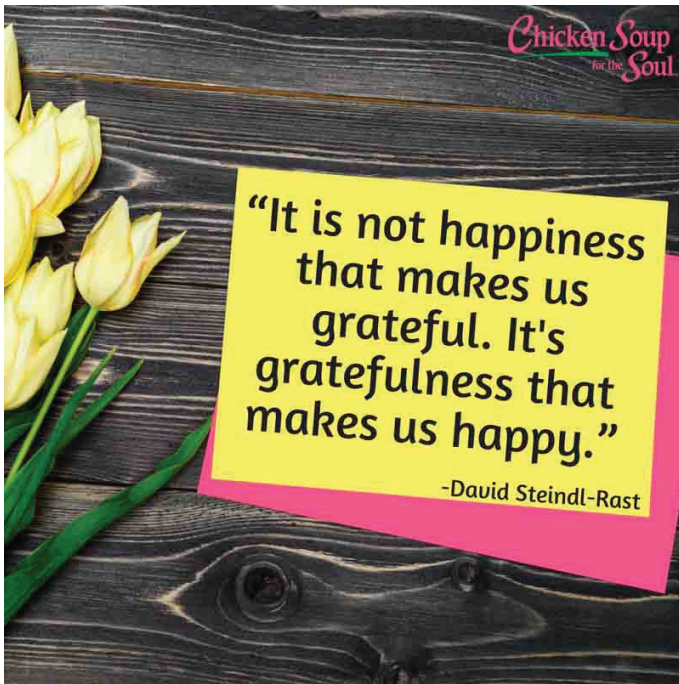


Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 1 of 48



- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- State DI Tournament
- 3- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 3- Vold Auctioneers Ad
- 4- Wheatcrest Hills Help Wanted
- 5- Jency Agency Ad
- 5- Vold Auctioneers Ad
- 6- Obit: David "Dave" Krueger
- 7- Obit: Dwight Kampa
- 8- 7th/8th GBB place 2nd at Y Tourney
- 9- Winter Weather Advisory
- 10- SunDial Manor Ad
- 10- Farmers Union PSA ad
- 10- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 11- Houghton/Hecla Area Land for Sale
- 12- Today in Weather History
- 13- Today's Forecast
- 14- Yesterday's Weather
- 14- National Weather map
- 14- Today's Weather Almanac
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 17- News from the Associated Press

Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Today on **GDILIVE.COM**

Groton Area POPS Concert

Sunday, April 8, 2018
2 p.m.
GHS Gym

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 2 of 48



Boiled Dino Dumpling Guys take third at state

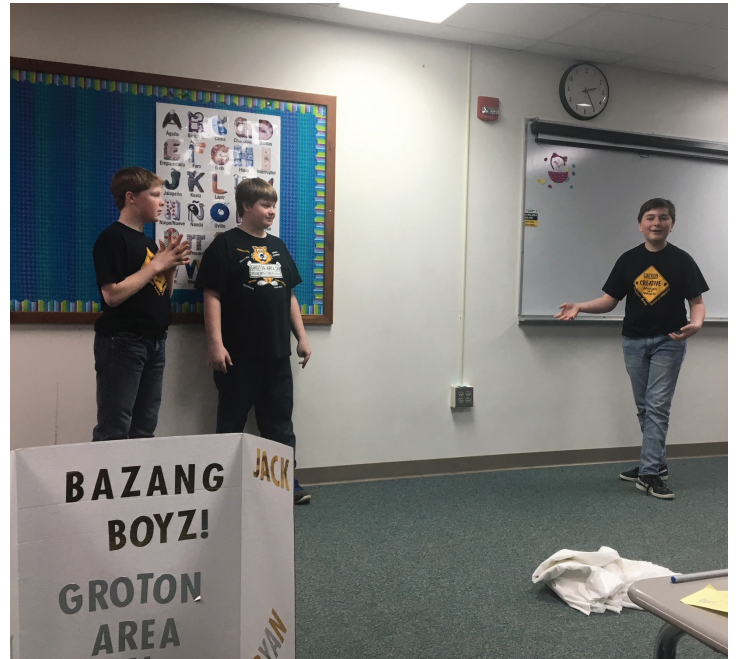
The Boiled Dino Dumpling Guys placed third in the elementary division of the State Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. In back, left to right, are Axel Warrington, Jacob Tewksbury, Corbin Weismantel and Winston Clark; in front, left to right, are Nicholas Groeblichhoff and Lincoln Krause. (Photo by Joni Groeblichhoff vis Facebook page)



The DIsfunctional Nonsense team participated at the State DI Tournament. Pictured left to right are Alyssa Fordham, Hailey Monson, Kayla Jensen, Sage Mortenson, Julianna Kosel and Rylee Rosenau. (Photo by Robin Jensen via Facebook)



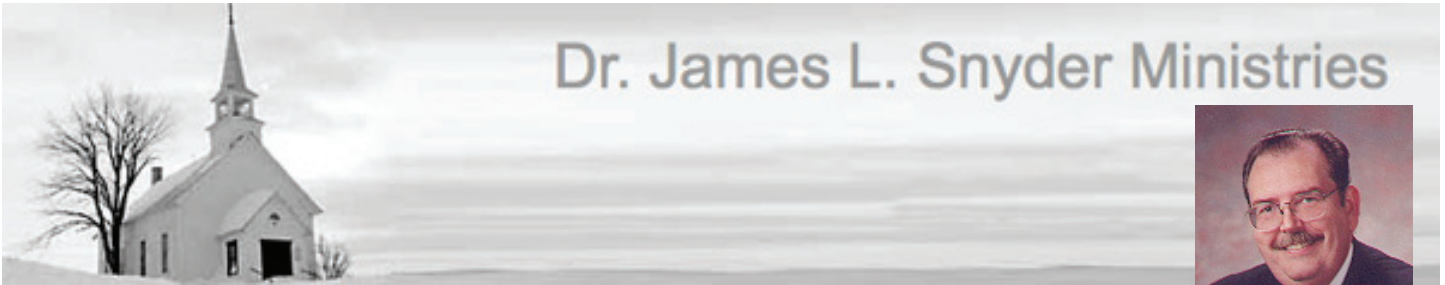
Clint Fjelstad was one of the appraisers at the State DI Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. He is pictured here going over the scores with the teams. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Bazang Boys participated at the State DI Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. They competed in the Improv division. Pictured are Ryan Groeblichhoff, Jackson Dinger and Carter Barse. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 3 of 48



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



A healthy dose of medicine for the soul

A large segment of the human population takes things way too seriously for their own good. The strange anomaly is that most people laugh at the wrong thing and fail to laugh at the right thing. This serious incongruity has robbed people of a healthy attitude towards life in general.

Those who take life too seriously are in danger of missing the great joys of living in a crazy world like ours. I am not sure about the scientific research but I would guess that for every sad moment it takes one hundred laughs to balance the books. Some people are about ninety-nine laughs short of a real sane moment.

I like the old English proverb that says, "Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone."

From my perspective, if you cannot laugh with someone you will not be able to cry with him or her and have it mean anything.

According to some medical advice, it takes more facial muscles and energy to frown than it does to smile. Of course, the only exercise some people have is frowning and who am I to take that away from them.

I am determined, no matter what, to exercise my right to smile and laugh and enjoy the world around me. I must confess that I get this attitude quite honestly.

My paternal grandfather was a Past Master in the area of practical jokes. No amount of time was too much to spend preparing for one of his famous practical jokes. His favorite holiday was April 1 and began preparing for this holiday right after Christmas.

The fact that his practical jokes at times got him into trouble did not seem to affect him at all.

Once while in the hospital for an extended period he had somebody smuggle in to him a can of snuff. For some reason he liked chewing snuff. It is the most disgusting habit I know of on earth.

He no sooner received his smuggled goods then he began chewing it. If you know anything about chewing snuff, you know it is accompanied by a lot of spitting. As usual, his timing was impeccable. Just as the head nurse passed his door and looked in, he leaned over and spit in to the garbage can he had next to his bed. The nurse, not knowing about the chewing snuff, thought he was spitting blood and immediately went into emergency mode. Immediately my grandfather was rushed into the operating

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat. April 28, 2018 10:00 am
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room and the surgeon and medical team were assembled.

My grandfather was very sick at the time. Some did not think he would get out of the hospital.

Just as they got him situated in the operating room he pulled from under his sheet his can of chewing snuff and smiled at them. The only person in the room that thought this was in any way amusing was my grandfather. The doctors were so angry with him that they refused to see him for three days and confiscated his can of chewing snuff.

My aunt and uncle lived right next to my grandfather. My aunt was hyper clean when it came to her house. Dirt in any form was not welcome under her roof. She had a broom that was always within reach because she never knew when a piece of dirt would try to invade her domicile.

That year my grandfather found something new. I am not sure where he found it but he probably spent a lot of time looking for something like this. It was a rubber facsimile of a very nasty looking piece of vomit. To him it was a prized possession.

Most of his practical jokes were executed on April 1. Whenever we saw grandfather coming on this particular day we usually ran for cover.

He went over to visit my aunt and was sitting on the couch in the living room. They chatted for a little while and then my grandfather began to cough a little bit. He said to my aunt, "I haven't been feeling good lately. I really don't know what it is." Then he started to cough a little more seriously, to which, my aunt got up and went to the kitchen to get him a glass of water thinking that might help him.

When she got back, she was shocked to see on her new coffee table a very horrible sight. My grandfather was bent over the coffee table hacking and coughing as though he was in the process of dying. On the coffee table was a very nasty looking piece of vomit.

My aunt went into hysterics. She whirled



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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 5 of 48

around and within a moment had grabbed her broom and started towards my grandfather. My grandfather was laughing but not for long.

Suddenly he realized that the flailing broom in my aunt's hand was aimed at him. She chased him out of the house, down the driveway and for at least three blocks yelling obscenities at him that I dare not repeat in public society.

Laughter is the fresh air of the soul. Even the Bible thinks so.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken" (Proverbs 15:13). And, my favorite, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

I recommend a healthy dose of medicine for your soul.

Groton Home for Sale



\$299,900

304 N State Street, Groton

Enjoy this summers sunsets overlooking your large fenced backyard. This beautiful home sits on just under 1 Acre of land. 5 bedrooms, office, Media room, large rec room, surround sound, built-ins & plenty of storage. Not to mention 3 stall garage + new shed. All kitchen appliances to stay + washer & dryer.

www.flexmls.com/share/1NpDJ/304NSTATEStGrotonSD57445

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614 South Main Street, Aberdeen ~ 605-725-3130
Brittany Smart: 605/290-1487

FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION

Saturday, April 14, 2018 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

11701 403rd Ave. SE, Houghton, SD 57449

From Groton, SD: 14 miles north on SD Hwy. 37, 3 west on 119th St., 2 north on 403rd Ave.

From Britton, SD: 17 miles west on SD-10, 9 South on SD Hwy 37, 3 West on 119th St., 2 North on 403rd Ave.

From Houghton, SD: 5 miles South on 401st Ave., 2 miles east on 117th St.

From Columbia SD: 2.5 miles north on Hwy. 16, 5 east on 120th St., 1 north on 401st Ave, 2 east on 119th St., 2 miles north on 403rd Ave.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE:

Terry and Marcia have retired from farming and will be offering this well maintained line of farm equipment at auction. Farm equipment was used in 2017 and is field ready. Very few small items, please be on time.

OWNERS

Terry & Marcia Haaland

For information call 605-885-7188

Live Auction with internet bidding through Bidcaller, a part of Auctiontime.

Register for internet bidding at Auctiontime.com or Ag4Bid.com

TRACTORS

1980 JD 4440, 8,745 hrs, quad range, 3 hyd., 3 pt., 540 & 1000 PTO, Firestone 480/80R38 tires@80% Versatile 875, 4 hyd., 20.8x38 dual, main tires@65%



Case IH 9150 4wd, 300 hp., 5000 hrs., 3 hyd. PS 12 fwd, 2 rv., Cummins

eng., new tires – CONSIGNED: Will@605-290-2324

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

Summers 30" Super Coulter, Summers 3 bar harrow, weight package, smooth blade front, 13 wave blades back



JD E0400 rotary hoe 20" w/transport IHC 496 30" disk, Summers 4

bar harrow, hyd. wings, tandems all around, 22" blade, 9" spacing IHC 496 24" disk, hyd. wings, 9" spacing, tandems IHC 24" disk, Summers 3 bar harrow, tandems, 9" spacing JD 1350-1450, 6-16" trip beam plow, w/ Melroe 8' packer IHC #45 Field Cult. 21', 3 pt., gauge wheels

PLANTING EQUIPMENT

JD 7000 12R30" front fold 1.5 & 3 bushel poly boxes, trash whippers, markers, JD 200 monitor, 2 pt. JD 7000 8R36" poly boxes, herbicide boxes, markers, monitor



3 JD 8'9350 drills, w/fert., grass seeder 3 JD 8'LL166 drill w/fert., grass seeder

SN#005798

COMBINE, HEADS & TRAILERS

1999 JD 9610, rebuilt engine at 1,900 hrs, 2,335 sep. hrs., 3,539 eng. hrs., buddy seat, Maurer hopper ext., 20.8 x 42 straddle duals, new

unloading auger tube & auger, twin chaff spreader, 16.9x26 rear tires, SN#09610X681947 JD 930 platform flex, good poly, F & A, #H00930F677831



2- JD 634 GRN corn heads Elmers manufacturing 30' header trailer, 2 wheel

2-homemade 20' 4 wheel trailers

GRAIN CART

Kilbros 490 grain cart, roll tarp, 100 small PTO, lights, 23.1x26 tires

TRUCKS

2004 International Eagle 9400i, Cummins ISX, 10 sp. 759,164 mi., air ride suspension & cab, new bags, new batteries, 205"WB, 3 stage eng brake, 275/80R22.5 matching drivers & steering tires@90%, air slide 5th wheel, 27541, VIN#5CNAPR44C027541



1973 GMC, gas 427, 13 sp., tandem 66" x 19' box, alum., air brakes,

air shift, twin screw, roll tarp, air brakes, air shift, 10:00 R20 tires

diff. lock 1977 Chevy gas, 5 sp. 2 sp., 366 v8, 60"x15' metal box, single axle w/cheater, roll tarp 1965 Ford F600 14' box & stock rack, hoist, 4 sp. 2 sp., 6 cyl., 61,618 actual miles, parade ready SN# F60BR708576

TRAILERS

1991 Cornhusker grain trailer, alum, ag hopper, Shur-Co electric trap openers, RRS electric roll tarp, brakes @90%, 275/80R24.5 tires, 1 new hopper, SNT19204227M0007434



1986 Kiefer built 5th wheel 7x16 goose-neck stock trailer,

#1DVSM1628GK0101509

1967 43"x9' Homemade Stock Trailer, 2 wheel for 1 animal, lights #248084 Dakon 200 bushel gravity box w/HD running gear

CATTLE EQUIPMENT

20-Various sizes metal gates Calf pullers Wood posts New & used steel posts Stockade panels

SHOP

Reznor 85,000 BTU propane hanging heater 2-225 Amp Arc Welders Drill press 1-manual tire machine

HAYING EQUIPMENT

Vicon 6 Wheel Rake NH 56B 10' side delivery rake NH 55 10' side delivery rake Hitch to pull 2 side delivery rakes New Vicon rake wheel 3-IHC 100 sickle mowers: 1-9' pull type, 1-9' 3 pt., 1-7' pull type

AUGERS

Farm King 8" x 51 PTO auger 3-6" take out augers w/hyd. & electric motors

FARM EQUIPMENT

Flare box w/hoist 2-track wackers Farmhand loader w/bucket & grapple 7' 3 pt. snowblower, hyd. spout, 1000 PTO, like new 2-Farmhand pushoffs Farmhand manure & snow buckets F-11 Farmhand Loader

DOZER & SCRAPER

Custom built 8' dozer, rear axle motors 12' hyd. scraper, like new

MISCELLANEOUS

RR ties 18.4x38 Axle duals Electric drill fill for truck 18.4 x 38 band duals 3 pt. heavy duty hyd. drive, 12" post hole auger Category 1 & 2 quick tachs Straw chopper for Gleaner L2 More Items may be listed by sale time!

AIRPORT CAFÉ SERVING LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS

Vold Auctioneers & Realty

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The Life of David "Dave" Krueger

Services for David "Dave" Krueger, 67, of Conde, will be 11 a.m., Monday, April 9 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Sunday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Dave passed away April 4, 2018 at his home.

David James was born on October 18, 1950 in Aberdeen to James and Betty (Ellingson) Krueger. He attended grade school in Ferney and graduated from Groton High School in 1968. Dave continued his education at South Dakota State University in Brookings, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology. He enlisted with the United States Army in March of 1973 and was honorably discharged in March of 1975 as a 2nd Lieutenant. After finishing active duty, he served in reserves until December of 1978, during which he was promoted to Captain. Dave returned to Conde, where he owned and operated a welding business with his brother, Steve.



Dave enjoyed farming, gardening, archery, golf, and collecting coins. In earlier years, he liked to bowl and had attended the Nationals Bowling Tournament in St. Louis. He also had a passion for Corvette cars and worked on restoring several of them. Dave was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney and the Conde American Legion Post #148.

Celebrating his life is his mother, Betty of Conde, his brothers, Steve (Cora) Krueger of Conde, Robert (Lois) Krueger of Groton, 4 nieces: Jackie Krueger (Cody Lindgren) of Groton, Amy (Josh) Harmer of Rapid City, Teresa (Mike) Schnell of Aberdeen, Jessie Krueger (Brandan Fish) of Rapid City, 6 great-nephews and great-nieces, his aunt, Joyce Krueger of Wessington Springs and several cousins.

Preceding him in death was his father, James Krueger, a great-nephew, Hunter Krueger, a great-niece, Angel Merkel, two uncles, John Krueger and Russell Ellingson, his maternal grandparents, Sam and Dora Ellingson and paternal grandparents, Herman and Lillian Krueger.

Honorary Casketbearers will be all of his nieces, great-nephews and great-niece.

Casketbearers will be Mike Krueger, Scott Krueger, Warren Pigors and Jim Schinkel.

The Life of Dwight Kampa



Dwight "Toad" Kampa, 64, of Columbia, SD died Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, SD. His funeral was held Saturday, April 7, 2018, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Columbia with Pastors Samuel Bobby and Craig Grams officiating. Burial was at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, rural Columbia.

Dwight was born September 6, 1953, to Michael and Darlys (James) Kampa. He was baptized at the Congregational Christian Church in Columbia and confirmed in the United Methodist Church in Groton, SD. He attended grade school at the rural West Hansen Country School. When that school closed he completed his education at Groton Public Schools. He then attended Lake Area Vo-Tech in Watertown, SD studying diesel mechanics. During his early years in school a classmate said he seemed kind of short and stubby and so he was going to call him "Toad". That name remained his nickname throughout his life.

On October 27, 1973, Toad married his high school sweetheart Cheryl Dennert in Columbia. Toad and Cheryl had three children Katie, Tyler and Cole. He spent his entire life working in the agriculture industry, first at South Dakota Wheat Growers, then FEI, and in 1995 he began working for Full Circle Ag. In addition, he and his sons began farming with his mother in 1994 after the passing of her fiancé, Richard Francoli.

Toad loved hunting and fishing with his friends and family and that passion continued with his grandchildren. Elk hunts, Deer Camp and trips to Laughlin are wonderful memories. His latest pastime was giving his grandson, Dawson, daily rides in the Ranger, touring Columbia and viewing the cows at Larson Livestock. Toad was always available to help anyone who needed assistance in the community.

Survivors include his wife Cheryl, daughter Katie (Shane) Moser, Leola SD, sons Tyler (Karen) Kampa, and Cole (Jordan) Kampa both of Columbia; grandchildren: Kody and Kiley Moser, Kaden Kampa, Logan Gruenstein and Dawson Kampa; his mother Darlys of Groton; brothers: David (Rita) Groton, Darwin, Sioux Falls, SD; Derwin, Aberdeen SD; Mike, Bath SD and Sister Darlyne Kampa Daly, Groton; numerous nieces and nephews; his in-laws Lloyd and Doris Dennert, Columbia and all of Cheryl's family. He will be missed by many, but remembered for his comment before each goodbye – "I LOVE YOU"

He was preceded in death by his father Michael Kampa; granddaughter Mikayla Gruenstein; and grandparents: David and Mildred James, and Michael and Josephine Kampa.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 8 of 48



Groton's seventh and eighth grade girls' basketball team placed second in the Freshman bracket of the Y basketball tournament this weekend. Pictured left to right are Allyssa Locke, Maddie Bjerke, Madeline Fiehs, Ani Davidson, Trista Keith and Brooke Gengerke. (Photo by Tricia Keith)



In case you have not peaked your head out the window yet this morning, it has started to snow and blow in the Groton Area.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 9 of 48

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 10 PM CDT THIS EVENING...

* WHAT...Mixed precipitation expected. Total snow accumulations of 3 to 5 inches and ice accumulations of a light glaze are expected.

* WHERE...Portions of central, north central and northeast South Dakota.

* WHEN...Until 10 PM CDT this evening.

* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Plan on slippery road conditions. In addition, some reductions to visibility are likely. Winds gusting as high as 30 mph will cause patchy blowing and drifting snow through mid afternoon.

A Winter Weather Advisory means that periods of snow, sleet or freezing rain will cause travel difficulties. Expect slippery roads and limited visibilities, and use caution while driving.

The latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.



Take it Slow when Driving in Snow

- ❄️ 70% of snow and ice-related injuries occur in automobiles
- ❄️ Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you
- ❄️ Allow extra time for travel

weather.gov/winter 

Published on: 04/07/2018 at 9:30AM

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 10 of 48



Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for **full time and part time CNA's**. 12 hr. shifts- days and nights (SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)

DIETARY OPENINGS

Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts (WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

Part time Dietary Tech

For more information, call 605-492-3615

Maintenance Supervisor Wanted:

Under the direction of the Facility Administrator, the Maintenance Supervisor oversees the daily operations of the Maintenance. Performs maintenance and repair of physical structures of buildings.

Day Shift C.N.A. Wanted

Sign-on Bonus

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Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

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*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")

HOUGHTON/HECLA AREA LAND FOR SALE

Houghton/Hecla area real estate located 4 miles South and 2 miles East of Hecla, owned by the Estate of Florence Evelyn Peterson, will be sold at auction, cash sale only, the following described real estate:

- Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 127 North, Range 60 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Approximately 162.46 acres of land (19.63 cropland, 142.83 pasture)

Seller makes no representation as to the actual number of acres contained in this description.

Bid opening and auction will take place at 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in the Hecla Community Room located at 202 Main Street, Hecla, South Dakota.

Terms of Sale: Sealed bids can be mailed to the office of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., ATTN: Lonald L. Gellhaus, PO Box 73, Aberdeen, SD 57402-0073 or brought to the auction. Please contact Teresa at 605-225-6522 to request a bid packet. Each sealed bid must include a Bid Sheet.

Earnest money of 10% upon acceptance of bid made payable to "Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. Trust Account". Title insurance and closing fees shall be split equally between Buyer and Seller. Balance due upon closing and delivery of good title. 2017 real estate taxes due in 2018 will be paid by the Seller. 2018 real estate taxes due in 2019 will be the responsibility of the Buyer.

Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Lonald L. Gellhaus, of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., represents the Seller. For additional information, please contact Lonald L. Gellhaus at 605-225-6522.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 12 of 48

Today in Weather History

April 8, 1995: Ten inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a five-day period, beginning April 8th. Many roads became impassable. Several businesses, government offices, and schools closed on the 11th. Twenty-four inches fell at Ree Heights and Gettysburg, 20.0 inches at Faulkton, 18.0 inches at Kennebec, 16.0 inches at Pierre, and 10.0 inches at Doland.

1938: Snow began to fall over central Oklahoma during the previous evening and continued to this day. In Oklahoma City, several snowfall records for the month soon fell to the storm, including the record for most total snowfall during April. The Oklahoma City snowfall totals of 0.8 inches on the 7th and 3.3 inches on the 8th remain daily records. In fact, the 3.3 inches of snow on the 8th is the most ever to fall on any single April day. The 4.1 inch total for the month is still the largest April monthly snowfall total.

1973: The state of Iowa and southwest Wisconsin saw severe blizzard conditions from April 8 through the 10th. Sustained wind of 40 to 50 mph, with gusts to 65 mph was reported with falling snow. Highways were closed, travel was suspended, and properties were damaged. Livestock and turkey losses approximated 20 million dollars. Record snowfall was reported in several localities. Belle Plaine had 20.3 inches; Dubuque had 19.2 inches, and Grundy Center saw 19 inches. Snow drifted as high as 16 feet. In southwest Wisconsin, this storm was quoted as being the "worst since 1921."

1989: Two-dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. Phoenix AZ equaled their record for April of 104 degrees established just the previous day.

1998: A major F5 tornado struck western Jefferson County in Alabama leveling the communities of Oak Grove, Rock Creek, Edgewater, McDonald's Chapel, Sylvan Springs and Pratt City. The tornado lifted just two miles from downtown Birmingham. The twister had a track of 20 miles with the damage path averaging between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in width. 34 people were killed, 221 injured and 1,000 homes destroyed.

1919 - A tornado swarm in northern Texas resulted in the deaths of 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1926 - The lightning-set oil depot fire near San Luis Obispo CA boiled over and engulfed 900 acres. Many tornado vortices resulted from the intense heat of the fire. One such tornado traveled 1000 yards, picked up a house and carried it 150 feet, killing the two occupants inside. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front crossing the Northern Plateau and the Northern Rocky Mountain Region produced high winds in northeastern Wyoming. Winds gusting to 69 mph at Sheridan WY downed power lines and caused some property damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northerly winds ushered cold air into the north central U.S. The strong winds, gusting to 60 mph at Rapid City SD and Williston ND, reduced visibilities in blowing dust over the Dakotas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Twenty-two cities reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the eastern U.S. Freezing temperatures severely damaged peach and apple orchards in West Virginia, where prolonged mild weather since January had caused an early blooming of spring vegetation. State and Federal agencies estimated a 50 percent loss in production for peaches and "Delicious Red Apples". (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

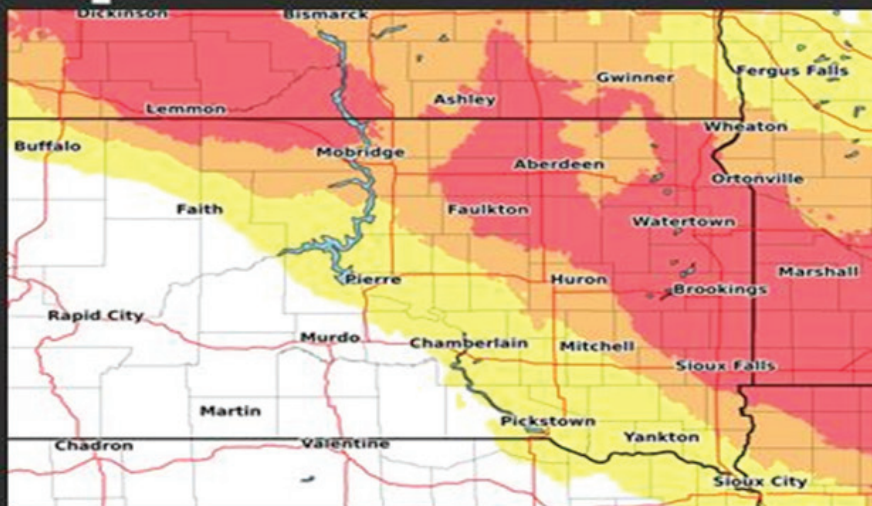
Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 13 of 48

Sun Apr 8	Mon Apr 9	Tue Apr 10	Wed Apr 11	Thu Apr 12	Fri Apr 13	Sat Apr 14
31°F	34°F	46°F	48°F	46°F	44°F	36°F
18°F	19°F	26°F	26°F	34°F	27°F	13°F
S 18 MPH Precip 100%	S 13 MPH	S 8 MPH	E 13 MPH	ENE 17 MPH	E 29 MPH Precip 60%	NNE 25 MPH Precip 40%

Moderate to Heavy Snow Today



Heavy Snow Threat



None
No impacts are expected at this time
Minor ❄️
Light accumulations with minor road impacts possible
Moderate ❄️❄️
Slippery roads and low visibility are possible
Significant ❄️❄️❄️
Snow over roads and greatly reduced visibilities are possible
Extreme ❄️❄️❄️❄️
Major impacts are possible, travel may be impossible

Message of the Day:



- Moderate to heavy snow will continue to spread east across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota today before diminishing by this evening.
- Light freezing rain or sleet is still possible in central SD today.

Published on: 04/08/2018 at 5:51AM

Snow and blowing snow, and perhaps even a little bit of freezing rain or drizzle, over central South Dakota will spread east today. Anywhere from 3 to 7 inches of snow is possible through this evening. Minor ice accumulations from freezing precipitation are not out of the question, especially over parts of the Missouri River valley. Travel will be difficult today and tonight.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 14 of 48

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 32.1 F at 4:27 PM

Low Outside Temp: 5.4 F at 6:39 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 10:55 PM

Precip: Moisture in Snow: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 85° in 1945

Record Low: 6° in 1997

Average High: 53°F

Average Low: 29°F

Average Precip in April: 0.37

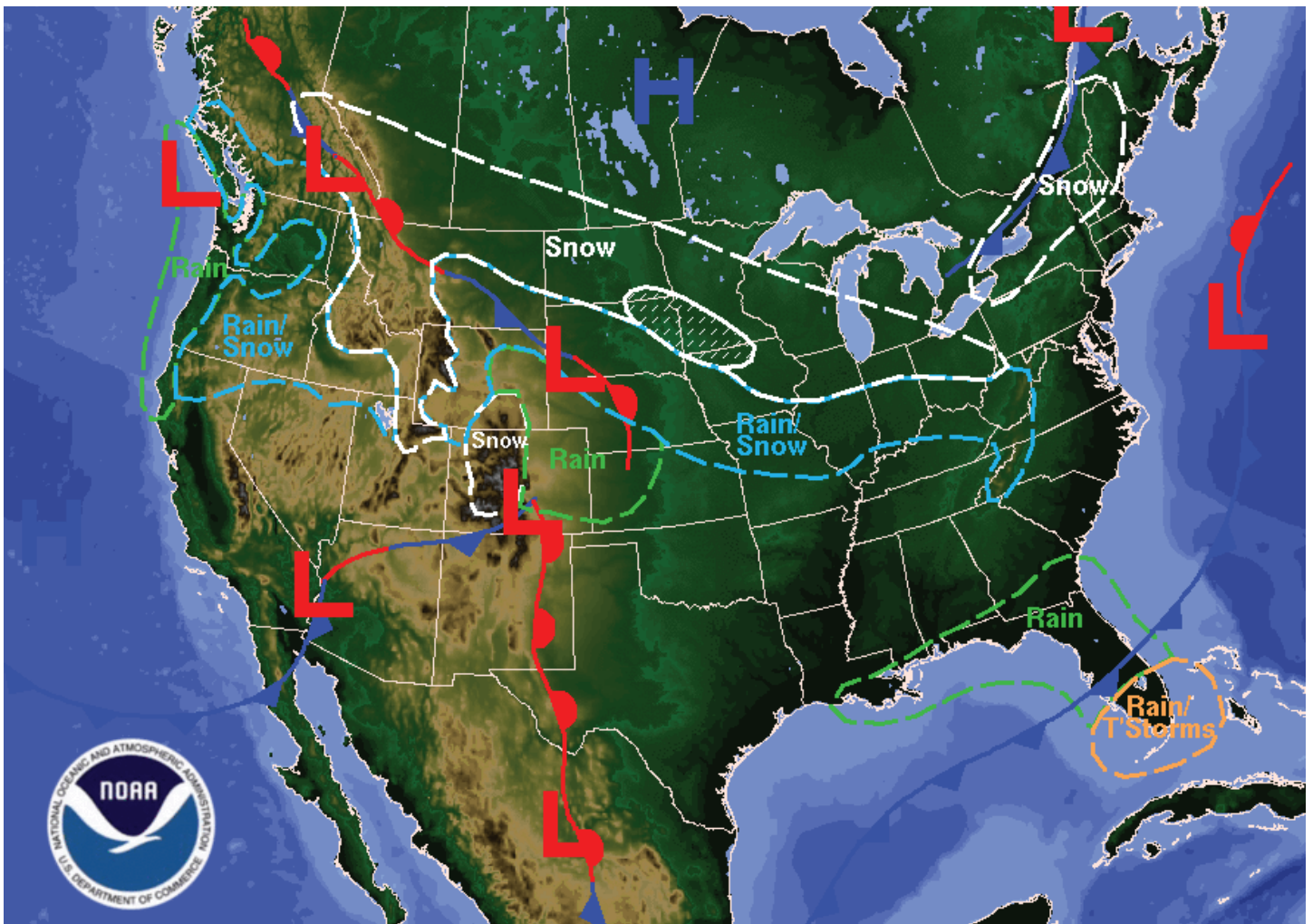
Precip to date in April: 0.28

Average Precip to date: 2.55

Precip Year to Date: 2.35

Sunset Tonight: 8:10 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:58



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Apr 08, 2018, issued 3:35 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

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 15 of 48



FORGIVENESS

We rarely stop and count the many benefits that we have because of God's grace. Perhaps David clearly and carefully listed five of them beginning with what we can say is the entrance to the benefits He has in store for us: His forgiveness.

The word forgiveness here means to "deviate" or to "stray" from the expectations, laws or commandments He established from the beginning of time. When we do so, we become guilty of sin and need His forgiveness for us to have a relationship with Him and enjoy His blessings.

Forgiveness is the beginning, the foundation of our relationship with God. And it is something some of us may need more often than others. The call of God's Word is first and foremost the call for us to ask for forgiveness and repent of our sins. When we repent and confess our sins, the Gospel promises us that He will cleanse us and forgive us. John wrote that "If we freely admit and confess our sins, He is faithful and just - true to His nature, faithfulness, and promises - and will forgive us of our sins and continuously cleanse us of all of our unrighteousness - everything that separates us from Him."

If, in our daily lives, we are not experiencing His benefits or blessings, it is because there is some sin in our life that has come between the Lord and us. And if we want His blessings to return to our lives, we must go to Him in prayer and ask for His forgiveness. Forgiveness is not a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is something we must repeatedly do as we do a daily inventory of our lives.

Prayer: Father, may Your Spirit make us aware of our sins and our need to repent so we may enjoy Your benefits. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 103:2a Bless the Lord, O my soul,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 16 of 48

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/13/2018 Elementary School Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 17 of 48

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
07-13-15-21-29
(seven, thirteen, fifteen, twenty-one, twenty-nine)
Estimated jackpot: \$53,000

Lotto America
02-10-13-37-50, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 4
(two, ten, thirteen, thirty-seven, fifty; Star Ball: two; ASB: four)
Estimated jackpot: \$2.95 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball
02-17-20-38-39, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 2
(two, seventeen, twenty, thirty-eight, thirty-nine; Powerball: twenty; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$74 million

SD game commission sets elk seasons, reduces licenses

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's game commission has rejected giving fewer landowners an advantage for licenses to hunt elk in the Black Hills.

The Rapid City Journal reports landowners still need at least 240 acres and 500 elk-use days for a preference license. An elk-use day is any day an elk feeds or waters on private land.

One landowner had petitioned to raise that to 1,000 acres with 500 elk-use days, or any land with 2,000 elk-use days, and to require the person to live within 60 miles of the land.

The commission also reduced the number of licenses available for the upcoming season, particularly for antlerless elk.

Archery season runs all September. The Black Hills rifle season runs in October and December, with dates varying by unit and by any-elk or antlerless.

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

South Dakota cop finds 85 pounds of pot, busts 2 Minnesotans

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two Minnesota residents remain jailed after authorities discovered 85 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop on Interstate 90 in western South Dakota.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says 50-year-old Lao Songying, of Minneapolis, and 41-year-old Yia Yang, of St. Paul, were eastbound on I-90 east of Rapid City when they were stopped for speeding Thursday. A deputy who smelled marijuana and searched their pickup truck discovered the drug.

The man and woman were each charged with possessing more than 10 pounds of marijuana and intending to distribute a pound or more of marijuana.

Online records say they remained jailed Saturday in lieu of \$100,000 bail apiece following initial court

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 18 of 48

appearances Friday. The records don't list attorneys who could comment on their behalf. They're due back in court April 20.

Pipeline spill in South Dakota twice as big as first thought

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A crude oil spill from the Keystone Pipeline in South Dakota last November has turned out to be nearly twice as big as first reported.

Around 407,000 gallons (338,900 imperial gallons) spilled onto farmland when the pipeline broke near Amherst in Marshall County on Nov. 16, a spokeswoman for pipeline owner TransCanada Corp., told the Aberdeen American News. TransCanada had originally put the spill at 210,000 gallons (174,860 imperial gallons).

The new number would make the spill the seventh-largest onshore oil or petroleum product spill since 2010, as reported to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Repairs have since been made and the cleanup is done. TransCanada resumed using the pipeline 12 days after the leak.

"The remediation work on the property has been completed. We have replaced the last of the topsoil and have seeded the impacted area," TransCanada spokeswoman Robynn Tysver said in an email to the newspaper late Friday.

A preliminary report indicated that the pipeline might have been damaged during construction in 2008. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is expected to release its final report on the leak in the next few weeks. The federal agency has estimated that the leak cost TransCanada \$9.57 million.

Brian Walsh, an environmental scientist manager for the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the state received the corrective action order report from the pipeline agency about a week ago. He's reviewing the 4,000 pages to verify the data and make any necessary changes before the final report is published.

The Keystone Pipeline carries oil more than 2,600 miles (4,180 kilometers) from Alberta, Canada, to Oklahoma and Illinois.

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

Wally the pig thrives 1 year after escape to freedom

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Wally the pig is living the life of fiction since making his leap to freedom from a cattle truck near Sioux Falls a year ago.

Wally went from being destined for the slaughterhouse to now holding an ambassador position for the sanctuary that rescued him, the Argus Leader reported.

"He has a really incredible story, and people identify with that," said Beth Berhow, the program manager for the SoulSpace Farm Sanctuary in Wisconsin.

Wally was held in a cattle truck headed to Sioux Falls last year when he forced open a gate and jumped, skidding along Interstate 90. A witness called 911, leading animal control officers to rescue Wally before a car could hit him.

The pig got his name from Andy Oestreich, the senior humane officer at the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society. SoulSpace Fonder Kara Brecki adopted Wally after nobody claimed him.

Wally was initially standoffish during interactions with humans, according to sanctuary workers. But now the animal is trusting and responds to his name.

"He is very sociable," Berhow said. "He loves people. That happened really quickly."

Wally will headline a SoulSpace fundraiser April 21 in Minnesota. The pig's celebrity status has generated a documentary film and several stories in the Upper Midwest, helping SoulSpace raise money to protect castaway farm animals.

Berhow said the sanctuary is "just so grateful he made his way to us."

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

Aberdeen spends \$1M in 5 years for city planning

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Aberdeen officials have spent more than \$1 million in city and outside funding on plans and studies for projects and development in the past five years.

Officials since 2013 approved 15 studies using nearly \$860,000 in city funds and three studies using more than \$250,000 in outside funds. The city also completed three in-house studies at no extra cost, the Aberdeen American-News reported.

The city conducted the studies for variety of plans, including future development for parks like the Nature Area, Kuhnert Arboretum and Storybook Land. Another plan was dedicated to future improvements at the Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center.

Having plans for city parks helps create a roadmap for future development, said Doug Johnson, director of Aberdeen's Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

"As funds become available, you slowly work toward implementation," he said.

Other studies involved strategic planning for city officials, a community needs analysis for the parks department and improvements to Moccasin Creek and two softball complexes.

The strategic planning process is a way to set priorities for the city, said Lynn Lander, city manager.

"It can guide future projects and helps me determine what the priorities are," he said.

City officials just completed their first strategic planning session since 2014.

"We learned through that session that the (city) council deemed Moccasin Creek a priority," Lander said.

Johnson said completing a needs analysis for the parks department will help assure that the work follows community needs.

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

Syrian rescuers, medics say gas attack near capital kills 40

By ZEINA KARAM and PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition activists and rescuers said Sunday that a poison gas attack on a rebel-held town near the capital killed at least 40 people, allegations denied by the Syrian government.

The alleged attack in the town of Douma occurred late Saturday amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce with the Army of Islam rebel group.

The reports could not be independently verified.

First responders said they found families suffocated in their homes and shelters, with foam on their mouths. The opposition-linked Syrian Civil Defense were able to document 42 fatalities but were impeded from searching further by strong odors that gave their rescuers difficulties breathing, said Siraj Mahmoud, a spokesman for the group, which is known as the White Helmets.

Government forces agreed to a two-hour cease-fire in Douma on Sunday after the Army of Islam asked to restart talks to end the assault, according to the state-affiliated al-Ikhbariya TV station.

Douma has been devastated by close to five years of siege at the hands of government forces. It was once one of the hubs of the 2011 Arab Spring-styled uprising against President Bashar Assad's government.

In recent weeks, government forces have recaptured villages and towns in the eastern Ghouta suburbs of the capital. Douma is the only town left holding out.

The government demanded that the Army of Islam release prisoners and stop their shelling of Damascus as a precondition to resuming talks, according to al-Ikhbariya. The station said government negotiators met with a delegation of rebels at a checkpoint outside Douma.

A joint statement by the Civil Defense and the Syrian American Medical Society, a relief organization, said that more than 500 people, mostly women and children, were brought to medical centers with difficulty breathing, foaming at the mouth, and burning sensations in the eyes. It said patients gave off a chlorine-like smell. Some had bluish skin, a sign of oxygen deprivation.

It said the symptoms were consistent with chemical exposure. One patient, a woman, had convulsions and pinpoint pupils, suggesting exposure to a nerve agent.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 20 of 48

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 80 people were killed in Douma on Saturday, including around 40 who died from suffocation. But it said the suffocations were the result of shelters collapsing on people inside them.

"Until this minute, no one has been able to find out the kind of agent that was used," said Mahmoud, the White Helmets' spokesman, in a video statement from Syria.

He said the government was also targeting homes, clinics, and first responder facilities with conventional explosives and barrel bombs. Most of the medical points and ambulances of the town have been put out of service.

Videos posted online by the White Helmets showed victims, including toddlers in diapers, breathing through oxygen masks at makeshift hospitals.

The Syrian government, in a statement posted on the state-run news agency SANA, strongly denied the allegations. It said the claims were "fabrications" by the Army of Islam, calling it a "failed attempt" to impede government advances.

"The army, which is advancing rapidly and with determination, does not need to use any kind of chemical agents," the statement said.

The Army of Islam was negotiating with Russia, an ally of Damascus, to withdraw its fighters and allow government institutions back into the town, according to the Observatory. An agreement was said to have Russia deploy its military police to take guardianship of the town as Army of Islam fighters handed over their heavy weapons, the group added, but those talks collapsed on Friday, prompting the government to start shelling and bombing Douma indiscriminately.

Hundreds of fighters and their relatives had already left Douma for rebel-held areas in northern Syria.

The alleged gas attack in Douma comes almost exactly a year after a chemical attack in the northern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun killed dozens of people. That attack prompted the U.S. to launch several dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air base. President Donald Trump said the attack was meant to deter further Syrian use of illegal weapons.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said that Washington was closely following "disturbing reports" of the alleged chemical weapons attack in Douma.

"These reports, if confirmed, are horrifying and demand an immediate response by the international community," she said in a statement late Saturday.

The Syrian government and its ally, Russia, denied any involvement in the alleged gas attack.

Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko was quoted by Russian news agencies on Sunday as saying Russia was prepared to send specialists to Douma to "confirm the fabricated nature" of the reports.

A chemical attack in eastern Ghouta in 2013 that was widely blamed on government forces killed hundreds of people, prompting the U.S. to threaten military action before later backing down.

Syria denies ever using chemical weapons during the seven-year civil war, and says it eliminated its chemical arsenal under a 2013 agreement brokered by the U.S. and Russia after the attack in eastern Ghouta.

Associated Press writer James Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

German police knew van driver well; still not sure on motive

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER** and **DOROTHEE THIESING**, Associated Press

MUENSTER, Germany (AP) — The 48-year-old German man who drove a van into a crowd in the western city of Muenster was well-known to police and had a history of run-ins with the law, German prosecutors said Sunday, adding that they believe he acted alone.

The man, whose name was not released, killed two people and injured 20 others Saturday afternoon outside a bar in the city's old town before shooting himself to death inside the van.

He was a Muenster resident and apparently well off. The city's police president, Hajo Kuhlisch, said the man's four apartments — two in Muenster and two in Saxony — and several cars had been searched thoroughly, but that police were still investigating the evidence and it was too early to speculate about

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 21 of 48

the van driver's motive.

"We have no indications that there is a political background or that others were involved" in Saturday's deadly crash, prosecutor Elke Adomeit told reporters. "But he was well known to the police."

She said the man had three previous court procedures in Muenster and one in nearby Arnsberg in 2015 and 2016. His run-ins with the law regarded threats, property damage, fraud and a hit-and-run, but Adomeit said that all charges were dismissed.

Local media have identified the man as an industrial designer who had been suffering from psychological problems, but police would not confirm those details.

Authorities have identified the two victims killed by the van crash as a 51-year-old woman from Lueneburg county, 300 kilometers (186 miles) to the northeast and a 65-year-old man from nearby Borken county. Their names weren't given, as is customary in Germany.

Early Sunday, all three bodies were taken from the crash scene in front of the well-known Kiepenkerl pub. The silver-grey van that crashed into the crowd was hauled away hours later, after explosives experts had thoroughly checked it.

Inside the van, police found illegal firecrackers that were disguised as a fake bomb, a fake pistol and the real gun that the driver used to kill himself with.

Inside the apartment where the man was living, which was nearby the crash scene, police found more firecrackers and a "no-longer usable AK-47 machine gun."

Officials said some of the 20 people injured were still in a life-threatening condition Sunday. They have not identified them, but said that people from The Netherlands are among them.

Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state where Muenster is located, toured the city Sunday.

"This was a horrible and sad day for the people of Muenster, all of Germany ... and also the people of The Netherlands, who were sitting here and became victims," he said.

He didn't elaborate on how many Dutch were injured or how serious those injuries were.

The local daily Muenstersche Zeitung reported that the perpetrator had vaguely announced his suicide plans a week ago in an email to friends, but police wouldn't confirm those details.

Muenster is a popular tourist destination with 300,000 inhabitants, known for its medieval old town, which was rebuilt after the massive destruction during World War II.

The city was buzzing on Saturday — one of the first warm spring days of the year — and people were sitting outside the famous Kiepenkerl pub when the 48-year-old German drove his van into the bar's tables with such a vengeance that the vehicle only stopped when it hit the pub's wall.

Police quickly evacuated the area and ambulances, firefighters and helicopters rushed to the scene to aid those who were injured.

German Interior minister Horst Seehofer, who visited the crash scene with Laschet on Sunday and placed flowers there, said "this cowardly and brutal crime has shocked all of us."

The city's Roman Catholic bishop, Felix Glenn, invited all of Muenster's citizens to a joint Catholic-Lutheran memorial service at the famous Paulus Cathedral on Sunday night.

The Kiepenkerl is not only one of the city's best-known traditional pubs, but also the emblem of the city, depicting a traveling salesman with a long pipe in his mouth and a big backpack on his back.

Grieshaber reported from Berlin.

Trump suggesting China will 'take down' its trade barriers

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is suggesting China will ease trade barriers "because it is the right thing to do" and Washington and Beijing can settle disputes that have rattled financial markets, consumers and businesses.

A new Trump tweet doesn't explain why he's optimistic about resolving an escalating trade clash between

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 22 of 48

the world's two biggest economies.

Trump says he and Chinese President Xi Jinping "will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade."

Trump insists "China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!"

The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

China has pledged to "counterattack with great strength" if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods — after an earlier announcement that targeted \$50 billion.

The Trump administration also is pushing for a crackdown on what it says is China's theft of U.S. intellectual property.

Conflicting messages about the trade fight have come out in recent days from some top members of Trump's team.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the U.S. and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs went into place. But he also said "there is the potential of a trade war.

The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, has said the U.S. is "not in a trade war" and that "China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump."

Under Trump, new transportation grants ditch bikes, walkways

By **ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Forget about bike-share stations in Chicago or pedestrian walkways in Oakland. That's so Obama-era.

In the Trump administration, a popular \$500 million transportation grant program is focused more on projects in rural areas that turned out for Donald Trump in the 2016 election. That means more road and rail projects in GOP strongholds such as Idaho, North Dakota, and Oklahoma, and fewer "greenways," "complete streets" and bike lanes.

The latest round of these grants has nothing for New York City, Los Angeles or Chicago. Money in those Democratic heavy states went instead to projects in Trump-friendly regions: repainting a bridge in New York's North Country, contributing to a highway project in Modesto, California, and upgrading an interstate highway in southern Illinois.

It's a refocusing from the priorities of the previous administration, which gave most of these TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grants to urban areas represented by President Barack Obama's Democratic allies on Capitol Hill.

"More than 64 percent of this round of TIGER funding was awarded to rural projects, a historic number that demonstrates this Administration's commitment to supporting the country's rural communities," the Transportation Department said in a release announcing the grants last month.

"I was very pleased," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, when asked about the focus on rural areas. Maine won \$10.8 million to help repair three rural bridges on routes critical to the state's timber industry.

The program was established under Obama's 2009 economic recovery bill. The grants, distributed at the discretion of the administration, are just a small fraction of the overall federal transportation dollars when compared with more than \$50 billion distributed annually to states by formula from the highway trust fund.

Trump has twice targeted the grant program for elimination, only to sign a huge spending bill into law last month that tripled its budget to \$1.5 billion.

Questions arose during the Obama administration about political favoritism when grants consistently went in greater numbers to congressional districts represented by Democrats. For example, in 2013, about two-thirds of TIGER money was awarded to such districts.

One of those grants went to help Florida International University construct a pedestrian bridge over a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 23 of 48

busy road. The structure collapsed last month, killing six people.

Grants are awarded according to a competitive process that analyzes criteria such as economic benefits, safety, state of disrepair, and the environmental benefits of projects. The Government Accountability Office looked into the program a few years ago at the request of then-Sen. David Vitter, R-La., and found that projects with lower grades often won out over top-rated projects.

Of the 41 grants announced by the Trump administration, 25 totaling \$271 million were awarded to projects in congressional districts represented by Republicans. Districts represented by Democrats garnered 14 projects and \$190 million. Two grants worth \$25 million went to projects spanning district lines.

That's a reversal from the Obama administration, which in its last year in office provided just \$102 million in grants to rural areas. That was just above the 20 percent minimum required by the law that established the program.

The Obama administration funded numerous urban projects centered on pedestrian walkways and bike trails. More than one-third of Obama's final round of grants featured bike-friendly projects. A 2016 grant, for instance, helped pay for a "multi-modal greenway" in Lexington, Kentucky, to integrate a network of bike and pedestrian trails.

The Trump grants contain just a handful of such projects, including a pedestrian and bike trail along the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia and preservation of a historic railroad pedestrian bridge in Mill City, Oregon.

The Trump administration is focused more on economic development projects such as port upgrades in Alabama, Baltimore and New Orleans. Some \$25 million would help Arizona ease congestion from a busy U.S.-Mexico port of entry in Nogales.

Other projects include reopening an inactive freight rail line in Idaho, easing traffic in Big Sky, a tourist destination in Montana, and contributing to a highway bypass around Lincoln, Nebraska.

A port project in Alabama would build a "roll on/roll off" facility that would serve several automobile manufacturing plants. Fort Smith, Arkansas, would benefit from repair projects for three deteriorating freight rail bridges. An additional \$10 million would replace rail lines servicing farmers and energy producers in southern Illinois.

Online:

TIGER grant program: <https://www.transportation.gov/tiger/about>

Writing, speaking, meatball subs: Justice Gorsuch's 1st year

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Neil Gorsuch became the Supreme Court's newest member a year ago this Tuesday. President Donald Trump's pick for the high court, its 113th justice, has now heard more than 60 cases on issues including gerrymandering, fees paid to unions and the privacy of certain cellphone records.

It's generally unwise to predict anything about a justice so early into his or her tenure, with few opinions written and votes in a small number of cases. But so far Gorsuch has been what Republicans believed and hoped he would be — a reliably conservative vote.

Beyond that, the public has gotten a glimpse of what Gorsuch may be like as a justice, from chances to see him spar with lawyers in court arguments, speak to groups and even tackle his first issue on the cafeteria committee.

A look at what observers have seen from Gorsuch inside and outside the court in the past year:

THE WRITER

Frequent readers of Gorsuch's writing as a justice say his style is designed to attract attention and reach an audience beyond law professors and experts. So far, he's written three opinions, two separate opinions where he agreed with the majority's result and several dissents.

Earlier this year Gorsuch began a dissent by citing English writer G.K. Chesterton, an opening that drew mixed reviews. He started an opinion involving water rights with a humorous quote attributed to actor Will Rogers, who is said to have called the Rio Grande "the only river I saw that needed irrigation."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 24 of 48

In some cases, Gorsuch has been criticized for seemingly talking down to readers or to his colleagues on the opposite side of an issue, but he's also won praise for being clear and engaging. Opinion writing isn't new for Gorsuch, who spent a decade as a federal appeals court judge before joining the Supreme Court. Now, however, it comes with higher stakes and a broader audience.

Court observers caution against reading too much into Gorsuch's first Supreme Court writings. "One year is not that much of a sample size on a justice," said Dan Epps, who co-hosts the First Mondays podcast about the court.

THE LIGHTNING ROD

Gorsuch has been the target of criticism from the left over the past year, perhaps in part because of the political atmosphere in which he was confirmed. After Justice Antonin Scalia's death in 2016, Senate Republicans refused to hold a hearing on President Barack Obama's choice to replace the conservative jurist and left Scalia's seat open for more than a year until voters chose a new president.

Some critics have noted that Gorsuch's few public appearances since becoming a justice have included speaking at events linked to people who helped him get his new job. His decision to speak at an event at Trump's Washington hotel in September drew particular ire.

While liberals had hoped that Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, would fill Scalia's seat, Gorsuch's selection preserved the court's conservative bent. Since joining the court, Gorsuch has joined Justice Clarence Thomas as one of conservatives' favorite justices, fully agreeing with Thomas in 14 of the 17 cases in which the court has not been unanimous, according to statistics compiled in part by the website SCOTUSblog. That's in comparison to just eight of those cases where Gorsuch has fully agreed with more moderate conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy.

THE ORAL ARGUMENT QUESTIONER

Scalia was from the outset of his time as a justice an aggressive questioner during arguments. Gorsuch is less dominant. So far this term he has asked an average of 16 questions per argument, the third highest average among the nine justices, according to SCOTUSblog. He's rarely been the first justice with a question. And during arguments in February in a high-profile labor union case in which he holds the decisive vote, he said nothing at all.

Gorsuch has made the courtroom audience laugh 11 times this term. That puts him in fifth place for laugh-getting by a justice, according to Boston University law professor Jay Wexler. One such moment came during arguments in a case about a baker who cited his religious beliefs in refusing to make a wedding cake for a gay couple. Gorsuch noted he's never had "a wedding cake that I would say tastes great."

THE JUNIOR JUSTICE

Gorsuch has some special roles as the court's newest member. Those include taking notes and speaking last at the justices' private conferences as well as opening the door when anyone knocks. He also serves on the court's cafeteria committee.

Gorsuch has said his first cafeteria committee act was to help address a problem with the meatball subs. "The marinara sauce had been somehow replaced by shrimp cocktail sauce," he said. "We got that fixed."

THE OUTDOORSMAN

Gorsuch gave up ready access to skiing, a favorite activity, when he left his home in Colorado for the nation's capital. His outdoor activities these days include taking regular, early morning bike rides, he has said, and he has been spotted leaving the court on two wheels. Inside his office he has some wildlife: the head of an elk, a welcome gift of sorts.

Asked during an appearance at Harvard what he'd be doing if he weren't a lawyer, he said the question stopped him before the answer became obvious.

"I envy fly fishing guides and ski instructors," he said. "And better yet somebody who does one in the summer and the other in the winter."

Associated Press reporter Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

Hungarian PM Orban expects to win 4th term in national vote

By PABLO GORONDI, Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban is expected to win his third consecutive term — and fourth overall — in Sunday's national vote but opposition leaders were encouraged by a high early turnout.

Polls agree on the triumph of Orban's right-wing nationalist Fidesz party and its allied Christian Democrats, but a splintered opposition and Hungary's complex electoral system make the exact margin of victory hard to predict.

In all, 199 seats in parliament are up for grabs. Opposition parties are keen to make sure that Orban's bloc does not sweep to a super-majority in which the autocratic leader could easily push through constitutional changes.

Orban has campaigned heavily on his unyielding anti-migration policies, though voters say they are more concerned with poverty, government corruption and the country's underfunded health care system.

According to the National Election Office, 2.35 million voters had cast ballots by 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), or 29.93 percent of those eligible. That was the highest turnout figure for that hour since at least 1998.

"We are celebrating democracy and it seems like this feast will be beautiful because many of us are taking part," said Gergely Karacsony, the leading candidate of the left-wing Socialist and Dialogue parties.

Analysts, however, were more cautious about the significance of the turnout.

"It's for sure that a low turnout would only have favored Fidesz" and its highly committed voters, said Gabor Gyori, a senior analyst at political research institute Policy Solutions. "Opposition politicians are right to be glad about high turnout, but it does not mean that anything has been decided."

Gabor Vona of the nationalist Jobbik party urged his supporters not to become complacent.

"Figures show that it will be an election with a high voter turnout. But this is not the time to sit back," Vona said after voting his home city of Gyonygyos in northern Hungary. "This is when all those who want a change of government ... ask all those who have yet to vote to by all means go and vote."

Orban claims the opposition — collaborating with the United Nations, the European Union and wealthy philanthropist George Soros — wants to turn Hungary into an "immigrant country," threatening its security and Christian identity.

The opposition denies Orban's accusations. Vona said the question was not about migration but about the large number of Hungarians who were leaving the country and heading to Western Europe in search of higher wages and better prospects.

"Today will decide whether Hungary becomes an emigrant country or not — and I wouldn't like Hungary to be an emigrant country," Vona said.

Uncertainties about Orban's margin of victory are caused by Hungary's complex electoral system in which voters cast two ballots, one for an individual candidate in their region and another for a party list.

Opposition parties have urged Hungarians to vote tactically for the opposition candidate with the best chance to defeat the Fidesz candidate in the 106 individual districts — but it's not clear how much impact that will have. Another 93 seats will be distributed based on votes for entire party lists.

Some 8.3 million Hungarians are eligible to vote, with preliminary results expected Sunday night.

Andras Nagy contributed to this report.

Canada reels: 15 die when truck, hockey team bus collide

By JEREMY HAINSWORTH and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

HUMBOLDT, Saskatchewan (AP) — A semi-trailer slammed into a bus carrying a youth hockey team in western Canada, killing 15 people and injuring 14 in a catastrophic collision that left a country and its national sport heartbroken. The crash sent shockwaves through the team's small hometown.

Canadians were moved to tears on as they learned of the identities of the deceased on the bus that was driving the Humboldt Broncos hockey team to a crucial playoff game Friday against the Nipawin Hawks.

"The worst nightmare has happened," said the league's president, Bill Chow, as his eyes welled up with tears.

The Broncos are a close-knit team from the small city of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, which has a population of about 6,000. Since the horrific accident many have gathered at the community center at the hockey arena. A vigil is scheduled for Sunday night.

"An entire country is in shock and mourning," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "This is every parent's worst nightmare. No one should ever have to see their child leave to play the sport they love and never come back."

The bus had 29 passengers, including the driver, when it crashed at about 5 p.m. on Highway 35, police said. Among the dead are Broncos head coach Darcy Haugan, team captain Logan Schatz and radio announcer Tyler Bieber. Authorities earlier said three were in critical condition but later provided an update to say that 15 have now died.

Canadian police said the truck driver was initially detained but has since been released and provided with mental health assistance. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Curtis Zablocki said it's too early to state a cause for the crash.

In a tweet, President Donald Trump said he called Trudeau to offer his condolences to the families of victims.

Darren Opp, president of the Nipawin Hawks, said a semi T-boned the players' bus — an account police confirmed.

"It's a horrible accident, my God," Opp said.

Hassan Masri, an emergency room doctor at Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital who has done work in war-torn Syria, said the crash reminded him of an airstrike.

Photographs of the wreckage showed the twisted trailer with most of its wheels in the air and the bus on its side and its back portion destroyed. The force of the crash sent both vehicles into the ditch at the northwest corner of the intersection.

Aerial footage showed the bus on its side, its roof peeled back and its front end destroyed. The trailer of the truck lay nearby in a shattered mess, with bags of its peat moss cargo scattered all around. The tractor part of the truck was intact, lying on its passenger side.

The tractor-trailer would have had to yield to a stop sign before crossing over the highway that the hockey bus was travelling on. There is a stand of trees on the southeast corner of the intersection, limiting visibility of the approach on both roads.

Police said a lot of issues have to be investigated, including weather conditions at the time and any mechanical issues with the vehicles.

The tragedy brought to mind an accident in 1986, when the Swift Current Broncos team bus slid off an icy highway and crashed in late December, killing four players.

The Humboldt Broncos are a close-knit team from the small city of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, which has a population of about 6,000. Many gathered at the community center at the hockey arena there after word of the horrific crash began to circulate.

Humboldt Mayor Rob Muench, wearing a green and yellow Broncos team jersey, hugged people Saturday morning as they came to the Elger Petersen Arena in the Saskatchewan town to comfort each other and learn more.

"It's overwhelming. It's been tough on everybody," Muench said in a phone interview. "We're a small community; some of those kids have been on the team for a number of years. A lot grew up in the com-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 27 of 48

munity and everybody knows each other.”

The team was on its way to play in Game 5 of a semi-final against the Nipawin Hawks.

Multiple crisis workers were assisting relatives and friends.

“Everybody is just so devastated. These poor young boys,” said Penny Lee, the communications manager for the town of Humboldt.

The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League is a junior ‘A’ hockey league under Hockey Canada, which is part of the Canadian Junior Hockey League. It’s open to North American-born players between the ages of 16 and 20.

Team President Kevin Garinger said parents from across western Canada were struggling to cope with the tragedy and were rushing to the scene.

“We are heartbroken and completely devastated,” Garinger said. “We will never forget the members of our Broncos family who were taken from us and who were injured.”

Michelle Straschnitzki, who lives in Airdrie, Alberta, said her 18-year old son Ryan was transported to a hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

“We talked to him, but he said he couldn’t feel his lower extremities so I don’t know what’s going on,” she said. “I am freaking out. I am so sad for all of the teammates and I am losing my mind.”

Kevin Henry, a coach who runs a hockey school in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, said he knows players on the team.

“This is I would think one of the darkest days in the history of Saskatchewan, especially because hockey is so ingrained in how we grow up here,” he said.

The hockey world issued messages of condolences, including Saskatchewan native Mike Babcock, who is the Toronto Maple Leafs coach.

Babcock, fighting back tears, said that “it’s got to rip the heart out of your chest.”

The Chicago Blackhawks and Winnipeg Jets wore the name “BRONCOS” instead of their nameplates on Saturday night.

Glilies reported from Toronto. Associated Press writer Ivan Moreno in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

UN, Singapore concerned about rising trade tensions

By **DAKE KANG**, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The U.N. secretary-general and the Singaporean foreign minister voiced concerns about global trade tensions and rising protectionism during back-to-back meetings in Beijing on Sunday.

Following remarks from his Chinese counterpart, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan vowed to “double-down” on free trade and economic liberalization in tandem with China.

“This is a time in the world where the temptation to embark on unilateralism and protectionism is unfortunately rising,” Balakrishnan said.

In a separate meeting, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called China “absolutely crucial” in the international system.

“You mentioned reform and opening up - it’s so important in a moment when some others have a policy of closing up,” Guterres told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

“The solutions for these problems are not to put globalization to question, but to improve globalization. Not isolation or protectionism, but more international cooperation,” Guterres said.

The comments came as China and the U.S. exchanged escalating tariff threats in what is already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle for more than a half century.

Beijing vowed Friday to “counterattack with great strength” if President Donald Trump follows through on threats to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump’s announcement followed China’s decision to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move this week to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 28 of 48

The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

In the meetings, Wang attacked what he called "protectionism and unilateralism," though he didn't single out the U.S. by name.

"China will safeguard the principles of free trade and oppose protectionism," Wang said. "We should push forward with economic globalization."

Wang was welcoming both officials ahead of their planned appearances at the annual Boao Forum for Asia, a Chinese-sponsored annual gathering for political and economic elites on tropical Hainan Island.

Guterres will meet President Xi Jinping later Sunday and also plans to visit the China Peacekeeping Police Training Center.

Balakrishnan is traveling with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the first of a five-day visit to China.

1 killed in fire at Trump Tower in New York

By KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A raging fire that tore through a 50th-floor apartment at Trump Tower on Saturday killed a man inside and sent flames and thick, black smoke pouring from windows of the president's namesake skyscraper.

New York Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said the cause of the blaze is not yet known but the apartment was "virtually entirely on fire" when firefighters arrived after 5:30 p.m.

"It was a very difficult fire, as you can imagine," Nigro told reporters outside the building in midtown Manhattan. "The apartment is quite large."

Todd Brassner, 67, who was in the apartment, was taken to a hospital and died a short time later, the New York Police Department said. Property records obtained by The Associated Press indicate Brassner was an art dealer who had purchased his 50th-floor unit in 1996.

Officials said four firefighters also suffered minor injuries. An investigation is ongoing.

Shortly after news of the fire broke, Trump, who was in Washington, tweeted: "Fire at Trump Tower is out. Very confined (well built building). Firemen (and women) did a great job. THANK YOU!"

Asked if that assessment was accurate, Nigro said, "It's a well-built building. The upper floors, the residence floors, are not sprinklered."

Fire sprinklers were not required in New York City high-rises when Trump Tower was completed in 1983. Subsequent updates to the building code required commercial skyscrapers to install the sprinklers retroactively, but owners of older residential high-rises are not required to install sprinklers unless the building undergoes major renovations.

Some fire-safety advocates pushed for a requirement that older apartment buildings be retrofitted with sprinklers when New York City passed a law requiring them in new residential highrises in 1999, but officials in the administration of then-mayor Rudy Giuliani said that would be too expensive.

Nigro noted that no member of the Trump family was in the 664-foot tower Saturday.

Trump's family has an apartment on the top floors of the 58-story building, but he has spent little time in New York since taking office. The headquarters of the Trump Organization is on the 26th floor.

Nigro said firefighters and Secret Service members checked on the condition of Trump's apartment. About 200 firefighters and emergency medical service workers responded to the fire, he said.

Some residents said they didn't get any notification from building management to evacuate.

Lalitha Masson, a 76-year-old resident, called it "a very, very terrifying experience."

Masson told The New York Times that she did not receive any announcement about leaving, and that when she called the front desk no one answered.

"When I saw the television, I thought we were finished," said Masson, who lives on the 36th floor with her husband, Narinder, who is 79 and has Parkinson's disease.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 29 of 48

She said she started praying because she felt it was the end.

"I called my oldest son and said goodbye to him because the way it looked everything was falling out of the window, and it reminded me of 9/11," Masson said.

Rivers swell as wet storm moves through Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of rain fell over two days as a drenching "Pineapple Express" storm swelled rivers and flooded roads in Northern California, forecasters said Saturday.

The heaviest rain was in the northern Sierra and in coastal counties from San Francisco north to Mendocino during a 48-hour period beginning Thursday afternoon, the National Weather Service said. Downtown San Francisco saw nearly 2 inches (5 centimeters) on Friday, making for the fourth-wettest April day since record-keeping began.

The storm tapered off by late Saturday morning but minor flooding continued along the swollen Truckee River near Lake Tahoe. Yosemite National Park's Yosemite Valley remained closed Saturday night, but officials said they would assess whether to reopen midday Sunday, depending on conditions.

No major problems were reported, but runoff from melting snow could add to the chance of rapidly rising streams and rivers, forecasters warned.

The wet weather resulted from a strong "atmospheric river" of subtropical moisture that moved east from Hawaii.

Police rescued a man who became trapped in a rain-swollen drainage channel near Sacramento, where many roads were flooded. The state capital saw more than 1.17 inches (nearly 3 centimeters) of rain on Friday.

Sonoma County officials said there were no major mudslides in areas stripped bare by last fall's wildfires.

San Francisco International Airport reported about 150 canceled flights because of the weather and others were delayed.

To the north, state officials warned this week that they may have to use the partially rebuilt spillway at Oroville Dam for the first time since repairs began on the badly damaged structure last summer.

The water level in Lake Oroville topped 797 feet (243 meters) on Saturday.

After tense showdown, Brazil's da Silva in police custody

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

SAO BERNARDO DO CAMPO, Brazil (AP) — Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was taken into police custody Saturday after a tense showdown with his own supporters, capping an intense three days that underscored raw emotions over the incarceration of a once wildly popular leader who has been engulfed by corruption allegations.

Just hours earlier, da Silva told thousands of supporters that he would turn himself in to police, but also maintained his innocence and argued his corruption conviction was simply a way for enemies to make sure he doesn't run — and possibly win — re-election in October.

When he first tried to leave the metal workers union headquarters where he was holed up to turn himself in, dozens of supporters blocked a gate where a car carrying da Silva was trying to exit.

"Surround, surround (the building) and don't let them arrest him," chanted supporters. After a few minutes of tense words between guards and supporters, the former president got out of the car and entered the union headquarters.

Police vehicles surrounded the building, raising the fears of clashes. Da Silva emerged a second time shortly after nightfall, this time surrounded by bodyguards who pushed back scores of supporters who tried to stop his advance.

The dramatic scene was the latest development in a whirlwind series of days, which began when the Supreme Federal Tribunal, the country's top court, ruled against his petition on Thursday to remain free while he continued to appeal his conviction.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 30 of 48

Judge Sergio Moro, who oversees many of the so-called "Car Wash" cases, then ordered an arrest warrant for da Silva, giving him until 5 p.m. Friday to present himself to police in Curitiba, about 260 miles (417 kilometers) southwest of Sao Bernardo do Campo, and begin serving his 12-year sentence.

Da Silva, who Brazilians simply call "Lula," did no such thing. Instead, he hunkered down with supporters in the same metallurgical union that was the spiritual birthplace of his improbable rise to power in one of the world's most unequal countries.

"The police and 'Car Wash' investigators lied. The prosecutors lied," said da Silva, as a few thousand supporters cheered.

"I don't forgive them for giving society the idea that I am a thief," he continued.

Still, da Silva said he would turn himself in "to go there and face them eye to eye. The more days they leave me (in jail), the more Lulas will be born in this country."

While da Silva spoke, some people cried while others chanted "Free Lula!" When he finished speaking, a sea of supporters carried him on their shoulders back into the building.

Late Saturday, police were flying da Silva to Curitiba, where after processing he will begin serving his sentence.

Mauricio Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said that by not complying with the order on Friday da Silva "wanted to demonstrate strength and popularity, showing that he is a political leader capable of gathering a crowd in his support."

Choosing the metal workers union to take refuge, and not the Workers' Party headquarters, was also significant, said Santoro.

"It shows that he wants to emphasize his trajectory as leader of a social movement, rather than his role as leader of a party marked by allegations of corruption," he said.

Last year, Moro convicted da Silva of trading favors with a construction company in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment. That conviction was upheld by an appeals court in January. The former president has always denied wrongdoing in that case and in several other corruption cases that have yet to be tried.

Still, his jailing marks a colossal fall from grace for a man who rose from poverty to power against steep odds. During his two administrations, several social welfare programs and a booming economy helped tens of millions come out of abject poverty, making his downfall deeply personal for many Brazilians who saw him as a symbol of hope.

Born in the hardscrabble northeast, da Silva rose through the ranks of the union in the country's industrial south. In 1980, during the military dictatorship, he was arrested in Sao Bernardo do Campo for organizing strikes. He would spend more than a month in jail.

After running for president several times, in 2002 da Silva finally won. He governed from 2003 to 2010, leaving office an international celebrity and with approval ratings in the high 80s.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama once called da Silva the "most popular politician on Earth."

Like so much in a nation that has become deeply polarized, that da Silva would soon be behind bars was being interpreted differently by supporters and detractors.

"We have no choice but to keep our head high. Our struggle will be bigger tomorrow," said Fernando Lauro, a supporter who watched da Silva be taken by police.

"I hope he never gets out, but I fear he will," said Silvia Gend, a 72-year-old housewife in Sao Bernardo do Campo. "Brazil is the country of impunity."

Workers' Party leaders insist that da Silva, 72, will still be the party's candidate in October. Technically, being jailed does not keep him off the ballot.

In August, however, the country's top electoral court makes final decisions about candidacies. It is expected to deny da Silva's candidacy under Brazil's "clean slate" law, which disqualifies people who have had criminal convictions upheld. Da Silva could appeal, though doing so from jail would be more complicated.

The former leader is the latest of many high-profile people to be ensnared in possibly the largest corruption scandal in Latin American history. Over the last four years, Brazilians have seen near weekly police operations and arrests of the elite.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 31 of 48

Investigators uncovered a major scheme in which construction companies essentially formed a cartel that doled out inflated contracts from state oil company Petrobras, paying billions in kickbacks to politicians and businessmen.

Peter Prengaman reported from Rio de Janeiro. Associated Press reporter Jill Langlois in Sao Paulo contributed to this report.

Mauricio Savarese on Twitter: twitter.com/MSavarese

Peter Prengaman on Twitter: twitter.com/peterprengaman

Body suspected to be from California cliff crash found

MENDOCINO, Calif. (AP) — A body was recovered Saturday in the vicinity where an SUV plunged off a Northern California cliff last month, killing a family of eight in what authorities suspect may have been an intentional crash.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's office said in a statement that a couple vacationing along the coast saw a possible body, which was pulled from the surf Saturday afternoon by a third bystander.

The body appears to be that of an African American female, but the age and identity could not immediately be determined, said Lt. Shannon Barney. An autopsy is planned Tuesday to determine a cause of death.

While authorities said they believe the body may be that of one of two missing girls from the crash, positive identification will most likely be done by DNA analysis, which could take weeks.

Sarah and Jennifer Hart and their six adopted children were believed to be in the family's SUV when it plunged off a cliff last month. Five bodies were found March 26 near Mendocino, a few days after Washington state authorities began investigating the Harts for possible child neglect, but three of their children were not immediately recovered from the scene.

There were no signs of the other two children, authorities said Saturday.

Authorities have said that data from the vehicle's software suggested the crash was deliberate. They said the SUV had stopped at a coastal highway overlook before speeding straight off the cliff and plummeting 100 feet (31 meters) into the rocky Pacific Ocean below.

Sarah Hart pleaded guilty in 2011 to a domestic assault charge in Minnesota over what she said was a spanking given to one of her children.

Bruce and Dana DeKalb, the family's next-door neighbors in Woodland, Washington, called child welfare officials last month because the couple's 15-year-old son, Devonte, had been coming to their house almost every day for a week, asking for food. They said the teen claimed his parents were "punishing them by withholding food."

Devonte, a black boy who is still missing, drew national attention after he was photographed in tears while hugging a white police officer during a 2014 protest.

The discovery of the body Saturday follows a two-day storm that swept through Northern California.

The sheriff's office noted that it is not uncommon after a significant storm that items would surface or wash onto the beach.

"The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office is monitoring the ocean conditions to see when further searches might be safely conducted," Barney said. "This evaluation includes the use of divers if conditions permit."

Democrats even in GOP country shift toward gun restrictions

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — Just 18 months after declaring his opposition to banning assault weapons, Nebraska Democrat Brad Ashford has changed his mind.

The former one-term congressman, now trying to win back an Omaha-area seat he lost in 2016, used to consider it futile to push for a ban while Republicans held power on Capitol Hill. But the student activ-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 32 of 48

ism that has followed the rampage at a school in Parkland, Florida, has changed his thinking in a way that other high-profile shootings, including two in his hometown since 2007, had not.

Ashford's conversion mirrors the one underway in his party. Not long ago, a moderate record on guns would have been considered a plus for a Democratic candidate in the GOP-leaning suburbs and conservative outskirts of Nebraska's largest city. Today, even with Ashford's reversal, it's a vulnerability that his opponent in the May 15 Democratic primary has been quick to exploit.

That contest, along with races in Virginia, rural Pennsylvania and other places where gun control has been taboo, shows how far the Democratic Party has traveled on this issue. The November elections will test whether Democrats will make room for candidates who don't back all gun control measures.

"He should have been stronger on this," said Kara Eastman, the 46-year-old political newcomer running against Ashford, a 68-year-old former Republican, for the Democratic nomination in the 2nd Congressional District. "We need leaders who are going to stand up and fight for the kids."

Eastman, director of a children's nonprofit group and a community college board member, has focused her message on suburban women and young people. She and other progressives, energized by rallies across the country, say they the best way to turn out voters is to offer a contrast to pro-gun Republicans.

"Women have had it with what's going on," said Crystal Rhoades, the Douglas County Democratic Party chairwoman who supports Eastman. "They're mad that they have to worry about sending their kids to school out of fear they'll be murdered."

Polling shows there's little disagreement among Democrats on the question of stricter gun laws.

A poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 69 percent of those surveyed, including 90 percent of Democrats, think gun laws in the U.S. should be tightened.

There are political risks.

The Omaha district represented by Republican Don Bacon has a healthy number of gun owners, and that could make Eastman's call for comprehensive gun control a problem for her if she advances to the general election. The GOP-leaning district includes a portion of a rural county south of the city where many active duty and retired military personnel from Offutt Air Force Base live.

"I don't think their mindset has changed. If you're pro-gun, you're still pro-gun," said Charlene Ligon, the Democratic chairwoman in rural Sarpy County. "And there are a lot of people with guns around here."

In a northern Virginia swing district, all six Democrats who hope to challenge the Republican incumbent, Barbara Comstock, want to ban assault rifles and expand background checks for gun buyers. In 2016, Comstock's Democratic opponent endorsed only modest changes.

Last month, Democrat Conor Lamb won a special congressional election in southwestern Pennsylvania in which he advocated expanded background checks, a once disqualifying position in a district that Donald Trump won by 20 percentage points in 2016.

Lamb stopped short of embracing an assault weapons ban, though Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., has joined the call. And longtime gun advocate Joe Manchin, a Democratic senator from West Virginia, led an unsuccessful effort to expand background checks in 2015.

"It certainly seems to be a realignment of what was viewed as politically expedient," said Andrew Patrick of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. "This is no longer a liability for Democrats."

While Nebraska's Ashford, advocated some gun control measures during two terms in the state Legislature, he said during a 2016 debate with Bacon, "I don't think we should ban assault weapons."

In Washington, Ashford did not join lawmakers from both parties in backing legislation to expand background checks, saying any gun measures would have proved futile in the GOP-controlled House. Nor did he go along with about 150 Democratic co-sponsors on a measure to ban assault rifles after the shooting in San Bernardino, California, in 2015.

"I had no belief that putting a lot of effort in an assault weapons ban would get us anywhere," Ashford said in an Associated Press interview. "I had sort of lost faith in our ability to ever get there."

The students in Florida and elsewhere who mobilized after the Parkland shooting have changed Ashford's mind.

"The Parkland thing, now I just feel reinvigorated, and I would vote for an assault weapons ban, today,"

he said.

Eastman, his primary opponent, is keeping the pressure on.

She accuses Ashford of being on both sides of the issue at a time when voters, especially young people and parents, demand action. And she's ready to delivery, saying she supports an assault weapons ban, universal background checks and an automatic waiting period between purchase and delivery.

"I'm talking to voters, they are frustrated with that and are looking for someone who stands by their convictions," she said.

Reed builds 3-shot lead over McIlroy at Masters

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The only thunder was on the ground, not in the sky, a series of ear-splitting roars for Patrick Reed and his two eagles, Rory McIlroy and his final birdie, and everyone else who tried desperately to keep up with them in the Masters.

"The roars ... it's hard not to know what's going on," McIlroy said.

By the end of a wet and wild Saturday at Augusta National, Reed helped bring this Masters into focus.

Reed seized control with a pair of eagles on the back nine, two big pars and a 5-under 67 that gave him a three-shot lead over McIlroy as he goes for his first major in the city where he led undermanned Augusta State to two NCAA titles.

His primary challenger is McIlroy, in the final group at the Masters for the first time in seven years, this time with a shot at the career Grand Slam.

This time it's for a green jacket, not a gold Ryder Cup trophy.

This is for themselves, not for team.

Reed and McIlroy are indelibly linked to that Ryder Cup singles match at Hazeltine some 18 months ago when they traded big putts and uppercuts until Reed prevailed on the 18th hole.

"It won't be quite as intense as that Ryder Cup match, I don't think," McIlroy said, alluding to the partisan and at times rude nature of cheers rarely found at Augusta National.

"I think we'll still be feeling it. It's the latest round of a major championship. Patrick is going for his first major. And I'm going for ... something else."

He paused and smiled upon hearing a few chuckles.

That "something else" is something grand. At stake for the McIlroy is the final leg of the career Grand Slam, achieved by only five other players, and completed only once before at the Masters by Gene Sarazen in 1935.

"It's going to be good fun," he said.

Reed ran off three straight birdies around the turn, and he stretched his lead to as many as five shots with his eagles.

The first one was a 15-foot putt on the 13th hole. The next one was far more bold. From just under 270 yards, with the rain making the air feel heavy, Reed hit 3-wood just over the water and short of the bunker. His chip from 80 feet slammed against the pin and dropped for eagle. Reed pumped his fist, the kind of emotion he typically saves for the Ryder Cup.

He was at 14-under 202.

McIlroy made up a five-shot deficit in eight holes when he chipped in for eagle on the par-5 eighth. Reed was in the group behind him, and perhaps the cheers inspired him. He holed a 10-footer for birdie, the start of three in a row to regain control.

"Any time you hear a bunch of roars, you're going to get excited, especially if you feel like you're playing some good golf," Reed said. "Felt like I was doing what I needed to do. Of course, I heard the roar on 8, but then to birdie 8, to make the putt on 9, and then hit a good shot on 10 and make birdie there ... I just felt like from that point, the crowds were electrified."

"You had to ride the momentum and keep it going."

McIlroy can only hope he didn't use up all his luck. He figures that chip-in at No. 8 was going off the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 34 of 48

green except that it struck the pin. He also feared for the worst when his second shot on the par-5 13th went into a sea of pink azaleas, and he wasn't sure he couldn't find the ball. He found it, and the bushes are thin enough he could chip out of the mess and escape with par.

"Just a great day," McIlroy said. "To get myself into the final group, and have a chance to win another major ... you couldn't ask for much more out of today."

The verbal gamesmanship may have started early.

"I feel like all the pressure is on him," McIlroy said. "He's got to go out and protect that, and he's got a few guys chasing him that are pretty big-time players. He's got that to deal with and sleep on tonight."

Reed didn't flinch when told of McIlroy's views.

"I am leading," he said. "But at the same time, he's trying to go for the career Grand Slam. You can put it either way. Honestly, I woke up this morning, felt fine. Didn't feel any pressure. Just came out and tried to play some golf. And I believe that's how it's going to be tomorrow."

Both realize that even with their Ryder Cup connection, this is hardly match play.

Rickie Fowler made eagle on the par-5 second and was 5 under through eight holes. He cooled until the end of his round, when a pair of birdies over the last two holes gave him a 65 and left him five shots behind.

Jon Rahm of Spain also chipped in for eagle on No. 8 and saved par on the 13th after hitting into the creek in his round of 65. He was at 8-under 208. Henrik Stenson (70) was seven shots behind.

Tiger Woods had to significantly lower his goal this week. He shot 72, was 18 shots behind and now hopes to finish the tournament under par.

So many others who started the third round with a chance didn't do nearly enough to stay even remotely close to Reed. Justin Thomas (70), Jordan Spieth (71) and Dustin Johnson (71) all are at least nine shots behind.

More than any pressure with the Grand Slam at stake, McIlroy has a score to settle. He had a four-shot lead in the 2011 and shot 80 in the final round.

Now it's the missing piece of the slam. He says he learned from his mistakes — McIlroy won the first of his four majors at the U.S. Open two months later — and loves the idea that he has nothing to lose being three shots behind.

"I can't imagine there's going to be much chat out there tomorrow," McIlroy said. "Not that I have anything against Patrick. We've actually got quite a good relationship. But at the end of the day, it's business and we're both trying to do something pretty special."

For more AP golf coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Golf> and <https://apnews.com/tag/TheMasters>

Security for EPA chief comes at a steep cost to taxpayers

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt's concern with his safety came at a steep cost to taxpayers as his swollen security detail blew through overtime budgets and at times diverted officers away from investigating environmental crimes.

Altogether, the agency spent millions of dollars for a 20-member full-time detail that is more than three times the size of his predecessor's part-time security contingent.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox cited "unprecedented" threats against Pruitt and his family as justification for extraordinary security expenses such as first-class airfare to keep him separate from most passengers — a perk generally not available to federal employees.

But Pruitt apparently did not consider that upgrade vital to his safety when taxpayers weren't footing the bill for his ticket. An EPA official with direct knowledge of Pruitt's security spending said the EPA chief flew coach on personal trips back to his home state of Oklahoma.

The EPA official spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

New details in Pruitt's expansive spending for security and travel emerged from agency sources and documents reviewed by The Associated Press. They come as the embattled EPA leader fends off allega-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 35 of 48

tions of profligate spending and ethical missteps that have imperiled his job.

President Donald Trump offered a full-throated defense of Pruitt in a tweet Saturday night, saying the EPA chief is "doing a great job" and downplaying the ethical questions swirling around Pruitt. He called the security spending "somewhat more" than Pruitt's predecessor and said Pruitt had received death threats "because of his bold actions at EPA."

Shortly after arriving in Washington, Pruitt demoted the career staff member heading his security detail and replaced him with EPA Senior Special Agent Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta, a former Secret Service agent who operates a private security company.

The EPA official knowledgeable about Pruitt's security spending says Perrotta oversaw a rapid expansion of the EPA chief's security detail to accommodate guarding him day and night, even on family vacations and when Pruitt was home in Oklahoma.

Perrotta also signed off on new procedures that let Pruitt fly first-class on commercial airliners, with the security chief typically sitting next to him with other security staff farther back in the plane. Pruitt's premium status gave him and his security chief access to VIP airport lounges.

The EPA official said there are legitimate concerns about Pruitt's safety, given public opposition to his rollbacks of anti-pollution measures.

But Pruitt's ambitious domestic and international travel led to rapidly escalating costs, with the security detail racking up so much overtime that many hit annual salary caps of about \$160,000. The demands of providing 24-hour coverage even meant taking some investigators away from field work, such as when Pruitt traveled to California for a family vacation.

The EPA official said total security costs approached \$3 million when pay is added to travel expenses.

Wilcox said Pruitt has faced an unprecedented number of death threats against him and his family and "Americans should all agree that members of the President's cabinet should be kept safe from these violent threats."

A nationwide search of state and federal court records by the AP found no case where anyone has been arrested or charged with threatening Pruitt. EPA's press office did not respond Friday to provide details of any specific threats or arrests.

Pruitt has said his use of first-class airfare was initiated following unpleasant interactions with other travelers. In one incident, someone yelled a profanity as he walked through the airport.

But on weekend trips home for Sooners football games, when taxpayers weren't paying for his ticket, the EPA official said Pruitt flew coach.

The source said Pruitt sometimes used a companion pass obtained with frequent flyer miles accumulated by Ken Wagner, a former law partner whom Pruitt hired as a senior adviser at EPA at a salary of more than \$172,000. Taxpayers still covered the airfare for the administrator's security detail.

Walter Shaub, who until last year ran the federal Office of Government Ethics, said it is a potential ethics violation for Pruitt to accept the airline tickets, even if Wagner didn't pay cash for them. Federal officials are barred from accepting gifts from employees that have a market value of more than \$10.

"It would be a very serious ethics problem, indeed, if Pruitt accepted airline tickets from a subordinate," Shaub said.

The EPA administrator has come under intense scrutiny for ethics issues and outsized spending. Among the concerns: massive raises for two of closest aides and his rental of a Capitol Hill condo tied to a lobbyist who represents fossil fuel clients.

In his tweet Saturday night, Trump appeared dismissive of the travel and rental issues: "Rent was about market rate, travel expenses OK."

At least three congressional Republicans and a chorus of Democrats have called for Pruitt's ouster. A review of Pruitt's ethical conduct by White House officials is underway, adding to probes by congressional oversight committees and EPA's inspector general.

Pruitt, 49, was closely aligned with the oil and gas industry as Oklahoma's state attorney general before being tapped by Trump. Trump has praised Pruitt's relentless efforts to scrap, delay or rewrite Obama-era environmental regulations. He also has championed budget cuts and staff reductions at the agency so

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 36 of 48

deep that even Republican budget hawks in Congress refused to implement them.

EPA's press office has refused to disclose the cost of Pruitt's security or the size of his protective detail, saying doing so could imperil his personal safety.

But other sources within EPA and documents released through public information requests help provide a window into the ballooning costs.

In his first three months in office, before pricey overseas trips to Italy and Morocco, the price tag for Pruitt's security detail hit more than \$832,000, according to EPA documents released through a public information request.

Nearly three dozen EPA security and law enforcement agents were assigned to Pruitt, according to a summary of six weeks of weekly schedules obtained by Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island.

Those schedules show multiple EPA security agents accompanied Pruitt on a family vacation to California that featured a day at Disneyland and a New Year's Day football game where his home state Oklahoma Sooners were playing in the Rose Bowl. Multiple agents also accompanied Pruitt to a baseball game at the University of Kentucky and at his house outside Tulsa, during which no official EPA events were scheduled.

Pruitt's predecessor, Gina McCarthy, had a security detail that numbered about a half dozen, less than a third the size of Pruitt's. She flew coach and was not accompanied by security during her off hours, like on weekend trips home to Boston.

Pruitt was accompanied by nine aides and a security detail during a trip to Italy in June that cost more than \$120,000. He visited the U.S. Embassy in Rome and took a private tour of the Vatican before briefly attending a meeting of G-7 environmental ministers in Bologna.

Private Italian security guards hired by Perrotta helped arrange an expansive motorcade for Pruitt and his entourage, according to the EPA official with direct knowledge of the trip. The source described the Italian additions as personal friends of Perrotta, who joined Pruitt and his EPA staff for an hours-long dinner at an upscale restaurant.

Perrotta's biography, on the website of his company, Sequoia Security Group, says that during his earlier stint with the Secret Service he worked with the Guardia di Finanza, the Italian finance police.

The EPA spent nearly \$9,000 last year on increased counter-surveillance precautions for Pruitt, including hiring a private contractor to sweep his office for hidden listening devices and installing sophisticated biometric locks for the doors. The payment for the bug sweep went to a vice president at Perrotta's security company.

The EPA official who spoke to the AP said Perrotta also arranged the installation of a \$43,000 soundproof phone booth for Pruitt's office.

At least five EPA officials were placed on leave, reassigned or demoted after pushing back against spending requests such as a \$100,000-a-month private jet membership, a bulletproof vehicle and \$70,000 for furniture such as a bulletproof desk for the armed security officer always stationed inside the administrator's office suite.

Those purchases were not approved. But Pruitt got an ornate refurbished desk comparable in grandeur to the one in the Oval Office.

Among the officials who faced consequences for resisting such spending was EPA Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Kevin Chmielewski, a former Trump campaign staffer who was placed on unpaid administrative leave this year.

The prior head of Pruitt's security detail, Eric Weese, was demoted last year after he refused Pruitt's demand to use the lights and sirens on his government-owned SUV to get him through Washington traffic to the airport and dinner reservations.

Follow Associated Press environmental reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 37 of 48

White House sends mixed signals on trade fight; markets dive

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trade clash between President Donald Trump and China's government is escalating, with Beijing pledging to "counterattack with great strength" if Trump follows through on threats to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump made his out-of-the-blue move when China threatened to retaliate for the first round of tariffs planned by the United States. But for someone who has long fashioned himself as a master negotiator, Trump left it unclear whether he was bluffing or willing to risk a long trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies, with steep consequences for consumers, businesses and an already shaken stock market.

"They aren't going to bully him into backing down," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser who is now a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation. He said the Chinese "are going to have to make concessions — period."

The White House sent mixed signals on Friday as financial markets slid from investor concern about a significant trade fight.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told CNBC he was "cautiously optimistic" that the U.S. and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs go into place. But, he added, "there is the potential of a trade war."

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters the U.S. was "not in a trade war," adding, "China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump."

Trump's latest proposal intensified what was already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle for more than a half century. The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

Global financial markets have fallen sharply as the world's two biggest economies squared off — the Dow Jones industrial average sank 572 points Friday.

Trump told advisers Thursday he was unhappy with China's decision to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move this week to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods.

Rather than waiting weeks for the U.S. tariffs to be implemented, Trump backed a plan by Robert Lighthizer, his trade representative, and was encouraged by Peter Navarro, a top White House trade adviser, to seek the enhanced tariffs.

China said negotiations were impossible under the circumstances. But Trump officials said the president and his team remained in contact with President Xi Jinping and expressed hope to him of resolving the dispute through talks.

In Beijing, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said China doesn't want a trade war — but isn't afraid to fight one.

"If the U.S. side announces the list of products for \$100 billion in tariffs, the Chinese side has fully prepared and will without hesitation counterattack with great strength," spokesman Gao Feng said. He gave no indication what measures Beijing might take.

Trump has also pushed for a crackdown on China's theft of U.S. intellectual property, and he criticized the World Trade Organization, an arbiter of trade disputes, in a tweet Friday for allegedly favoring China. Trump asserted the WTO gives the Asian superpower "tremendous perks and advantages, especially over the U.S."

U.S. officials have played down the threat of a broader trade dispute, saying a negotiated outcome is still possible. But economists warn that the tit for tat bears the hallmarks of a classic trade rift that could keep growing. Worry is intensifying among Republicans, who traditionally have favored liberalized trade.

"The administration needs to be thinking about the unintended consequences and what are those ripple effects, those domino effects, and what are the retaliatory actions that are likely to be taken," said South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the Senate's No. 3 Republican, in an interview with KDLT-TV in Sioux Falls.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 38 of 48

The standoff began last month when the U.S. imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. China countered by announcing penalties on \$3 billion worth of U.S. products. The next day, the United States proposed the \$50 billion in duties on Chinese imports. Beijing responded within hours with a threat of further tariffs of its own.

Further escalation could be in the offing. The U.S. Treasury is working on plans to restrict Chinese technology investments in the United States. And there's talk that the U.S. could also put limits on visas for Chinese who want to visit or study in this country.

Kudlow told reporters the U.S. may provide a list of suggestions to China "as to what we would like to have come out of this," and those issues were under discussion.

"Negotiations are better than tariffs," Kudlow said. "A solution in the next three months would be better than anything. I think that's eminently doable." He added: "But Trump is not just using tariffs as a negotiating card. He said that to me."

For Trump, the dispute runs the risk of blunting the economic benefits of his tax overhaul, which is at the center of congressional Republicans' case for voters to keep them in power in the 2018 elections. China's retaliation so far has targeted Midwest farmers, including growers of soybeans, corn and wheat. That could specifically harm core Trump supporters.

"With respect to the Trump administration, its political success will rise and fall with the economy," Kudlow said. "And the economy is doing rather well now and I expect it to do even better."

Associated Press writers Gillian Wong and Henry Hou in Beijing, and Jill Colvin, Paul Wiseman and Josh Boak in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

Germany seeks motive after van crashes into crowd, killing 2

By **KIRSTEN GRIESHABER** and **FERDINAND OSTROP**, Associated Press

MUENSTER, Germany (AP) — A van crashed into people drinking outside a popular bar Saturday in the German city of Muenster, killing two people and injuring 20 others before the driver of the vehicle shot and killed himself inside it, police said.

A top German security official said there was no indication of an Islamic extremist motive but officials were investigating all possibilities in the deadly crash that took place at 3:27 p.m. on a warm spring day.

Witnesses said people ran away screaming from the city square after the crash. Police quickly set up a large cordoned-off area for their investigation and ambulances rushed to the site.

Six of the 20 injured were in severe condition, according to police spokesman Andreas Bode.

Herbert Reul, the interior minister of North Rhine-Westphalia state, where Muenster is located, said the driver of the gray van was a German citizen. He stressed that the investigation was at an early stage but said "at the moment, nothing speaks for there being any Islamist background."

"We have to wait, and we are investigating in all directions," Reul said, adding that it was clearly not an accident.

Reul said two people were killed in the crash and the driver killed himself — lower than the earlier police toll of three dead plus the driver.

Police spokesman Peter Nuessmeyer told The Associated Press that he could not confirm German media reports that the perpetrator reportedly had psychological issues.

Bode told reporters that police were checking witness reports that other perpetrators might have fled from the van at the scene. Hours later, police spokeswoman Vanessa Arlt said "we didn't find anything (to those reports) but we're still investigating in all directions and not excluding anything."

Police tweeted that residents should "avoid the area near the Kiepenkerl pub" in the city's historic downtown area where a large-scale police operation was underway.

Police also said they found a suspicious object in the van that they were examining to see if it was danger-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 39 of 48

ous. They told German news agency dpa that was the reason authorities cordoned off such a large area. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper said the suspect's apartment was being searched Saturday night for possible explosives.

The Muenster University Hospital put out an urgent call for citizens to donate blood — and so many people rushed to help that long lines of donors formed. Jan Schoessler, who was among those in line, said dozens of people were waiting shortly after doors opened at 7 p.m.

The university cancelled the call after only an hour and thanked everyone on Twitter "for your overwhelming support."

A statement from the White House press secretary said that President Donald Trump has been briefed on the vehicle attack.

"While the German authorities have not yet announced a motive for this cowardly attack on innocent people, we condemn it regardless, and pledge any support from the United States Government that Germany may need," the statement said.

Muenster, a major university city, has about 300,000 residents and an attractive medieval city center that was rebuilt after World War II. TV footage showed a narrow street sealed off Saturday with red-and-white police tape. Dozens of ambulances were near the cordoned-off area and helicopters were flying overhead.

The Kiepenkerl is not only one of the city's best-known traditional pubs, but also the emblem of the city, depicting a traveling salesman with a long pipe in his mouth and a big backpack on his back.

Ugur Hur was working at a nearby cafe in downtown Muenster when the crash took place.

"I heard a loud bang, screaming. And the police arrived and everyone was sent out," he said. "A lot of people were running away screaming."

Lino Baldi, who owns an Italian restaurant near the scene of the crash, told Sky TG24 that the city center had been packed with people out enjoying a Saturday market and summer-like temperatures, which had risen to 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) from just 12 degrees (54 degrees F) a day earlier.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she was "deeply shocked by the terrible events in Muenster."

"Everything conceivable is being done to investigate the crime and to support the victims and their relatives," Merkel said in a statement. "My thanks go to all the responders at the scene."

Grieshaber reported from Berlin. Geir Moulson and Frank Jordans in Berlin and Colleen Barry in Munich contributed reporting.

A good round for Woods at this Masters is even par

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods was trying to figure out how to get to the 17th green from closer to the 15th fairway when the massive gallery anticipating his shot heard a huge roar behind them that caused them to look over their shoulders.

Rickie Fowler was responsible for making all that noise with an eagle on the second hole.

The third round of the Masters was just getting started on Saturday. The player so many fans wanted to see was about done.

Needing something special to even have hope, Woods had to settle for ordinary.

A few sloppy bogeys, two of them on par 5s. A few birdies. It added to an even-par 72, his best score of the week.

"I'm not hitting it close enough. I'm not taking advantage of the par 5s and consequently a good round is even par," Woods said.

It was disappointing, sure, but it also was surprising.

Woods spent so much of the Florida swing of the PGA Tour piecing his game back together, and his iron game was particularly sharp. And then at the Masters, it wasn't. Woods said he knows what the problem is, he just can't fix it.

And now it's too late for him to do anything about it.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 40 of 48

So instead of Woods capping off this comeback with a fifth green jacket, he had to settle for playing the Masters for the first time in three years. Regardless of the score, no one wanted to miss him. Fans packed into Amen Corner and celebrated with Woods when he hit the green after two days of going into Rae's Creek. This one settled 8 feet away from the left pin.

"I just couldn't do it three days in a row," Woods said. "Missed the putt. But hey, that's a lot easier to play the hole from the green than it is dropping."

They stood on their toes — some of them hopped in place — to try to see over all the heads lining the 13th fairway to check if his shot cleared the tributary in front of the green. It narrowly did, except that Woods then chipped it too close to the edge and off the back of the green.

It wasn't great golf. It was simply golf by one of the greatest players.

Woods was assured of moving back into the top 100 in the world, notable only because he was at No. 1,199 just over four months ago when he returned from yet another long layoff following multiple back surgeries.

"I've had some success in this comeback, and I'm getting there," Woods said. "I wish this week would have been a little bit better. Hopefully, tomorrow I can shoot something, get me to even par or even in the red. I think that will be a good goal tomorrow and hopefully I can get it done."

For now, all that can be said about this comeback is that he's at least back.

Woods played the third round with Ian Poulter — they had not played together in a tournament since the Bridgestone Invitational in 2011. Poulter said as they walked up the 18th fairway, he said to Woods, "It's good to see you healthy again."

It wasn't always like that.

"It would have felt different 15 years ago than it did today," Poulter said. "I would have been more nervous. It would have been more intimidating. He would have been hard, with his game face on."

He described Woods now as having a softer personality, and Poulter isn't alone in sensing that.

Woods is 1 under for the week on the four par 5s. He went just over the back of the 15th green with a wedge, chipped only up to the putting surface and missed his par putt. It was an example of how loose his game has been all week.

"It's been scratchy this week," he said. "I just haven't gotten it done. I feel like I'm driving it better than I have all year, but I am not capitalizing on it. And when I did miss I missed in the wrong spots. My swing is just off with my irons, just at the wrong time."

Gaza buries journalist killed while covering mass protests

By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hundreds attended the funeral of a well-known Palestinian journalist in Gaza on Saturday who was killed while covering mass protests along the Israeli border the previous day.

Yasser Murtaja died from a gunshot wound he sustained while filming Friday in an area engulfed in thick black smoke from protesters setting tires on fire. Israeli troops opened fire from across the border, killing at least nine Palestinians and wounding 491 others in the second mass border protest in eight days. The deaths brought to at least 31 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire since last week. The border area appeared calm Saturday.

Witnesses said Murtaja was over 100 meters (yards) from the border, wearing a flak jacket marked "press" and holding his camera when he was shot in an exposed area just below the armpit.

The Israeli military has said it fired only at "instigators" involved in attacks on soldiers and was investigating Murtaja's death amid a very hectic environment.

"The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) uses means such as warnings, riot dispersal means, and as a last resort firing live rounds in a precise, measured way," it said Saturday. "The IDF does not intentionally target journalists. The circumstances in which journalists were allegedly hit by IDF fire are not familiar to the IDF, and are being looked into."

Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since a 2007 takeover and calls for Israel's destruction, has called for a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 41 of 48

series of protests until May 15, the anniversary of Israel's founding when Palestinians commemorate their mass uprooting during the 1948 war over Israel's creation.

The Islamic group hopes the mass protests can create pressure to break a border blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt since 2007, without having to succumb to demands that it disarm. The blockade has made it increasingly difficult for Hamas to govern. It has also devastated Gaza's economy, made it virtually impossible for people to enter and exit the territory, and left residents with just a few hours of electricity a day.

Israel argues that Hamas could have ended the suffering of Gaza's 2 million people by disarming and renouncing violence.

It says Hamas is exploiting the mass marches as a cover for attacking the border fence, and has vowed to prevent a breach at all costs. The military said that on Friday protesters hurled several explosive devices and firebombs, using the thick plumes of smoke from burning tires as cover, and that several attempts to cross the fence were thwarted.

Colleagues said Murtaja was not affiliated with Hamas or any other militant group, and there were no Hamas symbols normally seen at the funerals for militants.

In an apparent sign of solidarity, Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh attended the funeral Saturday.

"The Return March is a battle of truth and awareness," Haniyeh said of the protests. "Yasser held his camera to direct the arrows of truth to convey the image of the besieged people."

At the funeral, Murtaja's body was draped in a Palestinian flag with his flak jacket reading "press" placed upon him as he was carried through the streets of Gaza. The drone he had used for shooting footage of Gaza hovered above to film his funeral. Dozens of his close friends and colleagues were sobbing after the coffin was taken out of the morgue.

Murtaja, 30, was the co-founder of Ain media, a local TV production company that has done projects, including aerial drone video, for foreign media clients such as the BBC and Al Jazeera English. He was one of the first to bring a drone camera into Gaza and his images captivated many of its residents who have never seen Gaza from above since it has no airport or skyscrapers.

His death, along with the other recent casualties, seemed likely to draw renewed criticism from rights groups that have branded Israel's open-fire orders on the border as unlawful, after Israel's defense minister warned that those approaching the fence were risking their lives.

Three other journalists sustained tear gas injuries and at least one cameraman a gunshot in his leg, health ministry and media activists reported.

AIDA, a network of more than 70 non-government organizations operating in the Palestinian territories, condemned Saturday what they called "the unlawful killing of civilians" Friday. It follows accusations from the United Nations' human rights office that it has indications of Israeli forces using "excessive force" the previous week.

The European Union on Saturday issued a statement saying Friday's violence "raises serious questions about the proportionate use of force which must be addressed."

Witnesses described the area in which Murtaja and others were shot as a chaotic scene in which protesters torched large piles of tires, engulfing the area in black smoke that was meant to shield them from Israeli snipers. Footage showed that visibility was limited and the faces of some of the activists were covered with black soot.

Israeli troops on the other side of the fence responded with tear gas, rubber-coated steel pellets and water cannons, as well as occasional live fire. Footage taken of the wounded journalist shortly after he was shot shows medics frantically bandaging his chest and trying to connect an IV drip. Murtaja himself is seen moving his head from side to side and talking to those around him before he is placed on a stretcher and taken to an ambulance.

Just two weeks ago, Murtaja posted a drone photo of Gaza's seaport at sunset on his Facebook page with the following caption: "I wished I could take this photo from the sky, not from land. My name is Yasser Murtaja, I am 30 years old. I live in Gaza City. I have never traveled."

Friends say it reflected his greatest wish — to escape Gaza's isolation.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 42 of 48

Hana Awad, his colleague and close friend, said he had long dreamt of traveling and was recently granted an Al Jazeera scholarship for training in Doha. She described him as active and friendly and not at all interested in politics.

"We didn't know his political views, he was passionate about his job and wanted to travel and learn," she said of Murtaja, who was the father of a 2-year-old boy.

Mohammed Daraghmeh contributed from Ramallah, West Bank.

Hannity vows to bash Kimmel until he apologizes to 1st lady

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity is vowing to continue his attacks on ABC late-night comic Jimmy Kimmel until Kimmel apologizes for a segment in which he joked about first lady Melania Trump's accent.

The dispute between the television personalities is unusually vitriolic, with Hannity calling Kimmel a "sick, twisted, creepy, perverted weirdo" during his Fox show on Friday. Kimmel, who had no show of his own on Friday, returned fire via Twitter.

ABC officials had no immediate response to a request for comment on Saturday.

With late-night comedy almost uniformly opposed to President Donald Trump and political talk dominated by conservatives, Kimmel and Hannity were playing to their audiences. The root of this flare-up was a Kimmel segment on his Monday show in which he played a film clip of Melania Trump, who was born in Slovenia, reading to children at a White House Easter celebration and mocked her accent.

"Dees and dat," Kimmel repeated, with a laugh.

Kimmel turned to his show sidekick, Guillermo Rodriguez, and said, "you could be first lady of the United States."

That angered Hannity, cable television's most fervent supporter of the Republican president.

Hannity's initial attack on Kimmel, calling him an "ass clown," was enthusiastically countered by Kimmel, who said Hannity was the "whole ass circus."

"Game on," Hannity said on Friday.

He rolled a series of Kimmel clips, mostly from the comedian's days as a co-host of Comedy Central's "The Man Show," that featured segments showing Kimmel with an exaggerated fake erection, asking women to find something hidden in his pants and going up to random women in the street asking if they wanted to have sex with him. He also showed a clip of Kimmel in blackface, imitating basketball player Karl Malone.

"I don't take joy in this, but I have just had it with the unrelenting hypocrisy," Hannity said. "It's way bigger than Sean Hannity and Jimmy Kimmel."

Kimmel, on Twitter, thanked Hannity for a trip down memory lane. He said the idea that Hannity would call anyone a pervert while he was "slobbering over" Donald Trump is, "to quote a fella you love very much, 'sad.'"

When Trump was the Republican presidential nominee, a 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape of him talking about fame enabling him to grope and try to have sex with women emerged, and he later apologized.

Many of the insults Hannity and Kimmel traded were off-color. They needled each other for their ratings: Kimmel is third behind Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Fallon among late-night comics, while Hannity lost his cable news ratings lead to Rachel Maddow last month.

"What you don't seem to realize is that I LOVE this," Kimmel wrote on Twitter. "I guess that's one of my perversions."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 43 of 48

Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas facing tornado and wildfire threats

By **KEN MILLER, Associated Press**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Emergency officials in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas are bracing for two types of disasters as spring gets into full swing: The start of what's historically the most active time of year for tornadoes plus wildfire threats brought on by severe drought.

April, May and June are the most active months in the U.S. for tornadoes. At the same time, the three states on the southern end of Tornado Alley are experiencing extreme and exceptional drought that could fuel wildfires.

Tornado Alley extends from northern Texas and covers much of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, plus slivers of New Mexico and Colorado, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Storm Prediction Center.

The past three years, the U.S. has seen an average of more than 600 tornadoes during April, May and June, according to the center. That is more than half the average of 1,186 tornadoes per year during that time span, although the numbers from the last three months of 2017 are still considered preliminary.

Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas are accustomed to preparing for multiple emergency situations happening at once and train with various agencies to account for different possibilities.

"We're typically preparing for worst-case scenarios year-round anyway," state Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Keli Cain said, noting that the SPC reports Oklahoma City has been struck by more tornadoes than any other U.S. city, with more than 100 known twisters. "We do have some experience at that. We plan for all hazards anyway."

Katie Horner, spokeswoman for the Kansas adjutant general's division of emergency management, said last year the state dealt with a blizzard, an ice storm, fire, flooding and a tornado warning all in the same week. "We train not only for one or two events in a day, but three or four events in a day," she added.

Chip Orton, the emergency management director for Amarillo, a city of about 200,000 in the Texas Panhandle, says, "My job is to be worried."

"That's why we come to work every day. Is it likely? Probably not. Could it happen? Sure," he said.

While tornadoes are the result of thunderstorms, which are created from conditions that include moisture, the current dry conditions in the area do not preclude twisters, said Storm Prediction Center meteorologist Patrick Marsh. He noted that two tornadoes were reported in the Texas Panhandle on March 18, even as the area was rated in extreme drought.

Some private forecasting services are predicting an increase in tornadoes during the coming months, based largely on the fact that there was the climate phenomenon La Nina during the past winter. They're expecting weather patterns in the coming months to be wetter and warmer than usual, particularly in the southeastern U.S. and along the Gulf Coast.

"(Those conditions) would be a petri dish for thunderstorms. You need to add an additional ingredient for tornados. ... You need wind shear. Wind shear is best described as a change in wind speed and direction," Marsh said, and is created when cold air and warm air collide at the surface.

The national Storm Prediction Center, however, does not forecast severe weather more than about a week in advance.

Follow Ken Miller on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/KenMiller7>

House's Steny Hoyer takes a last shot at the top spot

By **LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi is not welcome in Trump country, which was probably one reason another top Democrat — her long-term rival Steny Hoyer — was zipping through Republican-friendly corners of western Wisconsin this past week.

Hoyer, the Maryland centrist and perpetual leader-in-waiting in the House of Representatives, was on a mission to woo blue-collar voters and help his party win back control of the House.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 44 of 48

He was also looking for what could be his last shot.

"Would I like to be speaker? Of course. Would I be disappointed if it doesn't happen? No," the No. 2 House Democrat said by phone, reflecting on his long career as he cut through snow-covered rolling hills, a world away from his Chesapeake Bay home turf.

Hoyer has been eyeing the top spot for more than a decade, living in the shadow of a San Francisco Democrat who has a white-knuckle grip on power. Now, as the party wrestles with its ideological impulses and younger lawmakers push for a generational shift — both he and Pelosi are 78 years old — Hoyer may be looking for one more play.

Replacing one longtime leader with another is not what many Democrats have in mind. Still, Hoyer is actively, if quietly, seeking lawmakers' support. His allies put him forward as a possible "bridge" leader, who might ease a transition to a next generation — if Pelosi ever steps aside. Others find far-fetched the notion that a white, male centrist from blue Maryland would be the new face of the Democratic Party.

Those questions, Hoyer insisted, are for another day. On Thursday, he was dashing to keep a lunch date at the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce in Wisconsin to listen to a crowd of Midwestern voters, including those who backed Trump.

"I'm going in to talk to Americans," he said. "It's not Trump country or Hoyer country. These are Americans."

As Democrats battle to win back some two dozen House seats, the fight for majority control is also a struggle between the liberal and centrist wings over how best to frame the party's image and priorities in the age of Trump.

Several House candidates face bruising primary contests this spring that will showcase the divide. But perhaps nowhere is it more apparent than in the simmering saga of House Democratic leadership.

Younger lawmakers talk about sweeping all the top leaders from office as they hunger for fresh faces. New York Rep. Joe Crowley is among those often mentioned among up-and-comers, but others are in the wings, and a person close to him said he is focused right now on helping Democrats win the House.

Pelosi meanwhile shows no signs of retiring, especially as she has the chance to wield the speaker's gavel if Democrats regain the House. Nearly a year younger than Hoyer — they were on staff together in the Capitol decades ago — Pelosi is undeterred by the constant chatter or year-round GOP attack ads pillorying her leadership.

Asked recently how she felt about no-votes from Democratic candidates like Conor Lamb, who won a special election in a Trump-district in Pennsylvania but said he wouldn't back Pelosi, she quipped it's just not as important as winning the seat and the House majority.

That leaves Hoyer's allies floating the unusual idea of him becoming a short-term leader — someone who could temporarily take the helm, if and when Pelosi steps down, to ease the transition.

It's a hard sell.

While few lawmakers or aides will talk openly about what's to come, some dismissed the idea as setting up a lame-duck leader who would have little control over the caucus and only prolong the day when younger members could rise.

Republicans scoff at Hoyer's attempt influence the fall midterms by swooping in to Trump districts to drum up support for Democrats.

"It's not like... 'Ladies and gentlemen, the minority whip!' and he comes out to strobe lights," said Matt Gorman, a spokesman for the GOP's campaign committee in the House. "People don't know who Steny Hoyer is."

Then again, Hoyer's ability to show up with his "Make it in America" listening tour can't hurt. He has stopped in Pittsburgh; Toledo, Ohio; Kansas City, Missouri, and other places this election cycle, and while he may not move masses, lawmakers welcome his ability to make inroads in places where Democrats don't always tread.

"Steny Hoyer went to Peoria, Illinois, it's sort of the epicenter of America," said Rep. Cheri Bustos, who represents a Trump-won district in the northwestern part of the state and is also often mentioned for a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 45 of 48

future party leadership role.

"We have to pick up 23 seats to win back the majority, and most of those are right here in the heartland of America. This is where we need to pay attention."

As Hoyer made his way to Eau Claire this past week, he spotted an outbuilding on the landscape that reminded him of the tobacco barn on his own property back home in Mechanicsville, Maryland, in the southern part of the state where he is seeking re-election to a 20th term in office.

"I'm glad that people welcome me to our districts," he said. "We are the party of the people, we are the party of workers... men and women in this country who are the reason this country is great — historically, and now."

Hosting his arrival was Rep. Ron Kind, one of four Democrats who voted against Pelosi during the last leadership race, at the Chamber luncheon.

"Steny's been at the forefront of this, the message works incredibly well around here," Kind said in an interview. "Showing up, being respectful and listening."

Follow Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LisaMascaro>

This story has been corrected to reflect that Matt Gorman spoke about Hoyer as "minority" whip, not majority whip.

Photos reveal, recognize black work camps during Depression

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A striking, sepia-toned picture recently acquired by the University of Michigan jumps out from the past and begs to tell a story: A man dressed in a heavy coat and hat is as big as the cabin door whose knob he is reaching to turn and enter.

The picture is labeled simply, "Big Jim."

The rare photo is among 30 acquired by the Bentley Historical Library last year from a private donor that capture a place and time often overlooked by history: black Civilian Conservation Corps camps in Michigan and elsewhere during the Great Depression. The photos are the only known images of the state's segregated, all-black camps. President Franklin Roosevelt established the corps in the early 1930s, offering shelter, clothing, food and wages to a "vast army" of unemployed men who worked to conserve and restore national resources.

As the people and stories behind the pictures are increasingly lost to time, the university posted them online and launched a public call for information. So far, Big Jim's story is the only one that's been filled in, thanks to people who knew him and responded: He was James Richardson, a quiet, strong, hard-working rural Michigan farmer who served in World War I and went on to join the CCC.

For the archivists, it represents delayed but welcome recognition for the contributions of workers who faced discrimination and marginalization during a dark economic era.

"What I liked about the photographs is they show that these young guys were doing work on parks, trails, out in the woods — way away from their homes," said Morris Thomas, who as a child knew Richardson and identified him for Michigan researchers after seeing his image in a state history magazine. "It is something unique; there aren't that many photos available."

Eighty-five years after the Civilian Conservation Corps' creation, any cache of this kind is a boon to historians. Photographs from designated black camps are far less common than from white camps. Thomas, now 75, says his family also had photos of an uncle who worked in a black camp but laments, "Now we can't find them."

Despite the legacy of segregation, the photos and stories they conjure reveal elements of unexpected egalitarianism and advancement.

"That was a tremendous thing for black people," said Thomas' cousin Frank Thomas, who as a boy often spent time with Richardson and neighborhood friends. "There were really no jobs for black people

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 46 of 48

at that time, only menial jobs. All those guys got a chance to ... show people they can work and can do anything anybody else can do."

CCC camps initially were integrated, according to the university, but became segregated by 1935 amid community protests. Out of Michigan's roughly 150 camps, some 16 were designated for black men. Black membership was capped at 10 percent of the overall corps, which numbered around 3 million over the course of the program.

The Michigan History Center says the state's black camps helped build a ski area and contributed to efforts to plant millions of trees, fight forest fires, construct bridges and buildings, and establish public campgrounds.

"The CCC camps did tremendous things to better the community for both black and white people," Frank Thomas said. "Put in playgrounds, all that stuff."

Joan Sharpe, president of the Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, said the segregation in the camps reflected U.S. society at the time. Still, she added, that doesn't erase the opportunities it provided for people of all races.

"The guys I've talked to that were in the CCC camps that were black were very grateful ... to have access to education, access to vocational training, learn how to lay stone, build roads — things they would not have had before," said Sharpe, whose group serves and supports CCC alumni.

"I have to look at it from their perspective," she added. "Their story and station in life would be very different than us looking back on it and saying, 'Oh, how awful.'"

After leaving the CCC, Richardson continued his hard-working ways, according to Thomas and his cousin. He tended to his 40-acre (16-hectare) farm in Manistee County and did odd jobs such as cutting logs and hauling pulpwood to a paper mill. Local legend has it that he once lifted a Model A for someone with a flat tire and once attached a plow to himself to take over for a stubborn horse. He died in 1959 at age 65.

Frank Thomas, 79, believes "Big Jim" served "as a big ambassador for black people," and can still be for people who see his picture and hear his story.

"You'd think of a man that size he would be aggressive, but I never heard tell or saw any indication of that," he said. "That goes long way in race relations and community relations."

Jeff Karoub is a member of AP's Race and Ethnicity Team. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> and find more of his work at <https://apnews.com/search/jeff%20karoub>

Lawyers: Prosecutors withheld evidence of teen's innocence

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A legal team has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear its claim that Louisiana prosecutors withheld evidence for a murder trial that ended in a guilty verdict against an intellectually disabled teenager accused of killing a pizza deliveryman.

Corey Williams was 16 years old when police arrested him in the shooting death of Jarvis Griffin two decades ago in Caddo Parish, where prosecutors have been widely criticized for their aggressive approach to seeking the death penalty.

Earlier this week, a group of 44 former prosecutors and Justice Department officials - former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey among them - filed a brief in support of a petition by Williams' lawyers asking the court to review and reverse his murder conviction.

Before the shooting, Williams was hospitalized for extreme lead poisoning, still sucked his thumb and frequently urinated on himself, according to his lawyers. A district court judge overturned Williams' death sentence in 2004 on the basis of his disabilities, one of his attorneys said.

Lawyers for Williams say there wasn't any physical evidence linking him to the January 1998 death of Griffin, who was killed and robbed while delivering a pizza to a Shreveport home.

The petition claims "staggering" evidence of Williams' innocence was suppressed by prosecutors before his trial.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 47 of 48

Caddo Parish prosecutors haven't filed a response to the petitions yet, but they have denied violating their duty to disclose evidence favorable to Williams.

Witnesses saw several older men steal money and pizza from Griffin and saw Williams running from the house alone with nothing in his hands after the shooting, according to his lawyers. One of the older men, Chris Moore, was the only witness who identified Williams as the shooter.

Fingerprints found on the murder weapon belonged to one of the other older men, and the victim's blood was found on clothing worn by a third older man, according to Williams' lawyers.

Police officers found Williams hiding under a sheet on a couch at his grandmother's house. He initially denied killing Griffin but changed his story after police questioned him through the night.

"His confession was brief, devoid of corroborating details," his lawyers wrote in their March 2 petition to the Supreme Court. "Having just assumed responsibility for a homicide, Corey told the officers, 'I'm tired. I'm ready to go home and lay down.'"

Williams' lawyers say his conviction was based primarily on that confession and the testimony of Moore. Only after Williams' trial did his attorneys obtain recordings of witness interviews pointing to his innocence. The withheld recordings showed police had suspected the older men were plotting to frame Williams for the killing, according to Williams' lawyers.

Supreme Court justices expressed concern about the suppression of evidence in a different Louisiana case it decided in 2012. The court voted 8-1 to reverse a conviction in a case in which New Orleans prosecutors similarly withheld a witness statement from the night of a murder because they decided it wouldn't alter the trial's outcome.

Dale Cox, Caddo Parish's former acting district attorney, said in a 2015 court filing that Williams hasn't proved the recorded witness statements contained "exculpatory" evidence or that withholding them deprived him of a fair trial.

"The State presented to the jury a confession that was wholly corroborated by eyewitness testimony," he wrote.

Cox, who once told a reporter he believes the state needs to "kill more people," personally prosecuted one-third of the Louisiana cases that resulted in death sentences between 2010 and 2015, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

In a 4-2 vote last October, the Louisiana Supreme Court refused to hold a hearing on Williams' claims. His attorneys are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review that decision.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, April 8, the 98th day of 2018. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

On this date:

In 1820, the Venus de Milo statue was discovered by a farmer on the Greek island of Milos.

In 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of U.S. senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified. President Woodrow Wilson became the first chief executive since John Adams to address Congress in person as he asked lawmakers to enact tariff reform.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act, which provided money for programs such as the Works Progress Administration.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 8, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 268 ~ 48 of 48

In 1946, the League of Nations assembled in Geneva for its final session.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1961, a suspected bomb exploded aboard the passenger liner MV Dara in the Persian Gulf, causing it to sink; 238 of the 819 people aboard were killed.

In 1973, artist Pablo Picasso died in Mougins (MOO'-zhun), France, at age 91.

In 1988, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart resigned from the Assemblies of God after he was defrocked for rejecting an order from the church's national leaders to stop preaching for a year amid reports he had consorted with a prostitute.

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Oregon, at age 96.

In 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

In 2003, kidnapper-rapist John Jamelske, who had imprisoned five women and girls, one after another, as sex slaves inside a makeshift dungeon in his DeWitt, New York, home, was arrested. (Jamelske, who pleaded guilty to five counts of first-degree kidnapping, is serving an 18 years-to-life sentence in a maximum security prison.)

Ten years ago: The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Army Gen. David Petraeus, told Congress that hard-won gains in the war zone were too fragile to promise any troop pullouts beyond the summer as he held his ground against impatient Democrats and refused to commit to more withdrawals before President George W. Bush left office in January 2009. American Airlines grounded all 300 of its MD-80 jetliners amid safety concerns about wiring bundles; the carrier ended up canceling more than 3,000 flights over the next four days. Tennessee captured its eighth women's NCAA championship with a 64-48 victory over Stanford.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama warned Congress not to use delaying tactics against tighter gun regulations and told families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting victims during a visit to Hartford, Connecticut, that he was "determined as ever" to honor their children with tougher laws. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 87, died in London. Actress and former Disney "Mouseketeer" Annette Funicello, 70, died in Bakersfield, California. Rick Pitino, who coached Louisville in the NCAA championship game, was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame along with former NBA stars Bernard King and Gary Payton, former UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian, North Carolina women's coach Sylvia Hatchell, former University of Houston coach Guy Lewis and former University of Virginia star Dawn Staley.

One year ago: Immigrant workers at the famed Tom Cat Bakery in New York who were threatened with being fired if they didn't produce legal work papers defied the government by rallying outside President Donald Trump's Manhattan home.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shecky Greene is 92. Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 81. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is 80. Basketball Hall of Famer John Havlicek is 78. "Mouseketeer" Darlene Gillespie is 77. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 77. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 76. Actor Stuart Pankin is 72. Rock musician Steve Howe is 71. Former House Republican Leader Tom DeLay is 71. Movie director John Madden is 69. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 67. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., is 63. Actor John Schneider is 58. "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch is 57. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 56. Singer Julian Lennon is 55. Actor Dean Norris is 55. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 55. Rapper Biz Markie is 54. Actress Robin Wright is 52. Actress Patricia Arquette is 50. Actor JR Bourne is 48. Rock singer Craig Honeycutt (Everything) is 48. Rock musician Darren Jessee is 47. Actress Emma Caulfield is 45. Actress Katee Sackhoff is 38. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 37. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 34. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 34. Actress Kirsten Storms is 34. Rock musician Jamie Sierota is 25. Actress Sadie Calvano is 21.

Thought for Today: "The truth is always something that is told, not something that is known. If there were no speaking or writing, there would be no truth about anything." — Susan Sontag, American author and critic (1933-2004).