

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 1 of 36

Sun., July 16, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- Final Region 6B Legion Bracket
- 4- Groton Legion win Region 6B Title
- 8- Lions Club installs spinner at park
- 8- Bristol Ladies' Luncheon ad
- 9- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Today's Forecast
- 13- Yesterday's Weather
- 13- Today's Weather Info
- 13- National Weather Map
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- News from the Associated Press

16

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Nigeria Circle serves at nursing home, 3 p.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.

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

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

U10/U12: State Tourney at Humboldt

U8B/R: Tourney at Hamlin

17

Senior Menu: Goulash, corn, cherry crisp, whole wheat bread.

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

Jr. Legion: at Sisseton, 6 p.m., DH

Softball: U10 host Warner, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Cub Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

Olive Grove: Kid's Lessons

Official Notices

Groton City Book (updated 7-11)

Brown County Book (Updated 7-10)

Groton Area School 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**

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Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

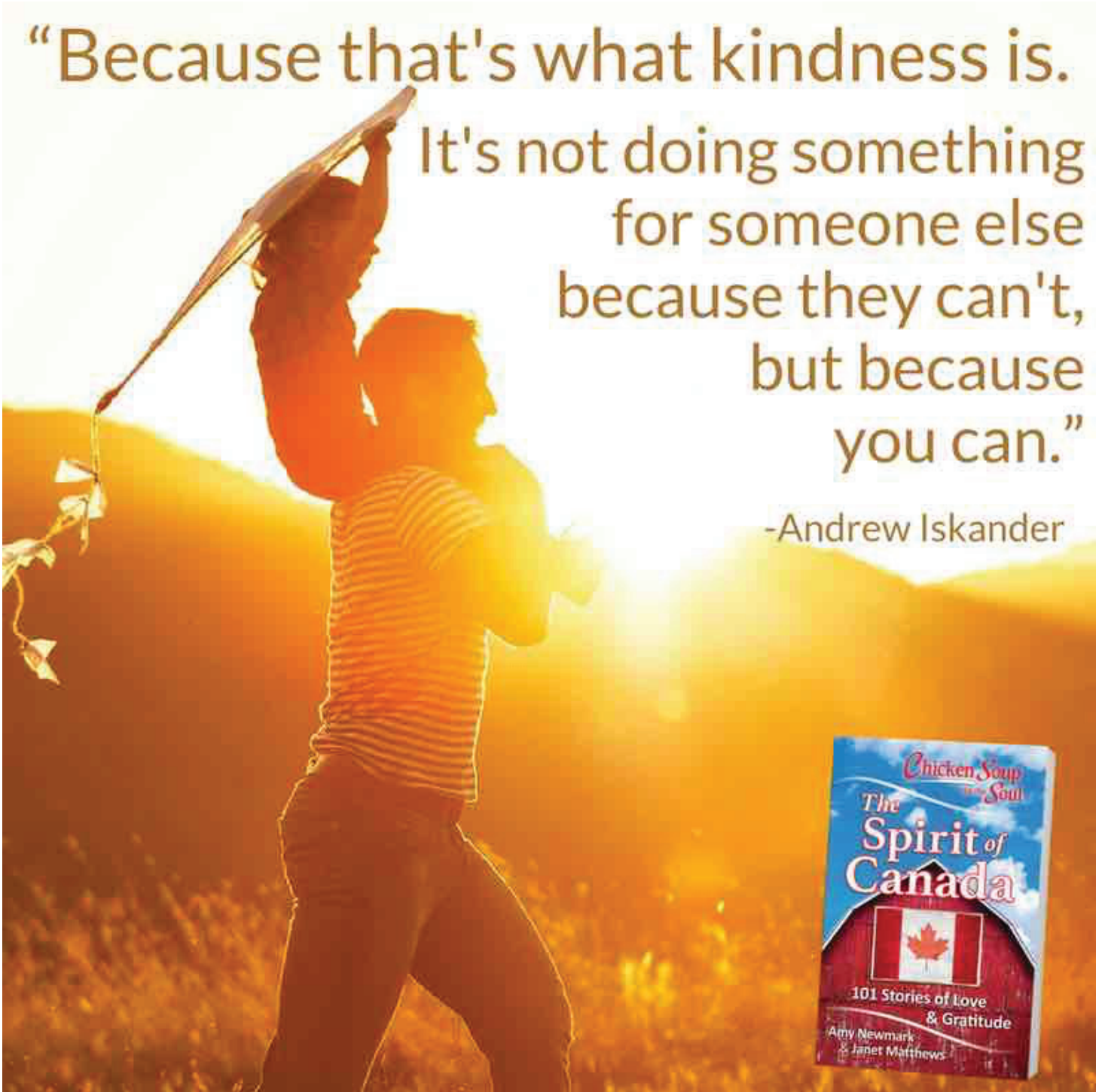
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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 2 of 36

“Because that's what kindness is.
It's not doing something
for someone else
because they can't,
but because
you can.”

-Andrew Iskander



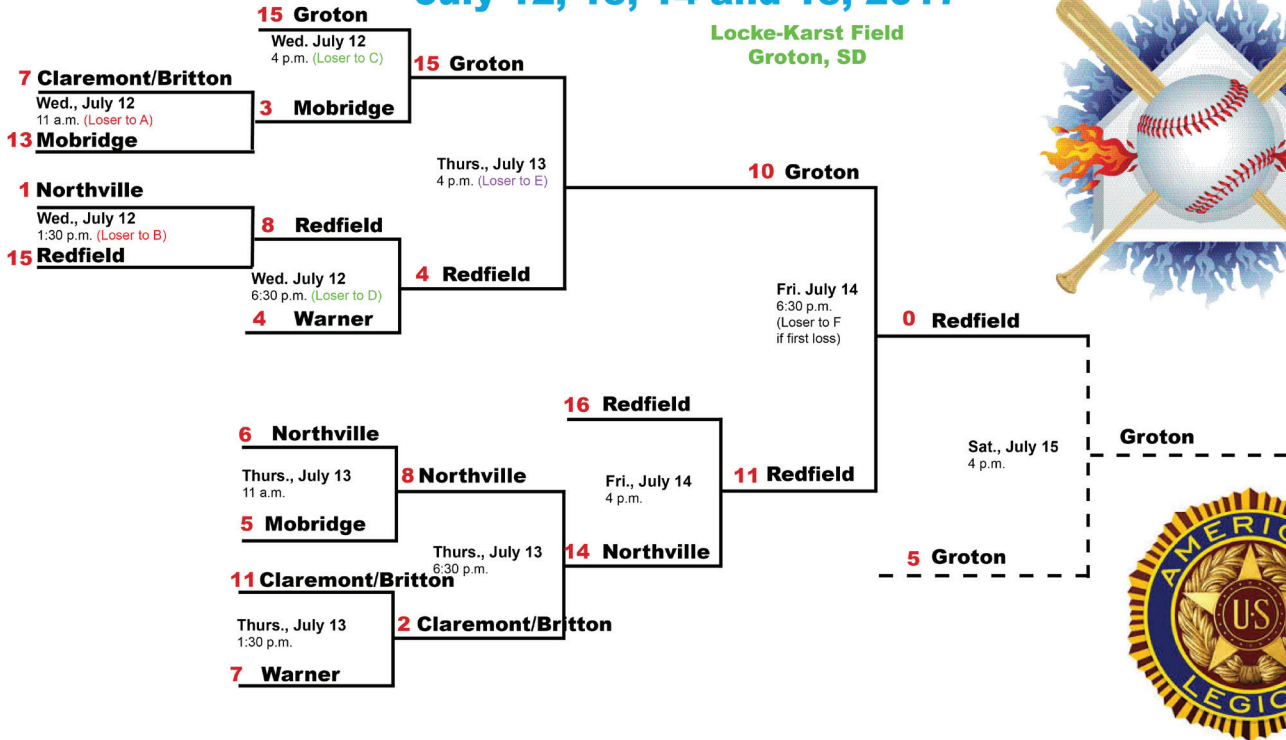
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 3 of 36

American Legion Region 6B Tournament

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2017

Locke-Karst Field
Groton, SD



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 4 of 36



Groton is Region 6B Champion

In back, left to right, are Coach Bary Keith, Wyatt Locke, Bennett Shabazz, Peyton Johnson, Sean Schuring, Aaron Severson, Truitt Rogers, Austin Jones and Coach Travis Kurth; in front, left to right, are Darian Shabazz, Austin Jones, Brandon Keith, Caleb Furney, Korbin Blackmun and Luke Thorson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton shuts down Redfield in title game

It was a rematch of Groton and Redfield in the Region 6B American Legion baseball tournament. Groton had defeated Redfield earlier in the tournament, 15-4, then lost to Redfield Saturday night, 11-10, and came back Saturday afternoon with the tournament's only shut-out win, 5-0.

The Groton-Redfield game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bahr Construction, Dakota Tree Company, Blocker Construction, Erickson Insurance, Groton Ford, Frost Construction, Hanlon Brothers, Harr Motors, KR Body Shop, James Valley Seed, Harry Implement, Olson Development, Harr Auto Body, Groton Subway.

It was a defensive game and it was only one inning that decided the fate. It was three up and three down for Groton in the first, third, fourth and fifth inning with the second inning seeing four batters. But in the sixth inning, Redfield would commit three errors as Groton scored five runs on two hits and left two on base.

For Redfield, it was three or four up and down in all but the sixth inning as Redfield had runners at first and third, but was unable to score.

Sean Schuring was the winning pitcher with two strike-outs, three hits and one walk. Kevin Krumm pitched for Redfield with five strike-outs, three hits and one walk.

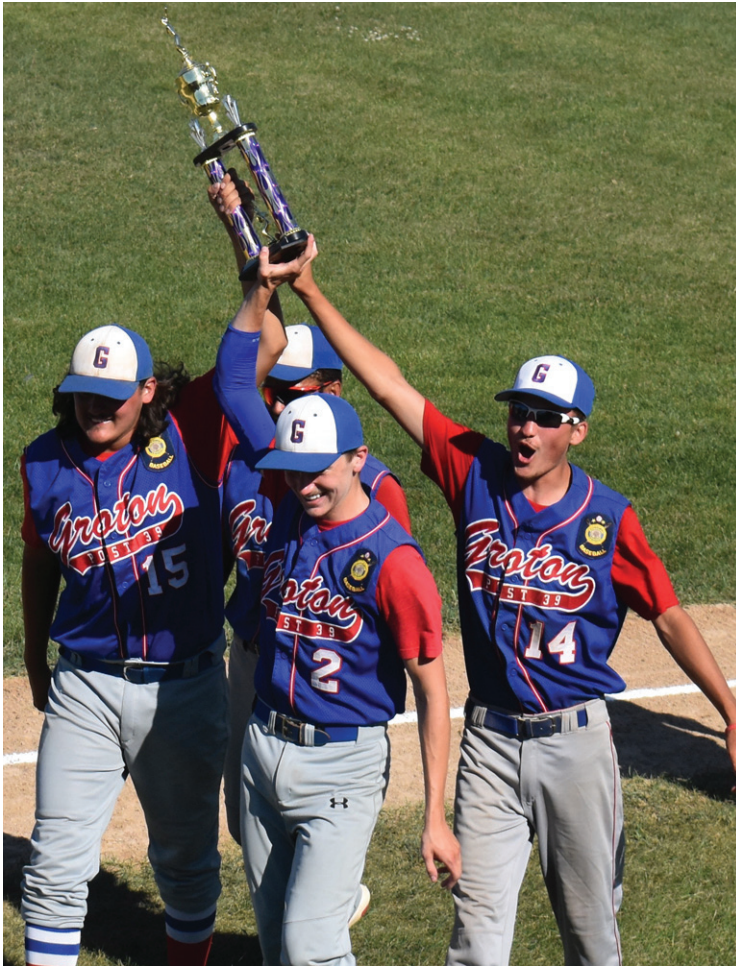
Getting the hits for Groton were Brandon Keith and Truitt Rogers with a single each and Austin Jones with an RBI double. Redfield's hits were by Bennett Osborn, Kevin Krumm and Alan Masat with a single each.

For the game, Groton scored five runs on three hits, left three on base and there were four Redfield errors. Redfield had no runs, three hits, left six on base and Groton had one error.

Groton will now play in the state tournament starting Friday in Winner. Groton will play the very first game against the winner of Region 3B.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 5 of 36



Aaron Severson, Sean Schuring, Truitt Rogers and Bennett Shabazz (in back) hold up the regional trophy after beating Redfield, 5-0. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Sean Schuring pitched the Saturday game with Redfield and was the winning pitcher. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



You can see the ball impacting the bat as Anthony Sippel gets a hit in Friday night's game with Redfield. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 6 of 36



Pictured starting in top left and going clockwise: Doug Hamilton packing the agrilime, Doug Hamilton watering and Seth Erickson raking, Brian Schuring raking, Mitchell Locke raking and watering and David Blackmun raking. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 7 of 36



Austin Jones and Luke Thorson were two of the three pitchers in Groton's game with Redfield Friday night. (Photos by Julianna Kosel)



Region chairman Dale Kurth gives the oath to the players and coaches while Bob Wegner and Jake McKiver presented the colors before the championship game on Saturday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 8 of 36



Lions Club members install Spinner at city park

The Groton Lions Club installed a spinner at the city park playground recently. Pictured from left to right are President David Pigors, Kathryn Rehfuss, Ron Rehfuss, District Governor Neil Bowes, Steve Gebur, Topper Tastad, Groton Mayor Scott Hanlon, and Ryan Quiggle. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)



"Always Being Made New"

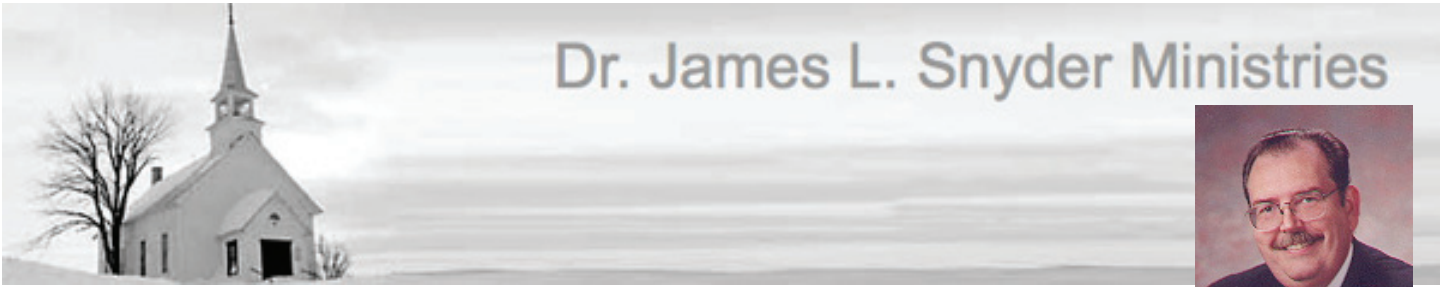
Ladies' Luncheon & Program
Wednesday, July 19 – Noon
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Silent Auction at 11 a.m. – Door Prizes
Pastor Rhia Strohm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church – speaker

Advance tickets please: \$10
Call Kay Espeland 492-3507
Alice Jean Peterson 492-3351
or contact any WELCA member

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 9 of 36



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Go Ahead, Call Me If You Dare

I don't think it was in the mind of Dr. Bell when he invented the telephone for people like me to be harassed by people who are only after my money. Don't get me wrong here. The telephone has been a great blessing to many people. But lately, the wrong people have my number.

It finally came to a head this past week. At least as far as I was concerned.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I had a very busy week and by Thursday we had accomplished a lot, or at least we thought we had. We had lunch with a very good friend and enjoyed ourselves tremendously.

On our way home from lunch I mentioned the fact to my wife that I was feeling very tired and I probably could do with a Power Nap, as they call them today. She just looked at me and said, "Go ahead and get your nap in."

Being the husband that I am, I always obey my wife. And so, off to the parsonage I headed to get in a well-deserved, at least I thought it was, Power Nap to rejuvenate what little energy I had left.

Nothing feels better to me than stretching out on my easy chair, closing my eyes and drifting off into Lala land, of which I am a frequent visitor.

I am not quite sure how long I was sleeping, but suddenly I heard a weird noise that awakened me. That weird noise was the telephone ringing. I never know who's calling and I never know if it might be important, so I answered the phone.

I am so tired of getting telephone calls that just interrupts my day. I get calls from somebody who has a solution for my student loan and how to pay it off. I never went to college and therefore I don't have a student loan. At my age, if I had a student loan it would be a tragic situation.

The call was from some health agency that had a deep concern about my health. More particularly, they had solutions for pains that I was experiencing.

"I understand," the person on the other end of the telephone said very businesslike, "that you are having problems with pain in your body."

I do not know where he got that understanding or why he would be interested in any of my pain.

"No, sir," I said with a healthy yawn, "there ain't no pain here."

"Is there someone in your house," he went on to say, "that has some back pain?"

Without giving me time to respond, he continued, "I believe you qualify for one of our back braces to help manage your back pain."

"No, sir," I said most pathetically, "nobody here has that kind of pain."

Not hindered in his salesman pitch, he said, "Is there someone in your home that has an ankle pain? I have a wonderful solution that I would like to send you to deal with that pain?"

I still was a little dizzy because of being awakened from my Power Nap that I was not quite able to comprehend what he was talking about. He just kept on talking.

Finally, he said, "What kind of pain does anybody in your household have that we could address today?"

Obviously, he had solutions for pain, but the problem was I did not have any pain for him to address.

I was about to hang up on him when a few gray cells woke up from their Power Nap and nudged me with a thought.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 10 of 36

"Now that you mentioned it," I said as seriously as possible, "there is a pain here that perhaps you could help me with."

"Yes, sir," he said most enthusiastically, "we want to help you with all the pain that you might have. How can we help you today? What is your pain?"

"Well, sir," I said rather slowly, "I have this throbbing pain in my neck. How in the world can you help me with that?"

I noticed his pause at the other end of the telephone. Then I heard the question I was waiting for.

"Where did you get this pain in the neck? And how in the world can I help?"

Without any pause, I jumped in and said, "My pain in the neck is from people like you calling me and disturbing me in my nap. The only way you can help me is to quit calling me!"

[Click]

With that click, he cured my pain in the neck. If all pain could be solved that quickly this world would be a much better place I am sure.

A little while later my wife came into the parsonage, took one look at me and said, "Why do you look so happy? Did your nap work for you today?"

"No," I said with a little giggle, "I just got rid of a pain in the neck."

I could not help but think of one of my favorite Proverbs. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

With all the agitation in the world, a person is sometimes tempted to get all caught up with bitterness and anger. I have learned the hard way, that the best way to deal with agitation is to make fun of it so that somebody laughs, particularly me.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 11 of 36

Today in Weather History

July 16, 1993: Thunderstorms, dumping two to seven inches of rain caused flooding problems in north-eastern South Dakota. Several dams and many roads were washed out. Most of the damage was in Marshall County. Six families were evacuated about six miles southeast of Britton as two private earthen dams broke. Winds, as high as 70 mph were also reported in a couple of locations in Marshall County. The torrential rains resulted in flooded farmland, roads, and basements in northeast South Dakota through July 21st. In Groton and Claremont at least 90 percent of the homes had water in the basements. Some storm total rainfall amounts include 3.20 inches in Leola; 3.14 in Ipswich; 3.13 in Britton; and 2.77 in Eureka.

July 16, 2001: Very heavy rains of 3 to 7 inches fell across north central Corson County causing flash flooding. Oak Creek along with several other streams washed out several roads and damaged some fences from Watauga to McIntosh to McLaughlin and north. Travel stopped for a while on the Highway north of McLaughlin.

1979: The most damaging tornado in Wyoming history touched down 3 miles west-northwest of the Cheyenne airport. This strong tornado moved east or east-southeast across the northern part of Cheyenne, causing \$22 million in damage and one fatality. 140 houses and 17 trailers were destroyed. 325 other homes were damaged. Four C-130 aircraft and National Guard equipment sustained \$12 million damage. Municipal hangars and buildings suffered \$10 million in losses.

1920 - A severe hailstorm over parts of Antelope and Boone counties in Nebraska stripped trees of bark and foliage, ruined roofs, and broke nearly every window facing north. (The Weather Channel)

1946 - The temperature at Medford, OR, soared to an all-time high of 115 degrees to begin a two week heat wave. During that Oregon heat wave the mercury hit 100 degrees at Sexton Summit for the only time in forty years of records. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - An early afternoon thunderstorm raked the east side of Tucson, AZ, with gale force winds, heavy rain, and numerous lightning strikes. A thirteen year old boy was swept through a forty foot long culvert by raging waters before being rescued. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Showers and thundestorms in the southwestern U.S. ended a record string of thirty-nine consecutive days of 100 degree heat at Tucson, AZ. A thunderstorm at Bullhead City, AZ, produced wind gusts to 70 mph reducing the visibility to near zero in blowing dust. Southerly winds gusting to 40 mph pushed temperature readings above 100 degrees in the Northern Plains. Rapid City, SD, reported a record high of 106 degrees, following a record low of 39 degrees just three days earlier. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

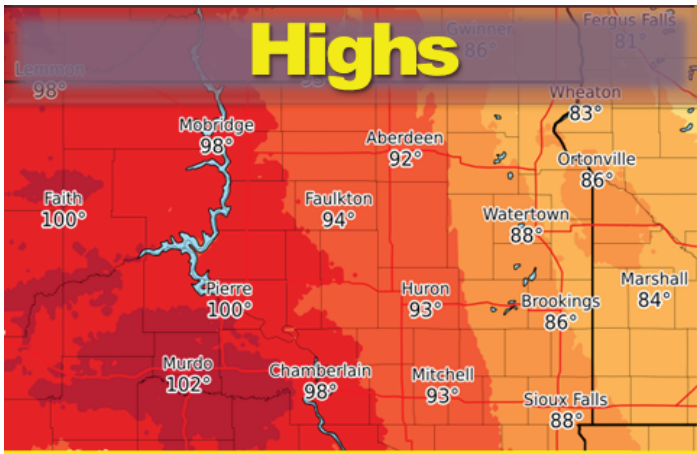
1988 - Thirty-seven cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 96 degrees at Bluefield, WV, and 104 degrees at Charleston WV were all-time records, and afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Binghamton, NY, 99 degrees at Elkins, WV, and 103 degrees at Pittsburgh PA, tied all-time records. Highs of 104 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and 105 degrees at Parkersburg WV were records for July, and Beckley, WV, equalled their record for July with a high of 94 degrees. Martinsburg, WV, was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 107 degrees. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms raked the northeastern U.S. with large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms developing along a stationary front drenched the Middle Atlantic Coast States with heavy rain, causing flooding in some areas. More than five inches of rain was reported near Madison and Ferncliff, VA. Hot weather prevailed in Texas. San Angelo reported a record high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

Broton Daily Independent

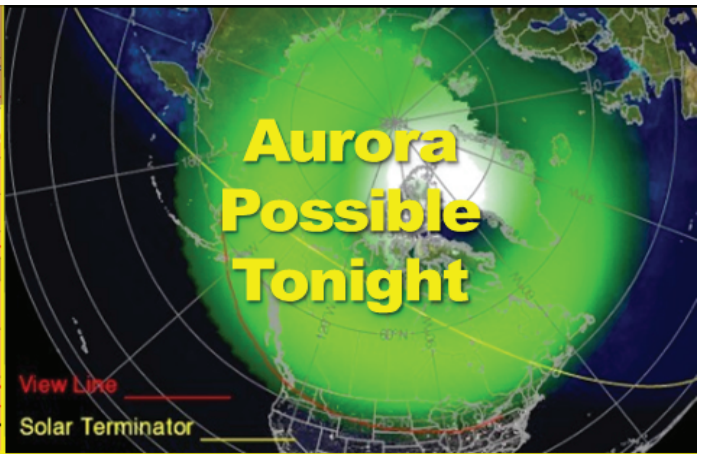
Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 12 of 36

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Hot	Mostly Clear	Sunny and Breezy then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-storms
High: 92 °F	Low: 70 °F	High: 100 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 86 °F



Highs

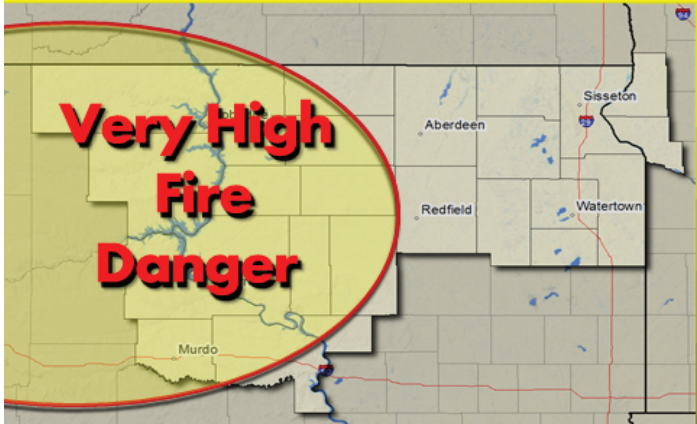
Map showing high temperatures across South Dakota: Lemmon 98°, Faith 100°, Pierre 100°, Murdo 102°, Chamberlain 98°, Mitchell 93°, Aberdeen 92°, Faulkton 94°, Watertown 88°, Brookings 86°, Marshall 84°, Sioux Falls 88°, Ortonville 86°, Wheaton 83°, Fergus Falls 81°.



Aurora Possible Tonight

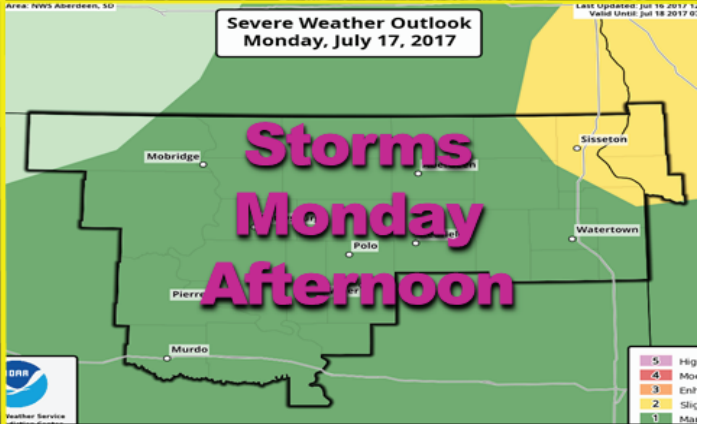
View Live Solar Terminator

Area: NWS Aberdeen, SD



Very High Fire Danger

Map showing Very High Fire Danger in the western part of South Dakota, including areas around Murdo, Redfield, and Watertown.



Storms Monday Afternoon

Severe Weather Outlook Monday, July 17, 2017

Map showing storm risk for Monday afternoon, with a legend for risk levels: 5 (Hig), 4 (Mo), 3 (Enf), 2 (Slc), 1 (Min).

Updated: 7/16/2017 5:51 AM Central

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 07/16/2017 at 5:53AM

Complex weather next few days with hot temperatures today and Monday along with very high fire danger this afternoon and the chance for storms Monday. Add in some Aurora possible tonight - along with a more active weather pattern for next week.

Groton Daily Independent

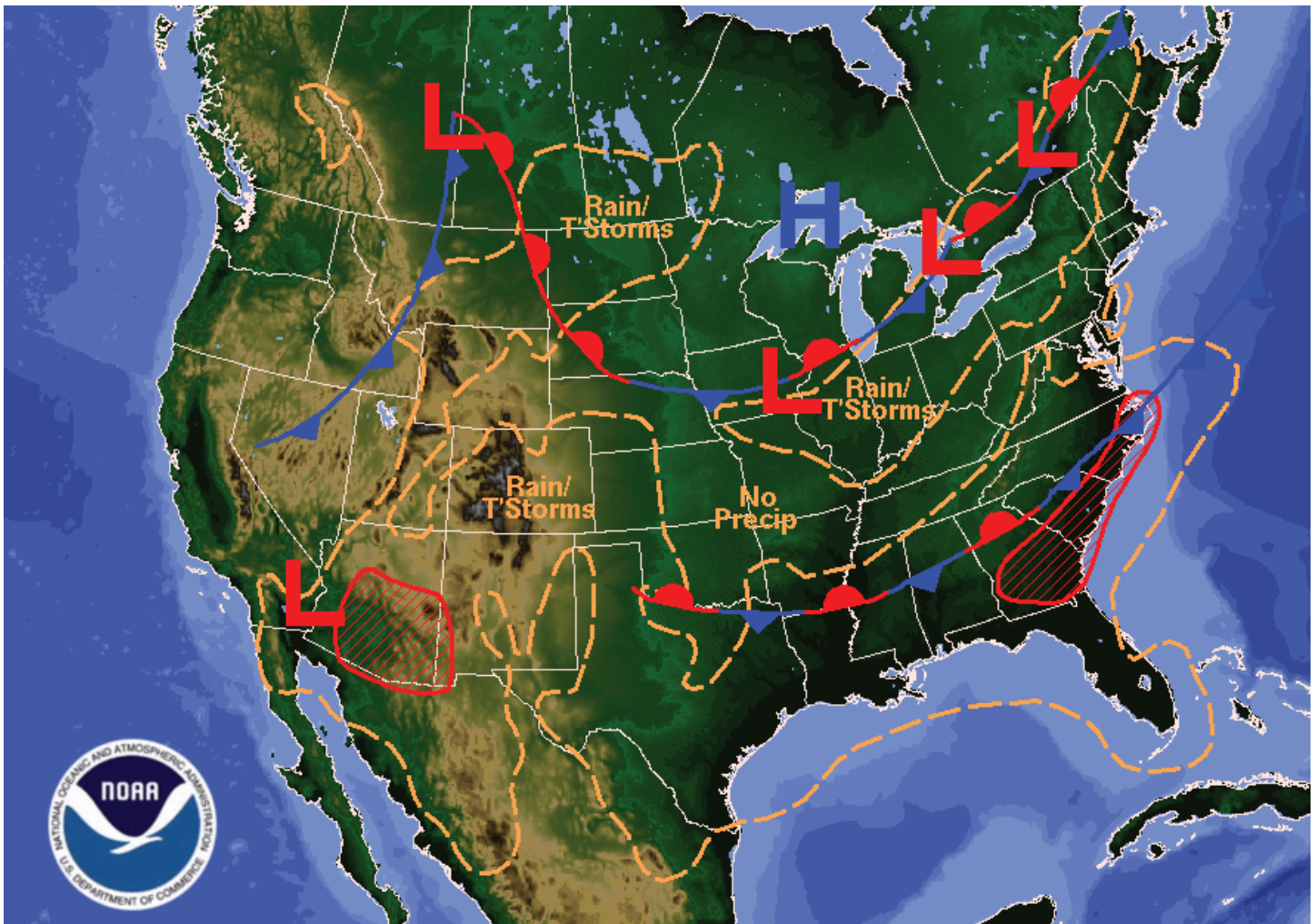
Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 13 of 36

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.5 at 3:44 PM
Heat Index: 88.0 at 1:54 PM
Low Outside Temp: 67.8 at 4:44 AM
High Gust: 18 at 2:34 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 112° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 1976
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.68
Precip to date in July: 0.17
Average Precip to date: 12.52
Precip Year to Date: 5.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:18 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:01 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jul 16, 2017, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 14 of 36



MORE THAN A SHEPHERD

"Life is not fair," some claim. When they try to place the events of life on a balance sheet, the total seems to be much larger on the negative side of the ledger. They prove their point: Life is indeed unfair.

And if we stop reading Psalm 23 at the end of verse four, it seems that the struggles of life end in victory with no celebration. The battle is over and we sit silently in comfort and security – but alone. Not so! Our Shepherd becomes a Host and we are seated at a lavishly set table with an abundance of food.

After a successful battle in the days of David, the victor would be seated in a banquet hall as the ones he defeated stood and watched as he dined before them. They would watch but not enjoy. They were the losers and could not enter into the joy of victory.

So our Lord will one day seat us in the presence of those who would have destroyed us. Not only is there the celebration of a feast that signifies victory, but the honor of being anointed with "oil" – the sign of a true celebration. Then we read that our "cup" will be overflowing – a picture of the goodness and grace of God. It represents a picture of Him giving the very best to His child whom He bought at a great price.

In the New Testament, the banquet table is a sign of salvation. We conclude this psalm with a vision of being seated at a banquet with our Savior and Shepherd. A banquet where we will celebrate the joy of our salvation and being with Him forever.

Prayer: We look forward, Lord, to that day when we will rejoice in Your presence forever as our King! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:5 No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 15 of 36

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

17-21-25-28-29

(seventeen, twenty-one, twenty-five, twenty-eight, twenty-nine)

Estimated jackpot: \$339,000

Hot Lotto

07-13-19-40-47, Hot Ball: 3

(seven, thirteen, nineteen, forty, forty-seven; Hot Ball: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.33 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$232 million

Powerball

09-40-63-64-66, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 2

(nine, forty, sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-six; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$172 million

Scholar traces origins of Midwest 'flyover country' derision

By **ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS**, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The name of President Donald Trump appears only once in professor Jon Lauck's new book about perceptions of the Midwest as "flyover country," and then only in a footnote involving polling in Missouri.

Yet the book's exploration of decades-old historical trends helps explain the attraction Trump held in the election for people who felt alienated by the political and cultural mainstream.

"When the twentieth century dawned, the American Midwest stood tall as the republic's ascendant and triumphant region_economically prosperous, politically formidable, culturally proud, and consciously regional," Lauck writes in "From Warm Center to Ragged Edge: the Erosion of Midwestern Literary and Historical Regionalism, 1920-1965."

Yet just a few decades later, in an era of growing globalism, "vocal intellectuals recast the Midwest as a repressive and sterile backwater filled with small-town snoops, redneck farmers, and zealous theocrats," wrote Lauck, a history and political science professor at the University of South Dakota.

The book takes its title from an observation by Nick Carraway in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Great Gatsby": "Instead of being the warm center of the world, the Middle West now seemed like the ragged edge of the universe — so I decided to go East and learn the bond business."

The region's isolationist tendencies after World War II were out of sync with the rest of the U.S., Lauck said, and these tendencies clashed with the country's growing cosmopolitanism and desire to be part of the larger world.

Intellectuals' increasing hostility toward the Midwest also discouraged some writers from telling the region's stories, including accounts of everyday life in the Midwest, Lauck wrote. Others who tried were pushed aside, such as Ohio's own Louis Bromfield, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist who is now little known

outside the state.

“It is a major cultural problem in this nation, the extent to which the coasts kind of dominate the culture — Manhattan and Hollywood in particular,” Lauck said in an interview.

History professor Nicole Etcheson dates coastal disdain for the Midwest farther back into the 19th century, when the area was still considered the “West,” a region inhabited by uneducated people including an ungainly looking fellow named Abraham Lincoln whose accent and demeanor took the country some getting used to.

“Flyover country has deep historical roots in old regional prejudices and attitudes of the East toward the uncivilized frontier,” said Etcheson, who teaches at Ball State University.

Among some additional observations in Lauck’s book, published last month by University of Iowa Press. — “Geography and history and place and regional attachments still matter in the world. Fargo is not San Diego. The revolts of the Quebecois and Catalonian secession and Grexits and Brexits continue to lead the news and Scottish rebels still fight the 1707 Act of Union.”

— “Victorian ideals were especially strong in the rural areas and small towns of the Midwest, leaving the region vulnerable to the criticisms of the literary modernists.”

— “The early Midwest was the place that the first genuinely American tradition of democracy took root, after all, and where the democratic tradition expanded to include more of the republic’s citizens and a functional ethnic pluralism took root.”

Andrew Welsh-Huggins can be reached on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/awhcolumbus>. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/andrew-welsh-huggins>

Olympian from South Dakota reflects on wins

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A two-time Olympian from western South Dakota says a more relaxed attitude helped her win silver at the 2017 World Taekwondo Championships in Korea.

Paige McPherson won the medal in the women’s 67-kilogram division. The medal was her second career world championship medal to go along with the bronze she captured in 2015, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2us8A23>) reported.

“The game plan is always to win gold, but honestly in my mind I was just there to basically make it as normal as possible,” she said. “Getting back from Rio (2016 Summer Olympics) and not getting the results I wanted, I kind of tried to not make it such a big important tournament like I did at the Olympics. I listened to my coach and went out there and proved myself, proved my worth and I was able to go all the way to the finals.”

McPherson said she tries not to put added pressure on herself to do well at the world championships.

“Throughout the day I tried to make it seem like a small open. I just wanted to make it feel normal,” she said. “Again I’ve been in these situations so many times that I didn’t want to put pressure on myself. I just wanted to go out there and prove that I belong there.”

She also said she has a lot of respect for Turkey’s Nur Tatar who won against her 6-4 in the finals.

The Sturgis-native says she’s still up in the air as to whether she’ll compete at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. Future plans include competing in grand prix series starting August.

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

South Dakota medical school sees more applicants than seats

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota’s medical school is taking a different path than the university’s law school and staying where it is due to a significantly high number of applications.

The university’s Sanford School of Medicine is seeing more applicants than it has available seats, the Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2tc1JcV>) reported.

Medical school Dean Mary Nettleman said that more than 850 people apply for the school, but most of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 17 of 36

the applicants don't have South Dakota ties and aren't considered.

"Some students do meet our minimum standards for qualification (for acceptance)," she said. "But they need to brush up on their qualifications before they would be someone who is likely to enter the class. Not every one of those 200 would be a slam dunk to get into medical school. There is no doubt that there are some times where we would turn away good doctors."

The school's strict admission standards require medical students to have strong state ties, which include graduating from a South Dakota high school, having a parent living in the state or being a member of a Native American tribe in or bordering the state.

The school interviews about 200 students before each school to fill about 71 open seats. Of those seats, two are given to MD or PhD students and two are given to Native American students through a grant.

The school currently has no plans to expand but is looking into expanding opportunities for students.

"In medical school, there is a lot of what we call 'experiential learning,'" Nettleman said. "You have your classroom learning, but then you also go out and work with patients directly."

Unlike its medical school, the university's law school is looking into the possibility of moving to Sioux Falls due to low enrollment.

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

Drought in High Plains the worst some farmers have ever seen

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BEULAH, N.D. (AP) — Drought in North Dakota is laying waste to fields of normally bountiful food and hay crops and searing pastures that typically would be home to multitudes of grazing cattle.

Some longtime farmers and ranchers say it's the worst conditions they've seen in decades — possibly their lifetimes — and simple survival has become their goal as a dry summer drags on without a raincloud in sight.

"We've never been in this sort of boat, honestly," said Dawn Martin, who raises beef cattle with her parents and husband in the southwestern part of the state, an area the U.S. Drought Monitor says is in "extreme" drought.

"We're just trying to make it through and work it out," she said. "There are a lot of people in the same boat. I don't know what the answer is."

The drought's impact likely will be felt not just by farmers but also consumers, state Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. Agriculture in North Dakota is an \$11 billion a year industry, and the state leads the nation in the production of nearly a dozen crops.

"It's going to affect bread at the grocery store counter," Goehring said, though he didn't put a figure on how much costs might go up for shoppers. "Dry beans — navies, pintos — are going to be affected to a degree. Canola, that production is going to be cut, and that's going to have an effect on vegetable oil."

The latest Drought Monitor map shows nearly all of western North Dakota in severe or extreme drought, conditions that extend into northern South Dakota and northeastern Montana. Most of the rest of North Dakota is in moderate drought or abnormally dry.

John Weinand has had less than 2.5 inches of rain on his farm near Beulah, which is northwest of Bismarck, since the beginning of May. He's used to getting more than 3 inches in June alone.

Weinand figures his wheat crop will be half what it usually is. As for his field peas, he expects to harvest fewer than 100 pounds per acre, compared with a typical 3,000 pounds per acre. He won't even try to sell his barley; he's already rolled it up into hay to feed his cows.

"If we get some rain we'll have some corn and soybeans, but at this point it doesn't look very promising," he said.

The Martins have sold off about one-third of their cattle because the grass in their pastures is brown and brittle and they've already started dipping into winter hay reserves. They'll likely send their remaining animals to a feedlot for the winter, but they might need to find second jobs to cover the expense.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 18 of 36

"What we're trying to do is hold onto our main cow herd, get through the year, and hopefully next year is better," Martin said.

The situation is much the same across ranching country, with the best hay production about a fourth of normal. In pastures where grass might typically be 2 feet tall, "now we're talking grass that if you laid a pop can on its side, it would be taller," Goehring said.

More than one-third of North Dakota's staple spring wheat crop and nearly three-fourths of the state's pasture and rangelands are rated in poor or very poor condition, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA estimates spring wheat production will be down 27 percent from last year; oats, barley, durum wheat and winter wheat also will be down dramatically. The production reports released Wednesday for South Dakota and Montana are much the same.

USDA has designated numerous counties in the three states as natural disasters, paving the way for emergency loans for producers. The Agriculture Department has authorized other aid, including forage disaster payments and emergency haying and grazing of land enrolled in conservation and wetland programs.

That helps, but doesn't cover everything, Goehring said. Neither does crop insurance, which pays only a portion of what a farmer would get by selling a typical crop, said Goehring, who in addition to heading the state Agriculture Department is a farmer who has worked in the insurance industry.

The state has taken several steps, including adding more money to its Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply cost-share program and relaxing commercial driving restrictions to help with the transport of livestock, water and hay.

Hay is in great demand — a North Dakota State University website that helps match hay buyers with sellers lists nearly 60 ranchers seeking hay. The demand has pushed prices to as much as double the normal cost.

"Everything good is pretty far away," Martin said. "The hay is going to be expensive, and the trucking is going to be expensive to get it here. That's where we're at — weighing the cost."

If the drought persists into next year, it could start pushing producers out of business, officials and farmers say. But one year of extreme conditions, though a hardship, will be manageable for most.

"We'll make it through," Martin said. "We're a resilient bunch."

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

School food progresses far beyond mystery meat, tater tots

ATLANTA (AP) — The future of school lunches — and snacks, brunches and other forms of meals — were on display recently at the School Nutrition Association's annual conference in Atlanta.

More than 900 vendors showcased the latest in school food trends, WABE Radio reports.

They included all sorts of food options, including international, gluten-free and vegetarian fare.

Companies also brought equipment to sell, from slicers and dicers to high-tech freezers.

School nutrition directors at the conference said there's been a shift in school diets in recent years. Children want more options, and they're selective about what they eat.

"They're used to what's happening in those kiosks in the malls or the restaurants," says Gay Anderson, the association's vice president and school nutrition director for the Brandon Valley School District outside Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

"We're looking at what's the latest and greatest happening there," he said. "So, literally, whatever's happening in that kind of culture, we try to bring it back to our school nutrition culture."

Lynette Dodson is the school nutrition director for the Carrollton City Schools in west Georgia. Every month, she meets with the high school student council to hear what kinds of food kids want.

"For instance, we started a brunch bar because they told us they wanted to see breakfast at lunch," Dodson said. "It really makes a difference when the students are part of the process, and they feel like they're empowered and they're more vested."

Less food ends up in the trash can that way, too, Dodson added.

Israel reopens Jerusalem holy site after deadly assault

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hundreds of Muslim worshippers visited a Jerusalem holy site Sunday after Israel reopened the compound following a rare closure in response to a deadly shooting last week that raised concerns about wider unrest.

For the first time in decades, Israel closed the site — known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount — on Friday after three Arab citizens of Israel opened fire from the sacred site with automatic weapons, killing two police officers. The three were later shot dead inside the compound.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that following consultations with security officials the site would be reopened Sunday afternoon with increased security measures that included metal detectors at the entrance gates and additional security cameras.

At midday, Israeli police opened two of the gates to the compound to allow worshippers to enter through the newly erected detectors. Police said some worshippers refused to go through them and knelt to pray outside instead. But despite concerns that the new measures could slow movement and spark renewed tensions, police said they appeared to be working fine and that 200 people had already passed through.

Israel did not coordinate the changes with Jordan, which serves as the custodian of the Muslim-administered site, according to a Jordanian government official.

Jordan's stance is that anything installed at the site must be approved by the Waqf, or Muslim administration, and cannot change the status quo, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the still developing situation with reporters.

The Palestinian Minister of Jerusalem Adnan Husseini called for the security arrangements to return to how they were before the deadly attack, saying it "shouldn't be an excuse for making changes."

The attack triggered a rare phone conversation between Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who condemned the attack and called for the site to be reopened. Netanyahu sought to allay Muslim fears, saying that the status quo at the Muslim-administered site "will be preserved." But Gaza's Hamas rulers called the act a "religious war" and urged Palestinians to carry out more attacks.

Early Sunday, Israeli police said security forces shot dead a Palestinian assailant behind a pair of recent shooting attacks. Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police tracked down the 34-year-old suspect in a joint operation with the military. The suspect opened fire with an automatic weapon, prompting the troops to return fire, killing him.

In the past two years, Palestinians have killed 45 Israelis, two visiting Americans and a British tourist in stabbings, shootings and car-ramming attacks. During that period, Israeli forces have killed more than 255 Palestinians, most of them said by Israel to be attackers while others were killed in clashes with Israeli forces.

Israel blames the violence on incitement by Palestinian political and religious leaders compounded on social media sites that glorify violence. Palestinians say the attacks stem from anger over decades of Israeli occupation of territories they claim for their future state.

The Jerusalem shrine has been the scene of repeated confrontations, including during the current wave of violence.

Israel has previously accused Palestinians of stockpiling rocks and other projectiles in one of the mosques in the holy compound. Israeli security forces have fired tear gas and stun grenades at the compound to disperse Palestinian stone throwers, who have at times targeted Jews praying at the adjacent Western Wall.

In September 2000, Israel's then-opposition leader Ariel Sharon made a provocative visit to the site, sparking Palestinian protests that quickly escalated into armed clashes between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers.

The incident was one of the triggers of an armed Palestinian uprising and an Israeli military crackdown. The violence claimed several thousand victims, most of them Palestinians, and only began to ebb in 2005.

Associated press writer Karin Laub in Jericho, West Bank, contributed to this report.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 20 of 36

Macron: My charm offensive may soften Trump's climate stance

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron says his glamorous Paris charm offensive on Donald Trump was carefully calculated — and may have changed the U.S. president's mind about climate change.

Macron defended his outreach to Trump, whose "America first" policies have elicited worry and disdain in Europe.

"Our countries are friends, so we should be too," Macron said in an interview Sunday in the Journal du dimanche newspaper.

After a tense, white-knuckle handshake at their first meeting in May, Macron said they gained "better, intimate knowledge of each other" during Trump's visit to Paris last week.

On their main point of contention — Trump's withdrawal from the landmark Paris climate agreement — Macron is quoted as saying that "Donald Trump listened to me. He understood the reason for my position, notably the link between climate change and terrorism."

Increasing droughts and other extreme weather blamed on man-made climate change are worsening migration crises and conflicts in some regions as populations fight over dwindling resources.

"He said he would try to find a solution in the coming months. We spoke in detail about what could allow him to return to the Paris deal," Macron said, according to the newspaper.

While in Paris, Trump remained non-committal about the U.S. eventually rejoining the climate agreement, telling Macron, "if it happens that will be wonderful, and if it doesn't that will be OK too." Trump has said the climate deal was unfair to U.S. business.

The French leader acknowledged that Trump's Paris visit — including a formal welcome at Napoleon's tomb, dinner in the Eiffel Tower and a place of honor at the annual Bastille Day military parade — was choreographed to give Americans a "stronger image of France" after deadly Islamic extremist attacks damaged the country's vital tourism sector.

It was also aimed at Trump himself, who has said that Paris has been ruined by the threat of terrorism, which he ties to immigrants.

"I think Donald Trump left having a better image of France than upon his arrival," Macron is quoted as saying.

Netanyahu joins Macron at French Holocaust commemoration

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are honoring the victims of a mass deportation of French Jews to Nazi camps 75 years ago.

French Jewish leaders are giving speeches at an emotional ceremony at the Vel d'Hiv stadium outside Paris, where French police rounded up some 13,000 people on July 16-17, 1942, before they were sent on to camps. Fewer than 100 survived.

Pro-Palestinian and other activists protested Netanyahu's appearance, criticizing Jewish settlement policy and the blockade of Gaza.

Macron called it a "natural gesture" to invite Netanyahu but insisted in an interview Sunday in the Journal du dimanche newspaper he is "not trying to confuse the subject of the commemoration and Franco-Israeli relations."

Macron is holding separate talks with Netanyahu later Sunday.

Honolulu fire: Victim remembered as talented and caring

By CALEB JONES and MARCO GARCIA, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — As smoke filled his 26th-floor apartment in Honolulu, a Hawaiian Airlines manager made one final telephone call to his brother, the brother says, before both the man and his mother were killed in the blaze.

Pearl City Community Church Pastor Phil Reller told The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (<http://bit.ly/2tXsf7e>) that police confirmed that two of the three victims killed in the blaze Friday are his mother and brother.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 21 of 36

Reller told the newspaper he received a call from his brother, Britt Reller, 54, saying he had been taking a shower when he smelled the smoke. He rushed out but was unable to get to their 85-year-old mother, Melba Jeannine Dilley. He had crawled under a bed and wasn't heard from again, his brother told the newspaper.

Britt Reller had worked as an in-flight manager for Hawaiian Airlines for two years. In an emailed statement to The Associated Press on Saturday, Robin Sparling, vice president of in-flight services at the airline, said Reller "was a talented manager and caring co-worker and we will miss him terribly. Our hearts are with Britt's brother, Phil, and his entire family."

The fire broke out in a unit on the 26th floor, where all three of the dead were found, Fire Chief Manuel Neves said.

The building known as the Marco Polo residences is not required to have fire sprinklers, which would have confined the blaze to the unit where it started, Neves said. The 36-floor building near the tourist mecca of Waikiki was built in 1971, before sprinklers were mandatory in high-rises. It has over 500 units.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said the city needs to look at passing a law requiring older buildings be retrofitted with sprinklers.

Photos taken Saturday by a KITV (<http://www.kitv.com>) reporter show the charred remains on the 26th floor. The images show a hallway leading to the unit where the deceased were found, KITV told The Associated Press. There are puddles of water on the floor, black and grey soot covering the walls and ceilings, and burnt debris scattered about.

One photo shows the burnt entranceway to an apartment where a three-tiered table stands among the ashes and charred debris. Support beams can be seen sticking out through sunken, burnt-out walls in the entranceway. What appears to be a fire hose is shown on the floor in a large puddle of water. Another photo from a nearby apartment shows a sooty door with a large hole above the doorknob.

Melanie Takeyama, who lives on the 7th floor, said she came into her apartment around 2 a.m. Saturday and there was only a little bit of water inside, but when she returned later the entire apartment was soaked.

"It was terrible, my sofa is soaked, my living room, the bathroom, the bedroom, the kitchen, everything is just wasted," she said.

Bruce Campbell, who manages an apartment on the 33rd floor, said he walked down the stairwell to where the fire started.

It "was a very eerie experience," he said. "When we got to 28 and looked in, it's like a war zone in there, it's completely burnt out."

The building is vast and wave-shaped, and it has several sections. The blaze was mostly confined to a single section. Only the units immediately above it and to the side of it were evacuated, while many residents stayed inside.

Cory La Roe, who is from Florida and stationed in Hawaii with the Air Force, works night shifts and was asleep when sirens woke him at about 2:15 p.m.

La Roe said he didn't hear any verbal announcements, and there were no flashing fire alarm lights in the building. But "after I saw people running out and went out to the hallway, I knew it was a fire alarm," he said.

He didn't realize that the building didn't have a sprinkler system and was surprised that was the case.

Gordon Kihune lives on the 13th floor of the Marco Polo apartments and has lived in the building for about 12 years. He says he hasn't seen any fire extinguishers or hoses in the building that he can remember, and didn't hear the alarms going off when the fire broke out.

He said he "only recognized the fact that there was something wrong when I saw the fire trucks pull up, and then I poked my head out, then I could hear the alarm."

No one from the building said they remembered recent fire drills. But Anna Viggiano, who lives on the 6th floor, said there were some after a 2013 fire that broke out two floors above her. Since then, she doesn't hesitate to evacuate when she hears the alarm, Viggiano said.

Douglas Hesley, branch president of Associa Hawaii, the management group that runs the Marco Polo

building, said in a brief statement Saturday that there will be an emergency board meeting to discuss recovery efforts.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Marco Polo community," he said.

Hesley said he could not comment on past fire drills or safety plans that were in place at the time of the fire.

Robert Solomon of the National Fire Protection Association said high-rise building code should require an emergency plan to describe what the fire alarm sounds like and provide residents with an evacuation diagram of the closest exit to their unit.

"The directions would say use the exit stairs and descend three or four or five levels below and then wait in a hallway," Solomon told The Associated Press.

By then, firefighters would have arrived to provide additional instructions, including a fire chief or command officer deciding whether to get everybody out or get people off additional floors.

Associated Press writers Jennifer Sinco Kelleher and Audrey McAvoy in Honolulu, and Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this story.

McConnell delays vote on health care after McCain surgery

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Saturday he will delay consideration of health care legislation in the Senate, after Sen. John McCain's announced absence following surgery left Republicans short of votes on their marquee legislation.

McConnell's announcement amounted to another setback for GOP efforts, promoted by President Donald Trump, to repeal and replace "Obamacare" after years of promises. McConnell issued his statement not long after McCain's office disclosed that he had undergone surgery to remove a blood clot from above his left eye, and had been advised by his doctors to stay in Arizona next week to recover.

With McConnell's health care legislation already hanging by a thread in the Senate with no votes to spare, McCain's absence meant it would become impossible for the majority leader to round up the votes needed to move forward with the bill next week as planned.

"While John is recovering, the Senate will continue our work on legislative items and nominations, and will defer consideration of the Better Care Act," said McConnell, R-Ky. He did not say when he would aim to return to the health care bill.

Even before Saturday night's developments, the fate of the health care legislation looked deeply uncertain in the Senate. In addition to two announced GOP "no" votes from moderate Susan Collins of Maine and conservative Rand Paul of Kentucky, there were at least a half-dozen other Republican senators who were withholding support from or expressing reservations about the bill McConnell released Thursday.

Last month McConnell had to cancel a vote on a previous version of the legislation as GOP opposition left its defeat assured. In a Senate divided 52-48 between Republicans and Democrats, McConnell can lose no more than two votes and still prevail.

The Senate bill, like legislation passed earlier by the House, repeals mandates requiring individuals to carry insurance and businesses to offer it, and unravels an expansion of the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled enacted under President Barack Obama's law. Analyses of the earlier version of the Senate bill found it would result in more than 20 million additional uninsured Americans over a decade compared to current law.

The newest version attempts to attract conservative support by allowing insurers to offer skimpy plans alongside more robust ones, but also reaches out to moderates by adding billions in help for the opioid crisis and to defray high costs for consumers.

With the vote set for the coming week now indefinitely postponed, GOP success in its long-promised Obamacare repeal grows all the more uncertain, despite heavy lobbying in recent days by Trump administration officials. Democrats are unanimously opposed as are the nation's major medical groups and insurers.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 23 of 36

In Phoenix, Mayo Clinic Hospital doctors said McCain underwent a "minimally invasive" procedure to remove the nearly 2-inch (5-centimeter) clot and that the surgery went "very well," a hospital statement said. McCain was reported to be resting comfortably at his home in Arizona.

Pathology reports on the clot were expected in the next several days.

McCain, 80, is a three-time survivor of melanoma. Records of his medical exams released in 2008 when he was the GOP candidate for president showed that he has had precancerous skin lesions removed and had an early stage squamous cell carcinoma, an easily cured skin cancer, removed.

He was re-elected in November to a sixth Senate term.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin rolls out the red carpet for Mars

By ALEX SANZ, Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Forty-eight years after he landed on the moon, Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin on Saturday rolled out a red carpet for the red planet at a star-studded gala at the Kennedy Space Center.

Aldrin, 87, commemorated the upcoming anniversary of the 1969 mission to the moon under a historic Saturn V rocket and raised more than \$190,000 for his nonprofit space education foundation, ShareSpace Foundation. Aldrin believes people will be able to land on Mars by 2040, a goal that NASA shares. The space agency is developing the Space Launch System and the Orion spacecraft to send Americans to deep space.

Apollo astronauts Walt Cunningham, Michael Collins and Harrison "Jack" Schmitt joined Aldrin, one of 12 people to walk on the moon, at the sold-out fundraiser.

"I like to think of myself as an innovative futurist," Aldrin told a crowd of nearly 400 people in the Apollo/Saturn V Center. "The programs we have right now are eating up every piece of the budget and it has to be reduced if we're ever going to get anywhere."

During the gala, the ShareSpace Foundation presented Jeff Bezos with the first Buzz Aldrin Space Innovation Award. Bezos, the founder of Amazon.com and the spaceflight company Blue Origin, is trying to bring the cost of space travel down by reusing rockets.

"We can have a trillion humans in the solar system. What's holding us back from making that next step is that space travel is just too darned expensive," Bezos said. "I'm taking my Amazon lottery winnings and dedicating it to (reusable rockets). I feel incredibly lucky to be able to do that."

The foundation also honored former NASA astronaut Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman to travel in space, with the Buzz Aldrin Space Pioneering Award.

"When Buzz says, 'Get your ass to Mars,' it's not just about the physical part of getting to Mars. It's also about that commitment to doing something big and audacious," Jemison told The Associated Press. "What we're doing looking forward is making sure that we use our place at the table."

Space memorabilia was auctioned at the gala, including an autographed first day insurance "cover" that fetched \$42,500 and flew to the surface of the moon. Covers were set up by NASA because insurance companies were reluctant to offer life insurance to pioneers of the U.S. space program, according to the auction website. Money raised from their sale would have paid out to the astronauts' families in the event of their deaths. The covers were issued in limited numbers and canceled on the day of launch.

The gala is the first part of a three-year campaign leading up to the 50th anniversary of the moon landing to help fund advancements that will lead to the future habitation of Mars.

ShareSpace Foundation on Saturday announced a new nonprofit, the Buzz Aldrin Space Foundation, to create an educational path to Mars. During the past year, the foundation has gifted 100 giant maps of Mars to schools and continues to work with children to advance education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, or STEAM.

More on ShareSpace Foundation: <https://sharespace.org>

Follow Alex Sanz on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/alexsanz>

Turks commemorate 1 year since failed coup with huge march

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY and SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to “rip the heads off” of terror groups and coup-plotters who tried to end his more than decade-long rule on Saturday, as Turkey marked the anniversary of the country’s crushed military coup with a series of rallies and other commemorative events.

Accompanied by his family and the families of the victims of the coup, Erdogan joined a massive, flag-waving crowd near the iconic July 15 Martyrs’ Bridge in Istanbul to remember 250 people who died on July 15, 2016 resisting the coup.

He inaugurated a hollow, globe-shaped monument featuring the names of the victims near the foot of the bridge, before flying to Ankara to attend a special session in parliament at the exact moment it was bombed a year ago. He also opened a second memorial opposite the grounds of his palace in Ankara.

“Exactly a year ago today, around this hour, a treacherous attempt took place,” Erdogan told tens of thousands of people in Istanbul who converged at the bridge following a “national unity march.”

“The July 15 coup attempt is not the first attack against our country, and it won’t be the last,” he said, referring to a series of terror attacks that also hit the country. “For that reason, we’ll first rip the heads off of these traitors.”

The bridge was the scene of clashes between civilians and soldiers in tanks. At least 30 people died there and more than 2,000 were injured across Turkey in the struggle. Thirty-five coup plotters were also killed.

Photographs of the 250 “martyrs” were displayed on monitors and their names announced. Erdogan paid tribute to the victims saying they fought with their “bare hands” and “their faith” against the heavily armed coup-plotters.

Erdogan also told the crowd that he wants hundreds of people who are on trial for plotting last year’s failed coup to appear in court wearing the same type of outfit — similar to those that were worn by detainees at Guantanamo Bay. He also reiterated that he would approve a bill reinstating the death penalty if parliament proposed it.

Turkish soldiers attempted to overthrow the government and the president using tanks, warplanes and helicopters on July 15, 2016. The coup plotters declared their seizure of power on the state broadcaster, bombed the country’s parliament and other key locations, and raided an Aegean resort where Erdogan had been on vacation. But Erdogan had already left and the coup attempt was put down by civilians and security forces.

Turkey blames U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen for orchestrating the coup and infiltrating state institutions. Gulen denies the allegations.

In the aftermath of the coup attempt, Turkey declared a state of emergency that has been in place ever since, which has allowed the government to rule by decree and to dismiss tens of thousands of people from their jobs. More than 50,000 people have also been arrested for alleged links to Gulen and other groups.

Addressing thousands of people outside of the parliament’s building, Erdogan said the country’s highest security advisory body would on Monday consider further extending the state of emergency. He said the failed coup had allowed Turkey to distinguish its friends from its foes but would not name the countries saying he wanted to avoid “a serious international crisis.”

In the latest government decree published Friday evening, 7,395 more state employees were fired, including teachers, academics, military and police officers, bringing the number of dismissed to more than 110,000. The government calls the crackdown necessary to purge state institutions of those linked to Gulen, but critics say the dismissals are arbitrary and the victims’ paths to recourse severely curtailed.

“It has been exactly one year since Turkey’s darkest and longest night was transformed into a bright day, since an enemy occupation turned into the people’s legend,” Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said earlier in the day at a special parliamentary session in Ankara, the capital, attended by Erdogan.

The U.S. State Department on Saturday issued a statement praising the bravery of the Turkish people

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 25 of 36

who took to the streets to “preserve the rights and freedoms of their democratic society.”

“The preservation of democracy requires perseverance, tolerance, dissent and safeguards for fundamental freedoms,” the agency said, warning that curbs on those key freedoms erode “the foundations of democratic society.”

“More voices, not fewer, are necessary in challenging times,” the statement said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg paid homage to those who lost lives resisting the coup and said attempts to undermine democracy in any one of the allied nations was “unacceptable.”

July 15 has been declared a national holiday in Turkey. Tens of thousands of people were holding “democracy vigils” — similar to vigils held in the days following the coup.

Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

From small crimes, cousins allegedly move to killing 4 men

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE and MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two cousins charged in a gruesome crime spree that ended with police unearthing the bodies of four young men buried on a family farm started off committing small crimes.

But authorities don't know why the 20-year-old suspects escalated from offenses like break-ins and jewelry heists to allegedly killing their victims and burying them in two pits so deep beneath the ground that a backhoe and dozens of people were needed to sift through the dirt.

Police found the missing men after a grueling, five-day search in sweltering heat and pelting rain.

For Cosmo DiNardo, whose lawyer said he confessed to all four killings in exchange for being spared the death penalty, brushes with the law began in his early teenage years.

He was about 14 when the Bensalem Police Department first had contact with him. He had more than 30 run-ins with its officers over the next six years, department director Frederick Harran said, although court filings reflect only the minor infractions and traffic stops that came after age 18.

DiNardo enrolled at Arcadia University in Glenside in the fall of 2015 with hopes of studying biology and had an eye on international travel, according to a blog post announcing the incoming class.

“I'm going to go overseas, hopefully to Italy and the rest of Europe,” he is quoted as saying.

However, his time at the school was short. After making comments that unnerved several people on campus, public safety officials contacted the local police department. The university sent a letter to DiNardo's parents saying said their son could face trespassing charges if he returned to the school, a person aware of the contents of the letter said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss it.

A year and a day before he admitted to killing the missing men, lighting three of them on fire and using a backhoe to load the charred bodies into an oil tank that he buried more than 12-feet (3.7-meters)-deep on his parent's farm, a family member had DiNardo involuntarily committed to a mental institution, Harran said.

Details of his institutionalization remain unclear, but he was barred by law from owning a firearm afterward. Nonetheless, when Bensalem police responded to a report of gunfire in February, an officer found DiNardo in his truck with a 20-gauge shotgun and extra ammunition. He acknowledged his history of mental illness, Harran said.

“A year later, here we are,” Harran said Friday. “The system is broken.”

Despite the mental health commitment and frequent interactions with police, DiNardo still managed to sell guns and marijuana in the area, according to a source familiar with DiNardo's confession who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

A police affidavit confirmed the source's story — DiNardo lured each of the victims to his family's 90-acre (36-hectare) Solebury Township farm under the guise of marijuana deals.

His first victim was set to buy \$8,000 worth of marijuana but arrived with only \$800, DiNardo told police, so he brought the 19-year-old Loyola University student to a remote part of the farm and shot him with a .22 caliber rifle. He buried Jimi Taro Patrick in a hole he dug with a backhoe. Yellow ribbons now line the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 26 of 36

Newtown street where Patrick lived with his grandparents.

Monsignor Michael Picard watched Patrick grow up at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Newtown, where he attended school and regularly attended Mass with his grandparents. The priest described Patrick as a very shy, very bright boy who won an academic scholarship to Loyola.

"Jimi may well be an example to other young kids to stay careful and cautious," Picard said "I think the sad thing with our young people today is they get involved with other kids before they know much about them and they can get into trouble."

According to the police affidavit, DiNardo enlisted his cousin, Sean Kratz, to help him rob 19-year-old Dean Finocchiaro, 22-year-old Mark Sturgis and 21-year-old Tom Meo after Patrick's killing.

The three victims were shot, placed with a backhoe into an oil tank that had been converted into a cooker that DiNardo called a "pig roaster," and then lit on fire, according to the affidavit. He buried the drum deep under the ground on his family's farm.

Court records show Kratz was previously arrested on two separate burglary charges in Philadelphia for thefts in June and December of last year where he reportedly stole \$1,000 in tools and \$450 worth of jewelry.

A week before the second theft arrest, Kratz was picked up for shoplifting \$200 worth of clothing at a Macy's near Philadelphia. Police say Kratz had been using pliers to cut off security tags. He pleaded guilty in June to retail theft after more serious charges were withdrawn.

With the Philadelphia cases still pending in January, court records show Kratz skipped bail and went to Illinois. That prompted a judge to issue a bench warrant for his arrest. Out on bail again, a prosecutor said Friday, Kratz became a killer.

Kratz, who said he works at a tiling company, did not have a lawyer with him at his arraignment. Clad in a blue jumpsuit and flanked by detectives, he told a judge that he has trouble walking because he'd been shot three months ago. Kratz's mother, Vanessa, declined to comment.

At a press conference Friday announcing that police had recovered all four previously missing bodies, a reporter asked Bucks County District Attorney Matthew Weintraub why DiNardo felt the need to kill the young men.

"I'm not really sure we could ever answer that question," he said.

Feds appeal judge's travel ban ruling to Supreme Court

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL and ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is seeking to close a legal window opened for tens of thousands of refugees to enter the United States, appealing a federal judge's order directly to the Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson had ordered the government to allow in refugees formally working with a resettlement agency in the United States. His order also vastly expanded the list of U.S. family relationships that refugees and visitors from six Muslim-majority countries can use to get into the country, including grandparents and grandchildren.

In its appeal Friday night, the Justice Department said Watson's interpretation of the Supreme Court's ruling on what family relationships qualify refugees and visitors from the six Muslim-majority countries to enter the U.S. "empties the court's decision of meaning, as it encompasses not just 'close' family members, but virtually all family members. Treating all of these relationships as 'close familial relationship(s)' reads the term 'close' out of the Court's decision."

Only the Supreme Court can decide these issues surrounding the travel ban, the Justice Department said. "Only this Court can definitively settle whether the government's reasonable implementation is consistent with this Court's stay," it said.

On Saturday, the U.S. Justice Department asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to put Watson's ruling on hold while the Supreme Court considers its appeal.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 27 of 36

The long, tangled legal fight is expected to culminate with arguments before the nation's high court in October.

Watson's ruling could help more than 24,000 refugees already vetted and approved by the United States but barred by the 120-day freeze on refugee admissions, said Becca Heller, director of the International Refugee Assistance Project, a resettlement agency.

"Many of them had already sold all of their belongings to start their new lives in safety," she said. "This decision gives back hope to so many who would otherwise be stranded indefinitely."

Citing a need to review its vetting process to ensure national security, the administration capped refugee admissions at 50,000 for the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, a ceiling it hit this week.

The federal budget can accommodate up to 75,000 refugees, but admissions have slowed under Trump, and the government could hold them to a trickle, resettlement agencies say.

"Absolutely this is good news for refugees, but there's a lot of uncertainty," said Melanie Nezer, spokeswoman for HIAS, a resettlement agency. "It's really going to depend on how the administration reacts to this."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions had said the administration would ask the Supreme Court to weigh in, bypassing the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which has ruled against it in the case.

The Supreme Court allowed a scaled-back version of the travel ban to take effect last month.

"Once again, we are faced with a situation in which a single federal district court has undertaken by a nationwide injunction to micromanage decisions of the co-equal executive branch related to our national security," Sessions said. "By this decision, the district court has improperly substituted its policy preferences for the national security judgments of the executive branch in a time of grave threats."

The administration took a first step by filing a notice of appeal to the 9th Circuit, allowing it to use a rule to petition the high court directly. There was no timetable for the Supreme Court to act, but the administration sought quick action to clarify the court's June opinion.

The justices now are scattered during their summer recess, so any short-term action would come in written filings.

The administration has lost most legal challenges on the travel ban, which applies to citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen.

The Supreme Court's ruling exempted a large swath of refugees and travelers with a "bona fide relationship" with a person or an entity in the U.S. The justices did not define those relationships but said they could include a close relative, a job offer or admission to a college or university.

The Trump administration defined the relationships as people who had a parent, spouse, fiancée, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the U.S.

Watson enlarged that group to include grandparents, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Hawaii Attorney General Douglas S. Chin, who sought the broader definition, said Thursday's ruling "makes clear that the U.S. government may not ignore the scope of the partial travel ban as it sees fit."

"Family members have been separated and real people have suffered enough," Chin said.

Spagat reported from San Diego. Associated Press writers Julie Watson in San Diego, Jennifer Sinco Kelleher in Honolulu, Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco and Sadie Gurman and Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

Muguruza beats 'role model' Williams for 1st Wimbledon title

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — As a kid, Garbine Muguruza sat in awe in front of the TV as the Williams sisters accumulated Grand Slam titles. They were her role models.

Now Muguruza is all grown up, an emerging tennis star in her own right — and, as of Saturday, the only woman who can boast of beating each Williams in a major final.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 28 of 36

Muguruza powered her way to her first Wimbledon championship by playing fearlessly and dominating down the stretch, putting together a 7-5, 6-0 victory over a fading Venus Williams by claiming the final's last nine games.

"It's great to go out there and play somebody that you admire," Muguruza said. "I knew she was going to make me suffer and fight for it."

This was Williams' 16th Grand Slam final and ninth at the All England Club. At 37, she was bidding for her sixth title at the grass-court major, 17 years after her first. And she was so close to gaining the upper hand against Muguruza, holding two set points at 5-4 in the opener. But Muguruza fought those off and never looked back.

"She competed really well. So credit to her," Williams said. "She just dug in there."

For Muguruza, this final was her third at a major.

In her first, at Wimbledon in 2015, she lost to Williams' younger sister, Serena. But in her second, at the French Open last year, Muguruza again faced Serena — and won. That was the most recent final Muguruza had played in at any tournament until Saturday, an indication of the sort of up-and-down 12 months she's had.

But with stand-in coach Conchita Martinez pushing her to play each point on its own merits — don't look back, don't think ahead — Muguruza was able to regain her best form these two weeks. Taking the ball early, being aggressive from the start of each point and not relenting, Muguruza did to Williams what the American and her sibling often do to their opponents.

Here was how Muguruza's on-court approach was described by Spanish Fed Cup and Davis Cup captain Martinez, whose 1994 Wimbledon title was the country's most recent for a woman until Saturday: "She's very brave."

Especially against Williams.

Especially in crunch time.

"I was just very composed," the 23-year-old Muguruza said. "Once I go to the big court, I feel good. I feel like that's where I want to be, that's what I practice for. That's where I play good. ... I'm happy to go to the Centre Court and to play the best player. That's what motivates me."

With the roof shut because of rain earlier in the day, each thwack of racket strings against ball by the two big hitters created echoes around the old arena.

Williams began the proceedings with an ace. But Muguruza showed she would not be overwhelmed, returning a serve at 113 mph (182 kph) on the match's second point, and another at 114 mph (184 kph) in the third game — then winning both ensuing exchanges.

Still, Williams was so close to taking the first set, ahead 5-4 while Muguruza served at 15-40. On the first chance, a 20-stroke point ended when Williams blinked first, putting a forehand into the net. On the second set point, Williams sent a return long.

It was as if getting out of that jam freed up Muguruza — and failing to capitalize deflated Williams, who didn't win a game the rest of the way.

"She was getting every one of Venus's shots back. Not only getting it back, but it was deep in the court," said David Witt, Williams' coach, who thought nerves affected his player. "Venus kept having to play that one extra ball."

Williams began spraying shots to unintended spots, while Muguruza stayed steady. Williams finished with 25 unforced errors, 14 more than the champion.

It ended when Williams hit a shot that landed long, but was ruled in. Muguruza challenged the call, and after a bit of a delay, the review showed the ball was, indeed, out. Made to wait to celebrate, Muguruza eventually dropped her knees and covered her crying eyes.

Soon enough, Muguruza was shown her name on the list of winners in the stadium's lobby — "Finally!" she said — and being greeted by former King Juan Carlos of Spain.

It was an anticlimactic conclusion to the fortnight for Williams, Wimbledon's oldest female finalist since Martina Navratilova, 37, was the runner-up to Martinez in 1994. Williams hadn't made it this far at the All

England Club since 2009, hadn't won the title since 2008.

"A lot of beautiful moments in the last couple of weeks," the American said.

Muguruza can say the same, of course, and she was particularly thrilled at the thought of the player she beat to earn the trophy.

"When I knew I was playing Venus in the final, I was actually looking forward (to) it," Muguruza said. "Something incredible."

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

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

Egypt knife attacker first sat, spoke with 2 German victims

By AHMED HATEM and HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

HURGHADA, Egypt (AP) — The Egyptian university graduate who stabbed two German women to death at a popular Red Sea resort first sat and spoke to them in fluent German before producing a large kitchen knife and attacking them, security officials said Saturday.

Leaving them for dead, 29-year-old Abdel-Rahman Shaaban fled the scene, chased by hotel workers and security guards. He rushed into the hotel next door where he attacked and wounded four female tourists who, according to local media reports, included two Armenians, one from Ukraine and another from the Czech Republic.

"Stay back, I am not after Egyptians," Shaaban shouted in Arabic at his pursuers, according to the officials. They eventually caught up with him, disarmed and pinned him down and later handed him over to the police. Shaaban stabbed the women in the face, neck and feet, said the officials.

No group claimed responsibility for the Friday attack, but it appeared to have been inspired by recent calls made by the local affiliate of the extremist Islamic State group on its followers to attack Egypt's minority Christians and foreign tourists.

The officials said Abdel-Rahman hails from the Nile Delta province of Kafr el-Sheikh where he attended the business school of the local branch of Al-Azhar University — the world's foremost seat of learning of Sunni Islam and the target of mounting criticism in recent months over its alleged radical teachings and doctrinal rigidity.

Investigators were still trying to determine how Shaaban came to be in Hurghada, one of Egypt's main Red Sea resorts, popular for its year-round sunny weather and diving.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

A statement by the national security prosecution's office, which is questioning Shaaban in Cairo, said Saturday that his motives and ideological convictions remained unclear. "The characterization of the action committed by the culprit, whether it is an individual act, criminal or terrorist, is not clear to the prosecution at this time," said the statement.

Police are meanwhile interviewing 15 hotel workers to piece together what happened.

Germany on Saturday gave the first official confirmation that the two tourists killed by Shaaban were German nationals, but gave no other information. Local German media reports, however, said the two were residing in Hurghada, not tourists.

In a statement, the German Foreign Ministry said: "According to everything that we know, this act was aimed at foreign tourists — a particularly perfidious and criminal act that leaves us sad, dismayed and angry."

The attack on the tourists took place just hours after five policemen were killed in a shooting near some of Egypt's most famous pyramids in the greater Cairo area. No group claimed responsibility for that attack, which bore the hallmarks of a militant group known as Hasm that has been behind similar attacks in recent months.

Authorities say Hasm is a splinter faction of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group that was outlawed

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 30 of 36

and declared a terrorist organization several months after the military in July 2013 ousted Mohammed Morsi, a senior leader of the Brotherhood who was elected president in 2012.

Friday's attacks are likely to further impact Egypt's tourism industry — a backbone of the country's economy that employs millions of people but which has been decimated by the political turmoil and lack of security roiling the country since the 2011 Arab Spring uprising.

On Saturday, tight security was in place at Hurghada, with additional checkpoints at the city's entry and exit points and reinforced security at tourist sites, including where the attack took place.

Egypt has been rocked by deadly suicide bombings, drive-by shootings and other attacks since Morsi's ouster four years ago. The violence has been concentrated in the northern Sinai Peninsula, but attacks have spread to the mainland, including the capital.

The last time tourists were attacked in Hurghada was in January 2016, when two Austrians and a Swede were stabbed by two suspected militants, also at a hotel. They were only lightly wounded. Security forces shot the attackers, killing one and wounding the other before arresting him.

Separately, authorities on Saturday said four suspected militants were killed in an exchange of gunfire with the police in the desert near the Suez Canal city of Ismailia east of Cairo. The shootout was not related to Friday's attacks at Hurghada and Cairo.

Also Saturday, army troops backed by armored vehicles and snipers deployed outside churches and monasteries in southern province, a precaution against possible attacks by Islamic militants. The deployment came ahead of two major festivals by the sizable Orthodox Coptic church in southern Egypt in the next few weeks that routinely attract millions of worshippers.

Churches in Egypt have also suspended for the remainder of the summer organized pilgrimages and holiday trips for their congregations, following the recommendations of security agencies fearing for their safety.

IS militants have vowed to attack Egypt's minority Christians, as punishment for supporting President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi who, as defense minister, led the military's 2013 ouster of the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, a freely elected president whose one year in office proved divisive. They have targeted several churches in a series of suicide attacks since December. In May, they shot dead about 30 pilgrims traveling to a remote desert monastery. In all, at least a 100, mostly Christian, people were killed in those attacks.

Elsewhere Saturday, in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, a Christian guard on duty outside a church was lightly wounded in the neck when a man he prevented from entering attacked him with a shaving blade, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. It identified the attacker as 24-year-old Abdullah Hassan, a Muslim law graduate.

It said the assailant was arrested and was being questioned to establish his motives.

Hendawi reported from Cairo. Associated Press writer Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

Military cyber operations headed for revamp after long delay

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of delay, the Trump administration is finalizing plans to revamp the nation's military command for defensive and offensive cyber operations in hopes of intensifying America's ability to wage cyberwar against the Islamic State group and other foes, according to U.S. officials.

Under the plans, U.S. Cyber Command would eventually be split off from the intelligence-focused National Security Agency.

Details are still being worked out, but officials say they expect a decision and announcement in the coming weeks. The officials weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter so requested anonymity.

The goal, they said, is to give U.S. Cyber Command more autonomy, freeing it from any constraints that stem from working alongside the NSA, which is responsible for monitoring and collecting telephone, internet and other intelligence data from around the world — a responsibility that can sometimes clash with military operations against enemy forces.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 31 of 36

Making cyber an independent military command will put the fight in digital space on the same footing as more traditional realms of battle on land, in the air, at sea and in space. The move reflects the escalating threat of cyberattacks and intrusions from other nation states, terrorist groups and hackers, and comes as the U.S. faces ever-widening fears about Russian hacking following Moscow's efforts to meddle in the 2016 American election.

The U.S. has long operated quietly in cyberspace, using it to collect information, disrupt enemy networks and aid conventional military missions. But as other nations and foes expand their use of cyberspying and attacks, the U.S. is determined to improve its ability to incorporate cyber operations into its everyday warfighting.

Experts said the command will need time to find its footing.

"Right now I think it's inevitable, but it's on a very slow glide path," said Jim Lewis, a cybersecurity expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. But, he added, "A new entity is not going to be able to duplicate NSA's capabilities."

The NSA, for examples, has 300 of the country's leading mathematicians "and a gigantic super computer," Lewis said. "Things like this are hard to duplicate."

He added, however, that over time, the U.S. has increasingly used cyber as a tactical weapon, bolstering the argument for separating it from the NSA.

The two highly secretive organizations, based at Fort Meade, Maryland, have been under the same four-star commander since Cyber Command's creation in 2009.

But the Defense Department has been agitating for a separation, perceiving the NSA and intelligence community as resistant to more aggressive cyberwarfare, particularly after the Islamic State's transformation in recent years from an obscure insurgent force into an organization holding significant territory across Iraq and Syria and with a worldwide recruiting network.

While the military wanted to attack IS networks, intelligence objectives prioritized gathering information from them, according to U.S. officials familiar with the debate. They weren't authorized to discuss internal deliberations publicly and requested anonymity.

Then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter sent a plan to President Barack Obama last year to make Cyber Command an independent military headquarters and break it away from the NSA, believing that the agency's desire to collect intelligence was at times preventing the military from eliminating IS' ability to raise money, inspire attacks and command its widely dispersed network of fighters.

Carter, at the time, also pushed for the ouster of Adm. Mike Rogers, who still heads both bodies. The Pentagon, he warned, was losing the war in the cyber domain, focusing on cyberthreats from nations such as Iran, Russia and China, rather than on countering the communications and propaganda campaigns of internet-savvy insurgents.

Officials also grew alarmed by the growing number of cyberattacks against the U.S. government, including several serious, high-level Defense Department breaches that occurred under Rogers' watch.

"NSA is truly an intelligence-collection organization," said Lauren Fish, a research associate with the Center for a New American Security. "It should be collecting information, writing reports on it. Cyber Command is meant to be an organization that uses tools to have military operational effect."

After President Donald Trump's inauguration, officials said Defense Secretary Jim Mattis endorsed much of the plan. But debate over details has dragged on for months.

It's unclear how fast the Cyber Command will break off on its own. Some officials believe the new command isn't battle-ready, given its current reliance on the NSA's expertise, staff and equipment. That effort will require the department to continue to attract and retain cyber experts.

Cyber Command was created in 2009 by the Obama administration to address threats of cyber espionage and other attacks. It was set up as a sub-unit under U.S. Strategic Command to coordinate the Pentagon's ability to conduct cyberwarfare and to defend its own networks, including those that are used by combat forces in battle.

Officials originally said the new cyber effort would likely involve hundreds, rather than thousands, of new employees.

Since then, the command has grown to more than 700 military and civilian employees. The military services also have their own cyber units, with a goal of having 133 fully operational teams with as many as 6,200 personnel.

Its proposed budget for next year is \$647 million. Rogers told Congress in May that represents a 16 percent increase over this year's budget to cover costs associated with building the cyber force, fighting IS and becoming an independent command.

Under the new plan being forwarded by the Pentagon to the White House, officials said Army Lt. Gen. William Mayville would be nominated to lead Cyber Command. Leadership of the NSA could be turned over to a civilian.

Mayville is currently the director of the military's joint staff and has extensive experience as a combat-hardened commander. He deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, leading the 173rd Airborne Brigade when it made its assault into Iraq in March 2003 and later heading coalition operations in eastern Afghanistan.

Family scatters Chinese Nobel laureate's ashes into the sea

By GILLIAN WONG and NG HAN GUAN, Associated Press

SHENYANG, China (AP) — Family members of Liu Xiaobo scattered the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's ashes into the sea on Saturday in funeral proceedings closely orchestrated by the Chinese government following his death from cancer while in custody.

Liu's supporters said the move was intended by the authoritarian government to permanently erase any traces of China's best-known political prisoner, who died Thursday at the age of 61.

The sea burial took place Saturday at noon, just hours after his cremation, a spokesman for the north-eastern city of Shenyang, where Liu died, told reporters.

Liu's elder brother, also addressing reporters at the briefing, thanked the ruling Communist Party and the government for its handling of his brother's funeral. The brother, Liu Xiaoguang, is regarded by Liu's friends as having long been unsupportive of Liu's political advocacy.

Liu died from multiple organ failure following a battle with liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for incitement to subvert state power. In the run-up to his death, Beijing faced mounting international criticism for not letting him and his wife travel for treatment abroad as he had wished.

The government held two briefings Saturday and provided photos of the funeral and the sea burial, the latest moves in a propaganda campaign seemingly aimed at countering criticism that Beijing has failed to handle Liu's deterioration and dying wishes in a humanitarian way. A video about Liu's hospital treatment released on the website of Shenyang's judicial bureau Friday appeared aimed at the same objective.

Activists and friends of the family said the sea burial appeared to be Beijing's way of removing every last physical trace of Liu. It also removes the need for a land-based grave at which his supporters would have been able to pay their respects.

"The government's thinking is that in this way, they can destroy the body and remove all traces of him," dissident and family friend Hu Jia said by phone.

"After all, he's a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and he died after being suppressed by the authorities," Hu said. "The authorities are very worried that a grave would be the focal point of the public's actions to memorialize him, which could easily turn into protests."

Activist filmmaker and friend Zeng Jinyan said the sea burial would not deter supporters from commemorating Liu's life.

"Now, Liu Xiaobo is everywhere," Zeng said. "Two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered by the sea and I can foresee that in the future, activists and ordinary people will go to the sea and memorialize Liu Xiaobo."

In Hong Kong, thousands of Liu's supporters and activists attended a candlelight vigil Saturday to mourn his death.

Supporters paid their respects by observing a minute of silence and marching through the streets of Hong Kong holding lit candles.

Liu's wife and other family members have been closely guarded by authorities and remain largely out of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 33 of 36

contact with the outside world even after his death. Governments around the world have urged China to free his wife, Liu Xia, from the strict house arrest she has lived under for years even though she has not been convicted of any crime.

The government handout photos showed Liu Xia, who wore dark sunglasses, being comforted by her brother in a funeral parlor as they stood in a row with Liu's older and younger siblings and their wives. Liu's body lay in an open casket in the center of the room, surrounded by an arrangement of potted white flowers.

A black banner strung on the wall read "Mr. Liu Xiaobo's funeral" in white Chinese characters. It was positioned above a framed picture of Liu. A press release issued by the government said that the ceremony was held at 6:30 a.m. to the music of Mozart's Requiem, and that the body was cremated shortly afterward.

The government also said some of Liu's friends attended the ceremony, a claim that was disputed by people who have long been close to Liu. In the handout images, none among a group of people standing by the casket were identifiable as any of Liu's friends, Zeng said.

Zeng said she was among the Liu family's friends who had traveled to Shenyang only to be prevented by the authorities from seeing Liu in his final moments.

"I just want to be closer to him and to see him, touch him even, if it's possible, and to give Liu Xia a hug, that's all," she said in English.

Zeng said it was "shameful" that the government said Liu's friends had attended the funeral. "How disgusting," she said.

Another of Liu's friends, dissident writer Mo Zhixu, said he thought the well-built young men with buzz cuts in the handout photos resembled security agents who kept track of Liu's wife. "This is just a big performance," he said.

"This regime has long been acting without humanity — that's why they denied him even a minute of freedom even until his death," Mo said.

At the briefing in Shenyang, a spokesman for the city's information office said the authorities were looking out for Liu Xia's interests and insisted that she is free.

"As far as I know, Liu Xia has freedom. But she just lost her relative and is in deep sorrow," spokesman Zhang Qingyang said. "After Liu Xiaobo's death, let Liu Xia tend to his affairs and try to keep her away from external interference."

Liu was only the second Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in police custody, a fact pointed to by human rights groups as an indication of the Chinese Communist Party's increasingly hard line against its critics. The first, Carl von Ossietzky, died from tuberculosis in Germany in 1938 while serving a sentence for opposing Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

Liu rose to prominence during the 1989 pro-democracy protests centered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2009 for co-authoring "Charter 08," a document that called for an end to one-party rule in China.

He was in prison when he was awarded the Nobel in 2010, which Beijing condemned as an affront to its political and legal systems.

There is little mention of Liu in China's heavily censored state media and social networking platforms. One notable exception is a newspaper published by the Communist Party that said in an editorial that the West was "deifying" Liu, a man the paper described as a criminal who was "paranoid, naive and arrogant."

"Liu's memorial tablet cannot find a place in China's cultural temple," the Global Times said in the editorial Saturday. "Deification of Liu by the West will be eventually overshadowed by China's denial of him."

Wong reported from Beijing. AP video journalist Johnson Lai contributed to this report from Hong Kong.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 34 of 36

Every morning, they mow, paint, mop Wimbledon's grass courts

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — At 7:30 a.m. each day of the Wimbledon fortnight, hours before competition begins, the keepers of the grass gather to meticulously prepare the tournament's hallowed courts for play.

Dozens of people spread out around the All England Club grounds to mow, paint and mop — yes, with a sponge mop and a pail of water, just like folks might use to make a kitchen floor sparkle. The night before, after a day's action concludes, the courts are vacuumed ("Hoovered," as the locals say) to collect whatever debris might have gathered — yes, with a larger, heavy-duty version of what folks might use to clean a living room rug. Water sprinklers are briefly turned on, with the exact amount for each court determined by measuring its hardness and what the weather is. And then the covers are pulled over.

"Tuck her in, put her to bed," said Grant Cantin, the head groundsman at the All England Club, "and see you in the morning."

This is not typical lawncare, mind you. It's a bit of well-organized and highly specialized choreography, done in an attempt to ensure that everything is just right when the likes of Roger Federer step on Centre Court. The process will happen Saturday morning well before a packed house of 15,000 or so, plus millions more in front of TVs, watch Venus Williams plays Garbine Muguruza in the women's final. And again Sunday morning before the men's final.

"We want people to walk in here and just be, 'Wow!' It's all about presentation. We want to be looking the best we can," Cantin said. "I lay in bed thinking about the grass. I'm obsessed with it."

Federer and Novak Djokovic were among the players who raised questions about the court conditions during this year's tournament.

"Everybody's entitled to their own opinion. We do try to produce the exact same court, but when we're up against heat that we've never had before, it obviously makes our life very difficult," said Cantin, a Canadian working at his 16th Wimbledon. "Overall, we're extremely happy with the way the courts have played. ... Held up remarkably well. We're just going to go on and do our job."

Djokovic pointed out what he called "a hole" in the turf at Centre Court to a chair umpire after one match. Kristina Mladenovic of France and Alison Riske of the U.S. both complained about Court 18 after each slipped early during a second-round match, when the unusually warm and dry recent weather left patches of beige-colored grass or, worse, dirt near the baselines — something that usually doesn't happen until the latter days of the Grand Slam tournament.

It's also something that never happens at the U.S. Open and Australian Open, which use hard courts, or the French Open, which is played on red clay.

"This is Wimbledon. The courts are going to be in the best shape possible," said Steve Johnson, an American who was seeded 26th this year. "But it definitely plays a little different once it gets worn. It gets more slick. The bounces aren't as pure. ... Dealing with that is part of the game."

As Cantin stood in the Centre Court stands Thursday, a three-man crew — each member in a green polo shirt, blue shorts and white sneakers — went about its daily tasks to prepare the perennial ryegrass for the women's singles semifinals.

Rick Street already had finished his job at No. 1 Court when he arrived at the main stadium shortly before 8:15 a.m. to push a yellow-and-black electric lawnmower — gas-powered versions were used until last year — from end to end, cutting the grass precisely to a height of 8 millimeters (that's less than a third of an inch; imagine a stack of eight dimes). A roller at the back of the machine pushed down the grass as it's cut; by going first in one direction, then the other, parallel to the doubles alleys, Street created the illusion of stripes.

"There's no great secret to it," Cantin said as the mower's whir filled the arena and the unmistakable smell of grass cuttings wafted about. "You need a roller on the back of the mower, and a steady hand to keep the lines straight."

The same process repeated itself all around the facility, where each year the courts are re-seeded.

"History tells us that Centre Court is the most famous tennis court in the world," said Neil Stubley, the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 35 of 36

club's head of courts and horticulture. "But from a turf perspective, it's no better or worse than any other courts."

After 20 minutes, Street removed a black bin on the back to clean out what he'd trimmed so far.

"I've always said you could sell those grass clippings," Cantin said. "Put them in a key chain or something."

As Street continued, mopper Ben Sidgwick arrived with green pail in hand. He would wet his mop, then hunch over and use its sponge to slowly skim the grass, erasing whatever slight remnants of white line paint might have been scattered about by the mower.

Finally, it was painter Will Brierley's turn. Street helped Brierly stretch a piece of orange string, just so, along a court line, then fasten it into the ground with a small metal stake. Eyes down, Brierly pushed a wheel to dispense the paint, walking slowly, heel-to-toe, heel-to-toe — first the vertical lines, then horizontal, ending at the baselines.

By now, Street's double cut of mowing was complete. Sidgwick knelt and allowed drops of mop water to drip near the lines and used his fingers to rub away excess paint from individual blades. After that, the final touch: He took a paint brush and gently dabbed the occasional blank spot along each baseline.

The mopping and touchups are important, Cantin explained, because the Hawk-Eye replay system is precise enough that even an extra speck of paint where it shouldn't be could affect readings.

"Need an absolute crisp line," Cantin said.

At 9:50 a.m., Sidgwick walked off the court, can of white paint and brush in his right hand, green pail of water and mop in his left.

The court was ready.

"By the time the gates open at 10:30, we're done, we're out of here," Cantin said, "and we're not seen."

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

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 16, the 197th day of 2017. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

On this date:

In 1557, Anne of Cleves, who was briefly the fourth wife of England's King Henry VIII, died in London at age 41.

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became Washington, D.C.

In 1862, Flag Officer David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1935, the first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City.

In 1951, the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1957, Marine Corps Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a Vought F8U Crusader jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

In 1973, during the Senate Watergate hearings, former White House aide Alexander P. Butterfield publicly

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, July 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 016 ~ 36 of 36

revealed the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret taping system.

In 1980, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In 2002, the Irish Republican Army issued an unprecedented apology for the deaths of "noncombatants" over 30 years of violence in Northern Ireland.

Ten years ago: Declaring a "moment of choice" in the Middle East, President George W. Bush said he would call Israel, the Palestinians and others in the region to a peace conference. (The summit took place in November 2007.) A man carrying a gun and declaring "I am the emperor" was shot and killed by a state trooper outside the offices of Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter. (The man was identified as 32-year-old Aaron Snyder.) A 6.8-magnitude earthquake on Japan's northwest coast killed 11 people and caused radioactive leaks at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant.

Five years ago: North Korea announced a reshuffling of its military, dismissing its army chief — a key mentor to young ruler Kim Jong Un — and promoting a little-known general to an important position in the million-man force. Singer Kitty Wells, whose hits such as "Making Believe" and "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels" made her the first female superstar of country music, died at age 92.

One year ago: Republican presidential nominee-apparent Donald Trump formally introduced his running mate, Mike Pence, during an event in New York, hailing the Indiana governor as his "first choice" and "my partner in the campaign" a day after announcing the selection on Twitter. Basketball Hall of Famer Nate Thurmond, 74, died in San Francisco. Country singer Bonnie Brown, 77, died in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh is 85. Soul singer Denise LaSalle is 83. Soul singer William Bell is 78. International Tennis Hall of Famer Margaret Court is 75. College Football Hall of Famer and football coach Jimmy Johnson is 74. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman is 69. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 69. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland is 65. Playwright Tony Kushner is 61. Dancer Michael Flatley is 59. Actress Phoebe Cates is 54. Actor Paul Hipp is 54. Actor Daryl "Chill" Mitchell is 52. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 50. Actor Jonathan Adams is 50. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is 49. Actress Rain Pryor is 48. Actor Corey Feldman is 46. Rock musician Ed Kowalczyk (Live) is 46. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 43. Actress Jayma Mays is 38. Actress AnnaLynne McCord is 30. Actor-singer James Maslow is 27. Actor Mark Indelicato is 23. Pop singer-musician Luke Hemmings (5 Seconds to Summer) is 21.

Thought for Today: "There is a tendency to mistake data for wisdom, just as there has always been a tendency to confuse logic with values, intelligence with insight." — Norman Cousins, American author and journalist (1915-1990).