong increase in U.S. production in Thursday's energy supply report. Hess fell \$1.04, or 2.4 percent, to \$41.79 and Devon Energy gave up 64 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$29.54.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.39 percent from 2.37 percent. Big-dividend stocks like phone companies, household goods makers and utilities mostly lagged the market as investors who sought yield were lured elsewhere.

Advisory Board jumped after Bloomberg said health insurer UnitedHealth Group and private equity firm Vista Equity plan to buy the consulting company and break it up. Advisory Board shares climbed \$2.90, or 5.4 percent, to \$57.10. Investors currently value the company at about \$2.3 billion. UnitedHealth gained \$1.02 to \$187.96.



In this Friday, Feb. 17, 2017, file photo, an American flag hangs on the front of the New York Stock Exchange, after the markets closed. U.S. stocks are bouncing back early Friday, July 7, 2017, after the government said hiring grew at a stronger pace in June. Technology companies are making some of the biggest gains while energy companies decline with oil prices. A day earlier stocks took their biggest loss since mid-May following a disappointing measurement of hiring by private companies. (AP Photo/Peter Morgan, File)

Mobile services company Synchronoss Technologies climbed after it said it will review its options, which could include a sale of the company. Siris Capital Group offered to buy the company in late June for \$18 a share. The stock climbed 64 cents, or 4 percent, to \$16.50.

The dollar rose to 113.99 yen from 113.26 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1404 from \$1.1423.

Meanwhile gold sank \$13.60, or 1.1 percent, to a four-month low of \$1,209.70 an ounce. Silver dropped 56 cents, or 3.5 percent, to \$15.43 an ounce. Copper lost 1 cent to \$2.65 a pound.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline fell 3 cents to \$1.50 a gallon. Heating oil shed 3 cents to \$1.45 a gallon. Natural gas dipped 2 cents to \$2.86 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The French CAC 40 lost 0.1 percent. Germany's DAX added 0.1 percent and the FTSE 100 of Britain gained 0.2 percent. Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 0.3 percent and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 0.5 percent.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

Pitch clock, limits on mound visits looming for MLB in 2018

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Count CC Sabathia as a fan who wants to speed up baseball games. When the six-time All-Star tunes in at home, he quickly changes the channel.

"It's slow. It's boring," the New York Yankees pitcher said. "Man, it's so hard to watch if you have no interest in it."

The average time of a nine-inning game this season is a record 3 hours, 5 minutes — up from an even 3 hours last year and 2:56 in 2015. Management proposed three changes last offseason the union didn't accept, and MLB has the right to start them next year without player approval: restricting catchers to one trip to the mound per pitcher each inning, employing a 20-second pitch clock and raising the bottom of the strike zone from just beneath the kneecap to its pre-1996 level — at the top of the kneecap.

Union head Tony Clark has said information was being gathered from players and he expects to discuss the proposals with management this summer.

"I don't like the fact of somebody else telling me when I can go out and when I can't go out, but I understand the point," said Washington catcher Matt Wieters, a four-time All-Star. "There actually is an advantage to catchers and pitchers who can get on the same page without having to take the mound visit. So I like that side of it, of both people will have to put their homework in as opposed to one kind of walking the other one through the game."



In this April 16, 2017, file photo, New York Yankees' CC Sabathia watches the action against the St. Louis Cardinals during a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York. With Major League Baseball threatening to impose a pitch clock and limits on trips to the mound, count CC Sabathia as a fan who wants to speed up games. (AP Photo/Rich Schultz, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 76 of 78

The 20-second clock is now in its third season in the high minors. It would reset when a pitcher steps off under MLB's proposal last offseason, but now the league is considering asking that it merely stop and resume. If a pitch isn't thrown within 20 seconds, a ball would be called. If the hitter isn't in the batter's box with 5 seconds remaining, a strike would be called.

Catchers head to the mound for a variety of reasons: discussing what pitch to throw, giving a pitcher a breather during a difficult inning or switching signals in an era where many are paranoid about opponents scrutinizing high-definition video to steal signs.

"There are some times we watch, we're like, man, they just talk. Especially when it's happening multiple times during an at-bat," said New York Mets outfielder Curtis Granderson, a three-time All-Star.

Los Angeles Angels manager Mike Scioscia, a two-time All-Star catcher for the Dodgers, thinks the mound conferences can be vital.

"In some games, the catcher doesn't even go out there. But when it's needed, sometimes you're out there twice in a situation because it's going to help the execution and the decision-making process that a pitcher/catcher go through," he said, "I don't think anyone abuses it. ... If you have to go out there and change your signs in a key situation, you should be able to do that."

San Francisco's Buster Posey, a five-time All-Star who starts at catcher for the NL on Tuesday in Miami, said his mound trips depend on the individual.

"There might be more later in the game where you're in a crucial spot of maybe you have a young pitcher on the mound and you need to give him some reassurance or strategize a little bit more," he said. "Sometimes I'll run out and make sure we're on the same page with the signals if the runner gets on second. I'll usually do that and be back at the plate before the batter's even ready. So I wouldn't even consider that a trip."

Detroit's Daniel Norris is the slowest-paced in the majors among qualified starters, averaging 27 seconds between pitches, according to Fangraphs. Tampa Bay's Alex Cobb is second at 26.6, followed by Kansas City's Jason Hammel and Philadelphia's Jeremy Hellickson at 26.5 each.

Kansas City's Jason Vargas is the best at 19.8 seconds, with Michael Wacha (20.0) and Carlos Martinez (20.2) of St. Louis just behind.

"If you talk about like 20 seconds to release the ball or something, I don't like that," Cobb said. "There's so much that goes on, thinking as a pitcher. It takes time to weigh your options."

Countdown clocks were installed in big league stadiums after Rob Manfred became commissioner in 2015, ticking down 2:25 between innings (2:45 for nationally televised games). Hitters were required to keep at least one foot in the batter's box, with several exceptions.

The 20-second pitch clocks were implemented at Triple-A and Double-A, where agreement with the players' association is not needed. The leagues with the clocks cut 12 minutes from their average game time from 2014 to 2015, double the 6-minute overall drop in the minors.

But times have crept back up. After dropping from 2:56 in 2014 to 2:40 in the International League in the first year, the average rose to 2:42 last year and 2:49 this season. The Pacific Coast League fell from 2:58 in 2014 to 2:45, then rose to 2:48 and 2:53.

Part of the rise may be attributable to an increased number of pitches — and pitchers. In the major leagues, teams have added hard-throwing relievers and subtracted bench players. Teams combined to use 8.30 pitchers per game last year, up from 7.26 in 2002. This year's average is 8.21 — and it climbs during the second half, especially after active rosters expand from 25 to 40 on Sept. 1.

Sabathia remembered how frustrated he got when he switched to a Red Sox game on television this year.

"I was watching between a commercial break of a basketball game," he said, "and I only saw two pitches."

Others think no tinkering is needed.

"The rhetoric needs to change from, 'How do you speed the game up?' to 'Let's just go back to enjoying the game for what it is,'" San Francisco pitcher Jeff Samardzija said. "If we can cut out a little bit of the commercial break, then so be it. Put some ads on the scoreboard on the TV in the top left corner, cut a minute out from commercials and I think we'll be all right. But other than that, just buy another beer and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 77 of 78

enjoy the game.”

AP Baseball Writer Janie McCauley and AP freelance writer Mark Dittler contributed to this report.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 8, the 189th day of 2017. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 8, 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a “flying saucer” that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.)

On this date:

In 1663, King Charles II of England granted a Royal Charter to Rhode Island.

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

In 1891, Warren G. Harding married Florence Kling DeWolfe in Marion, Ohio.

In 1907, Florenz Ziegfeld staged his first “Follies,” on the roof of the New York Theater.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles (vehr-SY) Peace Conference in France.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1965, Canadian Pacific Air Lines Flight 21, a Douglas DC-6B, crashed in British Columbia after the tail separated from the fuselage; all 52 people on board were killed in what authorities said was the result of an apparent bombing.

In 1967, Academy Award-winning actress Vivien Leigh, 53, died in London.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford announced he would seek a second term of office.

In 1986, Kurt Waldheim was inaugurated as president of Austria despite controversy over his alleged ties to Nazi war crimes. Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, widely regarded as father of the nuclear navy, died in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

In 2011, former first lady Betty Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93.

Ten years ago: Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell ordered a range of state government services shut down and placed about a third of the state work force on indefinite unpaid furlough after last-minute negotiations failed to break a budget stalemate. (A budget deal was hammered out the following night.) Roger Federer won his fifth straight Wimbledon championship, beating Rafael Nadal 7-6 (7), 4-6, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-2.

Five years ago: A bomb in eastern Afghanistan killed six NATO service members on a day in which a total of 29 people died from roadside bombs and insurgent attacks. In a show of force, Syria began large-scale military exercises to simulate defending the country against outside “aggression.” Roger Federer equaled Pete Sampras' record of seven men's singles titles at the All England Club and won his 17th Grand Slam title overall, beating Andy Murray 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4. Na Yeon Choi of South Korea won the U.S. Women's Open at Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wisconsin. Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine, 95, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: On the first day of a two-day summit in Warsaw, NATO leaders geared up for a long-term standoff with Russia, ordering multinational troops to Poland and the three Baltic states as Moscow moved forward with its own plans to station two new divisions along its western borders. Ten states (Nebraska,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 008 ~ 78 of 78

Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming) sued the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights. (Nebraska, which led the effort, later asked to drop the lawsuit after the Trump administration ended the protection.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Steve Lawrence is 82. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 73. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 71. Actress Kim Darby is 70. Actress Jonelle Allen is 69. Children's performer Raffi is 69. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 68. Actress Anjelica Huston is 66. Writer Anna Quindlen is 65. Actor Kevin Bacon is 59. Actor Robert Knepper is 58. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 56. Country singer Toby Keith is 56. Rock musician Graham Jones (Haircut 100) is 56. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 55. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 55. Actor Rocky Carroll is 54. Actor Corey Parker is 52. Actor Lee Tergesen is 52. Actor Billy Crudup is 49. Actor Michael Weatherly is 49. Singer Beck is 47. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 47. Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is 44. Actress Kathleen Robertson is 44. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 42. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEE'-loh vehn-tih-MEEL'-yuh) is 40. Rock musician Tavis Werts is 40. Singer Ben Jelen (YEL'-in) is 38. Actor Lance Gross is 36. Actress Sophia Bush is 35. Rock musician Jamie Cook (Arctic Monkeys) is 32. Actor Jake McDorman is 31. Actor Jaden Smith is 19.

Thought for Today: "Fools are more to be feared than the wicked." — Queen Christina of Sweden (1626-1689).