

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 1 of 36

“In family relationships, love is really spelled T.I.M.E.”

-Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 1- Carlson Bridal Shower
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Sirens to be tested Wednesday
- 2- School Board Story
- 3- Outlook for May
- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- National Weather map
- 6- Today's Weather Almanac
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 9- News from the Associated Press

Tuesday, April 24

11:30 a.m.: Track Meet in Groton
Aberdeen Central, Aberdeen Christian, Aberdeen Roncalli, Britton-Hecla, Edmunds Central, Florence/Henry, Frederick Area, Groton Area, Langford Area, Leola, Milbank Area, Northwestern Area, Redfield/Doland, Sisseton, Tiospa Zina, Warner and Waubay-Summit
(Pole vault, shot put, discus) will be held at Aberdeen Central on Monday, April 23 at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

VEX World Robotics Competition at Louisville, KY

Thursday, April 26

VEX World Robotics Competition at Louisville, KY
7 p.m.: FCCLA Style Show
10 a.m.: Girls Golf at Milbank Area

Friday, April 27

VEX World Robotics Competition at Louisville, KY
FFA Banquet
3 p.m.: Track Meet at Sisseton

Saturday, April 28

VEX World Robotics Competition at Louisville, KY

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Closed: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It is hoped that the trailer will be returned by the end of this week.

Bridal Shower

A bridal shower for Holly Carlson, bride-to-be of Tyler Candor, will be held Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton.

Groton sirens to be tested on Wednesday

South Dakota Severe Weather Awareness week is scheduled for April 23-27.

During the week Brown County will be testing our entire network of outdoor warning sirens across the county. This is scheduled to happen on Wednesday April 25, 2018.

- Test tornado watch will be issued at 10:00am CDT
- Test tornado warning will be issued at 10:15am CDT

The outdoor sirens will be activated during the 10:15 warning.

Please remember these are outdoor warning sirens and are only designed to alert those who are outside that something dangerous is happening in your area. Once you hear the siren activated you should go inside and turn to local media or NOAA weather radio to get more information.

If severe weather is in the area that day we will not be doing the test.

For more information or questions please call the Brown County Emergency Management office at 605-626-7122.

No change in scholarship part of graduation

The Groton Area School Board made no change in policy in regards to scholarship part of the graduation ceremony. Middle/High School Principal Kiersten Sombke stated during her report that there was an interest in changing that part of the program where scholarships are read out loud during the program.

Board members Clint Fjelstad and Deb Gengerke were strongly opposed to making any changes. Both said the people who donate money for scholarships should be recognized as well as the students who receive them. Board member Marty Weismantel said he had heard from some of the seniors who were concerned that not everyone would be recognized because not everyone receives a scholarship. He said they felt everyone should be treated the same and that the diploma is the most important. Weismantel proposed not reading the amounts during the ceremony. No action was taken.

Ashley Seeklander was recognized as the South Dakota Counselor of the Year at the 2018 South Dakota Counseling Association annual gathering.

The kindergarten round-up was held on Friday with 43 students attending. It is anticipated that there will be 63 students enrolled in next year's junior kindergarten and kindergarten.

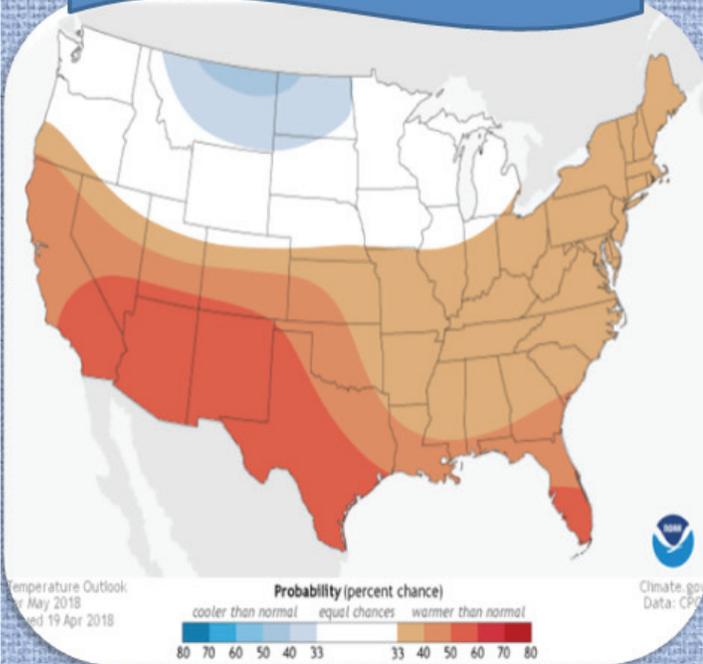
A lengthy discussion was held on the copier service program. The board debated between Century Business Products and A & B Business Solutions as both would offer a complete fleet changeout of all copies. The board took no action for further review.

The last day of school will remain changed at May 25, 2018.

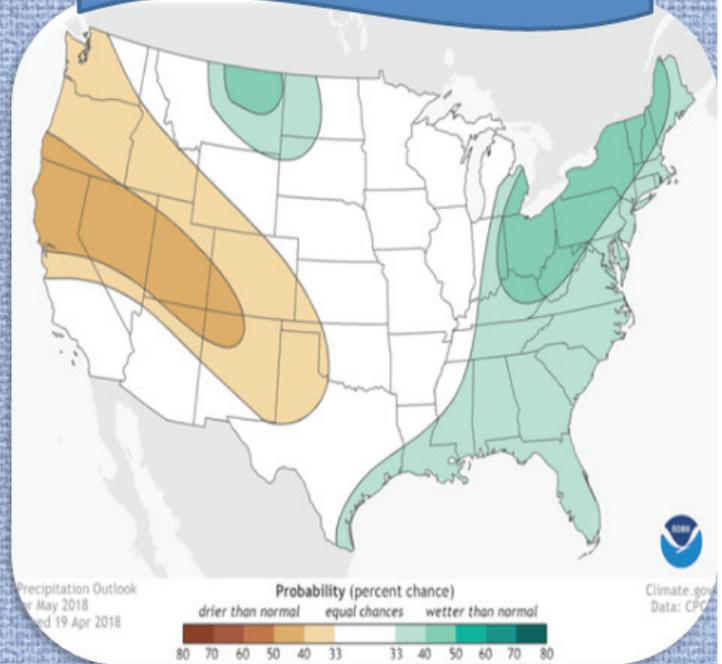
Superintendent Joe Schwan reported that there was a conflict in the ACT Testing and Prom Dates on next year's calendar. The ACT testing in Groton is set for April 13, the same date as the prom. He is leaning toward moving Prom to March 30 so the students would be free for the ACT testing. He said having the ACT testing in Groton is a plus for the students.

Outlook for May

30 Day Temperature Outlook



30 Day Precipitation Outlook



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
4/22/2018 9:13 AM

Published on: 04/22/2018 at 9:17AM

The latest 30 day outlook (May) was recently issued by the Climate Prediction Center. Probabilities favor a warmer than normal southern half of the continental United States. Precipitation probabilities favor wetter than normal in the east, and drier in the west.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 4 of 36

Today in Weather History

April 24, 1948: A significant F2 tornado moved northeast from South of Castlewood to near Goodwin. Barns were destroyed on two farms. Also on this day, two other tornadoes were observed in South Dakota. One moved from Turner County on into Minnehaha County, injuring two people. The other touchdown 3 miles Southeast of Sioux Falls, destroying barns and other buildings on the west edge of Brandon.

1880: Several tornadoes affected parts of central and southwest Illinois. One tornado of F4 intensity touched down near Jerseyville and killed one person along the 18-mile path. Another F4 tornado passed just north of Carlinville and lifted near Atwater, destroying 50 buildings. Six people died in Christian County by an F5 tornado, which tracked from 9 miles southwest of Taylorville to near Sharpsburg.

1908: Severe thunderstorms spawned eighteen tornadoes over across the Central Gulf Coast States claiming the lives of 310 persons. The state of Mississippi was hardest hit. A tornado near Hattiesburg, Mississippi killed 143 persons and caused more than half a million dollars damage. Four violent tornadoes accounted for 279 of the 310 deaths. The deadliest of the four tornadoes swelled to a width of 2.5 miles as it passed near Amite, Louisiana. The tornado also leveled most of Purvis Mississippi.

2003: The temperature soared to a maximum of 70 degrees in Juneau, Alaska. This is the earliest record of 70-degree reading to occur in Juneau.

2010: April Tornado Outbreak- During a significant severe weather outbreak across the South on April 22-25, 142 tornadoes raked the region, including 77 on April 24 alone. Ten died from the long-track tornado that swept across Mississippi on April 24. A long-lived twister left a trail of destruction extending over 149 miles from Louisiana through Mississippi, resulting in 10 deaths and 75 injuries. This EF4 storm, which grew to a width of 1.75 miles, sported the fourth longest track in Mississippi history. This storm destroyed part of Yazoo City, Mississippi. The Swiss Reinsurance Company estimated insured damages with this outbreak at \$1.58 billion. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in Jackson, Mississippi. Click [HERE](#) for a video from the Discovery.com

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 5 of 36

Tue Apr 24	Wed Apr 25	Thu Apr 26	Fri Apr 27	Sat Apr 28	Sun Apr 29	Mon Apr 30
						
56°F 32°F	66°F 41°F	59°F 35°F	67°F 39°F	71°F 48°F	75°F 50°F	75°F 58°F
NNE 16 MPH Precip 80%	SSW 14 MPH	N 23 MPH	WSW 10 MPH	SE 13 MPH	SSE 16 MPH	SSE 15 MPH

Cool with Showers Today

Today	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			
Highs: 46-57 F	Lows: 30-33 F Highs: 62-68 F	Lows: 39-42 F Highs: 57-61 F	Lows: 34-38 F Highs: 66-72 F

Showers will affect much of the area today with amounts ranging from a few hundredths across the far east to over a half inch for areas along the Missouri River. It will be cool with highs in the mid 40s to the mid 50s.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 6 of 36

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 70.9 F at 3:23 PM

Low Outside Temp: 36.8 F at 5:23 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 9:07 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1962

Record Low: 17° in 1956

Average High: 62°F

Average Low: 35°F

Average Precip in April: 1.34

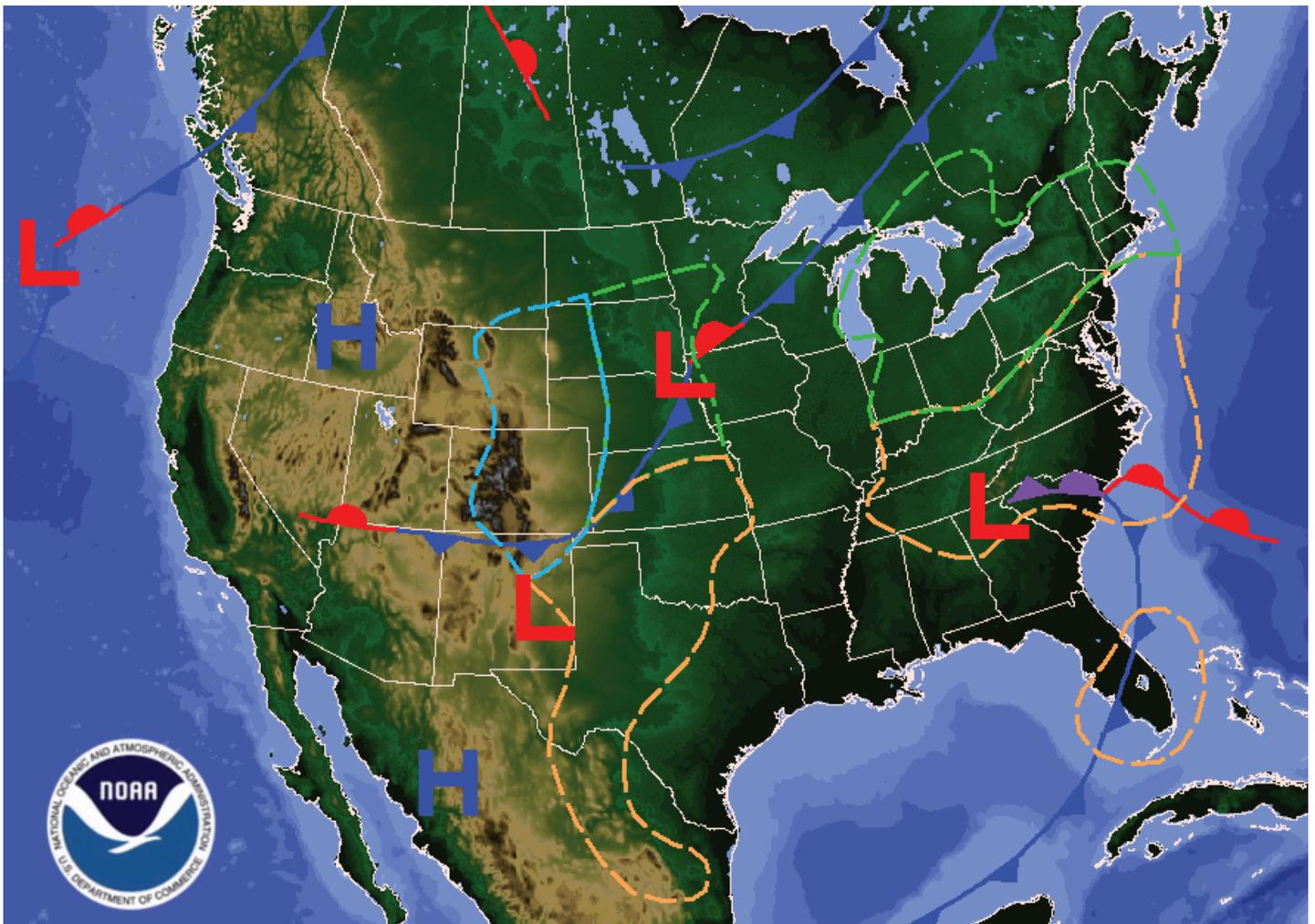
Precip to date in April: 0.61

Average Precip to date: 3.52

Precip Year to Date: 2.68

Sunset Tonight: 8:31 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:31 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Apr 24, 2018, issued 4:50 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds 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

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 7 of 36



THE SONGS OF BIRDS

Ornithologists claim that there are over 9,000 birds that live throughout the world. Some make their homes in places that are covered by ice the entire year. Others make their homes in hot and arid places. Many live on the land, but some actually live on the water.

The largest bird is the male African ostrich. It may grow eight feet tall and weigh three hundred pounds. The smallest bird is the Cuban fairy hummingbird. It is about two inches long and weighs about one-tenth of an ounce.

The fastest fliers are the common swifts of Europe. They can fly as fast as two hundred miles an hour. But the highest flyers are the geese. They are known to have the strength and ability to fly higher than twenty-nine thousand feet.

The graceful flight of birds, their sweet songs, and beautiful colors have inspired artists, musicians, and poets. The Psalmist wrote, "The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches."

Each kind of singing bird has its special song. However, we know that sparrows can sing as many as twenty variations of the same song! They, like every other bird, are God-fashioned and "God-tuned." No other bird has such God-given skills.

Just as God has planted songs in the heart of every bird, He has also planted songs in the heart of every Christian: songs of peace and pardon and joy. With His songs in our hearts let us sing His praises!

Prayer: We ask, Father, that "songs of salvation" will rise from our hearts as we enjoy the gifts of Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 104:12 The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 8 of 36

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

News from the Associated Press

Judge asked to reject pipeline protester's evidence request

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The government is asking a federal judge to reject a request for evidence to be returned to a New York City woman who suffered a serious arm injury in an explosion while protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota.

Prosecutors contend authorities properly obtained the shrapnel and clothing from Sophia Wilansky while she was hospitalized in Minnesota following her November 2016 injury. They also said the evidence could be key to a criminal investigation into a violent clash between demonstrators and police that's become the emblematic skirmish of the protest.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline began carrying North Dakota oil to Illinois last June, though American Indian tribes who fear environmental harm are still fighting in court. On-the-ground demonstrations in 2016 and 2017 resulted in 761 arrests in a six-month span.

Wilansky was hurt in a clash that began when protesters tried to push past a blocked highway bridge near their main encampment but were turned back by authorities using tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays. Police said protesters threw objects including rocks, asphalt and water bottles.

Authorities maintain the explosion that injured Wilansky was caused by a propane canister that demonstrators rigged to explode. Protesters contend the blast was caused by a concussion grenade thrown by officers.

Wilansky, who has undergone several surgeries, sued the FBI and other federal agencies in February in U.S. District Court in Minnesota, seeking the return of the evidence or the opportunity to have the items analyzed by a forensic scientist she hired. She hopes it will bolster a civil rights lawsuit she plans to file against law enforcement seeking money damages.

In his response filed with the court, Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Baune said the seizures were legally done and the items are evidence in a grand jury investigation into the altercation.

"Allowing one person's expert to access and manipulate physical evidence could be problematic if others are charged because those other potential defendants could assert that the evidence was contaminated or otherwise compromised," Baune wrote.

U.S. District Judge Wilhelmina Wright scheduled a May 24 hearing on the evidence dispute. Meanwhile, U.S. Magistrate Judge Tony Leung is allowing North Dakota's Morton County, where the protests occurred, to intervene because it might have a stake in the outcome.

Morton County is among the defendants in a class-action lawsuit filed by pipeline opponents who are seeking money damages for alleged police brutality and civil rights violations in the November 2016 confrontation.

The case was delayed most of last year while the group unsuccessfully appealed Judge Daniel Hovland's refusal to bar police from using tactics such as chemical agents and water sprays.

With the appeal resolved, Hovland in January ruled the case could move forward. The defendants renewed their claims in late February, and the defendants earlier this month renewed their request that the case to be dismissed.

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

Inmate sentenced for throwing boiling water at officers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An inmate at the South Dakota state prison has been sentenced for throwing boiling water onto two correctional officers.

The state attorney general's office says 25-year-old Wade Myers Standing Bear Jr. was sentenced on

Monday for simple assault against a law enforcement officer.

Standing Bear already was serving a 25-year sentence with 10 years suspended for a burglary charge from 2014.

The Argus Leader reports the assault took place in April 2017. For the assault charge, Standing Bear received another 25-year sentence with 10 years suspended, which will run consecutive to his burglary sentence.

South Dakota county questioned for private meetings

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Some western South Dakota residents are questioning a county commission's practice of holding discussions behind closed doors.

More than 60 percent of Pennington County Board of Commissioners discussions have been held in private executive sessions since 2016, the Rapid City Journal reported .

State law protects certain topics for executive sessions, such as personnel matters, awarding contracts and ongoing litigation. But the sessions have raised questions about whether elected officials are having discussions that should be public.

Commissioners Lloyd LaCroix, Deb Hadcock and Ron Buskerud said the executive sessions are necessary to handle employee turnover, legal issues, and property deals and construction.

"Most of them are contractual and personnel, hiring, that type of thing," LaCroix said. "Nothing out of line, I would think."

Hadcock cited the growing number of county employees, estimating that there are currently almost 600. There were about 350 employees when Hadcock started, he said.

"With that many more, you have more personnel matters," he said.

The 60 percent figure is high but could be due to increased personnel or legal issues, said Dave Bordewyk, an expert on the state's open meetings law.

Commissioners have also been criticized for placing executive sessions on the board's agenda regardless of whether it's necessary.

Board Manager Holli Hennies said she started putting an executive session as a placeholder after spending considerable time and resources amending the session onto the agenda.

"For ease of efficient government I just put that on every single agenda," Hennies said. "Then we would make a note in the minutes to say it wasn't needed or it wasn't necessary, but if we did need it we would list the reason why."

Bordewyk said such a decision "lends itself toward making it much easier to put things into executive session whether they need to or not."

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

Body of missing woman recovered from Missouri River

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The body of a Sioux Falls woman missing since Easter has been recovered from the Missouri River near Yankton.

The Yankton County Sheriff's Office says the body of 66-year-old Diane Bartling was found in the river approximately six miles east of Yankton Sunday afternoon. Her identity was confirmed Monday.

Bartling was last seen Sunday, April 1. The search moved to Yankton after Bartling's car and personal effects were discovered near the Meridian Bridge two days later.

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Yankton County Coroner's Office, Yankton County Sheriff's Office and Yankton Police helped with the recovery.

Man accused of raping injured teenage girl pleads guilty

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of raping a 15-year-old girl on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation after she had been run over by a vehicle has pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor.

The Rapid City Journal reports 29-year-old Bishop Cottier reached a plea deal with prosecutors, and court documents show he entered his plea Friday. He faces up to 15 years in prison.

Authorities say the girl had been drinking at a party in April 2014 when she was dragged and run over by a vehicle driven by friends. They say Cottier later assaulted her at his home while her hands were restrained.

He and another man then took the girl to a hospital, where she reported the assault while being treated for her injuries.

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

Business and pleasure on menu for Macron's second day in US

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sit-down between President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron followed by a joint news conference highlight the business portion of the French leader's second day in Washington.

The pageantry of Macron's official state visit, the first of the Trump presidency, comes Tuesday night with a lavish state dinner at the White House. About 150 guests are expected to dine on rack of lamb and nectarine tart and enjoy an after-dinner performance by the Washington National Opera.

Monday night was more relaxed, featuring a helicopter tour of Washington landmarks and a trip to the Potomac River home of George Washington with their wives for dinner. The presidents and their spouses hopped on a helicopter bound for Mount Vernon, Washington's historic riverside home, for a private dinner one night before the leaders sit down for talks on a weighty agenda including security, trade and the Iran nuclear deal.

"This is a great honor and I think a very important state visit given the moment of our current environment," Macron said Monday after his plane landed at a U.S. military base near Washington.

Macron's pomp-filled three-day state visit to Washington underscores the importance that both sides attach to the relationship: Macron, who calls Trump often, has emerged as something of a "Trump whisperer" at a time when the American president's relationships with other European leaders are more strained. Trump, who attaches great importance to the optics of pageantry and ceremony, chose to honor Macron with the first state visit of his administration as he woos the French president.

For all their camaraderie, Macron and Trump disagree on some fundamental issues, including the multinational nuclear deal, which is aimed at restricting Iran's development of nuclear weapons. Trump, skeptical of the pact's effectiveness, has been eager to pull out as a May 12 deadline nears. Macron says he is not satisfied with the situation in Iran and thinks the agreement is imperfect, but he has argued for the U.S. sticking with the deal on the grounds that there is not yet a "Plan B."

The Trumps and Macrons helped plant a tree on the White House grounds together before boarding Trump's Marine One helicopter for a scenic tour of monuments built in the capital city designed by French-born Pierre L'Enfant as they flew south to Mount Vernon, the first U.S. president's home along the Potomac River.

The young oak is an environmentally friendly gift to the White House from Macron, and one that also bears historical significance. It sprouted at a World War I site in France, the Battle of Belleau Wood, that became part of U.S. Marine Corps lore.

After Trump's helicopter landed at Mount Vernon, the two presidents, each holding his wife's hand, walked a short distance and posed for pictures before they boarded golf carts that ferried them to the front door of Washington's plantation house. The couples were led on a brief outdoor tour before they entered the pale yellow building for dinner of Dover sole, pasta stuffed with lemon ricotta, and chocolate soufflé and cherry vanilla ice cream.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 12 of 36

Trump declared the dinner "really fantastic" before returning to the White House.

He ended his first year in office without receiving a foreign leader on a state visit, the first president in nearly 100 years to fail to do so. He was Macron's guest last July at the annual Bastille Day military parade in the center of Paris. Macron and his wife also took Trump and America's first lady on a tour of Napoleon's tomb and whisked them up in the Eiffel Tower for dinner overlooking the City of Light.

Macron will be welcomed back to the White House on Tuesday with a traditional arrival ceremony featuring nearly 500 members of the U.S. military and a booming 21-gun salute. The state visit also offers Macron his first Oval Office sit-down with Trump and a joint White House news conference. There's also a State Department lunch hosted by Vice President Mike Pence.

The French president's White House day will be capped Tuesday night with a state dinner, the highest social tribute a president bestows on an ally and partner.

Melania Trump played an active role in every detail of the visit, said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The first lady settled on a state dinner menu of rack of lamb and nectarine tart, along with after-dinner entertainment provided by the Washington National Opera for about 150 guests. On Monday, she released details of the glitzy affair being planned to dazzle Macron and his wife, Brigitte.

Dinner will be served in the State Dining Room, which will feature more than 2,500 stems of white sweet pea flowers and nearly 1,000 stems of white lilac. Separately, more than 1,200 branches of cherry blossoms will adorn the majestic Cross Hall.

The first lady opted for a cream-and-gold color scheme, and will use a mix of china services from the presidencies of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

State dinner tickets are highly sought after by Washington's political and business elite. A few of those expected to attend: Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund and a former top French government official; House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.; Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and his wife, Louise Linton; Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., and Mike Pompeo, Trump's choice to be the next secretary of state.

In a break with tradition, Trump has invited no congressional Democrats or journalists, said a White House official who was not authorized to discuss the arrangements publicly. But some Democrats did make the cut, including Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, whose office confirmed his attendance.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

A tale of 2 bats, and Babe Ruth's 60th home run in 1927

By VIN A. CHERWOO, AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As part of its collection of Babe Ruth items, the Baseball Hall of Fame says it has the bat the slugger used to hit his then-record 60th home run in 1927.

A private collector also claims to own the bat, and he's selling it at auction. PSA/DNA, one of the leading sports memorabilia authenticators, supports his assertion.

The dispute dates back more than 90 years to the original owner of each bat and how he professed to acquire it.

The bat being sold by the anonymous collector can be traced back to Joe E. Brown, the entertainer and vaudeville comedian with whom Ruth had a friendship. Brown said Ruth, who had presented him with the bat the slugger used to hit three home runs in the 1926 World Series, personally gave him the bat used to hit his 60th homer in 1927. The bat is signed, "To Joe E. Brown From Babe Ruth."

Brown then passed the bat down to his son Joe L. Brown, who was general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955-76. The younger Brown then sold the bat to a collector.

"There is documentation back to (Joe L.) Brown's ownership and his talking about the bat that goes back to a sports writers' luncheon in 1948," PSA authenticator Jon Taube told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "Even before that the bat is mentioned from his collection in a 1939 baseball centennial

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 13 of 36

celebration. ... We also have a letter that continues the story from his grandson Ty Brown that talks about the bat coming out at Christmas time."

The bat in the Hall of Fame was given to the museum by sports writer James Kahn in 1939, and Kahn was quoted in the Otsego Farmer — a newspaper in Cooperstown, where the Hall of Fame is located — as saying at the time that then-Yankees manager Miller Huggins gave him the bat after the game on Sept. 30, 1927.

Taube, who has done extensive research on Ruth's bats, doesn't dispute Kahn was given a bat after that game, but he doesn't believe it was the one used for the record-breaking homer.

"It's very unlikely that on Sept. 30, Miller Huggins comes down into the locker room and says, 'Babe, give me the bat that you broke the record with' and then he hands it to a beat writer," Taube said. "And we just think it was very unlikely Huggins came out of the dugout and handed him THE bat. He handed him a bat, there's no question about that. Was it the bat that hit the 60th home run? I doubt that very highly."

Another complicating part of Kahn's story is that he changed the details. Challenged by Brown at the luncheon, Kahn then said he got the bat from Ruth.

"The relationship (Ruth) had with Joe Brown, and the fact he had already gifted him with the 1926 World Series bat," Taube said, "and especially that the season wasn't over yet when Kahn says Miller Huggins and/or Ruth gave him the bat — we just don't see that happening."

The Hall of Fame reiterated it is confident the bat in its possession is the one Ruth used to hit the historic homer.

"The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is dedicated to preserving baseball's history," Jon Shestakofsky, the Hall's vice president of communications and education, said in an email to The Associated Press. "One of the institution's primary responsibilities is to ensure that artifacts in our collection are portrayed accurately. When research shows that an object is incorrectly labeled, or when we have been presented with evidence that proves an artifact is misattributed, we resolve the matter appropriately and with transparency."

"The Hall of Fame remains very comfortable with the sound provenance and authenticity of the bat in our collection. The Museum's stance on the bat has not changed since it was accessioned in 1939. Given the lack of proof to the contrary, we will continue to maintain that the bat in our collection is the one Babe Ruth used to hit his 60th home run of 1927."

Taube said he was not aware of any other instance where there were multiple claims of such a high-profile item. He also wanted to make it clear he wasn't trying to challenge the Hall of Fame.

"I respect them. It's a baseball shrine," he said. "You have to understand, during the day, there was no provenance. Many of the items that were given to the Hall were presented as, 'Here's the bat that did this, here's the glove' and there was no follow-up."

"Nobody is perfect."

Bidding on the bat being sold by the anonymous collector through Heritage Auctions runs through May 18. In full disclosure for potential buyers, the story of the existence of the bat in the Hall of Fame is detailed on the item's listing.

Follow Vin Cherwoo at www.twitter.com/VinACherwoo

Spokesman: George HW Bush is eager to get well, go to Maine

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush has been hospitalized in Houston with an infection, just after attending the funeral of his wife, Barbara, a spokesman said.

Jim McGrath said Monday on Twitter that the 93-year-old Bush is "responding to treatments and appears to be recovering." He was admitted Sunday morning to Houston Methodist Hospital after an infection spread to his blood, McGrath said.

Barbara Bush was laid to rest Saturday in a ceremony attended by her husband and former presidents

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 14 of 36

Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, George W. Bush and their wives, along with current first lady Melania Trump. Mrs. Bush was 92, and she and her husband had been married 73 years — the longest presidential marriage in U.S. history.

George H.W. Bush uses a wheelchair and an electric scooter for mobility after developing a form of Parkinson's disease, and he has needed hospital treatment several times in recent years for respiratory problems.

He attended the funeral wearing a pair of knitted socks decorated in blue, red and yellow books — a tribute to his late wife's work promoting literacy.

McGrath wouldn't elaborate Monday night on the specifics of Bush's condition, saying additional updates would be issued "as events warrant." But he said the 41st president was eager to get well so he can get to his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

"He's the most goal-oriented person on this planet," McGrath said.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush indicated during his eulogy Saturday that his father had been hospitalized recently at the same time Barbara Bush was in the hospital for the last time. Those hospitalizations were not publicly disclosed at the time.

"I think Dad got sick on purpose so that he could be with her," Jeb Bush said.

First lady Melania Trump tweeted Monday evening that she was sending "healing thoughts of strength, along with prayers, for President George HW Bush tonight."

On Friday, during the public viewing of Barbara Bush's casket, George H.W. Bush offered his hand to many of the around 2,500 people who walked through the church to pay their respects.

A year ago this month, he spent two weeks in the hospital for treatment of pneumonia and chronic bronchitis, a constant irritation of the lining of tubes that carry air to one's lungs. His doctors said chronic bronchitis is a condition more prevalent with age and can aggravate the symptoms of pneumonia.

The elder Bush was hospitalized for 16 days in January 2017 for pneumonia. During that hospital stay, which included time in intensive care, doctors inserted a breathing tube and connected him to a ventilator.

He also was hospitalized in 2015 in Maine after falling at home and breaking a bone in his neck, and in December 2014 for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

People in their 90s with Parkinson's disease are often at higher risk of pneumonia and other infections because their swallowing process can be compromised, said Dr. David Reuben, professor of geriatric medicine at the UCLA medical school in Los Angeles.

"And the stress of losing a loved one can weaken the immune system," he said.

Bacterial infections are treated with antibiotics, he said, while viral infections require other treatments. Infections that spread to the blood usually are not viral, however, he said.

The prognosis for such a case would depend on a number of factors, including heart rate, blood pressure and oxygenation, Reuben said.

"The more of these parameters are abnormal, the more serious the case is," he said.

George Herbert Walker Bush served as president from 1989 to 1993. Born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, Bush also served as a congressman, CIA director and Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Associated Press reporter Terry Wallace contributed to this story from Dallas.

Motive elusive after van driver kills 10 on Toronto sidewalk

By CHARMAINE NORONHA, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Police in Canada's biggest city are piecing together witness accounts and surveillance video trying to determine why a driver plowed a rented van along a crowded sidewalk, killing 10 people and injuring 15 in what many said seemed a deliberate attack.

A 25-year-old suspect was quickly captured in a tense but brief confrontation with officers a few blocks away from where his van jumped the sidewalk Monday and continued for a mile, leaving people bloodied

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 15 of 36

and dead in his wake. But authorities so far had not disclosed a possible motive or cause even as the police chief agreed with witnesses that it seemed intentional.

"The incident definitely looked deliberate," Police Chief Mark Saunders told reporters at a late-night news conference.

Saunders said the suspect, Alek Minassian, who lives in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill, had not been known to police previously. An online social media profile described him as a college student.

Officials would not comment on a possible motive except to play down a possible connection to terrorism, a thought that occurred to many following a series of attacks involving trucks and pedestrians in Europe and the presence in Toronto this week of Cabinet ministers from the G7 nations.

Asked if there was any evidence of a terrorist link, the chief said only, "Based on what we have there's nothing that has it to compromise the national security at this time."

A senior national government official said earlier that authorities had not turned over the investigation to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a sign that investigators believed it was unlikely that terrorism was the motive. The official agreed to reveal that information only if not quoted by name.

Authorities released few details in the case, saying the investigation was still underway, with witnesses being interviewed and surveillance video being examined.

"I can assure the public all our available resources have been brought in to investigate this tragic situation," Toronto Police Services Deputy Chief Peter Yuen said earlier.

Police said the suspect was scheduled to appear in court at 10 a.m. Tuesday, and that information on the charges against him would be released at that time.

The incident occurred as Cabinet ministers from the major industrial countries were gathered in Canada to discuss a range of international issues in the run-up to the G7 meeting near Quebec City in June. Canadian Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale called the incident a "horrific attack" and said the G7 foreign ministers extended their condolences.

The driver was heading south on busy Yonge Street around 1:30 p.m. and the streets were crowded with people enjoying an unseasonably warm day when the van jumped onto the sidewalk.

Ali Shaker, who was driving near the van at the time, told Canadian broadcast outlet CP24 that the driver appeared to be moving deliberately through the crowd at more than 30 mph.

"He just went on the sidewalk," a distraught Shaker said. "He just started hitting everybody, man. He hit every single person on the sidewalk. Anybody in his way he would hit."

Witness Peter Kang told CTV News that the driver did not seem to make any effort to stop.

"If it was an accident he would have stopped," Kang said. "But the person just went through the sidewalk. He could have stopped."

Video broadcast on several Canadian outlets showed police arresting the driver, dressed in dark clothes, after officers surrounded him and his rental Ryder van several blocks from where the incident occurred in the North York neighborhood of northern Toronto. He appeared to make some sort of gesture at the police with an object in his hand just before they ordered him to lie down on the ground and took him away.

Witness Phil Zullo told Canadian Press that he saw police arresting the suspect and people "strewn all over the road" where the incident occurred.

"I must have seen about five, six people being resuscitated by bystanders and by ambulance drivers," Zullo said. "It was awful. Brutal."

Police shut down the Yonge and Finch intersection following the incident and Toronto's transit agency said it had suspended service on the subway line running through the area.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his sympathies for those involved.

"We should all feel safe walking in our cities and communities," he said. "We are monitoring this situation closely, and will continue working with our law enforcement partners around the country to ensure the safety and security of all Canadians."

Associated Press writers Ben Fox in Miami and Rob Gillies in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, contributed to this report.

Mitchell scores 33, Jazz rout Thunder 113-96

By JOHN COON, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Shutting down the Utah Jazz offense is proving easier said than done for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

For a second straight game, a late second-quarter surge by Utah carried over into the second half and it allowed the Jazz to pull away for a 113-96 victory Monday night. The Jazz used a 20-3 run spanning the end of the second quarter and the start of the third to break open the game.

Utah takes a 3-1 series lead back to Oklahoma City. Game 5 in the best-of-seven playoff is Wednesday night.

Donovan Mitchell had 33 points and seven rebounds to lead the Jazz to their third straight win in the series. Joe Ingles added 20 points, hitting five 3-pointers.

Mitchell's willingness to attack the rim put the Thunder on their heels throughout the second half.

"He's done a good job of getting in there and finishing or dropping it off," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "It's an important part of what we do. He's our most dynamic offensive player."

Rudy Gobert added 16 points and 10 rebounds. Ricky Rubio chipped in 13 points, eight assists and six boards. Derrick Favors also scored 13.

Paul George had 32 points and Russell Westbrook added 23 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Thunder, who shot 39 percent from the field.

"I thought we played downhill a lot more," coach Billy Donovan said. "I thought we were at the rim a lot more. From there, we probably missed some opportunities to move the ball. I thought our ball movement was sporadic and sometimes it was very good."

The Thunder opened a 26-19 lead late in the first quarter when Carmelo Anthony capped a string of three straight Oklahoma City baskets with an alley-oop layup. They held onto the lead for much of the second quarter until Utah finally woke up on offense.

Starting with Gobert cutting to the rim for a dunk with 3:45 left in the second quarter, the Jazz scored on 11 straight possessions. Ingles fueled the surge by hitting three consecutive 3s to put Utah in front 58-52 before halftime.

"These guys are great at telling me to shoot it as much as possible within the flow of our team and our offense," Ingles said.

The surge Ingles kept going finally culminated in another dunk by Gobert that punctuated the decisive 20-3 run that gave Utah a 67-52 lead.

"The whole year, one of the things that we've wanted to do collectively is try to generate open shots," Snyder said. "You're not always going to make them, but you want to keep taking them. Eventually, you're going to make some. We hit some timely ones in the second half."

The Jazz led by as many as 21 in the third quarter. Utah went up 87-68 when Mitchell drained a jumper and then fed Ingles for a 3-pointer on the ensuing possession.

Physical play and heated emotions characterized the game. Both teams picked up two technical fouls before halftime. Jae Crowder was ejected after a technical foul with 5:30 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"That's just what you're going to get with a playoff team," George said. "It's playoff basketball. It's going to get chippy. It's going to get physical. We're in it for the fight."

TIP-INS

Thunder: Westbrook finished with his fourth consecutive double-double in the series. ... Anthony went just 5 of 18 from the field. ... Oklahoma City totaled one assist in the third quarter and finished with 10 for the game. ... The Thunder shot 5 of 26 from 3-point range.

Jazz: Ingles is 10 of 21 from 3-point range over his last two games. ... Utah forced 15 turnovers. ... Royce O' Neale finished with a career playoff-high nine rebounds. ... Rubio is averaging eight assists per game in the series.

WESTBROOK VS. RUBIO

Westbrook publicly promised to shut down Rubio in Game 4 after the Jazz point guard notched a triple-double in Game 3. His aggressiveness ended up with Westbrook drawing four personal fouls in the first half. In the end, Rubio shot just 4 of 12 from the field, but he finished with two fewer assists (eight) than the Thunder tallied as a team.

Following the game, Westbrook did not want to discuss how he guarded Rubio.

"It wasn't about me or him," he said. "Let's get past that. We done with that."

RECORD SETTER

Mitchell set a postseason rookie scoring record for the Jazz, passing Karl Malone, who had 31 points on April 20, 1986, against the Mavericks. Mitchell is the first rookie to have a 30-point playoff game since Brandon Jennings did it in 2010. Mitchell is just the third rookie in the last 50 years to score 110-plus points in his first four playoff games, joining Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Michael Jordan.

"It's definitely an honor to have a record like that," Mitchell said. "Definitely an honor. No doubt about that, but we have one more game, so I'm focused on that."

For more AP NBA coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

Car theft solved too late to prevent Waffle House tragedy

By SHEILA BURKE, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — After Travis Reinking allegedly stole a BMW from a Nashville area car dealer last week, police say they found it outside the apartment where he lived.

Authorities recovered the car but didn't figure out who had stolen it until too late.

By then, police say, the 29-year-old with a troubled past had shot four people to death early Sunday in a Waffle House restaurant not far from where he lived in Nashville. If not for the efforts of a patron who wrestled the gun away, many more would have died.

Reinking escaped on foot, shedding the only item of clothing he was wearing, a green jacket. He was found and taken into custody in some woods near the apartments Monday, more than 24 hours later. By then police had searched his apartment, where they say they found the key fob to the stolen BMW.

His arrest ended a manhunt that involved more than 160 law enforcement officers. But it left troubling unanswered questions about his behavior before the shooting — and what could have led to the carnage he is said to have unleashed at the Waffle House.

Construction workers told officers Monday that a person matching Reinking's description walked into the woods near a construction site, Metro Nashville Police Department Lt. Carlos Lara told reporters. A detective spotted Reinking, who lay down on the ground to be handcuffed when confronted, Lara said. Reinking carried a black backpack with a silver semi-automatic weapon and .45-caliber ammunition.

Police spokesman Don Aaron said Reinking requested a lawyer and was taken to a hospital before being booked on four counts of criminal homicide.

Police said Reinking opened fire in the restaurant parking lot before storming the inside, which contained about 20 people. Four people — three black and one Hispanic — were killed and four others injured before a customer wrestled the weapon away and Reinking, who is white, ran out, police said.

Reinking had not yet been connected to the stolen BMW. But authorities in Illinois and Colorado shared past reports suggesting multiple red flags about a disturbed man with paranoid delusions.

In May 2016, Reinking told deputies from Tazewell County, Illinois, that music superstar Taylor Swift was stalking him and hacking his phone.

Reinking agreed to go to a local hospital for an evaluation after repeatedly resisting the request, the sheriff's report said.

He would make a similar claim about Swift in Salida, Colorado, nearly a year later, in March 2017, authorities there said.

Another Illinois sheriff's report said Reinking barged into a community pool in Tremont last June and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 18 of 36

jumped into the water wearing a pink woman's coat over his underwear. Investigators believed he had an AR-15 rifle in his car trunk, but it was never displayed. No charges were filed.

Last July, Reinking was arrested by the U.S. Secret Service after he entered a restricted area near the White House and refused to leave, saying he wanted to meet President Donald Trump. Reinking was not armed, but at the FBI's request, Illinois police revoked his state firearms card and seized four guns from him, authorities said.

The AR-15 used in the shootings was among those seized.

In August, Reinking told police he wanted to file a report about 20 to 30 people tapping into his computer and phone and people "barking like dogs" outside his residence, according to a report.

"There's certainly evidence that there's some sort of mental health issues involved," Tazewell County Sheriff Robert Huston said. But he said deputies returned the guns to Reinking's father on the promise he would "keep the weapons secure and out of the possession of Travis."

Reinking's father "has now acknowledged giving them back" to his son, Aaron said.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives special Agent Marcus Watson said Monday that his father's action is "potentially a violation of federal law."

Phone calls to a number listed for the father, Jeffrey Reinking, went unanswered.

It is not clear why Reinking moved recently from Morton, Illinois, and if it had anything to do with being near Swift. She has a home in Nashville, though it is not her only residence. Police say he worked in construction for a while.

Reinking drove to the Waffle House parking lot early Sunday and sat there for about four minutes before opening fire, police say.

The victims fatally shot in the parking lot have been identified as Taurean Sanderlin, 29, of Goodlettsville, and Joe Perez, 20, of Nashville. Sanderlin was an employee at the restaurant.

DeEbony Groves, 21, a student at Nashville's Belmont University; and Akilah Dasilva, 23, a rap artist and music video producer, were killed inside the restaurant.

Restaurant customer James Shaw Jr., 29, burned his hand grabbing the hot muzzle of the assault weapon as he wrestled the gun away from Reinking. A Nashville native who works as a wireless technician for AT&T, Shaw called it "a selfish act," but he was hailed as a hero by Nashville Mayor David Briley and others.

Associated Press writers John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia; Ed White in Detroit; and Justin Pritchard in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Opioid treatment gap in Medicare: methadone clinics

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

One in three older Americans with Medicare drug coverage is prescribed opioid painkillers, but for those who develop a dangerous addiction there is one treatment Medicare won't cover: methadone.

Methadone is the oldest, and experts say, the most effective of the three approved medications used to treat opioid addiction. It eases cravings without an intense high, allowing patients to work with counselors to rebuild their lives.

Federal money is flowing to states to open new methadone clinics through the 21st Century Cures Act, but despite the nation's deepening opioid crisis, the Medicare drug program for the elderly covers methadone only when prescribed for pain.

Joseph Purvis, a former heroin and prescription painkiller user, said he went into a depressive tailspin because he initially feared he might have to stop methadone treatment when he went on Medicare at 65.

"I was terrified that I might have to leave the program. There's no way I wanted to go back to addiction on the streets," said Purvis, 66, of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Methadone doesn't meet the requirement of Medicare's Part D drug program because it can't be dispensed in a retail pharmacy.

Instead, in the highly regulated methadone system, patients first are assessed by a doctor, then show up

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 19 of 36

daily at federally certified methadone clinics to take their doses of the pink liquid. Or, like Purvis in Maryland, they prove through repeated urine screens that they have earned the right to weekly take-home doses.

In Congress, a Senate panel looking for ways to counter the opioid epidemic is considering allowing Medicare to cover methadone treatment. Legislation has been introduced in the House, and a White House commission on the opioid epidemic also recommended the change.

The epidemic is "affecting all populations, including our seniors," said Rep. George Holding, R-North Carolina, a sponsor of the House bill. "Medicare beneficiaries have among the highest and fastest growing rate of opioid use disorder, but they don't currently have coverage for the most effective treatment."

An estimated 300,000 Medicare patients have been diagnosed with opioid addiction, and health officials estimate nearly 90,000 are at high risk for opioid misuse or overdose.

Buprenorphine, a more expensive and slightly less regulated treatment drug, is covered by Medicare but few doctors who accept new Medicare patients have obtained federal waivers to prescribe it. A recent study of Medicare claims found prescriptions for buprenorphine for only 81,000 patients.

More evidence that the crisis affects seniors: Opioid overdoses killed 1,354 Americans ages 65 and older in 2016, about 3 percent of the 42,000 opioid overdoses that year.

Medicare's policy means clinics often scramble to keep older patients in treatment if they've had commercial insurance that covered their care before turning 65, said counselor Angela Caldwell of Montgomery Recovery Services in Rockville, Maryland.

A national organization for methadone clinics says the clinics now have 25,000 Medicare beneficiaries who are either paying out of pocket (about \$80 per week) or getting care through state-run Medicaid or block grant programs.

Mark Parrino, president of the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, thinks more people would seek methadone treatment if Medicare covered it.

Many older patients rely on surprisingly high doses of opioids for pain relief, which can turn into addiction, said Dr. Anna Lembke, an addiction specialist at Stanford University School of Medicine.

One of her addiction patients, a woman in her mid-70s, was referred to her because her daily dose of opioids had climbed over the years to many times more potent than that of a typical heroin user, Lembke said.

"She's had a gradual development of tolerance over many decades and now is on an astronomical dose," Lembke said. "If you took any random person and gave them (that much) they would die."

Lembke said she normally wouldn't consider methadone for this patient because of the stigma associated with the clinics. But Medicare coverage might make them more acceptable, Lembke said, and her patient "might actually do better with methadone."

In Maryland, Purvis remained on methadone treatment because his income is low enough that he qualifies for the state-federal Medicaid insurance coverage for the poor and disabled. Medicaid covers methadone treatment in Maryland and about 35 other states.

Purvis, who used heroin for more than a decade in his youth, later took opioids prescribed by specialists for back pain. After his pain doctor's office was shut down for overprescribing, he started methadone treatment.

"Some people think of methadone as a crutch for addiction but it's not," Purvis said. "It's a tool that allows people to live a somewhat normal life."

AP writer Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter: @CarlaKJohnson

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Senators considering a delay for VA confirmation hearing

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators were discussing plans to delay the confirmation hearing for President Donald Trump's pick to be Veteran Affairs secretary over growing questions about the nominee's ability to manage the government's second-largest department.

The hearing for Ronny Jackson, Trump's White House doctor and a Navy rear admiral, was scheduled for Wednesday.

"Some Republican colleagues have told me that they think the hearing should be postponed, which certainly deserves consideration," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

"I think there may well be a need for more time, in fairness to Admiral Jackson, so he and the administration have an opportunity to answer these questions fully and fairly," he said.

Blumenthal declined to discuss why more time might be needed.

White House and VA officials were also discussing a delay with key allies outside the administration

A spokeswoman for Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., the committee's chairman, did not return requests for comment.

Trump selected Jackson to head the VA last month after firing former Obama administration official David Shulkin following an ethics scandal and mounting rebellion within the agency. But Jackson has since faced numerous questions from Republican and Democratic lawmakers as well as veterans groups about whether he has the experience to manage the massive department of 360,000 employees serving 9 million veterans.

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., and a committee member, said Jackson's small staff at the White House will be an issue as he prepares to lead the VA.

"We've got 360,000 people there," he said. "Are they going to manage the secretary or is the secretary going to manage the VA? That's a good question to ask, and he needs to answer it. He needs to be the leader. A lot of folks want to be led and managed."

Rounds said the committee still needs more paperwork from the White House on Jackson before the nomination can go forward.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro and Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

Michigan State kept ties to coach accused of sexual abuse

By MICHAEL TARM, AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Michigan State University, already reeling from the scandal involving a gymnastics doctor who molested young athletes, has maintained ties to a prominent volleyball coach for decades after he was publicly accused in 1995 of sexually abusing and raping six underage girls he trained in the 1980s.

Letters obtained by The Associated Press from advocates for the accusers reveal the school has been under pressure for at least a year to sever its relationship with Rick Butler. He runs training facilities in suburban Chicago that for decades have been a pipeline for top volleyball recruits, including Michigan State. MSU also held exhibition games for successive years at his facilities, at least through 2014, according to online records.

Butler's accusers say Butler threatened to use his national influence to thwart their college prospects if they didn't accept his advances.

Questions about ties to Butler add to the scrutiny of Michigan State that began when Dr. Larry Nassar was charged in 2016 with abusing scores of gymnasts over 20 years while he had an office on campus. A former dean, William Strampel, was recently charged with failing to protect patients from Nassar and with sexually harassing female students.

Unlike Nassar, who will spend the rest of his life in prison, the 63-year-old Butler has never been crimi-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 21 of 36

nally charged and has denied sexually abusing anyone. The conduct in question occurred more than 30 years ago and was already beyond the statute of limitations for prosecution when the first three accusers came forward in 1995. Three others came forward more recently.

One of the initial accusers, Sarah Powers-Barnhard, said Butler molested her hundreds of times over two years starting when she was 16 and he was around 30. She says he raped her at his home, in cars and even in a train-car bathroom as her teammates sat nearby.

Michigan State has "turned a blind eye" to Butler's sordid history, she said.

"If we don't stop supporting the top abuser in volleyball, how can we ever claim zero tolerance for sexual abuse?" she said from her Jacksonville, Florida, home.

In a short Monday statement responding to AP questions about Butler's connections to Michigan State and its head women's volleyball coach, MSU said Butler is currently "not affiliated with MSU in any way." The university, it added, "is not actively recruiting players from his program at this time."

But the eight-sentence statement did not address other questions put to it by the AP, including how long the school has been aware of the allegations, when any affiliation with Butler might have ended or why MSU had ties to him for so long after he was publicly accused of sexual abuse and rape.

In a 1995 report, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services found no evidence to support Butler's contention that the three athletes were lying.

Butler acknowledged during a 1995 hearing held by USA Volleyball, the sport's national governing body, that he had sex with the three. He insisted it was after they turned 18 and was consensual. He has described the allegations as a "smear campaign."

USA Volleyball in December banned Butler from its events for life, and the Amateur Athletic Union stripped him of his membership early this year. Those groups acted under pressure from some of the same activists now pressing Michigan State about Butler.

Many college coaches are reluctant to criticize the onetime Olympic team trainer. That's true, in part, because he consistently produces stellar recruits via his flagship company, Sports Performance Volleyball, and his 12-court Great Lakes Center. Both of them are in Aurora, west of Chicago. Each year, he holds what many colleges consider can't-miss recruiting events where his players are showcased.

"Coaches are afraid that if they don't show deference to Butler, he'll steer recruits to other schools," said Kay Rogness, who in the '80s helped establish Sports Performance. She fell out with Butler around 1990 and has since become one of his harshest critics.

Among the many coaches who worked early in their careers for Sports Performance was Michigan State head volleyball coach Cathy George. Since becoming coach in 2005, most of her teams have featured one or more players trained by Butler. Michigan State's website mentions Butler by name, citing athletes trained by him.

Powers-Barnhard said George called her after the allegations emerged in 1995. She knew Powers-Barnhard from when they played against each other. George expressed sympathy but said she could not refuse to deal with Butler, according to Powers-Barnhard.

At the time, George was head coach at Western Michigan University. "She said, 'I'm sorry all this happened, but I will still have to recruit from him,'" said Powers-Barnhard, a three-time All American.

There was no response to email and voice messages left for George on Monday.

Michigan State cannot plausibly claim it was unaware of the allegations.

Chicago-area media widely covered the accusations when the first accusers came forward in 1995. The allegations have been covered periodically since then, including in a 2015 feature on the ESPN's "Outside the Lines" and in a recent Chicago Sun-Times series.

Efforts to banish Butler have been driven partly by Nancy Hogshead-Makar, an Olympic swimming champion who later became a civil rights lawyer. She now leads a Florida-based group called Champion Women, which advocates for female athletes.

The school's volleyball coach "is conducting business with ... a known sexual abuser," Hogshead-Makar wrote on July 21, 2017, to then-Michigan State athletic director Mark Hollis and to the school's then-general

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 22 of 36

counsel, Robert Noto. She got no response.

She also attached a photo of George sitting with Butler at a girls' national volleyball tournament in Florida last year, when multiple players for other teams wore T-shirts citing allegations against Butler. The photo was from a report by Jacksonville's First Coast News television.

In a Jan. 19 letter, Hogshead-Makar said the university had obligations to avoid dealing with Butler under Title IX, the federal law forbidding sex discrimination in education. Michigan State did not respond.

"Therefore, it is not only your moral, but also your legal duty to make sure that Rick Butler is unable to harm more athletes," she wrote in the note to then-MSU President Lou Anna Simon and Jessica Norris, the school's director of Title IX efforts.

In response to a similar email last year from part-time volleyball coach and activist Chris Murdock, associate athletic director Shelley Appelbaum said issues surrounding Butler were "still unfolding" and that the university would "monitor the situation."

Butler sounded confident in a statement to PrepVolleyball.com after the Amateur Athletic Union cancelled his membership, saying he emailed 600 families about the AAU action and that no families pulled kids from his programs. Those programs, he added, "will not miss a beat."

There was no response to Monday voice and email messages left for Butler.

The bans on Butler do not prohibit him from training children, said Emily Swanson, a Denver lawyer who has also spoken out against him. She said his staying power derives from coaches who keep going to him for recruits. She urged schools to refuse to recruit his athletes, even if some miss out on scholarships as a result.

"If schools stopped recruiting his players, players would stop going to him to train," she said. "That would shut him down."

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

Mystery grows over pro-Saudi tabloid: Embassy got sneak peek

By JOSH LEDERMAN and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It landed with a thud on newsstands at Walmart and rural supermarkets last month: Ninety-seven fawning pages saluting Saudi Arabia, whose ambitious crown prince was soon to arrive in the U.S. on a PR blitz to transform his country's image.

As questions swirled about the glossy magazine's origins, the Saudis said they were just as perplexed as everyone else, declaring on Twitter: "If you find out, we'd love to know."

But files obtained by The Associated Press show that a digital copy of the magazine, produced by American Media Inc., was quietly shared with officials at the Saudi Embassy in Washington almost three weeks before its publication.

How the early copy made it to the Saudis is unclear. Yet the revelation adds another mysterious twist to a murky tale playing out against the backdrop of bids by both President Donald Trump and David Pecker, the tabloid publisher who supports him, to build goodwill with the Saudi kingdom's leaders.

The worlds of Trump, the Saudis and AMI have overlapped before, often in dizzying ways. The Trump administration has aggressively courted the Saudis and found a willing partner on a range of issues, including Iran, counterterrorism and Middle East peace, in the kingdom's royal family. And AMI's flagship publication, The National Enquirer, has been accused by critics of acting as a keeper of secrets for Trump.

AMI denies that it shared an advance copy of "The New Kingdom" with the Saudis or consulted with them on the project, and AMI says the Saudis did not pay the company to produce the magazine. But an individual with knowledge of the situation said AMI indeed reached out to Saudi officials in the U.S. before publication to seek help with the content. The Saudis never responded, said the individual, who wasn't authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity.

Merely sharing an advance copy with the Saudis, while a deviation from traditional journalistic practice, is not legally problematic for AMI. But the unusual circumstances and continuing mystery of the magazine's

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 23 of 36

origins have led legal experts to point out a separate issue in federal lobbying law: If the Saudis or any other foreign government did direct or pay any company to produce such a magazine, that company would be required to register with the government under the Foreign Agent Registration Act.

There is no evidence any such direction, in this case, occurred.

Why would American Media, best-known for publishing salacious stories of sex and scandal, sink money into printing 200,000 copies of a magazine with a grinning Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman splashed across the cover?

The crown prince is no household name in the U.S., especially in states like Nebraska where the magazine showed up. And at \$13.99 a copy and with no advertisements, the publication seems unlikely to be a money-maker.

Prince Mohammed has won praise in the West for trying to modernize Saudi Arabia and improve some rights for women, but the magazine omits any criticism on such core issues as his hard-hitting tactics, Saudi Arabia's restrictive political system and the country's bloody intervention in Yemen's civil war and strong-handed tactics toward Lebanon.

AMI spokesman Jon Hammond said he expected the magazine to turn a profit by selling 60,000 copies, comparing it to other AMI special editions on the Olympics, the Kennedys and Elvis Presley — topics that, unlike the Saudi crown prince, are of obvious widespread interest to tabloid readers in the U.S.

"Absolutely not," Hammond responded when asked by the AP if American Media had collaborated with the Saudis on the magazine or been paid by them.

Saud Kabli, the Saudi Embassy's communications director, said the embassy had "no role in the production of the magazine."

"We don't have a problem with the magazine, but we just don't think it is effective," Kabli said.

Metadata embedded in the PDF file, obtained by the AP from two different individuals, show it was produced by an AMI production employee at 8:41 p.m. on Feb. 19. Shortly thereafter, it started circulating internally among Saudi officials, including the embassy's military office, according to individuals familiar with the situation. It was also passed to Nail al-Jubeir, the former embassy spokesman and brother of Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, recently named Saudi ambassador to Ireland, the individuals said.

By the next day — Feb. 20 — Saudi officials had started forwarding it to Washington foreign policy contacts, giving them an early look, said the individuals, who weren't authorized to discuss the situation and requested anonymity.

A month later, on March 19, Prince Mohammed arrived in the U.S., with the magazine serving as his literary red carpet.

"Meet the next king," the cover exclaimed, describing the crown prince as "our closest Middle East ally destroying terrorism" and the visionary behind a "city of the future" which "will be operated by robots."

The magazine draws heavily from newswire photos and stock images — many with no connection to Saudi Arabia, according to Tineye, a reverse-image search tool. Among the supposed Saudi Arabian highlights pictured are sand-dune surfing in Namibia, a massive indoor greenhouse in the Netherlands and wildlife pictures taken in Zambia and Israel.

"There are lots of things that warrant answers," political law attorney Josh Rosenstein said about the pro-Saudi magazine.

As Saudi Arabia starts to open up to Western entertainment, American Media has sought to expand its media empire into the kingdom — the kind of lucrative opportunity that often comes with the blessing of the Saudi royal court. Last summer, Pecker dined at the White House with Trump and a French businessman with close business ties to the Saudis, and later traveled to Riyadh to pitch Saudi investors on helping AMI acquire Time magazine, The New York Times reported. AMI denied making such an ask.

Trump's son-in-law and senior aide, Jared Kushner, has also tried to enlist Prince Mohammed's help with his ambitious Mideast peace initiative. Kushner paid an unannounced visit early in the administration to Saudi Arabia, which also was Trump's first overseas destination as president.

Kushner's family real estate firm, The Kushner Cos., once sought money from a Saudi investor to buy

out its partner in a Manhattan skyscraper that had been losing money for years.

Pecker is close to Trump and his struggling tabloid empire also has ties to the president's personal attorney, Michael Cohen. Following an FBI raid on Cohen's office this month, investigators are believed to be examining whether The National Enquirer was involved with Trump's campaign.

The Enquirer endorsed Trump's quest for the presidency. During the 2016 race, the tabloid paid a former Playboy model who said she had an affair with Trump \$150,000 to keep silent about the relationship. Last week, the company agreed to let the model, Karen McDougal, out of that contract.

The AP has also reported that AMI had made a \$30,000 payment eight months earlier to a former doorman at a Trump building who had a juicy tip about him, requiring the doorman to sign a contract that effectively prevented him from going public. AMI said it paid the doorman not for his silence, but for exclusive rights to the story, which AMI never published because it said the story could not be authenticated.

Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

Have a tip for the Associated Press? Send it securely and anonymously at www.ap.org/tips

Aimed at China, Trump's tariffs are hitting closer to home

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's escalating dispute with China over trade and technology is threatening jobs and profits in working-class communities where his "America First" agenda hit home.

The Commerce Department has received more than 2,400 applications from companies seeking waivers from the administration's tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, which may result in duty payments of millions of dollars for larger businesses. The department has begun posting the requests online for public comment; several of the applications released so far suggest deep misgivings with Trump's protectionist strategy, especially in areas where he won strong support during the 2016 election.

The tariffs are aimed primarily at China for flooding the global market with cheap steel and aluminum. But they've also led to confusion and uncertainty, according to Associated Press interviews and a review of records. In Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin, for example, businesses operating in the furniture, energy and food sectors have outlined the financial difficulties they'd face if they're not excused from the steel tariff.

In Okmulgee, Oklahoma, dozens of jobs hang in the balance as office furniture giant Steelcase waits to hear back from the Commerce Department.

A Steelcase subsidiary, PolyVision, operates a plant in Okmulgee that uses a special type of steel from Japan to manufacture a durable glass-like surface for whiteboards and architectural purposes. PolyVision "cannot and will not be able to procure" from U.S. companies the cold-rolled steel it requires "in a sufficient and reasonably available amount or of a satisfactory quality," Steelcase said.

Trump won most of the votes cast for president in Okmulgee County. Without a waiver, Steelcase warned, the "economic viability of PolyVision (and) the small town of Okmulgee" would be jeopardized.

The waiver request also indicates that a \$15 million plant expansion may be at risk. Steelcase and PolyVision are on the verge of making the investment, which would create new construction and manufacturing jobs, according to the request.

Roger Ballenger, Okmulgee's city manager, said he and other local officials are "very concerned about the situation with PolyVision."

The tariffs — 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on imported aluminum — are designed to protect and rebuild the U.S. companies that manufacture the metals. The U.S. temporarily exempted several major trading partners, including the European Union, Mexico and Canada.

China, which was left on the target list, retaliated by imposing tariffs on \$3 billion in U.S. products, including apples, pork and ginseng.

Trump responded by adding more protectionist measures as punishment for Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property. And Beijing punched back by proposing tariffs on \$50 billion in U.S. products including

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 25 of 36

small aircraft and soybeans — a direct threat to rural areas that were key to Trump's victory.

John Hritz, CEO of JSW Steel USA in Baytown, Texas, said his company is in lockstep with Trump's approach. "We're in favor of growing the steel industry in this country," Hritz said. JSW Steel, owned by Indian conglomerate JSW Group, is embarking on a \$500 million overhaul of the plant that it says will create hundreds of jobs.

The growth would be welcomed in Baytown, where unemployment is 9.8 percent, more than double the national rate. Baytown is located partly in Harris County, which Democrat Hillary Clinton won, and partly in Chambers County, which Trump handily won.

The future is much murkier for another Baytown steel business, Borusan Mannesmann Pipe. Without a waiver, Borusan may face tariffs of \$25 million to \$30 million annually if it imports steel tubing and casing from its parent company in Turkey, according to information the company provided to the AP.

Borusan said the Baytown production line would no longer be competitive and "jobs would be threatened" if it cannot import 135,000 metric tons of steel annually over the next two years. The pipes Borusan produces are used primarily as casing for oil and natural gas wells.

But if Commerce says yes, Borusan will be able to unlock a \$25 million investment in the Baytown facility as it seeks to become a "100 percent domestic supplier," according to the waiver request. An additional \$50 million expansion in pipe fabrication capacity would follow, the company said, leading to as many as 170 new jobs.

Seneca Foods Corporation, the nation's largest vegetable canner, said in its waiver application that it's unclear, at best, if U.S. suppliers have the ability or willingness to expand their production in the long term to meet the company's annual demand for tinned steel.

But "clearly they cannot meet demand in the short term," Seneca told Commerce officials. That means Seneca has to buy a portion of what it needs from overseas.

A person with knowledge of Seneca's situation said the company would face a \$2.25 million duty if the Commerce Department doesn't approve its waiver request for 11,000 metric tons of tinsplate it already agreed to purchase from China. The material is to be delivered this year and next, according to the waiver request. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Seneca said it employs more than 400 people at can-making facilities in Wisconsin and Idaho and near its headquarters in New York's Wayne County, where Trump bested Clinton. The company doesn't warn layoffs are imminent if the waiver isn't approved. Instead, the tariffs would likely come out of Seneca's bottom line, the person said.

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

After close vote, panel sends Pompeo nomination to Senate

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mike Pompeo, President Donald Trump's choice for secretary of state, avoided a rare rebuke Monday as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee narrowly recommended him, but the vote served as a warning shot to the White House as nominees to lead the CIA and Veterans Affairs are hitting stiff resistance.

Pompeo, who's now CIA director, received the panel's approval only after Trump's last-minute overtures to Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. Pompeo's nomination now goes to the full Senate, where votes are tallying in his favor and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he looks forward to voting to confirm him later this week.

Trump has been quick to fire his top cabinet secretaries, but Senate Democrats are not so fast to confirm replacements. A grilling is expected Wednesday of Ronny Jackson, the White House physician nominated to head the VA, and Pompeo's potential replacement at the CIA, Gina Haspel, is also facing scrutiny.

It's also a reminder of how tough it could be to replace Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Trump has publicly mused about firing Rosenstein, who is overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's investiga-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 26 of 36

tion into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"Hard to believe," Trump tweeted Monday about what he called "obstruction." "The Dems will not approve hundreds of good people... They are maxing out the time on approval process for all, never happened before. Need more Republicans!"

Republicans hold just a slim Senate majority, 50-49, with the prolonged absence of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Pompeo's bid to become the nation's top diplomat was in the hands of a few senators, but received a boost Monday when two Democrats, Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, announced their support.

Pressure is mounting on senators from all sides. White House allies are unloading ad campaigns against Democrats from Trump-won states, but progressive groups are pounding senators' offices in opposition. As soon as Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., announced her support for Pompeo, one group called on her to switch.

Ahead of the Foreign Relations Committee's vote, chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said of the full Senate, "It does appear Mike Pompeo has the votes to be secretary of state."

Supporters point to Pompeo's resume as a West Point and Harvard Law School graduate who has the president's confidence, particularly on North Korea. Opponents are focusing on his hawkish foreign policy views and negative comments about gay marriage and Muslims.

Paul's earlier objections to Pompeo, along with overwhelming opposition from Democrats, had set the secretary of state nominee on track to be the first since 1925, when the committee started keeping records, not to receive a favorable recommendation.

But Trump and Paul talked repeatedly, including a chat just moments before the vote.

"I have changed my mind," Paul said, explaining he received reassurances that Pompeo agrees with the president that the Iraq war was a "mistake" and that it is time for U.S. troops to leave Afghanistan. Paul's office said he "got a win" — the promise that Pompeo sides with Trump on those issues — out of the situation, but declined to provide details.

"I want Trump to be Trump," Paul said.

Asked about Paul's change of heart, Trump said, "He's a good man."

Senators are anxious to have Pompeo in place before international meetings scheduled for later this week and ahead of North Korea talks.

Republicans blamed partisan politics for opposition, saying Pompeo is just as qualified as past secretaries of state nominees Hillary Clinton or John Kerry, both of whom received overwhelming support.

"A majority of Democrats continue their pointless obstruction to score cheap political points with their base as a willful attempt to undermine American diplomacy," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

But Democrats resisted easy confirmation of the nation's top diplomat, and support peeled.

Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., who had been among more than a dozen Democrats who supported Pompeo for CIA director, announced her no vote Monday.

"I am concerned that Mr. Pompeo has not demonstrated an understanding that the Secretary of State has an obligation to the American people to stand up for our core values," she said.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., who was among the last Democrats on the foreign relations panel to announce his no vote, said he is concerned that Pompeo "will embolden, rather than moderate or restrain" Trump's "most belligerent and dangerous instincts."

In a late setback Monday, the panel was short one Republican vote needed for a favorable recommendation because Sen. Johnny Isakson was delivering a eulogy in his home state of Georgia. Rather than postpone voting until his return very late Monday, Coons agreed to allow his vote to be recorded as "present" so the committee could finish its work.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 27 of 36

Harden, Rockets soar past Wolves 119-100 with 50-point 3rd

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Though James Harden and most of the Houston Rockets were misfiring throughout the first half, their confidence never wavered.

In the third quarter, those sharpshooters sure came to life.

Harden had 22 of the team's near-record 50 points in the third, launching the Rockets past the Minnesota Timberwolves 119-100 on Monday night to take a 3-1 lead in their first-round playoff series.

"We had the mentality to be aggressive, make or missed shots," said Harden, who went 7 for 10 in the third quarter and finished with 36 points. "That's what we do. We shoot the basketball, and eventually they'll start falling."

Chris Paul scored 15 of his 25 points in the near-record third for the Rockets, who still had a 50-49 half-time edge despite their rough start. With those torrid 12 minutes, they built a 31-point lead and were up 104-69 about a minute into the fourth. The only team in the history of the NBA playoffs with more points in one quarter was the Los Angeles Lakers, who scored 51 points in the fourth on March 31, 1962, in a loss to the Detroit Pistons.

"It was a good time to do it. We've been talking about it for two years, putting the 50-piece up," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "And that starts with the intensity and the right spirit and everything."

Clint Capela added 14 points and 17 rebounds, Eric Gordon finally got going with 18 points off the bench and the Rockets left the Wolves wondering what hit them after 3½ games of decent defense against one of the league's most dangerous offensive teams. The Rockets scored on 11 straight possessions after an opening stop by the Wolves, and Harden alone scored 17 of their first 20 points.

"I've got to watch it again," Paul said. "We just, I don't know, got hot."

Wolves star Jimmy Butler, on the other hand, began forcing off-balance shots. Teague and Paul, the two former Wake Forest point guards, engaged in some intense trash talk. Paul baited Teague into a pushing foul for a pair of add-to-the-pile free throws. Gordon tacked on another 3-pointer at the buzzer for the 100-69 lead.

"I think we came out a little flatter than last game. We didn't come out right away with that straight grit in the third quarter," said Karl-Anthony Towns, who had 22 points and 15 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Minnesota missed 14 of 21 shots, producing several panicked possessions over the third. Perhaps that's because they were so rattled by how suddenly and quickly the Rockets were scoring.

"We came out lackadaisical on both ends of the floor," Butler said. "We didn't take anything away from them. They got whatever shot that they wanted."

The Timberwolves rebounded from their two defeats on the road by matching the Rockets with 15 makes from 3-point range in Game 3. They wisely took another tack for Game 4, attacking the basket in the first half with relentless abandon and plenty of success.

Derrick Rose, who finished with 17 points and six rebounds, was the catalyst off the bench with multiple muscle-his-way-in layups on both fast breaks and in the half court. Starting point guard Jeff Teague, meanwhile, had only two points on 1-for-7 shooting while fighting through dislocated right pinky finger.

The Wolves were in front by as much as 36-29, but with as poorly as the Rockets were shooting they badly needed a larger lead than that. They went 21 for 44 from the field (47.7 percent) in the first half, but with all the layups and putbacks in the mix they easily could have made more.

Trevor Ariza made the first three 3-pointers attempted by the Rockets, who then missed on 13 of their next 14 tries from behind the arc. Harden didn't make a basket until 5:57 remained in the second quarter, when his 10-foot floater fell in to cut Minnesota's lead to 39-37. He swished one of his signature step-back 3-pointers on the next possession, and Houston was right back in front to sow the seeds for the staggering third quarter.

"Once we get going, it's hard to stop us," Capela said.

FULL CIRCLE

The last time the Timberwolves were in the first round of the playoffs in 2004, their opponent was Denver and Nene was a 21-year-old starter for the Nuggets. This is his 16th season in the NBA, the second

with the Rockets.

TIP-INS

Rockets: Ariza finished with 15 points, after missing his last eight 3-pointers. ... Harden is averaging 30.3 points in the series. He's 38 for 91 from the floor (41.8 percent). ... Capela is leading the league in the playoffs in rebounding, averaging 14 per game.

Timberwolves: Backup point guard Tyus Jones was available on an emergency-only basis because of a sore right knee. Rose played 33 minutes. ... Butler (19 points) and Andrew Wiggins (14 points) combined to shoot 12 for 31 from the floor.

UP NEXT

The series shifts back south to Houston for Game 5 on Wednesday night.

For more AP NBA coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

Cosby jury to decide: Serial rapist or con artist's mark

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — The jury that will start deliberating Bill Cosby's fate on Tuesday has heard the comedian described over the past two weeks both as a "serial rapist" and a con artist's victim.

They have seen a parade of accusers testify that the man once revered as "America's Dad" had a secret life of drugging and violating women. And they have heard from a witness who says his chief accuser talked about framing a high-profile person to score a big payday.

Now, seven men and five women who have been kept in a suburban Philadelphia hotel, away from family, friends and daily routines, will get to have their say in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era.

"You now have all of the evidence," Judge Steven O'Neill told them after Cosby's side rested on Monday without calling the 80-year-old comedian to the stand. "Try to relax, so that you're on your game tomorrow."

Jurors could be in for a marathon.

Before going off to deliberate, they will hear both sides rehash the case in lengthy closing arguments, and they will get O'Neill's instructions in the law.

Cosby is charged with three counts of aggravated indecent assault — all stemming from Andrea Constand's allegations that he knocked her out with three pills he called "your friends" and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004.

Each count carries a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

Cosby has said he gave Constand 1½ tablets of the over-the-counter cold and allergy medicine Benadryl to help her relax before what he called a consensual sexual encounter.

The jury in Cosby's first trial weighed the evidence for five days without reaching a verdict.

This time, both sides have given the retrial jury much more to consider.

Prosecutors were able to call five additional accusers who testified that Cosby also drugged and violated them — including one woman who asked him through her tears, "You remember, don't you, Mr. Cosby?"

Cosby's new defense team, led by Michael Jackson lawyer Tom Mesereau, countered with a far more robust effort at stoking doubts about Constand's credibility and raising questions about whether Cosby's arrest was even legal.

The defense's star witness was a former colleague of Constand who says Constand spoke of leveling false sexual assault accusations against a high-profile person for the purpose of filing a civil suit. Constand got a civil settlement of nearly \$3.4 million from Cosby.

Both juries also heard from Cosby himself — not on the witness stand, but via an explosive deposition he gave in 2005 and 2006 as part of Constand's civil suit against him. In it, Cosby acknowledged he gave the sedative quaaludes to women before sex in the 1970s.

Cosby's lawyers devoted the last two days of their case to travel records they say prove he could not have been at his suburban Philadelphia home in January 2004. They argue that any encounter there with

Constand would have happened earlier, outside the statute of limitations.

Cosby's private jet records and travel itineraries produced by Cosby's lawyers do not show any flights in or out of the Philadelphia area in January 2004, but they have large gaps — a total of 17 days that month in which Cosby was not traveling, performing or taping TV appearances.

District Attorney Kevin Steele noted that the records do not account for other ways Cosby could have gotten to Philadelphia.

"You can't tell us whether he got on a commercial flight," Steele said, questioning a defense aviation expert. "You can't tell us whether he got on a train. You can't tell us whether he got in a car and drove to Philadelphia."

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

Follow Mike Sisak at <https://twitter.com/mikesisak> .

For more coverage visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial> .

Atlanta attorney found guilty of murder in wife's shooting

By KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — After telling the judge Monday morning that they were stuck and couldn't reach a verdict, jurors deliberated a few more hours before deciding that a well-connected Atlanta attorney intentionally shot his wife, causing her death.

Jurors found 75-year-old Claud "Tex" McIver guilty of felony murder and three other charges in the September 2016 death of his 64-year-old wife Diane. The white-haired defendant, wearing a dark suit and tie, showed little emotion as the verdict was read.

The murder conviction carries an automatic life prison sentence. It remains up to the judge whether he will have the possibility of parole. No immediate sentencing date was set, and McIver was led out of court in handcuffs.

With numerous twists and revelations over the past year and a half — and a trial that gave watchers a window into a privileged lifestyle — the case captured public attention in Atlanta.

Afterward, the district attorney praised the outcome.

"We would like to say to Diane, 'We hope that you were watching, and we hope that you felt that we stood for you and we stood for the things you represented,'" Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said.

That echoed a refrain by Clint Rucker, the lead prosecutor in the case, who repeatedly urged jurors in his closing argument to "Stand up for Diane."

Defense lawyers Bruce Harvey and Don Samuel did not immediately respond to an email seeking reaction.

No one has disputed that McIver shot his wife. Defense attorneys said at trial that McIver loved his wife dearly and Harvey called it "an accident in search of a motive." Prosecutors argued, however, that McIver intentionally killed his wife because he was in dire financial straits, his life was spinning out of control and that he depended on her financially and coveted her money.

Police initially charged McIver in December 2016 with a felony charge of involuntary manslaughter and a misdemeanor charge of reckless conduct. Prosecutors began investigating in January 2017 and quickly began to suspect it wasn't an accident, in part because the gun was in perfect working order and required a significant amount of pressure to fire when it wasn't cocked, Rucker said.

The jury heard from dozens of witnesses during about four weeks of testimony.

By late morning Monday, after roughly three and a half days of deliberations, the jury sent Fulton County Superior Chief Judge Robert McBurney a note saying they didn't see a path to agreement on four of the five charges. The judge sent them to lunch and then instructed them to keep deliberating.

After a few more hours, jurors found McIver not guilty of malice murder but guilty of felony murder. Felony murder means a killing happens during the commission of another felony, in this case aggravated

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 30 of 36

assault with a deadly weapon. That means the jury found that he intentionally shot his wife, and that led to her death.

McIver also was found guilty of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and influencing witnesses. The influencing witnesses charge stems from McIver's having told the driver of the SUV and only witness to the shooting to tell police she wasn't present when the shot was fired.

The McIvers were affluent and well-connected. He was a partner at a prominent labor and employment law firm and served on the state election board. She was president of U.S. Enterprises Inc., the parent company of Corey Airport Services, where she had worked for 43 years.

Dani Jo Carter, a close friend of Diane McIver, was driving the couple's Ford Expedition the evening of Sept. 25, 2016, as the three returned from a weekend at the McIvers' horse farm about 75 miles (120 kilometers) east of Atlanta. Diane McIver was in the front passenger seat and Tex McIver was in the back seat behind his wife.

With traffic heavy on the interstate, Carter exited in downtown Atlanta. A short while later, McIver fired the gun once, striking his wife in the back. Carter drove to a hospital, where Diane McIver died.

Diane McIver's boss and mentor, Billy Corey, told reporters he began to believe within days of the shooting that it was no accident. He said justice was done.

"May Diane rest in peace," he said. "They stood up for Diane today."

Van plows into Toronto sidewalk, killing 10 and injuring 15

By CHARMAINE NORONHA, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — A 25-year-old in a rented van plowed down a Toronto sidewalk crowded with lunchtime strollers Monday, killing 10 people and injuring 15 in what appeared to witnesses and the city's police chief as a deliberate attack. The driver was quickly arrested in a tense but brief confrontation with officers a few blocks away.

Witnesses and the police chief said the driver, identified by authorities as Alek Minassian, was moving fast and appeared to intentionally jump a curb in the North York neighborhood as people filled the sidewalks on a warm afternoon. He continued for more than a mile, knocking out a fire hydrant and leaving bodies strewn in his wake.

Officials would not comment on a possible motive except to play down a possible connection to terrorism, a thought that occurred to many following a series of attacks involving trucks and pedestrians in Europe and the presence in Toronto this week of Cabinet ministers from the G7 nations.

Still, Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders said he did not think it was an accident.

"The incident definitely looked deliberate," Saunders said at a news conference Monday night as he announced that the initial death toll of nine had risen to 10 after another victim died at a hospital. He said 15 others were hospitalized.

Saunders said Minassian, who lives in the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill, had not been known to police previously.

Asked if there was any evidence of a connection to international terrorism, the chief said only, "Based on what we have there's nothing that has it to compromise the national security at this time."

A senior national government official said earlier that authorities had not turned over the investigation to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a sign that investigators believed it unlikely terrorism was the motive. The official agreed to reveal that information only if not quoted by name.

Authorities released few details in the case, saying the investigation was still underway, with witnesses being interviewed and surveillance video being examined.

"I can assure the public all our available resources have been brought in to investigate this tragic situation," Toronto Police Services Deputy Chief Peter Yuen said earlier.

The incident occurred as Cabinet ministers from the major industrial countries were gathered in Canada to discuss a range of international issues in the run-up to the G7 meeting near Quebec City in June. Canadian Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale called the incident a "horrific attack" and said the G7 foreign

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 31 of 36

ministers extended their condolences.

The driver was heading south on busy Yonge Street around 1:30 p.m. and the streets were crowded with people enjoying an unseasonably warm day when the van jumped onto the sidewalk.

Ali Shaker, who was driving near the van at the time, told Canadian broadcast outlet CP24 that the driver appeared to be moving deliberately through the crowd at more than 30 mph.

"He just went on the sidewalk," a distraught Shaker said. "He just started hitting everybody, man. He hit every single person on the sidewalk. Anybody in his way he would hit."

Witness Peter Kang told CTV News that the driver did not seem to make any effort to stop.

"If it was an accident he would have stopped," Kang said. "But the person just went through the sidewalk. He could have stopped."

Video broadcast on several Canadian outlets showed police arresting the driver, dressed in dark clothes, after officers surrounded him and his rental Ryder van several blocks from where the incident occurred in the North York neighborhood of northern Toronto. He appeared to make some sort of gesture at the police with an object in his hand just before they ordered him to lie down on the ground and took him away.

Witness Phil Zullo told Canadian Press that he saw police arresting the suspect and people "strewn all over the road" where the incident occurred.

"I must have seen about five, six people being resuscitated by bystanders and by ambulance drivers," Zullo said. "It was awful. Brutal."

Police shut down the Yonge and Finch intersection following the incident and Toronto's transit agency said it had suspended service on the subway line running through the area.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his sympathies for those involved.

"We should all feel safe walking in our cities and communities," he said. "We are monitoring this situation closely, and will continue working with our law enforcement partners around the country to ensure the safety and security of all Canadians."

Associated Press writers Ben Fox in Miami and Rob Gillies in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, contributed to this report.

No typical double date: Trumps, Macrons dine at Mount Vernon

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tending to bonding before business, President Donald Trump and France's Emmanuel Macron opened the French president's visit Monday with an anything-but-ordinary double date with their wives at George Washington's house.

The presidents and their spouses hopped on a helicopter bound for Mount Vernon, Washington's historic riverside home, for a private dinner one night before the leaders sit down for talks on a weighty agenda including security, trade and the Iran nuclear deal.

Macron's pomp-filled three-day state visit to Washington underscores the importance that both sides attach to the relationship: Macron, who calls Trump often, has emerged as something of a "Trump whisperer" at a time when the American president's relationships with other European leaders are more strained. Trump, who attaches great importance to the optics of pageantry and ceremony, chose to honor Macron with the first state visit of his administration as he woos the French president.

"This is a great honor and I think a very important state visit given the moment of our current environment," Macron said after his plane landed at a U.S. military base near Washington.

For all their camaraderie, Macron and Trump disagree on some fundamental issues, including the multinational nuclear deal, which is aimed at restricting Iran's development of nuclear weapons. Trump, skeptical of the pact's effectiveness, has been eager to pull out as a May 12 deadline nears. Macron says he is not satisfied with the situation in Iran and thinks the agreement is imperfect, but he has argued for the U.S. sticking with the deal on the grounds that there is not yet a "Plan B."

The Trumps and Macrons helped plant a tree on the White House grounds together before boarding Trump's Marine One helicopter for a scenic tour of monuments built in the capital city designed by French-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 32 of 36

born Pierre L'Enfant as they flew south to Mount Vernon, the first U.S. president's home along the Potomac River.

The young oak is an environmentally friendly gift to the White House from Macron, and one that also bears historical significance. It sprouted at a World War I site in France, the Battle of Belleau Wood, that became part of U.S. Marine Corps lore.

After Trump's helicopter landed at Mount Vernon, the two presidents, each holding his wife's hand, walked a short distance and posed for pictures before they boarded golf carts that ferried them to the front door of Washington's plantation house. The couples were led on a brief outdoor tour before they entered the pale yellow building for dinner of Dover sole, pasta stuffed with lemon ricotta, and chocolate souffle and cherry vanilla ice cream.

Trump declared the dinner "really fantastic" before returning to the White House.

He ended his first year in office without receiving a foreign leader on a state visit, the first president in nearly 100 years to fail to do so. He was Macron's guest last July at the annual Bastille Day military parade in the center of Paris. Macron and his wife also took Trump and America's first lady on a tour of Napoleon's tomb and whisked them up in the Eiffel Tower for dinner overlooking the City of Light.

Macron will be welcomed back to the White House on Tuesday with a traditional arrival ceremony featuring nearly 500 members of the U.S. military and a booming 21-gun salute. The state visit also offers Macron his first Oval Office sit-down with Trump and a joint White House news conference. There's also a State Department lunch hosted by Vice President Mike Pence.

The French president's White House day will be capped Tuesday night with a state dinner, the highest social tribute a president bestows on an ally and partner.

Melania Trump played an active role in every detail of the visit, said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The first lady settled on a state dinner menu of rack of lamb and nectarine tart, along with after-dinner entertainment provided by the Washington National Opera for about 150 guests. On Monday, she released details of the glitzy affair being planned to dazzle Macron and his wife, Brigitte.

Dinner will be served in the State Dining Room, which will feature more than 2,500 stems of white sweet pea flowers and nearly 1,000 stems of white lilac. Separately, more than 1,200 branches of cherry blossoms will adorn the majestic Cross Hall.

The first lady opted for a cream-and-gold color scheme, and will use a mix of china services from the presidencies of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

State dinner tickets are highly sought after by Washington's political and business elite. A few of those expected to attend: Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund and a former top French government official; House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.; Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and his wife, Louise Linton; Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., and Mike Pompeo, Trump's choice to be the next secretary of state.

In a break with tradition, Trump has invited no congressional Democrats or journalists, said a White House official who was not authorized to discuss the arrangements publicly. But some Democrats did make the cut, including Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, whose office confirmed his attendance.

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After brief relief, forecasts indicate drought will continue

By KELLY P. KISSEL, Associated Press

Dry weather will prolong the wildfire threat through summer in the southwestern United States, even though weekend showers temporarily relieved drought conditions in parts of the area, forecasters said Monday.

The drought is rooted in a dry spell that began in October and is considered "extreme" from southern California to central Kansas. Conditions are even worse in the Four Corners region and the Oklahoma and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 33 of 36

Texas panhandles, warranting their description as "exceptional."

"The proverbial spigot shut off," said Brian Fuchs, a climatologist at the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. "Drought isn't necessarily a signal for wildfires, but it can exacerbate the conditions that do take place."

Climatologists consider the months from October to April to be a "recharge" period, with showers and snow replenishing water supplies in the Southern Plains. However, the most recent significant rain in the area came in early October.

"The memory of that precipitation has long went out the back door," Fuchs said. Temperatures have largely been above normal over the same period, triggering evaporation that can carry a lot of moisture away before it has a chance to soak into the ground. There is very little snowpack remaining except on the highest peaks.

A map Fuchs presented during a conference call with reporters showed a sharp distinction on either side of a line from near Fort Worth, Texas, to near Chicago. Moist areas of Arkansas and Missouri were within 100 miles of arid conditions in Kansas and Oklahoma.

"Even normal precipitation ... would be helpful," Fuchs said.

The dry air has likely contributed to some weather anomalies: Several towns in western Oklahoma have seen wild temperature swings, and Oklahoma hasn't had a tornado yet this year, though a later start to the tornado season doesn't mean it could be any less troublesome.

"It just takes one tornado to have a disastrous year," said Todd Lindley, the science and operations officer at the National Weather Service office in Norman, Oklahoma.

Gary McManus, Oklahoma's state climatologist, said the low temperature recorded at a station at Alva on April 17 was 33 degrees — with frost in the area. Hours later, the same station recorded a high of 101. Similar temperature swings were recorded in the Oklahoma Panhandle and could be attributed to the dry air, not any of the station's proximity to wildfires.

"We are very desert-like," he said.

Wildfires have scarred many areas of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Oklahoma forestry officials said Monday that the Rhea fire, which had burned 448 square miles (1,160 square kilometers) was 74 percent contained but not expected to spread beyond existing fire lines because of higher humidity and lighter winds.

Prince charming: Kate gives birth to boy, home by suppertime

By JILL LAWLESS and SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Third time's a charm. The Duchess of Cambridge gave birth Monday morning to a new prince who is fifth in line to the British throne — and she was home by suppertime.

The duchess and husband Prince William drove to St. Mary's Hospital in London early in the morning, and Kate's 8 pound, 7 ounce (3.8 kilogram) boy was born at 11:01 a.m., with royal officials announcing the birth about two hours later.

There followed a smoothly choreographed operation perfected after the births of the couple's two other children. In late afternoon, elder siblings Prince George and Princess Charlotte were brought to meet their baby brother. Around 6 p.m., Kate emerged alongside her husband, wearing a vibrant red dress and holding the tiny royal highness wrapped in a white lace shawl.

After posing for dozens of photographers and camera crews outside the hospital's private Lindo Wing, the trio headed home, with the baby nestled securely in a car seat. Television news helicopters followed the royal Range Rover as it made the mile-long (1.6 kilometer) journey to the family's Kensington Palace residence.

William declared the couple "very delighted" with the new addition to the family.

The royal palace said "the queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, Prince Harry and members of both families have been informed and are delighted with the news." Prime Minister Theresa May offered "warmest congratulations."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 34 of 36

News of the royal birth came with a mix of tradition and modernity typical of Britain's media-savvy royal family. It was announced on Twitter and also proclaimed in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace with a framed notice perched on a golden easel.

Tony Appleton, a town crier from southeast England, showed up in full regalia to declare the newborn prince's birth outside the hospital. The words "It's a boy" flashed in lights around the top of London's BT Tower, which can be seen for miles around.

More ceremonial celebration will come Tuesday, including the pealing of bells at Westminster Abbey and a gun salute in London's Hyde Park.

The baby is a younger brother to 4-year-old Prince George and Princess Charlotte, who turns 3 next week. Both were born at the same hospital, as were William and his younger brother, Prince Harry.

The infant's name, which has been subject to a flurry of bets, is likely to be announced in the next few days. Arthur and James are among bookmakers' favorites for the new prince, whose full title will be His Royal Highness, Prince (Name) of Cambridge.

"You'll find out soon enough," William said when asked about the baby's name.

Monday is St. George's Day, England's national day, but the baby is unlikely to be given the name since his older brother already has it.

The new arrival is Queen Elizabeth II's sixth great-grandchild and bumps Prince Harry to sixth place in the line of succession. The baby is fifth in line, after grandfather Prince Charles, father Prince William and his two siblings.

Charlotte is the first royal daughter to stay ahead of a younger brother in the line of succession. Before the rules were changed in 2012, male heirs took precedence.

Kensington Palace announced in September that Kate was pregnant with her third child. As in her previous pregnancies, the duchess suffered from hyperemesis gravidarum, a severe form of morning sickness.

Officials announced her previous pregnancies before the traditional 12-week mark because she was too unwell to attend public engagements. This time around, it kept her from taking George to his first day of school.

The 36-year-old duchess, formerly Kate Middleton, nevertheless kept up a busy schedule of royal duties during her pregnancy, including a visit with William to Scandinavia. She carried out her last official engagement on March 22 before going on maternity leave.

The birth was overseen by a team of doctors including consultant obstetrician Guy Thorpe-Beeston and consultant gynecologist Alan Farthing — who were also called in for the births of George and Charlotte — as well as the hospital's midwives.

Television crews, journalists and royal fans had set up camp outside the hospital for the "royal baby watch" since early April in anticipation of the arrival.

The top White House spokeswoman offered personal encouragement to William and Kate on becoming the parents of three children.

"From one mother to another, I know the reality of being outnumbered can be very scary, but I know she and Prince William will continue to be amazing parents," Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, herself a mother of three, said during a White House briefing.

John Loughrey, a veteran royal-watcher who camped outside the hospital for two weeks, said the baby would be "very good for our country and of course, Her Majesty the queen."

"I'm so pleased it's St. George's Day," he said before the birth was announced. "St. George himself would be very pleased if the baby's born today."

Global shares advance as US bond yields push dollar higher

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Global shares mostly rose Tuesday as a surge in U.S. bond yields pushed the value of the dollar higher against other major currencies.

KEEPING SCORE: France's CAC 40 was little changed, inching down less than 0.1 percent to 5,437.03

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 35 of 36

in early trading. Germany's DAX edged up 0.3 percent to 12,612.45. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.3 percent to 7,421.75. U.S. shares were also set to drift higher with Dow futures adding 0.3 percent to 24,476. The S&P 500 future gained 0.3 percent to 2,679.30.

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.9 percent to finish at 22,278.12, helped by the weaker yen. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.6 percent to 5,921.60, and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.4 percent to 2,464.14. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.4 percent to 30,661.56, while the Shanghai Composite jumped nearly 2.0 percent to 3,128.93, recouping losses from the previous day. Shares were mixed in Southeast Asia.

U.S. BOND YIELDS: The yield on the 10-year Treasury note drew close to 3 percent on Monday, a milestone it has not reached since January 2014. It touched 2.98 percent but by early Tuesday in Asia had fallen back to 2.96 percent. The 10-year yield stood at 2.43 percent at the end of 2017. Since the global financial crisis in 2008-09, a combination of low inflation expectations and a bond-buying program by the Federal Reserve have helped keep bond yields low but they have climbed this year as inflation has picked up and the Federal Reserve raised interest rates. With the Fed no longer buying bonds and investors expecting greater inflation, analysts say higher yields could make bonds more attractive than stocks. They also make U.S. dollars relatively more attractive.

THE QUOTE: "The U.S. dollar has put on a compelling show overnight as the stars align on the back of higher U.S. yields and a considerable reduction in the U.S. dollar's geopolitical risk premium as an outwardly calmer mood surrounding trade and geopolitical risk takes hold," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil gained 58 cents to \$69.22 a barrel. It rose 0.4 percent to \$68.64 a barrel in New York the previous day. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 46 cents to \$75.17 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 108.84 yen from 108.71 yen. The euro fell to \$1.2196 from \$1.2233.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 24, the 114th day of 2018. There are 251 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 24, 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.

On this date:

In 1792, Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle began composing "War Song for the Rhine Army," later known as "La Marseillaise" (lah mahr-say-YEHZ'), the national anthem of France.

In 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.

In 1915, in what's considered the start of the Armenian genocide, the Ottoman Empire began rounding up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.

In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces five days later.)

In 1932, in the Free State of Prussia, the Nazi Party gained a plurality of seats in parliamentary elections.

In 1947, novelist Willa Cather died in New York at age 73.

In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, using NASA's Echo 1 balloon satellite to bounce a video image from Camp Parks, California, to Westford, Massachusetts.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 284 ~ 36 of 36

In 1967, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov was killed when his Soyuz 1 spacecraft smashed into the Earth after his parachutes failed to deploy properly during re-entry; he was the first human spaceflight fatality.

In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East Is Red."

In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

Ten years ago: The White House accused North Korea of assisting Syria's secret nuclear program, saying a Syrian nuclear reactor destroyed by Israel in 2007 was not intended for "peaceful purposes."

Five years ago: In Bangladesh, a shoddily constructed eight-story commercial building housing garment factories collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

One year ago: Two inmates received lethal injections on the same gurney about three hours apart as Arkansas completed the nation's first double execution since 2000, just days after the state ended a nearly 12-year hiatus on administering capital punishment. Astronaut Peggy Whitson broke the U.S. record for most time in space and talked up Mars during a congratulatory call from President Donald Trump; the International Space Station's commander surpassed the record of 534 days, two hours and 48 minutes for most accumulated time in space by an American.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 88. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 84. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 76. Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 76. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 75. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 73. Rock singer-musician Rob Hyman is 68. Former Irish Taoiseach (TEE'-shuk) Enda Kenny is 67. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 65. Rock singer-musician Jack Blades (Night Ranger) is 64. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 63. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 61. Actor Glenn Morshower is 59. Rock musician Billy Gould is 55. Actor-comedian Cedric the Entertainer is 54. Actor Djimon Hounsou (JEYE'-mihn OHN'-soo) is 54. Rock musician Patty Schemel is 51. Actress Stacy Haiduk is 50. Rock musician Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors) is 50. Actor Aidan Gillen is 50. Actress Melinda Clarke is 49. Actor Rory McCann is 49. Latin pop singer Alejandro Fernandez is 47. Country-rock musician Brad Morgan (Drive-By Truckers) is 47. Rock musician Brian Marshall (Creed; Alter Bridge) is 45. Actor Derek Luke is 44. Actor-producer Thad Luckinbill is 43. Actor Eric Balfour is 41. Actress Rebecca Mader is 41. Country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard is 39. Country singer Danny Gokey is 38. Actress Reagan Gomez is 38. Actor Austin Nichols is 38. Actress Sasha Barrese is 37. Contemporary Christian musician Jasen Rauch (Red) is 37. Singer Kelly Clarkson is 36. Rock singer-musician Tyson Ritter (The All-American Rejects) is 34. Actor Joe Keery is 26. Actor Jack Quaid is 26. Actor Doc Shaw is 26. Golfer Lydia Ko is 21.

Thought for Today: "Never practice what you preach. If you're going to practice it, why preach it?" — Lincoln Steffens, American journalist-reformer (1866-1936).