

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 1 of 48

Sat., Aug. 26, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- McKiver Collision Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Day
- 3- Obit: Janice Taylor
- 4- First state death from West Nile
- 4- Help Wanted
- 5- Pheasant population is down
- 6- Hinman scores first season touchdown
- 7- Farmers Union PSA
- 8- Day Sponsors Offer Special Activities at the SD State Fair
- 9- Dr. Holm's Column
- 9- Schuelke Open House
- 10-Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 11- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 12- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 13- Today in Weather History
- 14- Today's Forecast
- 15- Yesterday's Weather
- 15- Today's Weather Info
- 15- National Weather Map
- 16- Daily Devotional
- 17- News from the Associated Press

26

- 1 p.m.: Boys soccer at Vermillion
- 3 p.m.: Girls soccer at Vermillion
- 5:30 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship in Pierpont
- Pool Hours:** Open Swim 1-4:50; Lap Swim 5-6:30; Open Swim, 6:40-8:00.

27

- St. John's Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran:** worship at 9 a.m.
- United Methodist Church:** Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.
- Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.
- First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.
- Heaven Bound Ministries:** Worship at Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church near Sisseton at 10:30 a.m.
- Pool Hours:** Open Swim 1-4:50; Lap Swim 5-6:30; Open Swim, 6:40-8:00.

Official Notices

Westport Town (updated 8-21-17)

Other Notices (updated 8-21)

Brown County (updated 8-15)

Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)

Groton City (updated 8-8)

Groton Area School (updated 8-7)


Frederick Area School Book (updated 7-26)

Claremont Town Official Notices Book

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

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

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent



Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!

13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 2 of 48

"WE TRAVEL
NOT TO
ESCAPE LIFE,
BUT FOR
LIFE NOT TO
ESCAPE US."

-Author
Unknown

Chicken Soup
for the *Soul*.



The Life of Janice Taylor



Mass of Christian Burial for Janice Taylor, 82, of Conde will be 10:30 a.m., Monday, August 28, 2017, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Turton. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Burial will follow in Conde Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held Sunday at the chapel from 4-6 p.m. with a wake service at 5:00 p.m.

Janice passed away Thursday, August 24, 2017 at Aberdeen Health and Rehab.

Janice Joan was born on November 1, 1934 to Matt and Helen (Bertsch) Bawek at their home in Conde. She attended grade and high school in Conde, graduating in 1952. Janice worked at the Little Inn Diner on Main Street of Conde, where she met the love of her life, LaVerne Taylor. They married in June of 1954 at St. John's Catholic Church, Conde. Born to this union were seven children.

Important to Janice was her Faith, Family, Friends and Community. Janice was a lifelong member of St. John's Catholic Church of Conde. She was active in the Altar Society, choir and church cemetery board. Upon its closure, she transferred to St. Joseph's of Turton. Janice was a gifted singer and sang at many weddings, funerals and Karaoke events. She was a proud member of Donald A. Lewis American Legion Auxiliary, where she held many offices. She was awarded Legionette of the Year in 1999. Janice sold Avon for several years and in later years worked at the Conde School Cafeteria. The job she most enjoyed was raising her 7 children. She was a member of and enjoyed time with friends at Conde Senior Citizens. She also liked music, gardening, drawing & doodling and cooking for her family. She was gifted with artistic ability, evident in her illustrations in the 1952 Spartan yearbook. Janice took great pride in watching her children participate in music and sporting events.

Greeting her home were her parents, her loving husband, LaVerne, brother, Morris Bawek, sister, Dolores Geary and an infant brother, Donald.

Continuing to love her are her children: Jeff (Trudy) Taylor of Big Stone City, Lowell Taylor of Conde, Ann (Don) Hearnen of Conde, Kristy (Dave) Huber of Conde, Cathy (Kelly) Christenson of Aberdeen, Jerry (MaryAnn) Taylor of Conde, Dale (Kathy) Taylor of Kimball, 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, her brother, Ron (Becky) Bawek, sister-in-law, Joyce Bawek and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Casketbearers will be her grandsons: Austin Hearnen, Travis Hearnen, Nick Huber, Jordan Huber, Drew Huber, Adam Christenson, Spencer Christenson, Ross Taylor, Jesse Taylor and Josh Taylor.

Hamlin County Resident First WNV Death Of Season

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Health Friday reported a Hamlin County resident died of West Nile virus (WNV) associated causes, the state's first WNV related death this season. The individual was in the 80 to 89 age group.

To date this season, South Dakota has reported 39 cases of human WNV; 33 percent have had the most serious neuroinvasive disease while 67 percent have had WNV fever. Forty-four percent of cases have been hospitalized. So far this year, 14 West Nile-associated deaths have been reported nationwide.

"Our sympathy is with the family. We only hope their tragic loss will encourage others to take seriously the threat of West Nile and take steps to protect themselves," said Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the department. "We strongly encourage people to protect themselves and their families by using repellent and avoiding the outdoors when mosquitoes are most active."

Kightlinger said South Dakotans can reduce their risk with the following precautions:

- Apply mosquito repellents (DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535) to clothes and exposed skin. Limit exposure by wearing pants and long sleeves in the evening.
- Limit time outdoors from dusk to midnight when Culex mosquitoes, the primary carrier of WNV in South Dakota, are most active.
- Get rid of standing water that gives mosquitoes a place to breed. Regularly change water in bird baths, outside pet dishes, and drain water from flower pots and garden containers.
- Support local mosquito control efforts.

These precautions are especially important for people at high risk for WNV – those over 50, pregnant women, transplant patients, individuals with diabetes or high blood pressure, and those with a history of alcohol abuse. People with severe or unusual headaches should see their physicians.

For updated case numbers and prevention information see <http://westnile.sd.gov>.

Help Wanted

Full- or part-time for the following positions:
Healthcare workers for Nurse's-RN or LPN, and
Nursing Assistants, Dietary Cook and assistant,
and Housekeeper. (12 hour shifts/rotating weekends for
nurses and C.N.A.s)

Contact Jessica Lindskov or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365
or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton
605-397-2365

2017 Pheasant Brood Survey Results Are In

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has completed the annual pheasant brood survey and the results show a significant decrease in the statewide pheasants-per-mile (PPM) index from 2016. The 2017 statewide PPM index is 1.68, down from last year's index of 3.05.

"While this news is disappointing, it is not unexpected," stated Kelly Hepler, GFP department secretary. "The difficult winter weather and subsequent drought conditions in various parts of the state will result in hunters having to work harder at trying to take home their daily limit. Even with these conditions, the pheasant hunting opportunities in South Dakota continue to be the best in the country."

From late July through mid-August, GFP surveyed 110, thirty-mile routes across the state's pheasant range to estimate pheasant production and calculate the PPM index. The survey is not a population estimate, but rather compares the number of pheasants observed on the routes and establishes trend information. Survey routes are grouped into 13 areas, based on a local city, and the index value of each local city area is then compared to index values of the previous year and the 10-year average.

"Weather conditions and available habitat are key factors contributing to pheasant numbers. We have to remember that over 80 percent of South Dakota experienced some level of drought by mid-July. During very severe drought conditions, pheasant nesting success and chick survival can be reduced due to less cover and a reduction in insects for chicks to feed on," stated Hepler.

This year, over 8,000 new acres have been enrolled in the Walk-In Area hunting access program within the pheasant range; providing additional places to hunt. This adds to over 1 million acres of existing publicly owned and privately leased land open for public hunting in the primary pheasant range of South Dakota.

"South Dakota is a hunting destination for people across the country and the world, with more than 1 million birds harvested each year. Pheasant hunting and other outdoor recreational activities have long been a fundamental part of the South Dakota experience. We look forward to welcoming that traditional sea of blaze orange once again this October," concluded Hepler.

South Dakota's traditional statewide pheasant hunting season opens on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, and runs through Jan. 7, 2018.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 6 of 48

No injuries at EEK game, Hinman scores first touchdown



Seric Shabazz gets ready to run into EEK's Lucas Hofer. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Area came home with no injuries and scored the season's first touchdown in a football game played in Kulm, N.D. on Friday. Since Oakes dropped down to nine-man football, Groton Area picked up Ellendale-Edgeley-Kulm (EEK) to the schedule.

"We knew what we were getting into when we pick up Ellendale-Edgeley-Kulm," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "They're the state defending champions and have 16 kids back from last year's state tournament team."

EEK wasted no time putting points on the boards. The Thunder scored with 33 seconds gone in the game. Four of the Thunder's six touchdowns were from passes and Wanner said that did catch Groton off guard. "We were worried about their running game," Wanner said. EEK took to the air and had touchdown passes for 15 yards, 32 yards, 19 yards and 57 yards in the first half with one safety and one three-yard run. EEK led at half time, 47-0.

"We played better in the second half," Wanner

said, "but we're still learning our assignments." Groton is fielding a very young team this and Wanner said that is very tough when they are facing juniors and seniors. "At one point we had five sophomores on offense and you throw in a freshmen, you have a lot of underclassmen against their junior and senior state football championship team. It's a big learning experience for our kids."

Both teams matched up better in the fourth quarter as EEK subbed down. That allowed Lucas Hinman to score Groton's first touchdown of the season on a nine-yard run. The PAT kick by Hunter Schaller was good and the game ended, 43-7.

Next week, Groton Area will be hosting Siseton. "We should be getting some of the kids back on the field that have been sidelined from injuries," Wanner said. He anticipates that Wyatt Locke, Brandyn Anderson and maybe Andrew Rintala will be back on the field.

EEK's quarterback, Jacob DeWald, had a perfect night, completing 12 of 12 passes for 268



Lucas Hinman dodges around EEK's Nathan Peterson. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 7 of 48

yards and four touchdowns.

Groton's offense was limited to the ground game with 23 carries for 118 yards. Seric Shabazz had two carries for 50 yards, Darian Shabazz had three for 51 yards, Lucas Hinman had five for 21 yards and Doug Heminger had two for four yards. The Tigers attempted seven passes, lost one of three fumbles and had five penalties for 30 yards. EEK had no fumbles and had six penalties for 40 yards.

Defensive leaders were Brandon Keith with 14 tackles and Lucas Hinman with 10 tackles.

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Hanlon Brothers, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgensen, Grain Solutions LLC - Jesse Zak, Groton Ford, Blocker Construction, Erickson Insurance Agency, Bahr Spray Foam and Construction, Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, Olson Development, John Sieh Agency; Krueger Brothers Road Maintenance, Dirt and Gravel; Dickey Rural Networks, Milbrandt Enterprises, Northern Plains Psychological Associates with Franne Sippel, Doug Abeln Seed Company, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass and the touchdown sponsor is Cheri's on Main.



All auto owners!

Save \$2-\$4 /tank

& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon

Super Premium E30's

94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

**PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**



Marshall Lane throws the ball for an intended receiver at Groton's game with EEK Friday night in Kulm, N.D. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 8 of 48

Day Sponsors Offer Special Activities at the SD State Fair

(HURON, S.D.) - With the help of sponsors, the State Fair is able to offer special days at the 2017 South Dakota State Fair.

Wednesday, Aug. 30, is Channel Seeds Preview Day. Gate entry is free on Preview Day to allow fairgoers a sneak peak of the fair. The Goldstar Amusements carnival will open at 5 p.m. and all rides will be \$1 each. The Red Wilk Construction CBR Bull Bash kicks off the grandstand entertainment.

Thursday, Aug. 31, is Value Added Ag Day. South Dakota's value added agriculture industry will be showcased at the day sponsor tent. The South Dakota Specialty Producers Association and the South Dakota Wine Growers Association are partnering with the Value Added Ag Development Center to feature specialty crops, local foods and wines, beers and spirits. There will also be presentations on various local food topics and a cooking demo. Be sure to make time to walk through the day sponsor tent and wine pavilion to sample products from value added businesses and learn more about the innovative products being made in South Dakota.

Friday, Sept. 1, is Prostrollo Motors Day. Fairgoers can stop by Prostrollo Motors on east Highway 14 in Huron prior to the fair to pick up a coupon for \$1 off gate admission at the State Fair. Prostrollo Motors will be featuring the newest vehicles for 2018. Those who stop by will see what's coming in the year ahead and have the chance to win door prizes and 'Best Seat in the House' tickets for the grandstand concerts.

Saturday, Sept. 2, is South Dakota Farmers Union Day. The South Dakota Farmers Union will host events throughout the day celebrating family farms, ranches and rural communities from across the state of South Dakota. Highlighting the day of activities will be the annual Farmer's Share Luncheon (limited number of meals available) located in the tent near the Freedom stage from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The South Dakota Farmer's Union will also host a Farm Bill panel to hear fairgoers' concerns on the upcoming Farm Bill and other rural issues affecting the state.

Sunday, Sept. 3, is DPS Drive Safe SD/Fire Safety Day. The South Dakota Department of Public Safety will focus on two areas – responsible driving and fire safety. See Highway Patrol safety simulators and police dog demonstrations at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tommy the Turtle, the Office of Emergency Management's official mascot, will also be on hand to teach children how to be safe during severe weather. The goal of DPS Day is to highlight all the ways the department works to keep the public safe.

Monday, Sept. 4, is Crowns and Capes Day. It's a day for kids to test their skills in the penny drop game, explore the fairgrounds for a scavenger hunt, be a part of the Little Hands on the Farm learning experience, and meet real princesses and superheroes. A diaper derby and parent/child look-a-like contests will also be held at the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage.

There are also plenty of opportunities to receive free or reduced gate entrances. A lucky few fairgoers entering the gates on Labor Day have the opportunity to get a 'Pay it Forward' pass granting them free entrance thanks to sponsors. Additionally, fairgoers who bring a non-perishable food item for the 'Drive to End Hunger' between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. will receive \$2 off gate admission. Iverson's will also have \$3 off daily carnival ride wristband coupons at their fair booth.

The 2017 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Aug. 31, through Monday, Sept. 4. Channel Seeds preview night will be Wednesday, Aug. 30. This year's theme is "Seriously Twisted Fun." For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find them on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit the SDDA online at <http://www.sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



Blisters can be due to many Conditions



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

This morning, a 40-year-old woman called a question into my radio talk show complaining of a bunch of tight blisters under her right shoulder blade. She said, "The skin is red underneath and the whole area is quite painful." Her question was, "What kind of bug bites could have done this, and what should I do?"

In reality, these were likely not bug bites, but rather the manifestations of the alphaherpesvirus varicella-zoster virus (VZV). This virus is more commonly referred to as "chickenpox" early in life and "shingles" when it reemerges

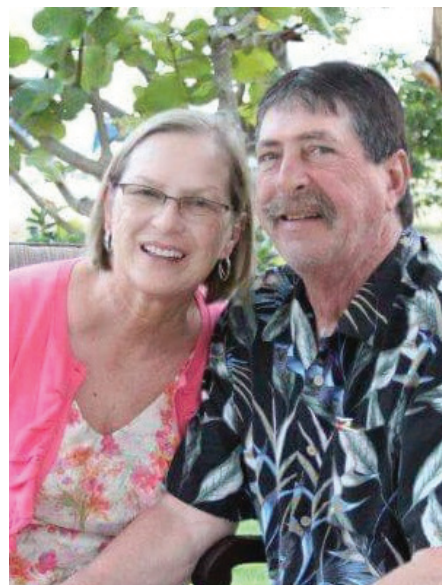
in older individuals. Though we typically acquire chickenpox at a young age, the virus sets up shop in peripheral nerves for the lifespan of the host and can raise its ugly head many years later, resulting in shingles. It is fortunate that vaccination of the young, or those over 60-years-of-age, can help prevent chicken pox and reduce the severity of shingles if the virus ever reactivates.

A similar type of skin infection can be caused by herpes simplex virus (HSV). Infection with HSV commonly results in fever blisters, also known as "cold sores". These are larger, painful, blisters which cluster around the infected area, typically the mouth or the genitals (depending on where the virus was initially acquired) that can reemerge when the immune system is weakened by illness or stress. There are two types of HSV, I and II, that can be both directly and sexually transmitted. Like VZV, HSV type I and II are alphaherpesviruses, meaning they also exist for the lifespan of the host. Antiviral medications like Acyclovir can help abate symptoms and prevent reactivation, but there are currently no vaccines or cures available for HSV.

Blisters can also result from contact dermatitis, a condition where the body reacts negatively to an irritant or allergen, resulting in a skin rash. These irritants or allergens can be anything, like poison ivy, antibiotic ointment, or even fabric softener. We also see blisters pop-up when unprotected hands are traumatized by raking the yard, burned by grabbing a hot pot handle, or frost-bitten on an ice-fishing expedition. A life-threatening blister condition can also occur when a person has an allergic reaction to some pill or intravenous medicine and blisters start spreading over extensive amounts of skin and into mucous membranes. When this occurs, stopping the culprit medicine and providing emergency medical measures can save the patient's life.

A few years ago, a 99-year-old patient started suffering from blisters over her lower legs. I first tried stopping every unnecessary medication, then a topical treatment, but to no avail. I reviewed causes for blisters and once again realized how many different reasons there could be for blisters on the skin. After biopsy, her diagnosis came back as a mysterious autoimmune disorder called pemphigoid. The dermatologist treated and cleared the blisters with just the right medicine, and my patient had relief.

The more I learn, the more I am humbled.



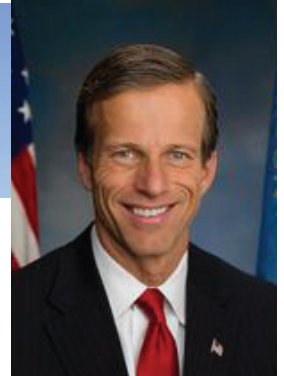
You're Invited!

**Bill & Eileen
Schuelke
50th Anniversary
Celebration
Open House**

**Saturday,
August 26, 2017
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Olive Grove
Golf Course Clubhouse
Groton, SD**

Children are welcome!

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Making Good on America's Commitment to Our Veterans

Among the highlights of traveling across South Dakota is visiting with the many veterans who have helped shape our communities and embody our state's selfless and giving culture. From one generation to the next, these patriots have defended our freedom and liberty, and we owe them a big debt of gratitude. In addition to giving thanks, we must also ensure they receive the care and benefits they have earned through their service and sacrifice, which is why I'm glad Congress recently passed, and the president signed, several important pieces of legislation that make good on that promise.

Most recently, the president signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which will overhaul the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) current appeals process so it can process claims faster and provide additional transparency and safeguards for veterans, their families, and survivors.

The president also recently signed the "Forever GI Bill," which will grant full GI Bill benefits to Purple Heart recipients, regardless of their total length of service. The bill will also eliminate the arbitrary 15-year window in which veterans were required to use their benefits after leaving the military and expand educational opportunities for veterans enrolling in high-tech courses like coding boot camps. Broadening the reach of this invaluable education benefit will help ensure that our veterans can build from their military talents and embark on new opportunities as they return to the civilian world.

The VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017, which makes a significant investment in the Veterans Choice program, also became law in early August. These additional funds will allow veterans to get timely care in their own communities, rather than enduring long wait times and traveling long distances for care. The bill also authorizes leases for VA medical facilities, including a replacement Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Rapid City.

The current Rapid City CBOC is outdated and too small to meet veterans' needs. When I met with VA Secretary Shulkin and the rest of the state's congressional delegation this spring, the secretary indicated that he wanted to make these improvements in Rapid City, which is separate from former VA Secretary Robert McDonald's decision on the potential realignment of VA services in the Black Hills. That proposal is on hold while the VA reviews its national footprint and veteran needs.

I'm also pleased to report that the VA acted on my request to more prominently feature the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) on its website, VA.gov. I suggested to Secretary Shulkin that the VCL be displayed in the first of four rotating banners on the VA's website or be given a dedicated button that is immediately identifiable on the VA's homepage. Within days of receiving my letter, the VA reordered its banners to feature the VCL, and I look forward to working with the VA to further promote this critical resource. Any veteran or member of his or her family can contact the VCL 24 hours per day, seven days per week by texting 838255 or calling 1-800-273-8255 and pressing one.

Our commitment to the men and women who serve in the military doesn't end when they no longer wear the uniform. In many cases, that's when they need us the most. We owe these heroes and the future defenders of freedom more than we'll ever actually be able to repay, but that shouldn't stop us from trying.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 11 of 48



Beacom College At DSU A Step Forward For South Dakota

South Dakota is full of "hidden gems." One secret we've kept too well is Dakota State University. DSU is one of the nation's leading schools for cybersecurity, and it is rising to a new level of excellence.

Earlier this month, I went to Madison for a ribbon cutting for the Beacom Institute of Technology. This new facility at Dakota State was built through the generosity of Miles and Lisa Beacom and T. Denny Sanford, and it will house several of DSU's cutting-edge programs.

The day brought another surprise, however: a second gift from Sanford and the Beacoms. Their surprise \$30 million pledge will newly name the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences. The state will contribute an additional \$10 million, and DSU has agreed to leverage the gift for \$20 million in federal support. All told, this will create a \$60 million impact on DSU.

The Beacom College will build on Dakota State's record of excellence. DSU already holds four prestigious Center of Excellence designations from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, including the most technical (for Cyber Operations) and the most prestigious (as a Cyber Defense Consultative Regional Resource Center). Dakota State is one of only four universities in the nation to have this latter distinction – and one of only two universities in the country with four or more designations.

Now Beacom College at DSU will rise to a new level. With this new gift, the university will break ground next spring on "MadLabs," a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility that allows students and faculty to work upon confidential and proprietary information without leaving campus. This significant gift will also fund student scholarships and support for additional faculty and staff.

South Dakota's young people, and their parents, need to know that they do not need to leave our state to receive a world-class education in the high-need, high-tech fields of computer and cyber sciences. U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, who is the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, played an important role in planning for last Sunday's surprise. As he explained that day, cybersecurity is perhaps the most significant national security issue facing our nation, and these skills are in high demand in government and in the private sector.

The Beacom College will create new opportunities for our young people, and new employers will be attracted to hire employees with old-fashioned South Dakota work ethic combined with world-class cybersecurity training.

It was over thirty years ago that Gov. Bill Janklow proposed converting Dakota State from a normal school to a "computer school." It was a visionary change to make in 1984. Now, the Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences is taking another huge step forward, thanks to the vision of Denny Sanford, Miles and Lisa Beacom, Dakota State President José-Marie Griffiths, and many other South Dakota leaders. It's time we set aside our South Dakota humility, and express our pride about this "hidden gem."



Addressing Addiction

The rate of violent crime in South Dakota nearly doubled between 2005 and 2015, according to the FBI. While there are a number of things which can contribute to a surge like that, many agree drugs have played a significant role, impacting everything from gang activity in communities to domestic violence in the home.

The drug epidemic's realities reach even beyond crime. Nationally, a baby is born addicted to opioids (drugs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, and morphine) every 25 minutes or so. And in 2015 alone, around 52,000 Americans died of a drug overdose. President Trump has declared this a national emergency and First Lady Melania Trump has taken up the cause as well.

While South Dakota saw 15 opioid-related deaths in 2007, the number jumped to 37 by 2014, per the South Dakota Department of Health Vital Statistics. Many first responders now carry an antidote for opioid overdoses at all times.

Still, it's important to note South Dakota hasn't experienced the opioid epidemic as harshly as many other states. That may be because South Dakota doctors have tended to prescribe fewer than others in surrounding states. But a recent report found prescriptions are increasing here too, reaching the highest number of opioid prescriptions ever recorded in South Dakota in 2016.

New training efforts have launched at places like Avera and Sanford to make sure doctors understand when and how to prescribe opioids, and I'm working on the federal level to make sure we're doing all we can to keep illegal drugs out of South Dakota. I strongly support legislation, for instance, that cracks down on Mexican drug traffickers and those who help facilitate their illicit activities at the border; this includes a vote to fully fund President Trump's border security agenda. And I am fighting to make sure local law enforcement officers have the resources and training they need.

Alongside law-and-order, I believe in redemption. Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to visit the Keystone Treatment Center, an addiction recovery facility in Canton. The experience was indescribable. The work done there gives folks another chance at life, at a family, at hope. It's just incredible the work they do.

In June, I introduced a set of bills to better support the rehabilitation offered by places like Keystone. More specifically, the proposals look to strengthen families during drug addiction treatment and amplify efforts to prevent the child abuse and neglect that can result from drug use.

No community – no family – is immune to addiction. Particularly with opioids, it can often start with a simple prescription for pain medication to deal with a headache. But that same medicine you took to heal can be the drug that leads to a life-altering addiction. Know, however, that help is out there. If you or someone you care about is abusing drugs or medications, please talk to your doctor or contact a treatment center immediately. If you don't know where to turn, call the free and confidential National Treatment Referral Routing Service at 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 13 of 48

Today in Weather History

August 26, 1983: Heavy rainfall up to four and a half inches fell in the town of Mahto, Corson County, flooding basements. Hail, up to three inches in diameter, caused significant damage to roofs and broke numerous windows.

August 26, 1998: Massive rainfall of 3 to over 6 inches fell across far eastern Corson, most of Campbell and Walworth counties during the evening hours of the 26th. The heavy rain caused flooding on many roads along with some highways through the night and into the morning hours on the 27th. Near Selby, high winds, heavy rain, and some hail caused damage to sunflowers and moved a barn three feet off the foundation. In Selby, wind driven rain pushed water through some ceilings and into basements. An old barn near Glenham was also blown down by the strong winds. Some rainfall amounts include 3.50 inches at Herried, 3.80 inches at Java, 4.20 inches at Selby, 4.50 inches 3N of Selby and just southeast of Mclaughlin, 5 inches at Glenham, 5.75 inches 8N of Mobridge, and 6.35 inches 1.5 miles southeast of Glenham.

1864: A train running from Cincinnati to Chicago was derailed by a tornado in Dearborn County, Indiana, or 75 miles southeast of Indianapolis. Two passenger cars were lifted from the tracks and dropped in a ravine which injured 30 people.

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

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

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

1976: A weak tornado touched down briefly in the Hockley Hills near Kiana, AK, about 29 miles north of the Arctic Circle. This tornado is the most northerly report of a tornado on record. Kiana is 545 miles northwest of Anchorage, Alaska.

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

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








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

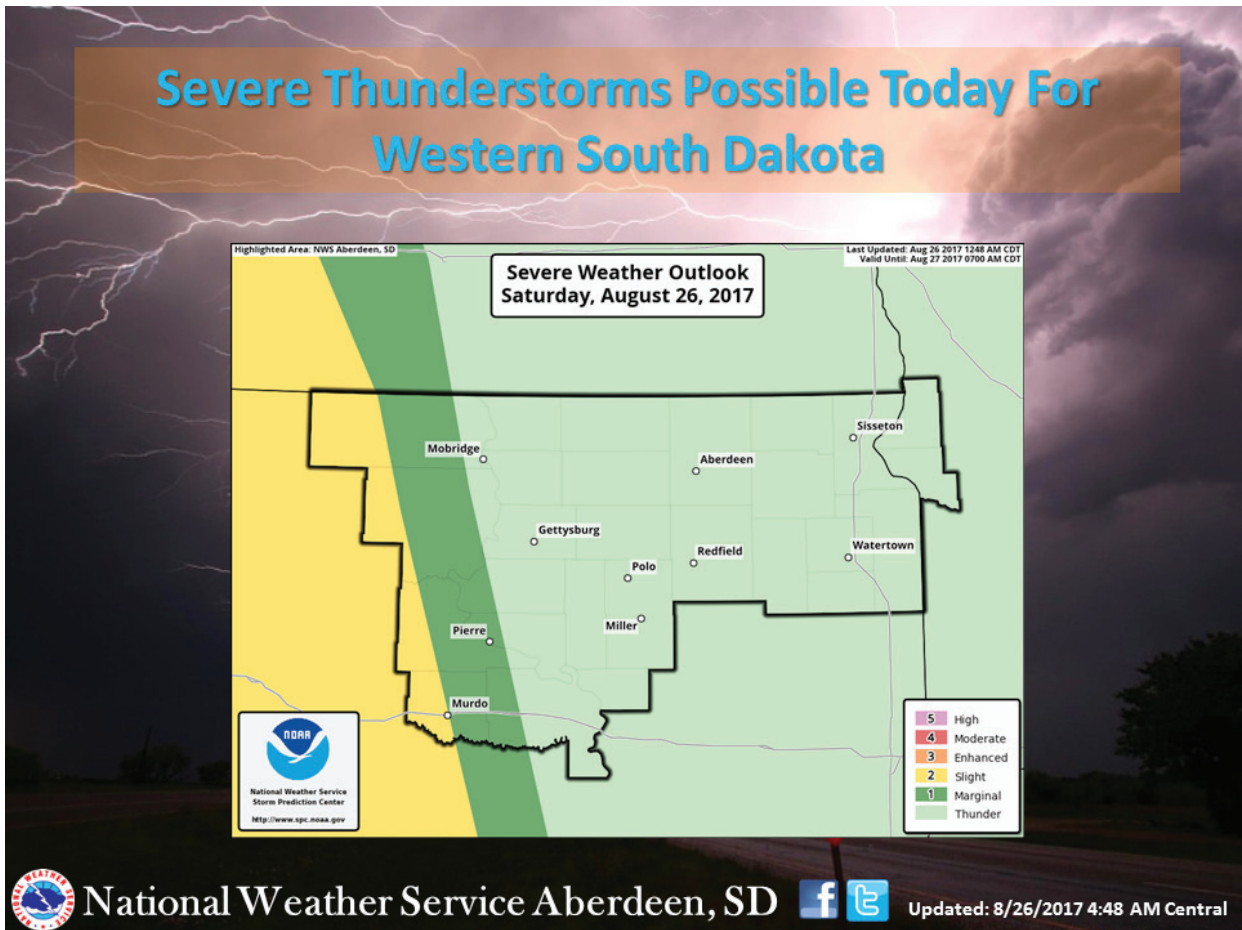
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather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

1992: Hurricane Andrew made a second landfall near Burns Point, LA as a Category 3 hurricane. Morgan City, LA recorded sustained winds of 92 mph with a peak gust of 108 mph. Hammond, LA was deluged with 11.92 inches of rain. As Andrew moved inland and weakened, it spawned 47 tornadoes from this date through the 28th from the South to the Mid-Atlantic States.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 14 of 48

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Decreasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 82 °F



Severe thunderstorms are possible today in western South Dakota. The biggest threat is for large hail and very strong winds. Storms that develop will move rapidly from the northwest to the southeast.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 15 of 48

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 75.4 F at 3:23 PM

Low Outside Temp: 61.4 F at 11:53 PM

High Gust: 12.0 Mph at 10:48 AM

Precip: 0.37

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1976

Record Low: 34° in 1914

Average High: 80°F

Average Low: 54°F

Average Precip in Aug: 2.04

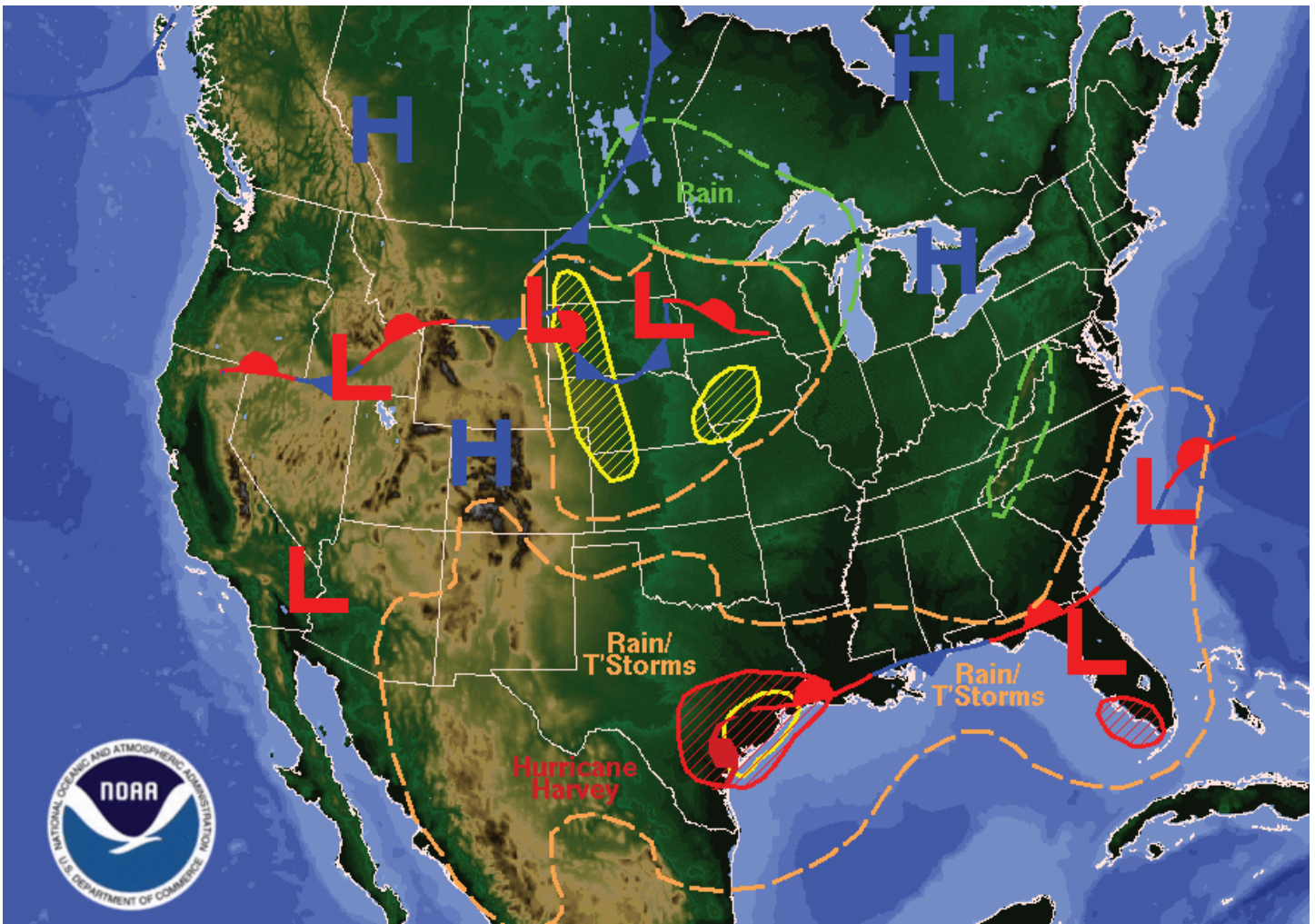
Precip to date in Aug: 2.17

Average Precip to date: 15.90

Precip Year to Date: 9.52

Sunset Tonight: 8:21 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:49 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Aug 26, 2017, issued 3:50 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hamrick with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 16 of 48



WHY DO GOOD?

"Finders keepers! Losers weepers!"

That statement, which some think comes from an ancient Roman law, has provided guidance for the decisions of many children. It has also found its way into the lives of many adults. If someone loses "it," and someone else finds "it," what's the right thing to do with "it"?

In Deuteronomy, the Hebrews were told that they were to care for and return animals, as well as any property that someone had lost, to their rightful owners. The reason for this rule is that when we protect and return the property of another person, we are kept from being envious and greedy. Envy and greed seem to be the "gateway" to almost every other sin.

"Turn from evil and do good," advises David. He wanted the "just," those who lived "moral lives," to know that the Lord loved them and that He would always be faithful to them. Additionally, David added, that the "just" will "inherit the land" – have eternal life.

How blest we are to know that God wants us to have hope in Him and look forward to being with Him throughout eternity. God has placed within every heart a longing for Someone to bring completeness and purpose into their life. The emptiness, the loneliness, the "desire for something more" is the "inheritance" that awaits those "who turn from evil and do good."

But there is more to look forward to than our future inheritance. We can look forward to God's presence, power and peace in our lives today and every day. He loves the "just" because He is just. And He will never forsake the "faithful" because He is faithful. Are we not blest?

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the gift of Your Son Who gives us hope in this life and the one to come! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 37:27 Turn from evil and do good; then you will dwell in the land forever.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota ambulance services struggle to hire staff

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Ambulance services in some South Dakota towns are struggling to recruit emergency medical technicians despite a new state law reducing the number of EMTs required to respond to calls.

The Daily Republic reports that ambulance services in Gregory, Burke and Bonesteel/Fairfax may have to shut down in the next two years if the recruiting issue isn't resolved.

"We're getting to the point where if we don't find more help soon, services are going to be looking at closing," said Mark Green, vice president of Burke Ambulance Department. "It's been a long-term issue and we've just kind of been getting by, but it's a real problem."

State law used to require two medical personnel and one certified driver respond to calls. A 2016 law said only one EMT and one driver is required, and the driver must have some first aid certification. A law also passed allowing emergency medical responders to be recognized as medical personnel in the state.

Becoming an EMT requires about 180 hours of training, while becoming an EMR typically takes 60. State Department of Health Secretary Tom Martinec said the goal is to create a "career ladder" where a person can start as an ambulance driver and work their way up with more training if they enjoy it.

But South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Director Marty Link said finding volunteers who can balance responsibilities at work, home and the ambulance service is a problem not unique to Gregory County.

He's still hopeful for the future of Gregory County's services and ambulances across South Dakota.

"You have good people out there doing important work, and I'm sure there are people out there who want to be part of it," Link said. "With the more relaxed rules, I think that will encourage more to try it."

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

New emergency room among big changes at Rapid City hospital

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A \$200 million transformation of Rapid City Regional Hospital has begun with the completion of a three-level parking garage.

The Rapid City Journal reports the most profound upcoming changes include the move of the hospital's main entrance from the north side to the south side of the building; integration of inpatient and outpatient cardiac care services; expansion of the emergency department and the addition of another parking garage.

"Two years from now what we're going to see is something completely different, better access for patients and better access for all of our clinical teams," Paulette Davidson, the hospital's chief operating officer, said at a Tuesday gathering inside a recently completed 754-space parking facility just south of the main hospital complex. "And this is just the beginning."

The new, three-story front entrance will be made with glass, and the 36,000-square-foot emergency department will have more patient beds and medical offices.

The new emergency department will be 150 percent larger than the current space, which is already the busiest in the state with 85,000 visits per year. It'll include five trauma exam rooms, more than 30 private exam rooms, enclosed parking for six ambulances and elevator access to a rooftop helipad.

A 30,000-square-foot intermediate care cardiac unit with outpatient offices of the Heart and Vascular Institute will be located on the level above the new emergency department.

"It's going to be a fantastic change and will continue to advance the level of cardiac care that people have become accustomed to," said Joseph Tuma, a cardiologist.

The project is slated for completion in 2020.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 18 of 48

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

17-38-42-51-65, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 5

(seventeen, thirty-eight, forty-two, fifty-one, sixty-five; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$37 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Friday Scores

By The Associated Press

Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Bon Homme 37, Wolsey-Wessington 0

Britton-Hecla 53, Dakota Hills 0

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 60, St. Francis Indian 0

Clark/Willow Lake 30, Tri-State 0

Colome 56, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 6

Crawford, Neb. 58, Edgemont 6

Dakota Valley 20, Dell Rapids 0

Ellendale, N.D. 43, Groton Area 7

Huron 45, Douglas 7

Langford 55, Iroquois 0

Lower Brule 52, Standing Rock, N.D. 0

McCook Central/Montrose 21, Elk Point-Jefferson 14

Newcastle, Wyo. 42, Custer 0

Northwestern 20, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 18

Pine Ridge 18, Red Cloud 0

Placeholder 30, Kimball/White Lake 22

Potter County 30, Platte-Geddes 14

Scotland 42, Centerville 6

Sioux Falls Christian 36, Mobridge-Pollock 7

Timber Lake 54, Dupree 6

Todd County 54, Crow Creek 0

Warner 26, Faulkton 18

Winner 42, Stanley County 6

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Avon vs. Alcester-Hudson, ccd.

Beresford vs. Sioux Valley, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Brookings vs. Yankton, ppd. to Aug 26th.

Canistota vs. Howard, ppd. to Aug 26th.

Canton vs. Chamberlain, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Deubrook vs. Castlewood, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Estelline vs. Dell Rapids St. Mary, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Florence/Henry vs. Hamlin, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Gregory vs. Parkston, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Harrisburg vs. Pierre, ccd.

Irene-Wakonda vs. Hanson, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Wagner, ppd. to Aug 26th.

Sioux Falls Lincoln vs. Rapid City Central, ppd. to Aug 26th.

Viborg-Hurley vs. Menno/Marion, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Watertown vs. Mitchell, ppd. to Aug 26th.

Waverly-South Shore vs. Great Plains Lutheran, ppd. to Aug 27th.

West Central vs. Tea Area, ccd.

Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central vs. Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan, ppd. to Aug 27th.

Keywords: South Dakota, Boys, Football, Prep Scores, High School

South Dakota woman seeks answers in friend's death

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman continues to seek answers four years after the death of her friend.

Nancy Herman, 67, has refused to give up hope that she'll find out what happened to her friend, Meshell Will, 38, whose remains were discovered in Keystone in August 2013, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Herman said she met Will in February 2013, when Will was volunteering at Women Escaping A Violent Environment, a shelter for female victims of abuse. She had spoken to Will two days before she was last seen in Keystone.

Now, Herman has saved over \$1,000 for a reward and regularly calls case investigators to check for updates.

"They probably think I'm a big pain," said Herman, a retired employee of the shelter.

Herman has also created a social media page where she posts updates in the case.

"I want justice for Meshell," Herman said.

Herman said she also wants answers about the case for Will's two teenage sons.

Earlier this month, Herman and Will's aunt sought help from the Vidocq Society, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that provides free assistance to police investigating cold-case homicides.

Corey Brubakken, head of investigations at the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, said Will's case hasn't been classified as a homicide yet because the cause of death hasn't been determined. He said investigators will look into any leads that might explain Will's death.

"The suspiciousness is we can't put those pieces of that last few hours of her life together," Brubakken said. "We have a pretty good time line up until she's last seen. We don't have an explanation as to why she ended up in the location that she ended up and her body was as decomposed as it was."

Authorities are offering \$5,000 to anyone with information that can help solve the case. Brubakken said he hopes the money will be an incentive for people to come forward.

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

OSHA cites Fort Pierre company after trench collapse injury

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited a Fort Pierre-based company after a worker was injured in a trench collapse.

OSHA says First Dakota Enterprises failed to protect workers from trench collapse hazards. The agency is proposing \$95,000 in penalties.

OSHA says a 34-year-old worker was buried on May 23 when the walls of a 14-foot trench collapsed around him at a construction site in Emery. He was rescued and survived.

The company can contest the proposed fine. A woman who answered the phone Friday said the com-

pany declined to comment.

West Virginia leads 21 states opposing gun restrictions

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia's attorney general has filed a brief on behalf of a 21-state coalition urging the U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments against Maryland gun restrictions.

The group is urging the top court to overturn the Fourth Circuit ruling and ensure Congress couldn't reinstate a similar ban nationally.

The Maryland statute prohibits sale and possession of certain semi-automatic rifles and large-capacity magazines.

West Virginia allows them.

State Attorney General Patrick Morrisey says banning certain types of firearms "steps on" the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Seven states have similar bans.

Other states joining in the brief are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Pipeline company response to settlement offer not disclosed

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The company that built the Dakota Access pipeline has responded to an offer by North Dakota regulators to settle state allegations that it improperly reported the discovery of American Indian artifacts during construction.

But the response from Energy Transfer Partners isn't being disclosed yet.

North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Julie Fedorchak says the agency will meet Monday to discuss the response.

The commission on Aug. 14 made the Texas-based company an offer under which ETP would make a \$15,000 "contribution" and wouldn't have to admit fault. Commissioners said it was an effort to end the drawn-out dispute over whether the company should be fined.

If ETP accepts the offer, the complaint will be dismissed. If it rejects the offer, the commission will move forward with the complaint and schedule a public hearing.

Minnesota company, Plains farm aid group set up hay convoy

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A Minnesota towing and hauling company is teaming up with a Plains farm aid nonprofit this weekend to ship tons of hay to about a dozen drought-stricken ranchers in North Dakota.

Beyer Towing in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and Farm Rescue have organized a convoy of 14 semi-loads of hay on Saturday and another half-dozen on Sunday. The cattle feed being sold at a reduced price will be trucked about 225 miles from Rothsay, Minnesota, to Menoken, North Dakota.

Justin Beyer, part of the family owned towing operation, arranged for the hay from Minnesota farmers and also for the trucking.

"We were just spit-balling, talking about it at lunch one time, and all of a sudden we've got 20 loads of hay going to North Dakota," said Beyer, who will drive one of the trucks himself.

North Dakota-based Farm Rescue provides services including crop planting and harvesting and hay-hauling for farmers in need in both Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, eastern Montana and Nebraska. The nonprofit is providing two trucks for the convoy and paying for fuel, with the help of a \$50,000 anonymous donation.

"It's just a collection of efforts to get the hay over," Farm Rescue Operations Director Carol Wielenga said. "This is a huge financial burden off the farmers. They can either buy more hay with the money they're saving or not sell off so many cattle."

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 63 percent of North Dakota in some form of drought. Nearly

one-fourth of the state is in extreme or exceptional drought, the two worst categories. Many ranchers have been forced to sell off cattle because they have no hay crop or can't afford to buy hay with demand pushing prices to as high as double the normal cost.

State officials this week approved \$1.5 million in aid to help North Dakota ranchers with hay-hauling costs. Farm Rescue also has been helping ranchers in the region as donations allow.

"We have about 100 applications in, and about 150 ranchers have contacted us," Wielenga said. "We're just getting started."

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

Woman walking on highway struck, killed west of Watertown

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A 29-year-old woman is dead after being struck by a pickup truck while walking along U.S. Highway 212 west of Watertown.

The incident happened about 9:45 p.m. Thursday. The Highway Patrol says the woman was in the roadway, and charges are not pending against the driver of the truck.

The driver was not injured.

The woman's name wasn't immediately released.

Man scheduled for trial in 2015 Rapid City hotel death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of killing a woman at a Rapid City hotel in 2015 plans to mount a defense saying she died of pneumonia.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 61-year-old Brian Duncan is scheduled to go to trial next month in the death of 60-year-old Helen Wright.

Duncan's attorney says his defense against the second-degree murder charge is that Wright died of natural causes. Wright's death certificate says she died from suffocation or "asphyxiation by strangulation" as a result of an assault.

Wright's body was found in a room at the Western Thrifty Inn in November 2015. Duncan was arrested in San Marcos, Texas, in June 2016.

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

Harvey rolls over Texas coast, smashes homes and businesses

By FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Hurricane Harvey rolled over the Texas Gulf Coast on Saturday, smashing homes and businesses and lashing the shore with wind and rain so intense that drivers were forced off the road because they could not see in front of them.

The fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade spun across hundreds of miles of coastline where communities had prepared for life-threatening storm surges — walls of water rushing inland.

The mammoth system made landfall late Friday about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Corpus Christi as a Category 4 storm with 130 mph (209 kph) winds. It gradually weakened over several hours to Category 1 but remained destructive, with sustained winds of 90 mph (144 kph).

No deaths were immediately reported. High winds kept emergency crews out of many places, and authorities said it could be hours before emergency teams are able to fully assess damage.

Aside from the wind and a storm surge of up 12 feet, the hurricane posed a grave risk of flooding, with a potential to hug the coast for days and drop as much as 40 inches of rain on dangerously flood-prone flatlands.

By dawn, nearly 300,000 consumers were without power in the coastal region, and nearly 20 inches (0.5 meters) of rain had fallen in some places.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 22 of 48

The mayor of Rockport, a coastal city of about 10,000 that was directly in the storm's path, said his community took a blow "right on the nose" that left "widespread devastation," including homes, businesses and schools that were heavily damaged. Some structures were destroyed.

Mayor Charles "C.J." Wax told The Weather Channel that the city's emergency response system had been hampered by the loss of cellphone service and other forms of communication.

About 10 people were taken to the county jail for treatment after the roof of a senior housing complex collapsed, television station KIII reported.

On Friday, Rockport Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Rios had offered ominous advice, telling the station that people who chose not to evacuate should mark their arm with a Sharpie pen, implying that the marks would make it easier for rescuers to identify them.

In the storm's immediate aftermath, the Coast Guard sent two helicopters to try to rescue the crews of three tugboats reported in distress in a channel near Port Aransas.

The storm posed the first major emergency management test of President Donald Trump's administration. The president signed a federal disaster declaration for coastal counties Friday night.

Trump commended the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for his handling of the hurricane.

In a tweet Saturday morning addressed to FEMA head Brock Long, Trump said: "You are doing a great job — the world is watching! Be safe."

In a separate tweet, Trump said he is monitoring the hurricane closely from Camp David. "We are leaving nothing to chance. City, State and Federal Govs. working great together!"

The president also tweeted, "We have fantastic people on the ground, got there long before #Harvey. So far, so good!"

Harvey's approach sent tens of thousands of people fleeing inland, hoping to escape the wrath of a menacing storm that threatened not only the coast but a wide swath of Texas that is home to oil refineries, chemical plants and Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city.

In Corpus Christi, the major city closest to the storm's center, wind whipped palm trees and stinging sheets of horizontal rain slapped against hotels and office buildings along the seawall as the storm made landfall.

Daybreak revealed downed lamp posts and tree limbs and roof tiles torn off buildings. The city's marina was nearly unscathed, save an awning ripped from a restaurant entrance and a wooden garbage bin uprooted and thrown.

On along Interstate 45 leaving Galveston, motorists had to stop under bridges to avoid driving in white-out conditions.

Fueled by warm Gulf of Mexico waters, Harvey grew rapidly, accelerating from a Category 1 early Friday morning to a Category 4 by evening. Its transformation from an unnamed storm to a life-threatening behemoth took only 56 hours, an incredibly fast intensification.

Harvey came ashore as the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in 13 years and the strongest to strike Texas since 1961's Hurricane Carla, the most powerful Texas hurricane on record.

Before the storm arrived, property owners raced to nail plywood over windows and fill sandbags. Steady traffic filled the highways leaving Corpus Christi, but there were no apparent jams. In Houston, where mass evacuations can include changing major highways to a one-way vehicle flow, authorities left traffic patterns unchanged.

Just hours before the projected landfall, the governor and Houston leaders issued conflicting statements on evacuation.

After Gov. Greg Abbott urged more people to flee, Houston authorities told people to remain in their homes and recommended no widespread evacuations.

In a Friday news conference that addressed Houston officials' decision to not have a voluntary or mandatory evacuation, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said there might be a "greater danger" in having people who don't need to be evacuated on roads that could flood.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett said that because the hurricane was not taking direct aim at Houston,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 23 of 48

the city's primary concern was heavy flooding.

"We are not having a hurricane," said Emmett, the top elected official for the county, which encompasses Houston. "We are having a rain event."

At a convenience store in Houston's Meyerland neighborhood, at least 12 cars lined up for fuel. Brent Borgstedte said this was the fourth gas station he had visited to try to fill up his son's car. The 55-year-old insurance agent shrugged off Harvey's risks.

"I don't think anybody is really that worried about it. I've lived here my whole life," he said. "I've been through several hurricanes."

Scientists warned that Harvey could swamp counties more than 100 miles (161 kilometers) inland and stir up dangerous surf as far away as Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, 700 miles (1,126 kilometers) from the projected landfall. It may also spawn tornadoes.

All seven Texas counties on the coast from Corpus Christi to the western end of Galveston Island ordered mandatory evacuations from low-lying areas. Four counties ordered full evacuations and warned there was no guarantee of rescue for people staying behind.

State officials said they had no count on how many people actually left their homes.

The last Category 4 storm to hit the U.S. was Hurricane Charley in August 2004 in Florida. Superstorm Sandy, which pummeled New York and New Jersey in 2012, never had the high winds and had lost tropical status by the time it struck. But it was devastating without formally being called a major hurricane.

Harvey is the first significant hurricane to hit Texas since Ike in September 2008 brought winds of 110 mph (177 kph) to the Galveston and Houston areas, inflicting \$22 billion in damage.

Associated Press writers Michael Graczyk, Juan Lozano and Nomaan Merchant in Houston; Seth Borenstein and Catherine Lucey in Washington; and Diana Heidgerd, Jamie Stengle, David Warren, Claudia Lauer and Terry Wallace in Dallas contributed to this report.

North Korea fires short-range missiles in latest test

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired several rockets into the sea Saturday in the continuation of its rapid nuclear and missile expansion, prompting South Korea to press ahead with military drills involving U.S. troops that have angered Pyongyang.

The U.S. Pacific Command revised its initial assessment that the first and third short-range missiles failed during flight to say they flew about 250 kilometers (155 miles). It said that the second missile appears to have blown up immediately and that none posed threat to the U.S. territory of Guam, which the North had previously warned it would fire missiles toward.

South Korea's presidential office and military said North Korea fired "several" projectiles in what was presumed as a test of its 300-millimeter rocket artillery system.

Kim Dong-yub, a former South Korean military official who is now an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said that South Korean assessment doesn't necessarily contradict the U.S. evaluation that the launches involved ballistic missiles. North Korea's large-sized artillery rockets blur the boundaries between artillery systems and ballistic missiles because they create their own thrust and are guided during delivery, Kim said.

The presidential office in Seoul said the U.S. and South Korean militaries will proceed with their ongoing war games "even more thoroughly" in response to the launch. They are the first known missile firings since July, when the North successfully flight tested a pair of intercontinental ballistic missiles that analysts say could reach deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected.

The White House said that President Donald Trump — who has warned that he would unleash "fire and fury" if the North continued its threats — was briefed on the latest North Korean activity and "we are monitoring the situation."

The rival Koreas recently saw their always testy relationship get worse after Trump traded warlike threats.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 24 of 48

Saturday's launch comes during an annual joint military exercise between the United States and South Korea that the North condemns as an invasion rehearsal, and weeks after Pyongyang threatened to lob missiles toward Guam.

North Korea had walked back from the threat to lob missiles toward Guam, but there had been concerns that hostility will flare up again during the Ulchi-Freedom Guardian drills between the allies that run through Aug. 31.

However, some experts say North Korea is now mainly focused on the bigger picture of testing its bargaining power against the United States with its new long-range missiles and likely has no interest in letting things get too tense during the drills. They say the North may limit its reactions to low-level provocations like artillery and short-range missile launches.

While the projectile that supposedly blew up immediately after launch was clearly a failure, Kim, the analyst, said the North with the other missiles could have been experimenting with developmental technologies or deliberately detonated the warheads at certain heights and locations. If the South Korean assessments are correct, the North might have conducted tests to expand the range of its 300-millimeter multiple rocket launchers, which are believed to have a radius of up to 200 kilometers (124 miles), Kim said.

North Korea's state media earlier Saturday said that leader Kim Jong Un inspected a special operation forces training of the country's army that simulated attacks on South Korean islands along the countries' western sea border in what appeared to be in response to the ongoing U.S.-South Korea war games.

Kim reportedly told his troops that they "should think of mercilessly wiping out the enemy with arms only and occupying Seoul at one go and the southern half of Korea."

The Korean Central News Agency said that the "target striking contest" involved war planes, multiple-rocket launchers and self-propelled guns that attacked targets meant to represent South Korea's Baengnyeong and Yeonpyeong islands before special operation combatants "landed by surprise" on rubber boats.

The border islands have occasionally seen military skirmishes between the rivals, including a North Korean artillery barrage on Yeonpyeong in 2010 that left two South Korean marines and two civilians dead.

In response to North Korea's expanding nuclear weapons program, South Korea has been moving to strengthen its own capabilities, planning talks with the United States on raising the warhead limits on its missiles and taking steps to place additional launchers to a U.S. anti-missile defense system in the country's southeast.

South Korea has also been testing new missiles of its own, including the 800-kilometer (497 mile)-range Hyunmoo-2. Although the missile has not been operationally deployed yet, it is considered a key component to the so-called "kill chain" pre-emptive strike capability the South is pursuing to cope with the North's growing nuclear and missile threat.

Trump's first pardon spares political ally Arpaio

By JACQUES BILLEAUD and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — President Donald Trump spared former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio the prospect of serving jail time in granting the first pardon of his turbulent tenure, wiping away the lawman's recent federal conviction stemming from his immigration patrols that focused on Latinos.

The White House said 85-year-old Arpaio was a "worthy candidate" for the pardon, citing his "life's work of protecting the public from the scourges of crime and illegal immigration." Trump granted the pardon less than a month after a judge found Arpaio guilty of a misdemeanor contempt-of-court charge in a trial that was prosecuted by the president's own Justice Department.

"I appreciate what the president did," Arpaio told The Associated Press as he celebrated the news over an Italian restaurant meal and someone in his party ordered champagne. "I have to put it out there: Pardon, no pardon — I'll be with him as long as he's president."

The pardon drew a swift and harsh denunciation from an array of Latinos and political leaders, who said it amounted to presidential approval of racism by eliminating the conviction of a law officer who the courts said had used immigration patrols to racially profile Latinos. And it overturned what critics saw as a

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 25 of 48

long-awaited comeuppance for a lawman who long escaped accountability for his use of headline-grabbing tactics as sheriff in Phoenix.

"Pardoning Joe Arpaio is a slap in the face to the people of Maricopa County, especially the Latino community and those he victimized as he systematically and illegally violated their civil rights," Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton said.

The White House announced the pardon late Friday as a powerful Category 4 hurricane threatened Texas with severe flooding and on the same day Trump fleshed out the details of his ban on transgender individuals serving in the military, another move that will cheer his conservative base. The decision followed the uproar that ensued after Trump assigned blame to "both sides" participating in race-fueled clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia, this month.

Trump has been plagued by poor job approval ratings, currently at 34 percent, the lowest mark ever for a president in his first year.

His decision on the former sheriff may also serve to energize supporters dispirited by the president's dismissal a week ago of chief strategist Steve Bannon, a favorite on the far right wing of the Republican Party.

GOP leaders were mixed in reacting to the pardon. Sen. John McCain criticized the move and said it undermines Trump's "claim for the respect of rule of law as Mr. Arpaio has shown no remorse for his actions." Republican Gov. Doug Ducey said Arpaio should be given credit for his crime-fighting efforts and allowed to "move on" and enjoy his retirement.

Arpaio earned a national reputation by taking aggressive action to arrest immigrants in the country illegally. But years of legal issues and related costs took a toll on his political power at home, and he was handily defeated by a Democrat in the 2016 election.

The loss coincided with Trump's election, based in large part on his anti-immigrant rhetoric. Arpaio campaigned for him around the country and spoke at the Republican National Convention.

Arpaio defied court orders that he stop the patrols and has been pardoned by a president who has shown lack of respect for judges with whom he disagrees. Trump has had harsh words about judges overseeing the case against his now-defunct Trump University and his travel ban.

"So Sheriff Joe was convicted for doing his job?" Trump asked supporters at Tuesday's rally. "I'll make a prediction. I think he's going to be just fine, OK."

Trump issued the pardon seven months after taking office, though it is not unprecedented for a president to issue a pardon in their first year in office.

George H. W. Bush granted clemency after seven months in office, said Jeffrey Crouch, a professor of politics at American University who wrote a book on presidential pardons.

Asked whether Trump sought a recommendation from the Justice Department's pardon attorney or the deputy attorney general, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Thursday: "I would imagine they go through the thorough and standard process."

It is not unheard of for a president to exercise his broad power to grant pardons without formal input from the Justice Department, particularly when it involves an associate or a friend. President Bill Clinton ignited a major controversy on his final day in office with a last-minute pardon for fugitive financier Marc Rich, the ex-husband of a major Democratic fundraiser.

Former President George W. Bush set off a political backlash over his decision to commute the prison sentence of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby on a perjury and obstruction of justice case that stemmed from a CIA leak. And Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon for his involvement in the Watergate scandal just days after taking over for his predecessor.

Critics say the Arpaio pardon removed the last opportunity to hold the lawman accountable for what they say is a long history of misconduct, including a 2013 civil verdict in which the sheriff's officers were found to have racially profiled Latinos in his immigration patrols.

Arpaio was accused of prolonging the patrols for 17 months after a judge had ordered them stopped so that he could promote his immigration enforcement efforts in a bid to boost his successful 2012 re-

election campaign.

Arpaio acknowledged extending the patrols, but insisted it wasn't intentional. He blamed a former attorney for not properly explaining the importance of the court order and brushing off the conviction as a "petty crime."

He accused then-President Barack Obama of trying to influence the 2016 sheriff's race by announcing in court weeks before Election Day that it was willing to prosecute Arpaio. Prosecutors never filed criminal charges. They were instead recommended by the judge who presided over the profiling case, which began in the Bush administration. The judge in the profiling case was a Bush appointee as well.

Lawyers in Trump's Justice Department prosecuted the case during a five-day trial this summer, and the judge handed down the conviction last month. Arpaio said he'll discuss the case in more detail next week. He said he'll remain involved in the political scene now that he's no longer facing jail time.

"I don't fish," Arpaio said. "I'll be very active."

Superville reported from Washington. Associated Press reporters Sadie Gurman and Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report. Follow Jacques Billeaud at twitter.com/jacquesbilleaud and Darlene Superville at twitter.com/dsupervillap.

Harvey lashes Texas coast with high wind, torrential rain

By **MICHAEL GRACZYK** and **FRANK BAJAK**, Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Hurricane Harvey smashed into Texas late Friday, lashing a wide swath of the Gulf Coast with strong winds and torrential rain from the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade.

The National Hurricane Center said the eye of the Category 4 hurricane made landfall about 10 p.m. about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Corpus Christi, bringing with it 130 mph (209 kph) sustained winds and flooding rains.

Harvey's approach sent tens of thousands of residents fleeing the Gulf Coast, hoping to escape the wrath of a menacing storm that threatened an area of Texas including oil refineries, chemical plants and dangerously flood-prone Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott had warned that the monster system would be "a very major disaster," and the predictions drew fearful comparisons to Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest ever to strike the U.S.

The hurricane center warned that Harvey could produce life-threatening storm surges — basically walls of water moving inland — along an area of more than 400 miles (643 kilometers) from south of Corpus Christi to north of Houston.

While authorities have not confirmed any deaths from the storm so far, reports of damage began to emerge from Rockport, a coastal city of about 10,000 people that was directly in the path of Harvey when it came ashore.

City manager Kevin Carruth said multiple people were taken to the county's jail for assessment and treatment after the roof of a senior housing complex collapsed. KIII-TV reports that 10 people have been treated there. The Associated Press was unable to reach an operator at the Aransas County Detention Center in Rockport just after midnight. Carruth also said that Rockport's historic downtown area has seen extensive damage.

Earlier Friday, Rockport Mayor Pro Tem Patrick Rios offered ominous advice, telling KIII-TV those who chose to stay put "should make some type of preparation to mark their arm with a Sharpie pen," implying doing so would make it easier for rescuers to identify them.

In Corpus Christi, the major city closest to the center of the storm, wind whipped palm trees and stinging sheets of horizontal rain slapped against hotels and office buildings along the city's seawall as the storm made landfall. Boats bobbed violently in the marina. It was too dark to tell whether any boats had broken their moorings.

Many emergency crews were unable to make rescues early Saturday because of Harvey's strong winds.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 27 of 48

Melissa Munguia, the deputy emergency management coordinator in Nueces County, which includes Corpus Christi, said early Saturday that it could be several more hours before crews could fully assess the damage in coastal communities.

Fueled by warm Gulf of Mexico waters, Harvey grew rapidly, accelerating from a Category 1 early Friday morning to a Category 4 by evening. Its transformation from an unnamed storm to a life-threatening behemoth took only 56 hours, an incredibly fast intensification.

Harvey came ashore as the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in 13 years and the strongest to strike Texas since 1961's Hurricane Carla, the most powerful Texas hurricane on record. Based on the atmospheric pressure, Harvey ties for the 18th strongest hurricane on landfall in the U.S. since 1851 and ninth strongest in Texas.

Aside from the winds of 130 mph (209 kph) and storm surges up to 12 feet (4 meters), Harvey was expected to drop prodigious amounts of rain — up to 3 feet. The resulting flooding, one expert said, could be "the depths of which we've never seen."

A worst case scenario is that the hurricane could hug the coast for days and stay strong enough to be a tropical storm through Wednesday at least. During this meandering time, the storm will likely dump 2 feet (0.61 meters) to 3 feet (0.91 meters) of rain, often on areas that don't handle much smaller rainfall amounts well.

Sometime early next week forecasters said it could go back into the warm Gulf of Mexico waters, which provide fuel, then turn back in for a potential second hit on what may be an already flooded Houston-Galveston area.

Before the storm arrived, home and business owners raced to nail plywood over windows and fill sandbags. Steady traffic filled the highways leaving Corpus Christi, but there were no apparent jams. In Houston, where mass evacuations can include changing major highways to a one-way vehicle flow, authorities left traffic patterns unchanged.

Just hours before the projected landfall, the governor and Houston leaders issued conflicting statements on evacuation.

After Abbott urged more people to flee, Houston authorities told people to remain in their homes and recommended no widespread evacuations.

In a Friday press conference that addressed Houston officials' decision to not have a voluntary or mandatory evacuation, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said there might be a "greater danger" in having people who don't need to be evacuated on roads that could flood.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett said that because the hurricane was not taking direct aim at Houston, the city's primary concern was heavy flooding.

"We are not having a hurricane," said Emmett, the top elected official for the county, which encompasses Houston. "We are having a rain event."

At a convenience store in Houston's Meyerland neighborhood, at least 12 cars lined up for fuel. Brent Borgstedte said this was the fourth gas station he had visited to try to fill up his son's car. The 55-year-old insurance agent shrugged off Harvey's risks.

"I don't think anybody is really that worried about it. I've lived here my whole life," he said. "I've been through several hurricanes."

Scientists warned that Harvey could swamp counties more than 100 miles (161 kilometers) inland and stir up dangerous surf as far away as Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, 700 miles (1,126 kilometers) from the projected landfall.

It may also spawn tornadoes. Even after weakening, the system might spin out into the Gulf and regain strength before hitting Houston a second time Wednesday as a tropical storm, forecasters said.

All seven Texas counties on the coast from Corpus Christi to the western end of Galveston Island ordered mandatory evacuations from low-lying areas. Four counties ordered full evacuations and warned there was no guarantee of rescue for people staying behind.

Voluntary evacuations were urged for Corpus Christi and for the Bolivar Peninsula, a sand spit near

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 28 of 48

Galveston where many homes were washed away by the storm surge of Hurricane Ike in 2008.

State officials said they had no count on how many people actually left their homes.

The storm posed the first major emergency management test of President Donald Trump's administration. The president was expected to receive briefings during the weekend at Camp David, and signed a federal disaster declaration for six coastal counties Friday night.

The last Category 4 storm to hit the U.S. was Hurricane Charley in August 2004 in Florida. Superstorm Sandy, which pummeled New York and New Jersey in 2012, never had the high winds and had lost tropical status by the time it struck. But it was devastating without formally being called a major hurricane.

Harvey would be the first significant hurricane to hit Texas since Ike in September 2008 brought winds of 110 mph (177 kph) to the Galveston and Houston areas, inflicting \$22 billion in damage.

It's taking aim at the same vicinity as Carla, which had wind gusts estimated at 175 mph and inflicted more than \$300 million in damage. The storm killed 34 people and forced about 250,000 people to evacuate.

Graczyk reported from Houston. Associated Press writers Juan Lozano and Nomaan Merchant in Houston; Frank Bajak in Corpus Christi; Seth Borenstein and Catherine Lucey in Washington; and Diana Heidgerd, Jamie Stengle, David Warren, Claudia Lauer and Terry Wallace in Dallas contributed to this report.

US urges Myanmar to avoid reprisals after attacks kill 89

By ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — An attack by ethnic Rohingya militants in western Myanmar left 12 security personnel and 77 Rohingya Muslims dead in a dramatic escalation of communal violence that has plagued the region, as the United States urged authorities to avoid a response that would inflame the tensions.

The office of the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, said Friday that military and border police responded to the attacks by launching "clearance operations."

Police fought off groups of as many as 100 Rohingya attackers armed with guns, machetes and homemade grenades. The captured weapons were shown in photos posted online by the government.

A witness in Maungdaw township in Rakhine state, contacted by phone, said soldiers entered her village at about 10 a.m. Friday, burned homes and property, and shot dead at least 10 people.

The witness, who asked to be identified by her nickname, Emmar, because of fear of retribution, said villagers fled in many directions but mostly to a nearby mountain range. She said gunshots and explosions could be heard and smoke could still be seen Friday evening.

A militant group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, or ARSA, took responsibility for the Thursday night attacks on more than 25 locations, saying they were in defense of Rohingya communities that had been brutalized by government forces. It issued its statement on Twitter on an account deemed legitimate by advocates of Rohingya rights.

Suu Kyi called the attacks "a calculated attempt to undermine the efforts of those seeking to build peace and harmony in Rakhine state."

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in Washington that as security forces act to prevent further violence and bring the perpetrators to justice, they should respect the rule of law and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

She said the attacks underscored the importance of the government implementing recommendations of a commission chaired by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, which published its final report on Thursday recommending that the government act quickly to improve economic development and social justice in Rakhine state to resolve violence between Buddhists and the Rohingya.

Suu Kyi's office said on its Facebook page that the attacks were intended to coincide with the release of Annan's report.

The clashes were deadlier than an attack by the militants on three border posts last October that killed nine policemen and set off months of brutal counterinsurgency operations by Myanmar security forces

against Rohingya communities in Rakhine state. Human rights groups accused the army of carrying out massive human rights abuses including killing, rape and burning down more than 1,000 homes and other buildings.

The army's abuses fueled further resentment toward the government among the Muslim Rohingya, most of whom are considered by Myanmar's Buddhist majority to be illegal immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh and are denied citizenship and its rights. ARSA took advantage of the resentment by stepping up recruitment of members.

The Rohingya have long faced severe discrimination and were the targets of violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people — predominantly Rohingya — from their homes to camps for the internally displaced, where most remain.

According to the United Nations, more than 80,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since last October's clashes.

Annan also condemned the new attacks, saying "no cause can justify such brutality and senseless killing" and urging the government to exercise restraint and "ensure that innocent civilians are not harmed."

Official: Embattled ex-PM flees Thailand ahead of verdict

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA and TODD PITMAN, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Facing a possible 10-year jail term, former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra fled the country ahead of a court verdict her supporters say was politically motivated, a senior member of her party said.

Yingluck's whereabouts were not immediately known Saturday, but local media cited anonymous officials as saying she traveled by land to Cambodia then flew to Dubai to join her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra — another exiled former premier whose government, like hers, was toppled in a military coup.

An official of Yingluck's Pheu Thai party, who is close to the Shinawatra family, told The Associated Press she was no longer in Thailand. The official gave no other details, and declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Yingluck, who became Thailand's first female prime minister when her party swept elections in 2011, is accused of negligence in overseeing a money-losing rice subsidy program. She has denied charges as politically motivated.

A verdict had been expected Friday, as thousands of Yingluck supporters gathered outside the court and thousands of police stood guard. But Yingluck never appeared, and a judge read out a statement saying her lawyers had informed the court she could not attend because of an earache.

The judge said the court did not believe the excuse, however, because no official medical verification was provided. He said a warrant would be issued for her arrest and postponed the trial until Sept. 27.

Norrawit Larlaeng, Yingluck's lawyer, confirmed a warrant had been issued, but said he had no details on her whereabouts. "I was told this morning that she was ill, that she had vertigo, that she felt dizzy, so I requested the postponement ... that's all I have to say."

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the military chief who engineered the 2014 overthrow of Yingluck's government, also said he did not know where she was, and the government was "looking for her."

"If she's not guilty she should stay and fight the case," Prayuth said. "If she's not here, what does that tell you? Will she still say that she didn't get justice?"

Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said security forces had not allowed Yingluck to leave and are checking possible routes she may have used if she did. He said security officials monitoring Yingluck had not seen her leave her Bangkok home in the last two days.

The trial is the latest chapter in a decadelong struggle by the nation's elite minority to crush the powerful political machine founded by Yingluck's brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, who was toppled in a 2006 coup. Thaksin, who has lived in Dubai since fleeing a corruption conviction he says was politically motivated, has studiously avoided commenting on his sister's case, apparently to avoid imperiling it.

Thaksin is a highly polarizing figure, and his overthrow triggered years of upheaval and division that has

pitted a poor, rural majority in the north that supports the Shinawatrass against royalists, the military and their urban backers.

When Yingluck's government proposed an amnesty in 2013 that could have absolved her brother and allowed him to return without being arrested, street protests erupted that eventually led to her government's demise in the 2014 coup.

The junta that seized control of Thailand has since suppressed dissent and banned political gatherings of more than five people. The long-awaited decision on Yingluck's fate has rekindled tensions in the divided nation, but the military remains firmly in charge.

Fearing potential unrest, authorities tried to deter people from turning out Friday by threatening legal action against anyone planning to help transport Yingluck supporters. Yingluck posted a message on her Facebook page urging followers to stay away, saying she worried about their safety.

"We're here to give her moral support because she truly cared and helped us out," said Prawit Pongkunnut, a rice farmer from the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima.

The rice subsidies, promised to farmers during the 2011 election, helped Yingluck's party ascend to power. Critics say they were effectively a means of vote-buying, while Yingluck supporters welcomed them.

The rice subsidy plan Yingluck oversaw paid farmers about 50 percent more than they would have made on the world market. The hope was to drive up prices by stockpiling the grain, but other Asian producers filled the void instead, knocking Thailand from its perch as the world's leading rice exporter.

The current government, which is still trying to sell off the rice stockpiles, says Yingluck's administration lost as much as \$17 billion because it couldn't export at a price commensurate with what it had paid farmers. If convicted, Yingluck has the right to appeal.

In a separate administrative ruling that froze her bank accounts, Yingluck was held responsible for about \$1 billion of those losses — an astounding personal penalty that prosecutors argued Yingluck deserved because she ignored warnings of corruption but continued the program anyway.

On Friday, the Supreme Court handed down several other verdicts. Boonsong Teriyapirom, a former commerce minister in Yingluck's administration, was sentenced to 42 years in prison for helping secure a fraudulent rice contract. His deputy, Poom Sarapol, was sentenced to 36 years in prison for his role in the case.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department declined to comment, saying the court process and verdicts were internal matters for Thailand.

Associated Press journalists Jerry Harmer, Grant Peck and Kankanit Wiriyasajja contributed to this report.

National security aide Sebastian Gorka leaves White House

By **GARANACE BURKE** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sebastian Gorka, a national security aide whose hardline views on immigration and terrorism caused discord inside and outside the White House, is the latest official to exit President Donald Trump's administration.

Gorka told The Associated Press Friday that he had resigned from his position. A White House official, however, said Gorka did not resign but "no longer works at the White House." That official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A former editor for the conservative Breitbart News website, Gorka joined the administration as a counterterrorism adviser. But he operated outside of the National Security Council and his exact responsibilities were not clearly outlined, though he was a prominent advocate for Trump on television news.

Gorka declined to discuss the reasons he left the White House, but pointed toward excerpts from his resignation letter that were posted Friday evening by The Federalist website.

Gorka wrote that "the individuals who most embodied and represented the policies that will 'Make America Great Again,' have been internally countered, systematically removed, or undermined in recent months."

He criticized Trump's recent speech on Afghanistan, writing, "The fact that those who drafted and ap-

proved the speech removed any mention of Radical Islam or radical Islamic terrorism proves that a crucial element of your presidential campaign has been lost."

He also wrote, "the best and most effective way I can support you, Mr. President, is from outside the People's House."

Gorka's exit follows the departure of chief strategist Steve Bannon, a key adviser in Trump's general election campaign, but a contentious presence in a White House divided by warring staff loyalties. Bannon quickly returned to his post at Breitbart News.

Bannon left the White House after the arrival of new chief of staff, John Kelly, who had embarked on a personnel review of West Wing staff. Kelly has sought to impose discipline on a chaotic West Wing, limiting dissenting voices, restricting access to the president and "stacking the deck" on major decisions to guide Trump toward an outcome.

The administration has seen a number of high-profile exits in recent months, including Trump's first press secretary, Sean Spicer, and his first chief of staff, Reince Priebus.

Burke reported from Cambria, California.

Trump tells Mattis to indefinitely ban transgender recruits

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday directed the Pentagon to extend indefinitely a ban on transgender individuals joining the military, but he appeared to leave open the possibility of allowing some already in uniform to remain.

Trump gave Defense Secretary Jim Mattis authority to decide the matter of openly transgender individuals already serving, and he said that until the Pentagon chief makes that decision, "no action may be taken against" them.

The Obama administration in June 2016 had changed longstanding policy, declaring that troops could serve openly as transgender individuals. And it set a July 2017 deadline for determining whether transgender people could be allowed to enter the military. Mattis delayed that to Jan. 1, 2018, and Trump has now instructed Mattis to extend it indefinitely.

But on the question of what will happen to those transgender individuals who already are serving openly - estimated to number in the low hundreds - Trump seemed to leave wiggle room for exceptions. A White House official who briefed reporters on the presidential order would not say whether Trump would permit any exceptions.

That official, who spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said Mattis has been directed to take a number of factors into consideration in determining how to deal with transgender individuals already serving. Those factors are to include broad measures such as "military effectiveness," budgetary constraints and "unit cohesion," as well as other factors Mattis deems "relevant." It was not clear whether that means it is possible for Mattis to come to the conclusion that some transgender troops should be allowed to remain.

Trump gave Mattis six months to come up with a policy on those currently serving, and he must implement it by March 23, 2018, the official said.

In a tweet last month, Trump said the federal government "will not accept or allow" transgender individuals to serve "in any capacity" in the military.

Carl Tobias, a legal expert at the University of Richmond's School of Law, said he interprets the Trump directive as leaving open the chance for some transgender servicemembers to stay.

"Trump seems to be granting Mattis discretion to decide which currently serving transgender people can continue to serve," Tobias said via email. "It appears that Mattis has discretion substantively and procedurally."

The White House official on Friday said Trump also directed Mattis to halt the use of federal funds to pay for sexual reassignment surgeries and medications, except in cases where it is deemed necessary to

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 32 of 48

protect the health of an individual who has already begun the transition. That policy is to be written within six months and implemented by March 23.

In his directive to Mattis, Trump said he found that his predecessor's transgender policy was flawed.

"In my judgment, the previous administration failed to identify a sufficient basis to conclude" that ending the longstanding ban on transgender service would not "hinder military effectiveness and lethality" and be disrupting in the ranks, he wrote.

The Pentagon had little to say on the subject Friday. Dana W. White, the main spokeswoman for Mattis, issued a two-sentence statement saying Mattis had received White House guidance on transgender policy, adding, "More information will be forthcoming."

Only one year ago, in June 2016, then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that transgender individuals could serve openly for the first time. Prior to that, most transgender people in the military had been forced to keep their status secret to avoid being discharged; Trump's order appears to have returned the military to that same situation.

Since Carter's policy change, some troops — possibly a couple hundred — have openly declared their status as transgender individuals.

Carter also had given the military services until July 1 of this year to present plans for allowing transgender individuals to join the military. Shortly before that date, Mattis extended the study period to the end of this year. And shortly after that, Trump went to Twitter to announce a total ban, without having used the customary interagency policy process.

At the time of Trump's tweet, the Pentagon was not prepared to change its policy. A flurry of White House meetings ensued, with participation by representatives of the Defense Department, to translate Trump's announcement into guidance that could be implemented and would stand up to expected legal challenges.

Just last week, Mattis suggested he was open to the possibility of allowing some transgender troops to remain in uniform.

"The policy is going to address whether or not transgenders can serve under what conditions, what medical support they require, how much time would they be perhaps non-deployable, leaving others to pick up their share of everything," he said Aug. 14.

Estimates of the number of transgender troops in the service vary widely. A Rand Corp. study said roughly 2,500 transgender personnel may be serving in active duty, and 1,500 in the reserves. It estimated only 30 to 130 active-duty troops out of a force of 1.3 million would seek transition-related health care each year. Costs could be \$2.4 million to \$8.4 million, it estimated.

Among those who have cheered Trump's tweet, Elaine Donnelly said the president is halting "a massive social experiment."

"Expensive, lifelong hormone treatments and irreversible surgeries associated with gender dysphoria would negatively affect personal deployability and mission readiness, without resolving underlying psychological problems, including high risks of suicide," said Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., an Army combat veteran, said the Pentagon should not exclude people based on gender status.

"If you are willing to risk your life for our country and you can do the job, you should be able to serve — no matter your gender identity or sexual orientation," she said Thursday. "Anything else is not just discriminatory, it is disruptive to our military and it is counterproductive to our national security."

Jerry Lee Lewis doesn't get Country Music Hall of Fame snub

By KRISTIN M. HALL, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jerry Lee Lewis is one of the early pioneers of rock 'n' roll music, but he doesn't understand why his contributions to country music haven't been recognized by the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Now 81, Lewis said that when he first came to Nashville from Louisiana, he was advised to pick up a guitar instead of playing the piano.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 33 of 48

"I was trying to get a record out and get my start in the business and they really didn't any part of rock n' roll," Lewis said in an interview Thursday in Nashville, where he was being honored by artists such as George Strait, Kris Kristofferson, Chris Stapleton and Lee Ann Womack during the live concert series Skyville Live.

He quickly found fame under the guidance of Sam Phillips at Sun Records in Memphis, where he played alongside Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash in the now famous Million Dollar Quartet. His outrageous talent, energy and ego were showcased on his early hits like "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On."

But his career was nearly derailed over the scandal of his marriage to his 13-year-old cousin, Myra, and he spent several years blacklisted before mounting a return to the country charts in the late '60s. He had top country singles like "What Made Milwaukee Famous (Has Made a Loser Out of Me)," "She Even Woke Me Up to Say Goodbye," and "To Make Love Sweeter for You."

Recently a petition was started online to call attention to his exclusion from the Country Music Hall of Fame. Lewis was among the first inductees into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.

"I don't know why I am not in it," Lewis said. "I mean, they got it stirred up and talking about it. I don't know why they don't put me in it. I don't understand that."

Within Nashville's music community, there seems to be plenty of support for his inclusion in the genre's most elite group. In fact, many of today's country stars consider "The Killer" more of a country singer than a rock star.

"You know, I was at the age that I didn't really know him as a rock 'n' roller until I got in the bar and started playing his rock stuff," said Toby Keith. "But I knew all of his country songs. He's an incredible country singer."

As to whether Keith thinks Lewis belongs with country's historical icons, Keith is positive: "I do. No question. I'd vote for him tomorrow."

Womack said that Lewis' contributions to music, no matter the genre, should make him eligible.

"He's one of the greatest artists that we have ever had the pleasure of having in country music," Womack said. "That's my opinion and I am sure that's most everybody's opinion. I think anybody that has made that kind of impact deserves to be in the Hall of Fame."

For Lewis, he just had to approach music the only way he knew how.

"My style of country music is just me," Lewis said. "I wouldn't know how to do anyone else's."

Follow Kristin M. Hall at [Twitter.com/kmhall](https://twitter.com/kmhall)

Calm returns after 30 die in India riots over guru verdict

By SHONAL GANGULY and NIRMALA GEORGE, Associated Press

PANCHKULA, India (AP) — Security forces on Saturday patrolled the streets of a north Indian state where rampaging mobs left at least 30 people dead and more than 250 others injured, after a court declared a quasi-religious sect leader guilty of raping two of his followers.

Authorities lifted the curfew in the town of Panchkula, the main trouble spot, after the night passed relatively peacefully and the area was cleared of protesters, said police officer Pradeep Kumar.

On Friday, mobs set fire to government buildings and attacked police and TV journalists in the town, smashing the windshields of news vans and breaking broadcast equipment.

Police initially used tear gas and water cannons and then fired bullets in the air in an attempt to control the surging mobs as they vandalized bus stations and government vehicles.

Haryana state police chief B S Sandhu said 28 people died, six of them due to bullet wounds, and more than 250 others were injured. More than 1,000 of the guru's supporters were detained in on charges of arson and destruction of public property, he said.

The Press Trust of India news agency said another two people were killed in the town of Sirsa, where the headquarters of the sect is located.

The special court announced the guilty verdict after hearing closing arguments in the 15-year-old case

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 34 of 48

against the guru, who calls himself Saint Dr. Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Ji Insaan.

The guru, who had denied the charges of raping the two women at his ashram in 2002, was flown by helicopter to a jail in the nearby town of Rohtak because district officials feared they would be overrun by his supporters. His sentence will be announced Monday.

Violence also broke out elsewhere in Haryana and the neighboring state of Punjab, as well as in the capital, New Delhi, police said. Railway stations in the towns of Malout and Balluana were ablaze, and two coaches of an empty train parked in New Delhi's Anand Vihar station were set on fire.

A curfew was imposed in at least four districts of Punjab, said Amrinder Singh, the state's chief minister.

A spokesman for the guru's sect, Dera Sacha Sauda, urged his supporters to remain calm.

"I just want to request everyone to maintain peace at the moment," said Dilawar Insaan. "We will explore what legal options are available to us."

The sect claims to have about 50 million followers and campaigns for vegetarianism and against drug addiction. It has also taken up social causes such as organizing the weddings of poor couples. Such sects have huge followings in India. It's not unusual for their leaders to have small, heavily armed private militias protecting them.

Clashes in 2007 between Dera Sacha Sauda followers and members of the Sikh faith left at least three people dead in north India.

In 2014, six people were killed when followers of another religious leader, guru Rampal, fought pitched battles with police who were attempting to arrest him after he repeatedly failed to appear in court in connection with a murder trial.

In a televised appeal on Thursday, Ram Rahim Singh asked his supporters not to resort to violence, but some said they would not tolerate a verdict that went against their leader.

"I consider guru-ji to be only next to God," farmer Malkit Singh said as he squatted on the ground in a park, saying Ram Rahim Singh had cured him of a decadelong addiction to drugs.

"There is a God above," he said. "Our guru-ji follows the path of truth."

George reported from New Delhi. Associated Press writer Ashok Sharma in New Delhi contributed to this report.

Venezuela's Maduro vows to punish opponents for US sanctions

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ** and **JOSHUA GOODMAN**, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro vowed Friday to prosecute for treason opponents he accused of being behind sweeping U.S. financial sanctions that will strain relations between the countries and make it harder for the socialist leader to raise badly needed cash.

Maduro accused President Donald Trump of trampling on international law and relations with Latin America by taking actions that he said would cause "great damage" to the Venezuelan oil economy as well as American investors who own the country's bonds.

He singled out the president of Venezuela's congress, Julio Borges, as being the "mastermind" of the financial and economic "blockade" and called on the government-stacked supreme court and a new, all-powerful constitutional assembly to initiate proceedings against opponents who have lobbied in favor of the sanctions.

"You've got to be a big traitor to your country to ask for sanctions against Venezuela," Maduro said in a televised appearance.

The sanctions, which Trump signed by executive order, prohibit American financial institutions from providing new money to the government or the state oil company, PDVSA. They also ban trading in two bonds the government recently issued to circumvent its increasing isolation from Western financial markets.

They also restrict the Venezuelan oil giant's U.S. subsidiary, Citgo, from sending dividends back to Venezuela — a move that Maduro said would lead to the "virtual closure" of a company responsible for thousands of American jobs.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 35 of 48

"They're committing robbery, fraud," Maduro said, adding that Venezuela would reach out to its U.S. partners to make sure decades of business relationships aren't broken. If necessary the government would find new markets for the roughly 700,000 barrels of oil it sends daily to the U.S., he said.

Trump officials stressed that by leaving untouched crude shipments between the United States and Venezuela the sanctions were targeting Maduro and his allies, not the Venezuelan people.

"Maduro may no longer take advantage of the American financial system to facilitate the wholesale looting of the Venezuelan economy at the expense of the Venezuelan people," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at the White House. "These measures will undermine Maduro's ability to pay off political cronies, and regime supporters, and increase pressure on the regime to abandon its disastrous path."

A senior Trump administration official said additional sanctions would be imposed if Maduro doesn't reverse course and meet opposition demands that he roll back plans to rewrite the constitution, free dozens of political prisoners, and hold fair and transparent elections.

In a conference call to brief reporters on the measures, the official said the United States has significant influence over Venezuela's economy but does not want to wield it in an irresponsible manner that could further burden the already struggling Venezuelan people. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the measures in greater detail.

Reflecting those concerns and a strong lobby effort by the U.S. oil industry, Friday's action stopped short of cutting off U.S. imports of Venezuelan oil that are crucial both to both Venezuela's economy and to Gulf refiners. The executive order also allows debt financing for exports of food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

The sanctions follow through on Trump's threat last month that he would take strong economic actions if Maduro's increasingly authoritarian government went ahead with plans to create a constitutional assembly that is made up wholly of government loyalists. The opposition boycotted the vote to elect the body's 545 delegates.

Since the assembly was seated, it has voted by acclamation to oust the nation's outspoken chief prosecutor, take lawmaking powers from the opposition-controlled congress and create a "truth commission" that many fear will be used to silence the government's political opponents. Several prominent opposition mayors have also been removed or ordered arrested by the government-stacked supreme court.

The constitutional assembly announced Friday on Twitter that the "truth commission" had initiated an investigation to determine who was behind the sanctions. Assembly president Delcy Rodriguez said the "unpatriotic right" would "respond before the people."

The commission wields unusual authority to subpoena and prosecute those suspected of wrongdoing.

The sanctions are bound to worsen a crisis that has already seen Venezuela's oil-dependent economy shrink by about 35 percent since 2014 — more than the U.S. economy did during the Great Depression. But it's unclear how quickly the impact on the streets will be felt.

Maduro, who is among some 30 senior officials already barred from the United States, has been warning for weeks that the Trump administration was readying a "commercial, oil and financial blockade" in the mold of the one that has punished Cuba for decades.

He found an opportunity to argue his case that he's being unfairly targeted after Trump said earlier this month that he wouldn't rule out a "military option" to resolve Venezuela's crisis — comments that were roundly rejected throughout Latin America, even by some of Maduro's toughest critics.

On Friday, journalists were invited to a shooting range at Caracas' main military base to watch as troops taught a handful of civilian government supporters how to fire assault weapons. The event, attended by military officials from China, Belarus and Russia, was a prelude to military exercises Maduro called for this weekend as a deterrent to any U.S. military intervention.

David Smilde, a Tulane University sociologist who has spent decades researching Venezuela, said blanket economic sanctions that cut off the government's cash flow and hurt the population are likely to strengthen Maduro in the short-term.

"They would bolster his discourse that Venezuela is the target of an economic war," said Smilde.

However, Smilde supports Friday's more limited sanctions targeting future indebtedness. With Venezuela's

streets calmer than they have been for months, and the opposition reeling from its failure to prevent the constitutional assembly from going forward, action from an increasingly concerned international community represents the best chance of reining in Maduro, he added.

Maduro is already struggling to combat widespread shortages and triple-digit inflation as oil production has tumbled to its lowest level in more than two decades. Any economic sanctions, however mild, increase the risk of a default on Venezuela's ballooning debt.

The government and state oil company have about \$4 billion in debt payments coming due before the end of the year but only \$9.7 billion in international reserves on hand, the vast majority consisting of gold ingots that are hard to trade immediately for cash.

Venezuela has taken desperate steps to remain current on its debt throughout the economic crisis, and the president has blamed his enemies for spreading rumors about any impending default.

Goodman reported from Bogota, Colombia. Associated Press Writer Jennifer Peltz contributed from the United Nations.

Trump setting records for low presidential approval

By EMILY SWANSON, AP Polling Editor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump started as the most unpopular new president in the history of modern polling. After seven months, things have only gotten worse.

Plunging into undesirably uncharted territory, Trump is setting records with his dismally low approval ratings, including the lowest mark ever for a president in his first year. In fact, with four months left in the year, Trump has already spent more time under 40 percent than any other first-year president.

At 34 percent, his current approval rating is worse than former President Barack Obama's ever was.

Trump's early descent in the polls defies some longstanding patterns about how Americans view their president. Such plunges are often tied to external forces that the president only partially controls, such as a sluggish economy or an all-consuming international crisis. In Trump's case, the economy is humming and the foreign crises have been kept to a minimum.

Americans also tend to be optimistic about their new leaders, typically cutting them some slack during their early days in office. Not with Trump.

"Most presidents begin with a honeymoon period and then go down from that, and Trump had no honeymoon," said Gallup editor-in-chief Frank Newport.

It's a jarring juxtaposition for the reality TV star-turned-president who spent months on the campaign trail obsessing about his poll numbers and reading them to massive rally crowds while vowing that he'd win so much as president that Americans would get sick of it. Since he took office, the poll number recitations have stopped.

Trump is now viewed positively by only 37 percent of Americans, according to Gallup's most recent weekly estimate. (Obama's lowest weekly average never fell below 40 percent.) It's even lower — just 34 percent — in Gallup's shorter, three-day average, which includes more recent interviews but can also involve more random variation.

To be sure, approval ratings can fluctuate — sometimes dramatically. Some presidents have seen their positive reviews dip below 40 percent, only to recover strongly. Bill Clinton, whose rating fell to 37 percent in early June 1993 after policy stumbles, quickly gained ground. Later that same month, he climbed to 46 percent, and ended his eight years enjoying approval from 66 percent of the nation.

Trump has defied the trends before. But if history is a guide, his numbers don't bode well. Low approval ratings hamper a president's ability to push an agenda through Congress and make it more likely the president's party will lose seats in Congress in the midterm elections.

Scott de Marchi, who teaches political science at Duke University, says his research suggests approval ratings tend to affect whether a president can persuade Congress to do his or her bidding. That's primar-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 37 of 48

ily true with complex issues like tax reform, where Americans care about the outcome but may not have strongly formed opinions. In those cases, Americans are more likely to support whatever plan the president proposes if they broadly approve of the president himself.

"The problem with Trump is that on any area like the budget or tax policy or even health care, people need to be led to a position to support," de Marchi said.

Since Gallup began tracking presidential approval, four presidents — Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush — spent significant time below 40 percent during their first four years. Clinton's and Ronald Reagan's forays below the 40 percent mark also came during their first terms. But neither stayed there long.

Of those who spent at least a few months below 40 percent approval in a first term, only one — Truman — recovered enough to win re-election.

Still, several others reached lows at some point in their presidency that are worse than Trump's, including several who dropped below 30 percent.

Truman hit 22 percent in February 1952, during a drawn-out Korean War stalemate and accusations of corruption in his administration. Richard Nixon hit 24 percent at the height of the Watergate scandal just before his resignation in 1974. Carter bottomed out at 28 percent in the summer of 1979, amid that year's oil crisis.

Trump's average approval rating so far: Just 40 percent. That's even lower than the previous average low for a first-term president, 46 percent, set by Carter.

Newport, the Gallup chief, said Trump's struggles are unusual in that such abysmal numbers can usually be tied to a single, specific issue bedeviling the country. With Trump, Newport said, "it's a more general kind of issue with the man himself and a more general dissatisfaction with the way things are going in the country."

In July, Gallup posed another question to Trump's disapprovers: Why? Nearly two-thirds cited his personality or character, while less than a third cited issues, policies or job performance.

By contrast, when Gallup asked the same question about Obama in 2009 and George W. Bush in 2001, less than 2 in 10 disapprovers cited similar concerns about personal characteristics.

The vast majority of Republicans support Trump while the vast majority of Democrats oppose him. Such political polarization might be both a blessing and a curse for Trump, preventing him from achieving higher ratings but also keeping him from falling even further.

"When Trump has done things that have generated an enormous amount of attention and people have anticipated his rating could go down, it has not," Newport said. "And that's because he's being propped up by Republicans."

It's unclear whether Trump's most recent bout with controversy — his response to racially tinged clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia — further harmed his approval ratings. It could be he's close enough to bottoming out that the latest dust-up will have little effect.

In a Washington Post-ABC News poll conducted Aug. 16-20, just 28 percent said they approve of Trump's response to Charlottesville. But 37 percent said they approved of the job Trump is doing overall — almost the exact same percentage that approved in the same poll a month earlier.

Yet if the famously image-conscious Trump aspires to undo some of the damage, there's reason to hope.

"The history of presidential job approval ratings shows an enormous amount of fluctuation," Newport said. "There's no historical reason why his ratings couldn't go up."

Mayweather, McGregor ready to rumble in much-hyped fight

By **TIM DAHLBERG**, AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Conor McGregor has been kept pretty much under wraps ever since his fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. was announced, emerging occasionally to trash Mayweather only to disappear again behind the closed doors of the UFC training center.

It's not by accident. The biggest selling point of the spectacle that is Saturday night's 154-pound fight

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 38 of 48

is the unknown.

Is McGregor good enough to land a big punch on Mayweather? Did he acquire enough boxing skills in just a few short months to make what should be a lopsided fight competitive?

Inquiring minds want to know, and there are enough of them to make this the most watched fight in history. Some 50 million people in the U.S. alone are expected to gather with friends and family to see it all unfold.

"I will be the king of both sports," McGregor crowed. "I'm already the king of fighting, I'll soon be the king of boxing."

Not so fast, said Mayweather, who comes from a boxing family and famously began throwing punches before he could walk.

"After 21 years I've been hit with everything and I'm still right here," Mayweather said. "If you give it you must be able to take it."

It's a fight that really makes no sense other than millions of people want to watch it. But the economics of the fight wouldn't make any sense, either, if people saw McGregor — the UFC star who has never boxed professionally — in action and decided he just wasn't good enough to be in the ring with a fighter like Mayweather.

No mystique, no 5 million buys on Showtime pay-per-view. That's why there was never any chance of McGregor having a tuneup fight.

And that is why the only boxing anyone outside McGregor's inner circle has seen was him hitting the heavy bag in a comical media day performance and a few seconds of a UFC clip purportedly showing him knocking down Showtime announcer and former fighter Paulie Malignaggi.

No worries, said McGregor, who says his boxing talents shouldn't be underestimated.

"I've been lacing up the gloves my entire existence," McGregor said. "Of course, we will come with a different approach than people are used to, we will paint many pictures inside the ring. It's not going to end well for Floyd. It's not going to end well for all the people who are doubting me and are so convinced that this is what it is."

McGregor weighed in at 153 pounds Friday to 149 ½ for Mayweather. A crowd that nearly filled the T-Mobile arena — many waving Irish flags — cheered loudly for McGregor while booing Mayweather.

McGregor's fan base is driving this fight, united in their fervent hope that the Irish UFC champion can muscle Mayweather around the ring and deliver knockout punches to his head. Sports books in this gambling city have taken so many longshot wagers on McGregor winning by a knockout early that they will suffer their worst loss ever should it actually happen.

What should be a 100-1 fight began as 11-1 in Mayweather's favor. Now it's 5-1, though a lot of big money — including a few million dollar bets — has been wagered on Mayweather in recent days.

"I don't see him lasting two rounds," McGregor said. "He messed up with the 8-ounce gloves. Keep your hands up, keep them down. I don't care. I'm going to break through whatever is in front of me."

For the flamboyant McGregor the fight is a chance to make money he couldn't dream of in the UFC and gain a fan base outside of mixed martial arts. Estimates vary, but he could take home \$100 million for a challenge of Mayweather that seemed improbable when he first started talking about it two years ago.

He's got youth on his side (he's 29 and Mayweather is 40), and he'll probably go in the ring much heavier than Mayweather after rehydrating following Friday's weigh-in. He's also got a reputation as a big puncher and the prevailing wisdom is he'll try to maul Mayweather much like Marcos Maidana did in their 2014 fight.

Other than that, everything favors Mayweather.

He's unbeaten in 49 fights as a pro and has a chance to pass Rocky Marciano on the perfect record list with win No. 50. Not only has he beaten every fighter put in front of him but he's found ways to deal with big punchers like Miguel Cotto, Diego Corrales and Canelo Alvarez.

He's also a pure boxer with an innate ability to adapt to any fighter put in front of him.

Mayweather is so confident of his chances that he's spent much of the week before his fight having meet-and-greets in the early morning hours at the strip club he owns not far from the T-Mobile arena where they will fight.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 39 of 48

Though he's made hundreds of millions in the ring, Mayweather has a tax lien of \$22 million to the IRS, so the lure of \$200 million to come out of a two-year retirement and face a novice boxer was great. But he said this will be definitely be his last fight, and he wants to go out with a dominating performance.

"I gave my word to my children and once I did that it came to an end," Mayweather said. "What better way to go out than with a bang."

The fight is expected to match or surpass the 4.6 million pay-per-views sold for Mayweather's 2015 fight with Manny Pacquiao at \$99.95 a household. Industry observers say people across the country will use the telecast as an excuse to party in tense times and 10 people could watch each pay-per-view.

Tickets in the arena haven't done nearly as well, largely because promoters wildly overestimated what people would pay to watch in person. Ringside seats were \$10,000 and nosebleed tickets started at \$2,500, though prices have been dropping rapidly as the fight approaches.

Taylor Swift releases new song 'Look What You Made Me Do'

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — You can finally shake it off: Taylor Swift has released her new single.

The 27-year-old singer dropped the upbeat song "Look What You Made Me Do" — which uses an interpolation from Right Said Fred's 1991 hit "I'm Too Sexy" — late Thursday to streaming platforms and iTunes. The song, featuring elements of pop, dance and house, includes sharp lyrics like: "Honey, I rose up from the dead I do it all the time/I got a list of names and yours is in red, underlined I check it once/ Then I check it twice."

The track ends with a voice message of Swift saying, "I'm sorry, but the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, 'cause she's dead."

The video will premiere Sunday night on the MTV Video Music Awards. A clip of the video aired Friday on "Good Morning America."

Some felt the song was a diss toward Kanye West, whom Swift has had issues with in the past. Last year their feud hit a new height when West's wife, Kim Kardashian, released audio recordings that she said proved Swift gave West the go ahead for a Swift reference in the song "Famous."

Swift's voice message on her new song could be a reference to the audio Kardashian leaked. Others felt the opening lines of "Look What You Made Me Do" — "I don't like your little games/Don't like your tilted stage" — was a reference to West's recent tour, which featured a floating stage.

The anticipation of "Look What You Made Me Do" helped Swift trend heavily on social media. The song is the first single from her sixth album, "reputation," to be released Nov. 10.

Swift wiped her social media pages clean last week and caused a frenzy online with video snippets of slithery snake parts. Fans dissected the clues in hopes it would reveal details about her new music, and the pop star finally announced Wednesday that a new song would come this week followed by an album three months later.

"Reputation" is the follow-up to 2014's "1989," Swift's first official pop album after years of dominating in country music. "1989" launched seven hit singles, from "Shake It Off" to "Bad Blood," and won three Grammys, including album of the year. The album helped her produce a star-studded world tour, featuring guest appearances from musicians such as Justin Timberlake and John Legend to A-List celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres and Chris Rock.

"Look What You Made Me Do" uses an interpolation of a melody from "I'm Too Sexy," a No.1 hit that was written by Richard Fairbrass, Fred Fairbrass and Rob Manzoli. After the song's release, Right Said Fred tweeted thanks to Swift and called the new song a marvelous reinvention.

Swift wrote and produced the new song with frequent collaborator Jack Antonoff, who performs in the bands Bleachers and fun. Antonoff, who has produced for Lorde, Sia, Sara Bareilles and others, earned a Grammy Award for his work on three songs from Swift's "1989."

He also produced and co-wrote Swift and Zayn's Top 5 hit from the "Fifty Shades Darker" soundtrack, "I Don't Want to Live Forever," and the two shared a Golden Globe nomination for the song "Sweeter than

Fiction," from the 2013 film "Once Chance."

Swift's "reputation" could become the singer's fourth album to sell more than one million albums in its debut week, following "1989," 2012's "Red" and 2010's "Speak Now."

Online:

<https://taylorswift.com/>

Upset with Trump's response, economic aide mull quitting

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's top economic adviser sharply denounced the president's response to the racial violence in Charlottesville, saying in an interview that he felt "compelled" to speak out. Gary Cohn, who is Jewish, was so upset by Trump's comments that he wrote a letter of resignation but never submitted it.

"Citizens standing up for equality and freedom can never be equated with white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the KKK," Cohn told The Financial Times in an interview published Friday. "I believe this administration can and must do better in consistently and unequivocally condemning these groups and do everything we can to heal the deep divisions that exist in our communities."

It was an extraordinary public rebuke of the president by a senior adviser, and came just as Cohn will be a key figure in the administration's fall push for sweeping tax reforms. It also played out as Cohn emerged as a candidate to replace Janet Yellen as chairman of the Federal Reserve when her term ends in February.

Cohn told associates he expressed his unhappiness to Trump in a conversation a week ago at the president's New Jersey golf club and considered stepping down, according to a person familiar with the conversations but not authorized to speak publicly about private talks. Two people familiar with his thinking said he'd written a resignation letter but then pocketed it.

"As a Jewish American, I will not allow neo-Nazis ranting 'Jews will not replace us' to cause this Jew to leave his job," Cohn said in the Financial Times interview.

Cohn said he had come under "enormous pressure" both to resign and to remain in his position with the administration. He told the Financial Times, "As a patriotic American, I am reluctant to leave my post as director of the National Economic Council because I feel a duty to fulfil my commitment to work on behalf of the American people."

Financial markets were rattled last week by rumors that Cohn would resign, and U.S. stocks dropped until the White House put such talk to rest. In the interview, Cohn aired publicly what he had been telling those close to him for more than a week: that he was upset by Trump's remarks that "many sides" were to blame for the violence in Charlottesville.

The White House had signed off on Cohn's interview, which was meant to outline the administration's plans for overhauling the tax code, according to officials.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Cohn has spoken often with the president and that "Gary has not held back how he feels about the situation."

"He's been very open and honest, so I don't think anyone was surprised by the comments," Sanders said.

Nonetheless, longtime Trump associate Roger Stone said on Twitter that Cohn "should be fired immediately for his public attack on the president."

Cohn was one of three aides who appeared with Trump last Tuesday at the president's free-wheeling news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower. It was there that Trump defended his original assessment that "both sides" were responsible for the violence and suggested that some of those who marched with the KKK and neo-Nazis were "fine people."

Cohn was then left to field questions about infrastructure and did not address the president's remarks. But Cohn told people close to him that he was dismayed at the president's comments and that many friends had urged him to quit.

Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who left with a \$285 million payout, has been motivated to

stay because he feels he is providing an important public service and is concerned that no one capable is poised to step into his role if he leaves, said one outside White House adviser with knowledge of his thinking.

Others in the administration have privately expressed displeasure at the president's remarks, but Cohn is among the first to go public.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, who also is Jewish, earlier put out a statement defending Trump's response. On Friday, Mnuchin said that "under no circumstances was I going to resign."

Cohn is viewed as part of a moderate faction within the White House, along with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser; top aide and daughter Ivanka Trump; and deputy national security adviser Dina Powell. They have been derided as "globalists" by ousted chief strategist Steve Bannon, a preacher of populism who frequently clashed with the "New Yorkers."

There has been widespread speculation that Cohn wants to be the next chair of the Federal Reserve, though he has dismissed the talk publicly. With Yellen's four-year term ending in six months, Trump has made clear he is considering replacing her, though he hasn't ruled out asking her to remain.

Cohn's chances for the Fed job could be harmed if he were to resign from his current position.

Cohn said in the Financial Times interview that a tax overhaul is the White House's "No. 1 focus right now" and that the president will begin a big push on it next week, including an appearance in Missouri on Wednesday.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Josh Boak in Rochester, New York, Martin Crustsinger in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Ken Thomas and Mary Claire Jalonick in Washington contributed to this report.

Knife-wielding man shot dead in Brussels 'terror attack'

By LORNE COOK and SYLVAIN PLAZY, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian soldiers shot a man dead in downtown Brussels on Friday evening after he attacked the troops with a knife in what prosecutors described as a "terror attack."

Spokeswoman Esther Natus of the federal prosecutor's office, which handles terrorism investigations, said the man twice shouted "Allahu akbar," Arabic for "God is great," as he ran at the soldiers.

"We do consider it a terror attack," Natus said. She declined to identify the man or confirm whether he was known to police, saying only that "the suspect is dead" and one of the soldiers was slightly wounded.

Brussels Mayor Philippe Close said three soldiers came under attack and one had been hospitalized.

Federal Police spokesman Jonathan Pfunde also confirmed some details of the incident and said the attacker had been "neutralized."

Belgium's anti-terror crisis center tweeted that the situation was "under control."

"All our support is with our soldiers," Prime Minister Charles Michel said via Twitter. "Our security services remain on alert. We are following the situation closely."

Associated Press television images showed that police sealed off a main street near the Grand Place, a central square that is a popular tourist site.

A man who lives near where the incident took place on Boulevard Emile Jacquemain said he saw the attacker lying in the street in the aftermath.

"I live right in front of the station. It was already blocked by police at the scene and there was a man lying on the ground. The police said he had been shot by soldiers," said Thomas da Silva Rosa, a public affairs consultant.

"He was lying on the ground, appeared dead," he told AP.

Belgium has been on high alert since suicide bombers killed 32 people in attacks March 22, 2016, on Brussels' main airport and subway system.

Soldiers and extra police have been deployed at public buildings and around large gatherings for more than a year.

Yellen defends bank regulations passed after 2008 crisis

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen on Friday emphatically defended the web of regulations the Fed helped enact after the 2008 financial crisis, saying it helped restore the banking system's health and disputing criticism that the rules have hurt lending.

Yellen said the Fed is prepared to adjust the regulations as needed to help financial institutions. But in a speech to an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, she implicitly rejected efforts by Republicans, including President Donald Trump, to scrap the 2010 Dodd-Frank law as a threat to the economy.

The Fed chair refrained from remarking on the state of the economy or on the possible future course of interest rates. Investors had been awaiting her speech for any signals about what the Fed might do when it meets next month. The central bank has been gradually raising its benchmark short-term rate, but most Fed watchers expect no rate hike before December at the earliest.

Overhanging Yellen's speech was the possibility that it marks her final appearance in Jackson Hole as Fed chair. Her term as chair will end in February, and Trump has made clear he is considering replacing her. One candidate he has mentioned is Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs senior executive who leads Trump's National Economic Council.

Some saw Yellen's forceful defense Friday of the regulatory structure imposed on banks since the 2008 crisis as further lessening the likelihood that Trump will reappoint her.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said Yellen's speech "puts her at odds with Trump's deregulation mandate, which could weigh against her remaining as chair when her term expires early next year."

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said that "Yellen's passionate defense of the post-crisis tightening of financial regulation isn't going to go down particularly well at the White House" and that it probably makes it less likely that Trump will re-nominate her.

At the same time, tensions might be arising between Cohn and Trump. In an interview published Friday in the Financial Times, Cohn said he considered quitting the White House over the president's widely condemned response to violence at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Cohn said he ultimately chose not to leave because of the duty he feels to his job.

A few hours after Yellen's speech Friday, Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, told the Jackson Hole conference that the global economy is strengthening but warned that countries must work together to resist a growing backlash against open trade. He said multi-lateral cooperation is crucial to reassuring workers who worry that free trade puts their jobs at risk.

Draghi didn't address the financial health of the eurozone, which includes the 19 nations that share the euro currency. Some investors had expected him to send some signal about when the ECB will begin slowing its monthly bond purchases, which have been intended to keep borrowing rates low but are less needed now that the European economy is improving. The ECB is expected to take up the issue next month.

In her speech, Yellen noted that the U.S. and global financial systems were "in a dangerous place 10 years ago," with severe strains that led to the collapse of investment bank Lehman Brothers, the government takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the requirement that taxpayers bail out the largest banks.

The Fed chair pointed out that despite all the government support to banks, the downturn devolved into the Great Recession, with the loss of 9 million U.S. jobs and millions of Americans losing homes to foreclosures. She said that the resulting recovery has been painfully slow and that policymakers have had to devise ways to prevent another financial crisis.

Yellen said the Dodd-Frank Act has produced a far safer banking system, especially with banks required to hold much higher levels of capital, the cushion against losses from bad loans.

"The United States, through coordinated regulatory action and legislation, moved very rapidly to begin to reform our financial system," Yellen said, "and the speed with which our banking system returned to health provides evidence of the effectiveness of that strategy."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 43 of 48

In addition to higher capital requirements, Yellen said the financial system has been fortified by regulations requiring that the biggest banks undergo annual stress tests to ensure that they have enough capital to withstand any future severe downturn.

She said the Fed is open to modifying current regulations, especially to ease restrictions on smaller banks that didn't contribute to the 2008 crisis. She also suggested that the so-called Volcker Rule, which limits the ability of banks to trade their own investments, might need to be modified.

Yellen said that in all, the tighter regulations, far from stifling economic growth, had actually helped the economy in part by making the financial system safer.

"Our more resilient financial system is better prepared to absorb, rather than amplify, adverse shocks, as has been illustrated during periods of market turbulence in recent years," she said.

Republicans have long opposed the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, which was enacted by Democrats in Congress with the support of President Barack Obama. During last year's campaign, Trump called the 2010 law a "disaster" that had held back lending, hiring and the overall economy.

He promised early in his presidency to do "a big number" on it. Trump has named officials to key posts in regulatory agencies who would be expected to carry out his deregulatory effort. He has, for example, nominated Randal Quarles to the key post of Fed vice chairman for bank supervision. Quarles has been critical of certain aspects of Dodd-Frank.

The Republican-led House has passed legislation that would overturn many of the Dodd-Frank provisions. The legislation has not advanced in the Senate, however.

AP Business Writers Marcy Gordon and Paul Wiseman contributed to this report from Washington.

RNC votes to condemn white supremacists over groans of some

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Republican National Committee walked the tightrope Friday in carefully but resolutely denouncing white supremacist groups without criticizing President Donald Trump, who waffled in his own statements in the wake of the deadly clash in Virginia this month.

Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, the RNC approved a raft of resolutions, including one asserting "Nazis, the KKK, white supremacists and others are repulsive, evil and have no fruitful place in the United States."

And while the vote was unanimous, some members had grumbled the resolution was unnecessary and reflected unnecessary defensiveness.

"It's amazing that we have been lured into this argument that we're not racists. It's absurd," said Colorado Republican Chairman Jeff Hays. "Why would we feel compelled to do that?"

The sentiment reflects a difference between RNC leaders concerned about the party's image in light of President Donald Trump's latest rhetorical thicket and newer, more ardently pro-Trump state Republican leaders who say such a statement appears defensive.

But this was a priority for Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel, as well as for committee members who were openly bothered by Trump's initial resistance to singling out the racist groups after the Charlottesville violence.

Hearing about the grumbling, McDaniel made the rounds Friday morning to reinforce with members that the measure was a priority.

"Every day, I wake up proud that we're the party of Lincoln," McDaniel told the committee Friday. "Condemning violence is not a Republican or Democratic issue. It is an American issue."

Despite the resolution, there doesn't appear to be a softening of support for the president within the party's national organization.

Rather, what was to be a sleepy, pro-forma late summer gathering seemed to spark renewed backing for the president despite a series of recent setbacks: the GOP's stunning failure to repeal and replace "Obamacare"; the furious backlash over his comments about the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia; and the departure of crowd favorite Reince Priebus, the former RNC chairman, as Trump's chief

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 44 of 48

of staff.

"The president was not wrong to point out what the media has failed to point out," that counter-protesters also "came for a battle" in Charlottesville, said Pennsylvania Republican Chairman Val DiGiorgio.

DiGiorgio stood by the "many sides" comment Trump made immediately after the clash in Virginia, in which a car was driven into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a woman. The president was criticized harshly by both Republicans and Democrats because he didn't immediately denounce the white nationalist groups.

There was palpable contempt in the conference room for counter-protesters who were ready to fight. RNC member Morton Blackwell, who affirmed his support for the resolution, said "Every person who came to Charlottesville intending violence was evil."

Bill Palatucci, a RNC committeeman from New Jersey who sponsored the resolution, said it was important for the committee to formally denounce white supremacists. Palatucci said, "I think he got it wrong a week ago Tuesday, in regards to Charlottesville," when Trump said during a free-wheeling, defiant news conference that there were "very fine people on both sides" at the demonstration.

But even Palatucci, who was a devout supporter of New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's 2016 presidential campaign, said, "I support the president's agenda." He cited deregulation measures Trump has signed and the president's plan, outlined Monday, to send additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan to revive the effort to root out terrorist cells.

The party's robust \$87 million raised to date — dwarfing what Democrats have raised — has also lifted spirits, as has improving economic confidence.

The consensus in Nashville is that the Republican-controlled Congress, not Trump, has let down the party. "There is a level of frustration that Congress didn't repeal and replace Obamacare," Ohio Republican Party Chairwoman Jane Timken said. "They want the president's agenda passed. They blame Congress."

While Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have feuded before and since the failed health care vote in July, there was little talk in Nashville of dumping the veteran Kentucky senator as leader.

"I'm not ready to abandon McConnell," Pennsylvania's DiGiorgio said. "But I would urge him to come together and get this done."

Trump has complained about McConnell and other Republican senators who have criticized the president or opposed his efforts. He notably pointed to Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, Arizona Republicans, during an angry speech to supporters in Phoenix on Tuesday.

Trump's intraparty attacks have some GOP strategists worried that the fighting could harm Republicans' chances of holding the Senate in next year's midterm elections, though that would require Democrats to retain almost all of the 10 seats they occupy in states Trump won last year.

Chairwoman McDaniel said Trump's taunts are the outspoken New Yorker's way of urging action.

"The president wants to see his agenda passed," McDaniel said. "He's channeling what I'm hearing from the American people, which is, 'We gave you the White House. You have the Senate. You have the House. Why aren't you getting these things done?'"

The Latest: Harvey weakening, but huge flood risk remains

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — The Latest on Hurricane Harvey (all times local):

10:35 a.m.

The National Hurricane Center says Hurricane Harvey's maximum sustained winds have decreased to about 75 mph (120 kph) and that the storm is now centered about 25 miles west of Victoria, Texas.

The center says in its 10 a.m. update that the storm is expected to weaken over the next 48 hours and to become a tropical storm by Saturday afternoon. The storm is moving north at 2 mph (3 kph).

The hurricane center says that although the winds are weakening, the storm could cause catastrophic flooding over the coming days.

Harvey came ashore in Texas on Friday night as the strongest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 45 of 48

decade.

10:15 a.m.

The Coast Guard has sent two helicopters to try to rescue the crews of three tugboats in distress near the Lydia Ann Channel near Port Aransas, Texas.

The Coast Guard at Corpus Christi says it received a mayday notification Saturday from crew members aboard the Belle Chase, Sandy Point and Sabine Pass.

Two MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aircrews have been sent to rescue the crews.

Texas is being pounded by Hurricane Harvey, which came ashore as a Category 4 hurricane Friday night but has since been downgraded to a Category 1 as it moves inland. Forecasters warn that it could cause catastrophic flooding in the coming days.

9:40 a.m.

Hurricane Harvey has knocked out power to nearly 300,000 customers along the Texas coast and has dumped nearly 20 inches (half a meter) of rain in some places.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages about 90 percent of the state's electric grid, says there were 211,000 outages in the few hours after Harvey made landfall Friday night as a Category 4 hurricane.

That figure rose to 293,000 on Saturday, when the hurricane was downgraded to Category 1.

In addition to loss of power, emergency personnel in the communities northeast of Corpus Christi where Harvey made landfall are reporting loss of cellphone service and other forms of communication.

9 a.m.

The rain was so torrential along Interstate 45 coming out of Galveston as Hurricane Harvey settled over southeast Texas that motorists had to stop under bridges to avoid driving in whiteout conditions.

The downpour on Saturday has also caused minor street flooding along a highway in Dickinson, about 25 miles northwest of Galveston.

Harvey, the fiercest hurricane to hit the U.S. in more than a decade, made landfall Friday night about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Corpus Christi as a Category 4 storm with 130 mph (209 kph) winds.

It gradually weakened over the next several hours and the National Hurricane Center said that by 5 a.m. Saturday Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1.

8:30 a.m.

A Texas mayor says Hurricane Harvey hit his coastal community "right on the nose" and left "widespread devastation."

Rockport Mayor Charles "C.J." Wax told The Weather Channel on Saturday that some homes and businesses were heavily damaged or even completely destroyed. Schools were also damaged.

He says emergency response system for the city of about 10,000 people has been hampered by the loss of cellphone service and other forms of communication.

Harvey made landfall Friday evening as a Category 4 hurricane but has since been downgraded to a Category 1. The National Hurricane Center says the threat in coming days is sustained rains that could unleash "catastrophic" flooding.

The city of Victoria, about 60 miles (96 kilometers) north of Rockport, had received more than 16 inches of rain by Saturday morning.

8:15 a.m.

Daybreak has revealed some of the damage caused when Hurricane Harvey came ashore overnight, including downed lamp posts and tree limbs in Corpus Christi and roof tiles torn off buildings.

Harvey came ashore along Texas' Gulf Coast on Friday night as the most powerful hurricane to hit the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 46 of 48

U.S. in more than a decade. It has since been downgraded from a Category 4 to a Category 1 hurricane, but the storm is expected to hover in the region for days and to dump as much as 40 inches (1 meter) of rain in places.

Corpus Christi's marina has been left nearly unscathed, save an awning ripped from a restaurant entrance and a wooden garbage bin uprooted and thrown.

An old white sport fishing boat was partially submerged and several boats' sails came unfurled and were ripped and whipping in wind gusts of more than 50 mph.

7:45 a.m.

President Donald Trump has commended the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for his handling of the hurricane now hitting the Texas Gulf Coast.

In a tweet Saturday morning addressed to FEMA head Brock Long, Trump said: "You are doing a great job - the world is watching! Be safe."

Hurricane Harvey, the fiercest to hit the U.S. in more than a decade, is posing the first major emergency management test of Trump's administration.

In a separate tweet, Trump said he is monitoring the hurricane closely from Camp David and "We are leaving nothing to chance. City, State and Federal Govs. working great together!"

He also tweeted that "We have fantastic people on the ground, got there long before #Harvey. So far, so good!"

5:45 a.m.

Harvey has been further downgraded to a Category 1 hurricane as it churns slowly inland from the Texas Gulf Coast, already depositing more than 9 inches of rain in South Texas.

Harvey made landfall about 10 p.m. Friday east-northeast of Corpus Christi as a Category 4, with winds in excess of 130 mph (210 kph).

But wind speeds quickly weakened and by early Saturday Harvey was downgraded. It continues to produce gusts of up to 120 mph (193 kph) and sustained winds of 90 mph (144 kph). The National Hurricane Center warns of "catastrophic flooding" over the next few days.

Emergency personnel in coastal communities like Rockport, just northeast of Corpus Christi, say there's broad damage to buildings. But Rockport Volunteer Fire Department Chief Steve Sims said early Saturday that firefighters were hunkered down at the city's fire station waiting for conditions to improve to assess the damage.

4:22 a.m.

Hurricane Harvey has settled over southeast Texas, dumping rain and lashing the state's Gulf Coast with damaging winds.

The storm made landfall Friday night as a Category 4 with 130 mph (209 kph) winds. It gradually weakened over the next several hours and by early Saturday, the National Hurricane Center said it back to a Category 2 — still sustaining winds of 110 mph (185 kph) as of 3 a.m.

Early damage reports from Gulf Coast cities included collapsed roofs and walls. One community transported multiple people from a senior living home to the county jail for treatment after a roof caved in.

But officials remained largely unable to assess the damage before daylight.

The storm is expected to slow further and flood the area with rain through the middle of next week. The center warned that Harvey could produce life-threatening storm surges along a coastal area of more than 400 miles (643 kilometers).

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 47 of 48

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 26, the 238th day of 2017. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

On this date:

In 1789, France's National Assembly adopted its Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

In 1817, the University of Michigan was founded.

In 1939, the first televised major league baseball games were shown on experimental station W2XBS: a double-header between the Cincinnati Reds and the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field. (The Reds won the first game, 5-2, the Dodgers the second, 6-1.)

In 1944, French Gen. Charles de Gaulle braved the threat of German snipers as he led a victory march in Paris, which had just been liberated by the Allies from Nazi occupation.

In 1957, the Soviet Union announced it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago; the four-day event that resulted in the nomination of Hubert H. Humphrey for president was marked by a bloody police crackdown on antiwar protesters in the streets.

In 1972, the summer Olympics games opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani (al-BEE'-noh loo-CHYAH'-nee) of Venice was elected pope following the death of Paul VI; the new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I. (However, he died just over a month later.)

In 1986, in the so-called "preppie murder case," 18-year-old Jennifer Levin was found strangled in New York's Central Park; Robert Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and served 15 years in prison.

In 1996, Democrats opened their 42nd national convention in Chicago.

In 2015, Alison Parker, a reporter for WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, were shot to death during a live broadcast by a disgruntled former station employee who fatally shot himself while being pursued by police.

Ten years ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee) lashed out at American critics, saying Sen. Hillary Clinton and other Democrats who were calling for his ouster should "come to their senses" and stop treating Iraq like "one of their villages." The \$95 million Hawaii Superferry made its maiden run from Oahu to Maui, the first passenger ferry service between the islands. (However, the ferry went out of business two years later.) Warner Robins, Georgia, won the Little League World Series title with a 3-2 victory over Tokyo.

Five years ago: In the face of approaching Tropical Storm Isaac, Republicans pushed back the start of their national convention in Tampa, Florida, by a day. Lydia Ko, a 15-year-old South Korean-born New Zealander, won the Canadian Women's Open to become the youngest winner in LPGA Tour history and only the fifth amateur champion. Japan limited Tennessee's potent lineup to two hits in a 12-2 victory in the Little League World Series title game.

One year ago: San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick refused to stand for the national anthem before the Niners played host to the Green Bay Packers in an exhibition game, saying he believed the United States was oppressing African Americans and other minorities. (The Packers won, 21-10.) NBA star Dwayne Wade's 32-year-old cousin, Nykea Aldridge, was shot to death while pushing her baby in a stroller near a Chicago school where she intended to register her children; Wade denounced the killing as an "act of senseless gun violence." (Two brothers were charged with Aldridge's slaying.) A SpaceX Dragon capsule returned to Earth with scientific gifts from the International Space Station, parachuting into the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 057 ~ 48 of 48

Pacific just off Mexico's Baja California coast loaded with 3,000 pounds of research and equipment.

Today's Birthdays: Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 72. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 68. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker is 66. Actor Brett Cullen is 61. NBA coach Stan Van Gundy is 58. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 57. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 56. Actor Chris Burke is 52. Actress-singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 51. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crowes) is 51. TV writer-actress Riley Weston is 51. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 48. Actress Melissa McCarthy is 47. Latin pop singer Thalia is 46. Actress Meredith Eaton is 43. Rock singer-musician Tyler Connolly (Theory of a Deadman) is 42. Actor Mike Colter is 41. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 37. Actor Chris Pine is 37. Actor Johnny Ray Gill is 33. Country singer Brian Kelley (Florida Georgia Line) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie Ventura is 31. Actor Evan Ross is 29. Actor Dylan O'Brien is 26. Actress Keke Palmer is 24.

Thought for Today: "Suffering belongs to no language." — Adelia Prado, Brazilian poet.