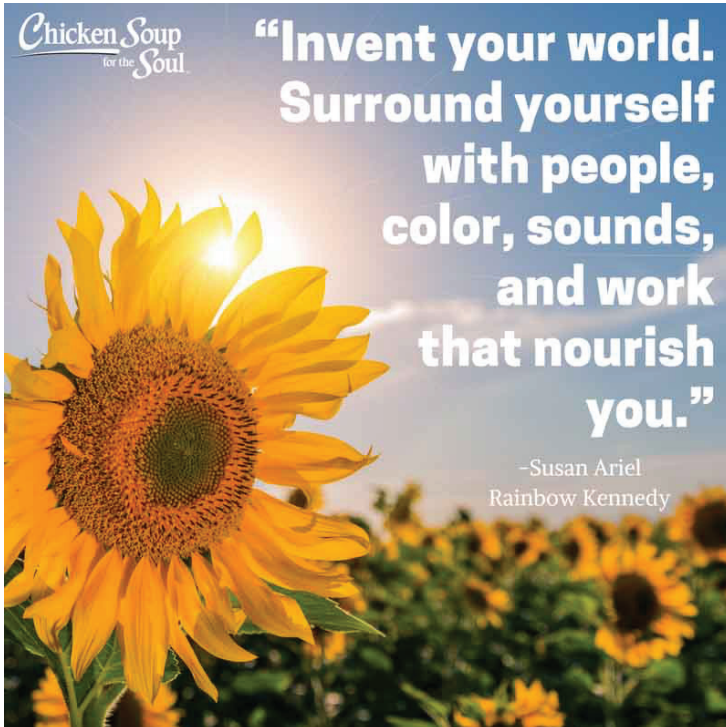


# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 1 of 49



- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- Carlson Thank You
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Death Notice: Orville Schaller
- 2- Becker named SD Army Guard Lieutenant of the Year
- 2- HS Booster PAC Thank You
- 3- DI serves at Bingo Event
- 3- St. John's holds preschool graduation
- 4- School Board Agenda
- 5- SunDial Manor Help Wanted Ad
- 6- Thompson and Kassube attended MN Honor Band
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- National Weather map
- 9- Today's Weather Almanac
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Friday, May 11

11 a.m.: Northeast Conference track at Webster

## Carlson Thank You

THANK YOU TO all who contributed to the gift box at Lori's Pharmacy. I received 2 cutting boards, potholders, serving bowl with spoons, picture frame, 2 mugs, 2 glass pans and a pot holder/towel set. Thank you again so much for thinking of me at this special time in my life.

Holly Carlson

## Lewandowski Bridal Shower

Come and Go Bridal Shower honoring Bride to Be, Sarah Lewandowski, Saturday, June 2, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic

## JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

[www.johnsonagencygroton.com](http://www.johnsonagencygroton.com)

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424  
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## Death Notice: Orville Schaller

Orville Schaller, 89, of Groton passed away May 10, 2018 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending for Monday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## Becker named SD Army Guard Lieutenant of the Year

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A Rapid City man was announced as this year's South Dakota National Guard Lieutenant of the Year at its annual officer's conference in Brookings, April 22.

First Lt. Jason Becker, Headquarters Battery, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, received the Lt. Col. John J. Steele Award, which was established in 1968 to annually recognize the most outstanding lieutenant in the SDNG based on exceptional qualities of leadership, values and performance.

Becker serves as a physician's assistant and contributes to Soldier medical readiness for the battalion. His efforts helped to increase the overall medical readiness of the 1-147th to over 93 percent.

"First Lt. Becker is an extremely qualified officer who has received many accolades from his battery leadership," said Lt. Col. Phillip Stiles, 1-147th Battalion commander. "His proficiency and skills make him an excellence choice for the John J. Steele Lieutenant of the Year."

Becker said his experiences as an enlisted Soldier contribute to his success as an officer and strengthened his ability to form relationships with Soldiers in his unit.

"I had an advantage of being prior enlisted for eight years," said Becker. "That helped me understand some of the ground-level strategies, as well as being in the field artillery, where we are constantly in a state of readiness.

"As an officer, the reward is not only about gaining respect, but you also know how it feels when you ask for tasks to be completed," Becker added. "I think that helps make missions go a lot better."

He credits his success in the competition to understanding how Soldiers are responsible for being ready for all of their mission essential tasks.

"You need to remember how to do tasks that are not just a part of your specific job in the military," said Becker. "The bigger picture is to help develop better Soldiers in general."

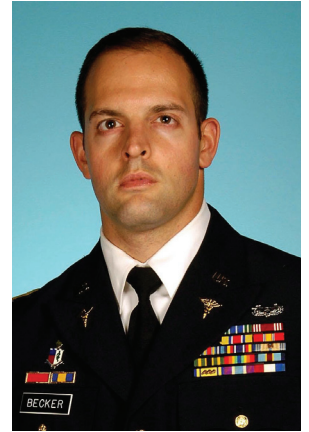
In addition to his responsibilities in the National Guard, Becker serves as a physician's assistant with Black Hills Orthopedic and Spine Center as the primary surgical team lead.

His professionalism as an orthopedic physician's assistant called him away, unexpectedly, from the award ceremony as he was tasked with operating on a patient in need back home.

"No matter what the problem or where my team is, I will try to take care of our patients," said Becker.

Other officers representing their major command for this year's award competition were 1st Lt. Scott Birr, 114th Fighter Wing, and 1st Lt. Dacey Eggers, 109th Regional Support Group.

By Capt. Bjarne Aanning – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



First Lt.  
Jason Becker

### The Groton HS Booster PAC Post-Prom Committee would like to thank the following businesses and organizations:

**For donations of \$100 or more:** Locke Electric, Groton American Legion Auxiliary, United Methodist Church Women, Groton Veterinary Clinic, James Valley Telecommunications, Roger and Darci Spanier, Poet Biorefining, Aberdeen Elks Lodge

**For donations \$26-\$50:** Kolker Law, Frost Construction, First State Bank, Diana Chapter OES No. 83, Groton Ford, Lori's Pharmacy, Milbrandt Enterprises, Wells Fargo, Harry Implement, Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Erickson Insurance Agency, Full Circle Ag, S & S Lumber, Marc and Franne Sippel, GDI News/Clean/Fit/Live.

**For Donations of \$25:** Columbia American Legion, Professional Management Services, Krueger Brothers Gravel & Dirt, Groton Kiwanis, Rix Farms.

**For Donations of Supplies and/or Services:** The Jungle, Circus Bar, Ken's Food Fair, Dollar General, A & S Hardware.

Without your generosity, this event would not happen.

## Thank You!



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 3 of 49



The Groton Destination Imagination group served supper during Wednesday night's Lions Club Bingo event held at the Groton American Legion. Pictured left to right are Julie Milbrandt, Corbin Weismantel, Kandi Weismantel, Jeslyn Kosel, Joni Groeblichhoff, Robin Jensen and Joann Donley. Incidentally, no one won the Bingo jackpot so the new jackpot is over \$7,800 for Wednesday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



St. John's Lutheran Church held its pre-school graduation ceremony on Thursday. Pictured in back, left to right, are Ayce Warrington, Carter Boerger, Taylor Thompson, Mya Moody, Brynlee Dunker, Danielle Franken, Hank Hill and Ivan Schwan; in front, left to right, are Ambrielle Feist, Gracie Leim, Ian Mammenga, Kinton Tracy, Cash Reif, Maycee Moody, Aariah Leim and Kacie McComsey. (Photo from Amy Warrington's Facebook Page)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 4 of 49

## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting May 14, 2018 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

### AGENDA:

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

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of April 9, 2018 and April 23, 2018 school board meetings and May 8, 2018 special school board meeting as drafted or amended.

2. Approval of April 2018 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments

3. Approval of April 2018 School Transportation Report

4. Approval of April 2018 School Lunch Report

5. Approval of April District bills for payment

6. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.

7. Approve Open Enrollment Applications for the 2018-2019 school year

a. #19-03 (Grade JK) from Northwestern Area School District

b. #19-04 (Grade K) from Aberdeen School District

c. #19-05 (Grade K) from Aberdeen School District

d. #19-06 (Grade JK) from Aberdeen School District

e. #19-07 (Grade K) from Aberdeen School District

f. #19-08 (Grade K) from Aberdeen School District

g. #19-09 (Grade 3) from Aberdeen School District

h. #19-10 (Grade 7) from Aberdeen School District

i. #19-11 (Grade K) from Britton-Hecla School District

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke, Kara Pharis

c. Negotiations: Steve Smith, Grant Rix, Marty Weismantel

3. Consideration of Managed Print/Copy Proposals

4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Preliminary FY19 Budget Review

2. Consider amendment to 2018-2019 school calendar to address PROM/ACT Conflict

3. First Reading of Recommended of Policy Amendments

a. AC Nondiscrimination (Amend), BDDC Agenda Preparation and Dissemination (Amend), EFC Meal Charge Policy (Amend), GBL Personnel Records (Amend), GCBDD Military Leave of Absence (Amend), IGBC Limited English

Proficiency Instruction (NEW), JEAA Students Alternative Instruction (Amend), JGB Restraint and Seclusion (NEW), JGB-E(1) Restraint and Seclusion Incident Report (NEW), JGB-E(2) Restraint and Seclusion Debriefing (NEW), JOA-E(2) Student Directory Opt Out (Amend), KMB Title I Parental Involvement (Amend), KMC Annual Notification of Parents (NEW)

4. First Reading of Recommended Changes to OST Handbook

5. Approve NCSEC Agreement for 2018-2019 school year

6. Adoption of Renewal Motion for Associated School Boards Protective Trust (Health Fund)

7. Adoption of Renewal Motion for Associated School Board Protective Trust (Worker's Compensation Fund)

8. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Division IV Representative

9. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Large School Group Board of Education Representative.

10. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Division III Representative

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 5 of 49

11. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #1
  12. Issue certified staff contracts for 2018-2019 with return date of Friday, May 25, 2018
  13. Issue off-staff coaching agreements for 2018-2019 with return date of Friday, May 25, 2018
  14. Approve hiring Melissa Hill, MS/HS Special Education Teacher, for the 2018-2019 school year with salary to be published in July
  15. Approve hiring Brenda Madsen as Senior Class Advisor for the 2018-2019 school year
  16. Approve hiring Joe Schwan as Athletic Director for the 2018-2019 school year
  17. Approve hiring Chris Kucker as Girls Soccer Coach for the 2018-2019 school year
  18. Approve work agreements for summer custodial employees
    - a. Rita Kampa
    - b. Brandon Clocksene
    - c. Shyla Larson
    - d. Tyler Iverson
  19. Approve summer school and ESY agreements
    - a. Julie Milbrandt
    - b. Ann Gibbs
    - c. Joni Groeblichhoff
    - d. Jill Krueger
  20. Approve resignation of Pernell Graf, custodian, effective May 18, 2018
  21. Approve resignation of Don Donley as Yearbook Advisor
  22. Approve resignation/retirement of Jane Kroll, 2nd Grade Teacher, effective at end of 2017-2018 school year
  23. Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4) negotiations
- ADJOURN



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

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

**Part time Dietary Tech**

**For more information,  
call 605-492-3615**





**Kylie Kassube and Emily Thompson with conductor James Stephenson**



**Kylie Kassube and Emily Thompson with their music instructor, Desiree Yeigh.**

## **Thompson and Kassube attended MN Honor Band**

On April 8th junior band members Emily Thompson and Kylie Kassube represented Groton Area at Concordia Honor Band in Moorhead, Minnesota. The girls spent a weekend at Concordia College rehearsing for the final performance, and playing in masterclasses and sectionals with all of the Concordia Music Faculty. The event was made up of around 90 students from five different states: Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, and South Dakota. There were only four students accepted from South Dakota including Emily and Kylie.

The girls had the wonderful experience of working with conductors Peter Haberman (Conductor of the Concordia College Band), and Guest Composer and Conductor James Stephenson. Stephenson commissioned a piece just for the Honor Band called "Trench Coat."

Emily also performed with about twenty other percussion students for the college's annual Percussion Day on April 7th. The percussion students from Honor Band and Concordia College performed under the direction of Dr. Julie Hill. They played Hill's piece called "Rudi's Batuque" which encouraged dancing and participation from the audience.

Congratulations Kylie and Emily on a successful junior year in the Groton Area Band Department!

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 7 of 49

## Today in Weather History

May 11, 1966: Late season snow fell in parts of north central and northeast South Dakota and into west central Minnesota. Amounts include; 4 inches in Timber Lake; 3 in Eureka, 2 NNW of Mobridge, and Roscoe; and 2 inches in Artichoke Lake MN, Pollock, and Waubay.

May 11, 1998: Torrential rains of 2 to 4 inches with some amounts nearing 5 inches fell across a large part of Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, and Clark counties on the evening of the 11th. This round of heavy rain only exacerbated the already extensive flooding occurring from many years of above-average precipitation. Day County was most affected by this round of heavy rain where area lakes were already at new record levels. Blue Dog, Waubay, Rush, and Bitter Lake in Day County were just a few of the lakes hard hit. In fact, extensive sandbagging was done around Blue Dog Lake to save many homes. Some residents of Blue Dog Lake said they had never seen the lake so high in over 35 years of living there. Many more roads become flooded after this heavy rain event and will remain so for quite some time. Spots on U.S. Highway 12 and U.S. Highway 25 become flooded near Holmquist and Webster. Also, more of U.S. Highway 212, 4 miles east of Clark was flooded. There remained only one road opened to the town of Grenville in northeastern Day County. In all five counties, the rising water took away many more acres of farm and pastureland, as well as drowning many crops that had already been planted. One farmer in Spink County said sixty percent of his farm was under water. Some farmhouses and outbuildings became surrounded by water leaving some families stranded. After this heavy rain, around sixty percent of the crop and pastureland in Day County and one-third of it in Spink County had been inundated by a swollen water table and several years of above normal precipitation. Overall, the continued flooding has had a tremendous impact on the economy in the five county areas. Some rainfall amounts on this day include; 4.7 inches just north of Crocker in Clark County; 4.52 at Webster; 4.01 at Doland; 3.81 at Waubay NWR; 3.60 at Turton; 2.63 at Conde; 2.60 at Groton; 2.41 at Clark; and 2.18 inches at Aberdeen.

Additional heavy rain of 2 to 4 inches fell mainly during the evening of the 11th across southern and central Hand County. Many creeks in the area became rushing torrents through the night and the day of the 12th. Also, low-lying areas and a lot of crop and pastureland were flooded. Some businesses and homes in the Miller, Saint Lawrence, Ree Heights, and Vayland areas were flooded. Some sandbagging was done to try and save some properties in Miller. U.S. Highway 14 at the east end of Miller was flooded over for several hours along with many other streets, county and township roads in southern and central Hand County. Many of the roads were damaged as the result of the flooding. Some people in Miller said they had never seen it flood this bad in 35 years. Some rainfall amounts include; 3.99 inches at Miller; 3.10 inches 3 miles south of Ree Heights; and 2.65 at Ree Heights.

1865: A tornado touched down in Philadelphia around 6 PM ET, killing one person and injuring 15 others. There was a considerable destruction of property, with 23 houses blown down, damage to the Reading Railroad depot, with the water tank, carried 150 yards. Fairmont Park was damaged to the amount of \$20,000.

1934: A tremendous dust storm affected the Plains as the Dust Bowl era was in full swing. According to The New York Times, dust "lodged itself in the eyes and throats of weeping and coughing New Yorkers," and even ships some 300 miles offshore sawdust collect on their decks.

1953: A terrifying F5 tornado rips through downtown Waco, Texas, killing 114 people and injuring nearly 600 more. More than 850 homes, 600 businesses, and 2,000 cars are destroyed or severely damaged. Losses have been estimated at \$41 million. The tornado is the deadliest in Texas history and the tenth deadliest in the US.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 8 of 49

Fri May 11	Sat May 12	Sun May 13	Mon May 14	Tue May 15	Wed May 16	Thu May 17
55°F	64°F	72°F	78°F	80°F	79°F	72°F
41°F	41°F	47°F	52°F	53°F	51°F	54°F
ENE 13 MPH	NE 10 MPH	SSW 5 MPH	SW 7 MPH	S 8 MPH	SE 8 MPH	ENE 13 MPH
Precip 40%					Precip 20%	Precip 20%



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
5/11/2018 6:21 AM

**Another Cool,  
Cloudy Day -- Light  
Rain Showers  
Possible**

**3 Day Forecast**

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
55-65°	65-75°	75-80°

Published on: 05/11/2018 at 6:25AM

Mostly cloudy skies will continue to hold overnight into Friday along with scattered showers. Best chances for rain through Friday will be confined to the Highway 212 corridor and points south. Up to a quarter of an inch or more of rain will be possible in these areas through Friday night. A gradual improvement is expected during the weekend with drier weather and warming temps.



# Groton Daily Independent

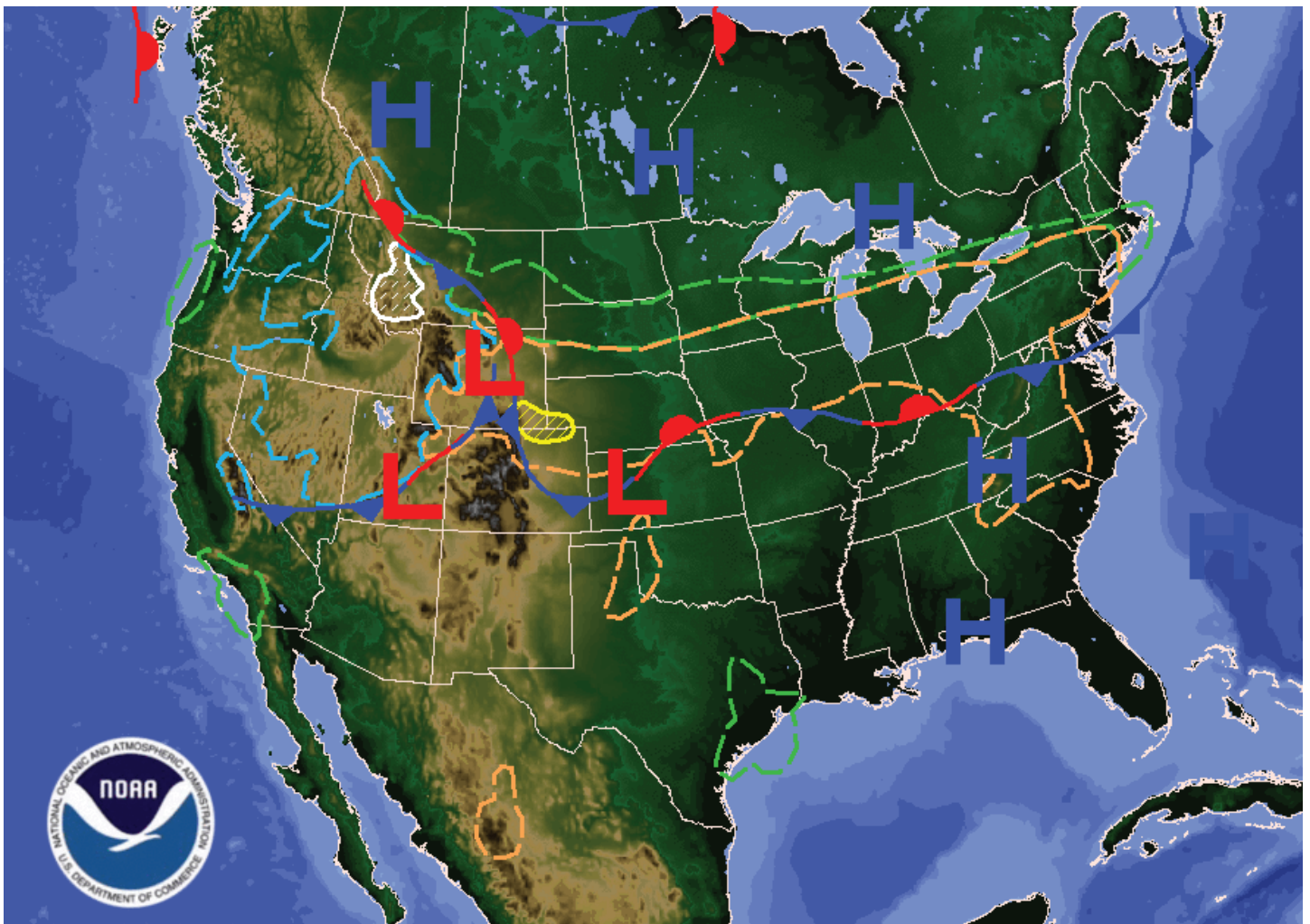
Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 9 of 49

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 51.3 F at 3:33 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 36.8 F at 6:54 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 9:58 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 95° in 1900**  
**Record Low: 18° in 1946**  
**Average High: 68°F**  
**Average Low: 42°F**  
**Average Precip in May: 1.13**  
**Precip to date in May: 0.66**  
**Average Precip to date: 5.16**  
**Precip Year to Date: 3.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:52 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:06 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, May 11, 2018, issued 4:26 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong 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

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 10 of 49



## PRAYER: FORCE OR FOOLISHNESS

Prayer, for some, is a force that enables them to approach God in worship and wonder or in times of need for the necessities of life. For others, prayer is utter and complete foolishness because they believe it is foolish and a waste of time.

In the life of David, it was a powerful force. Whenever he was hurt by harmful words, received a wound from a battle or had a need that was beyond his limitations he turned to God in prayer. Listen carefully to his words: "I am a man of prayer."

It is always interesting to listen carefully to someone introduce themselves: "I am a doctor...I am the CEO of...I am a sales representative at...I work for...I am the one who...I set a record by...I am the owner of." We seem to want others to recognize us for what we have done not who we are.

But with all his power and prestige, wealth and wisdom, David wanted others to recognize him as someone who was completely dependent on God: "I am a man of prayer."

Prayer was a force in the life of David. As we read his prayer in the Psalms we discover that he had no definite time of prayer, no specific place to pray, no particular position he assumed when he prayed and it seems as though most of the time when he prayed he was alone.

David realized that prayer was a force in his life. It brought forgiveness when he sinned, peace when he was anxious, and victory when he was embattled and constant joy.

Prayer: Father, may we see the need for prayer in our lives when we see the results of prayer in the life of others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 109:4 In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 11 of 49

## 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
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 12 of 49

## News from the Associated Press

### **2 men sentenced to federal prison for trafficking meth**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two men have been sentenced in federal court in South Dakota in unrelated methamphetamine trafficking cases.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says 31-year-old David Gunville of Eagle Butte and 26-year-old Antonio Foster of Tucson, Arizona, both conspired with others to distribute the drug in South Dakota last year or earlier.

Gunville was recently sentenced to four years in prison and Foster to five years. Gunville also was fined \$1,000, and Foster was ordered to forfeit nearly \$5,400 in cash.

### **92-year-old woman dead in Bon Homme County crash**

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A 92-year-old woman is dead in a two-vehicle crash in Bon Homme County.

The Highway Patrol says the woman failed to yield at a state Highway 50 intersection just west of Tyndall, and her car crashed into a semitrailer about 11:20 a.m. Thursday.

The 41-year-old semi driver wasn't injured.

Neither person was immediately identified.

## **Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials**

**By The Associated Press**

### **Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, May 10**

#### **Executive sessions erode trust in county government**

Executive sessions should arouse suspicion. Elected officials meeting behind closed doors with no obligation to report or document discussions can only raise questions.

It is especially troublesome when elected boards do this routinely as does the Pennington County Commission, which since 2016 has held executive sessions after more than 60 percent of scheduled meetings, which are twice a month. They have become so routine county staff now lists them on every agenda without even a vague reference to the need for secrecy.

Three commissioners — Lloyd LaCroix, Deb Hadcock and Ron Buskerud — cited employee turnover, property deals, construction projects and legal issues to justify the rash of executive sessions, according to a story by Journal reporter Samuel Blackstone. Two commissioners — George Ferebee and Mark DiSanto — declined to return calls, which suggests an indifference to concerns that executive sessions are being abused.

State law only encourages public boards to list reasons for an executive session but does require a motion be made and a vote taken before it can be held. Once in executive session, boards should only discuss personnel issues, litigation, employee contract negotiations, marketing strategies for publicly owned businesses, and issues regarding students, which mostly applies to school boards. But, of course, it's impossible to know if that is the case unless they decide to disclose, which rarely, if ever, happens.

There is no requirement that minutes be taken or the meeting be recorded to discourage violations of the state's Open Meetings Law, which makes allegations difficult to prove as Ferebee learned after he lodged a complaint against the state Water Management Board for an executive session held in 2016. Ferebee claimed the deliberations were illegal and that inaccurate minutes were kept.

In rejecting his arguments, the Open Meetings Commission that consists of five state's attorneys decided to "construe the word deliberation broadly." Even if someone does prevail with a complaint, a public reprimand is the only penalty.

In the era of President Trump, it is becoming popular to distrust the federal government and for good reasons. The federal bureaucracy is so large, distant and virtually impenetrable that it is difficult if not

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 13 of 49

impossible to hold decision-makers accountable. The same can be said of locally elected officials who take advantage of executive sessions.

State law, however, does not require them to discuss personnel issues, legal matters, and development and marketing strategies in private — that is their choice. Since little hope exists that state lawmakers will narrow the reasons a public board can meet in secret or require them to record those meetings, it is up to taxpayers to call for change. You can do that by calling the county commission at 394-2171 and demanding more transparency.

Government works best for the public when it is held accountable, which can't happen when elected officials choose to avoid scrutiny.

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## **Madison Daily Leader, Madison, May 9** **Will heavy runoff contribute to flooding?**

We find ourselves thinking more about weather in Montana than we used to.

Extreme water levels on the Missouri River in the last decade are the cause. Heavy winter and spring moisture in Montana, the head of the Missouri, causes the river to swell as it passes through South Dakota. Heavy moisture in 2011 caused substantial flooding damage along the river all the way to St. Louis, where it merges with the Mississippi River.

Light moisture, on the other hand, causes the river level to drop, which reduces hydropower production at the dams. That raised the price of electricity purchased by the City of Madison, which buys more than half of its power from Missouri River dams.

Before the Flood Control Act of 1928, the river's flows were even more extreme, causing widespread erosion and flooding in high years, and even changing its course. But the Act authorized construction of dams that would temper the flows and also provide electricity for a growing region.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for managing flows on behalf of a number of constituents, such as irrigation, wildlife habitat, barge traffic, recreation and electricity production. It's been a challenge, both in trying to forecast water flows and trying to satisfy constituents who have different goals.

This year, western Montana braces for its highest waters in decades. That will lead to heavy flows in the Missouri in May and June, or even beyond.

The Corps has increased the "service level" at least three times in the last two months based on actual and forecasted precipitation in Montana and South Dakota. The Corps adjusts the flows at the dam, trying to accommodate the heavier inflows.

Could we anticipate flooding like 2011? The Corps has indicated some certain conditions are different from seven years ago, primarily that the soils in the basin are not saturated as they were then. In other words, dry soils will absorb the moisture, rather than shedding it into creeks, streams and rivers that lead to the Missouri.

We also think the experience of the 2011 flood has contributed to the knowledge base of the Corps, helping it to manage the flows better. At this time of year, the Corps focuses completely on flood control, rather than other priorities.

Weather conditions and forecasts can change quickly, but we are confident that the Missouri River will not experience flooding anywhere close to the levels of 2011.

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## **The Daily Republic, Mitchell, May 7** **Hisses and cheers**

CHEERS to all the weekend graduates from Mitchell Technical Institute and Dakota Wesleyan University. You will be entering a job market sorely in need of your skills and capabilities. The commitment you demonstrated in pursuing associate, bachelor's and master's degrees will serve you well as you step forward to meet challenges in South Dakota and the nation. Congratulations also go to the graduates' families.

HISSES go to the political complications that could derail congressional efforts to approve a new farm bill before winter. The House could take up an ag committee recommendation by mid-May that contains

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 14 of 49

proposals for big changes in the food stamp program. Regardless of the merits of those proposals, they will complicate farm bill passage in the Senate, where Republicans hold a narrow majority and 60 votes will likely be necessary for approval. Democrats appear poised to fight the food program changes, setting up a showdown. As Sen. John Thune noted during a visit to Mitchell on Thursday, the ag community faces plenty of current worries from low commodity prices, low farm income and looming threats of tariffs. There is a sense of urgency for the timely passage of this farm bill, Thune noted. Hopefully, the spirit of compromise will prevail, ensuring farmers and ranchers receive the support they need.

CHEERS to a promising outlook for Mitchell's summer tourist season. Inquiries to the state from family vacation planners have increased and website traffic to the Mitchell Convention and Visitors Bureau is up. Last year's construction on Burr Street had little effect on tourism numbers, so city officials have few worries related to this year's projects on Burr and Sanborn Boulevard. Tourism is an important element of Mitchell's prosperity.

HISSES to the continuing slow progress made in providing broadband services to rural America. As noted recently by Stephen Berry, president and CEO of the Competitive Carriers Association, while 4 percent of urban America lacks access to fast internet, roughly 40 percent of rural America lacks it. Like it or not, the internet will be an increasing part of business, education and information transfer. Rural Americans, especially the children, cannot afford to be left behind in that revolution.

## South Dakota residents raise concerns over gun range site

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A proposed gun range in western South Dakota has drawn concerns about noise and safety from nearby residents and businesses.

The plan to move Sturgis Guns to a new location has been delayed after public concerns were raised at a Meade County Commission meeting last month, the Rapid City Journal reported. The indoor and outdoor gun range initially planned to move to a new property in Sturgis this month, said co-owner Tammy Bohn.

But the gun range received backlash after announcing the move on social media.

Sturgis City Councilor Mike Bachand said he fielded many calls from residents with concerns about the gun range's new location. He cautioned that the Black Hills National Cemetery and Interstate 90 could be areas in the range's field of fire.

William Cudmore lives near the proposed site and is concerned about how the range could affect property values. He wants a guarantee there won't be any noise issues.

Bohn said misinformation has "slandered" her business.

"It's troubling to know that he (Bachand) was given a public forum to smear our business and to scare the public," Bohn said.

Meade County Commission Chairman Galen Niederwerder apologized to Bohn for allowing the public comment period during the April 25 meeting without both sides present.

"That was inappropriate on my part to allow any comments like that before we had a chance to hear from the owners of the business and the landowner," Niederwerder said. "A lot of disparaging remarks were made and this body was used as a forum for that purpose."

Bohn said the gun range is "trying to get the building up as soon as possible because we're losing money every day it's not activated."

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

## Authorities identify man who died after crashing motorcycle

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a man who died after crashing his motorcycle west of Custer.

The Highway Patrol says 63-year-old Michael Welch, of Rapid City, was killed when he failed to negotiate a turn on U.S. Highway 16 shortly before 1 p.m. Monday. His motorcycle collided with a guide rail.

Welch died at the scene.



## **SD drug prices ballot measure explanation won't be rewritten**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Supreme Court this week rejected a push from the pharmaceutical industry to require the state attorney general rewrite his explanation of a measure that would cap the price state agencies could pay for prescription drugs.

The high court denied a legal challenge filed last year by South Dakota Biotech and Washington-based Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, or PhRMA. They had asked the courts to direct Attorney General Marty Jackley to rewrite his statement, which will explain the question to November voters when they mark their ballots.

Initiative supporter Rick Weiland said in an email that the challenge was an attempt by the pharmaceutical industry to disrupt the will of the voters and their right to use the ballot question process to petition the government. He said Initiated Measure 26 would save the state "millions of dollars and curtail the drug industry's price gouging practices."

The trade groups argued in court documents that the explanation falls short because it doesn't adequately inform voters about the measure's purpose, effect and legal consequences. They claimed in part that it doesn't mention language in the measure giving supporters legal standing if the initiative is challenged in court.

Opposition campaign South Dakotans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue said in a statement that concerned residents are "extremely disappointed" the court didn't compel Jackley to include in the summary a reference to that legal standing provision.

"South Dakota voters will now have to read the fine print for themselves to understand all of the questionable and deceptive aspects of this concerning measure," the group said.

In a ruling filed Wednesday, the Supreme Court said that "explanations cannot be set aside merely because they could be better."

Jackley said in a statement that he worked to provide a fair, clear and simple summary of the proposal. The first sentence of the explanation reads: "This measure limits the amount that a State agency may pay for a prescription drug."

The initiative is set to appear on South Dakota's November ballot. The plan — adapted from an Ohio measure voters rejected in 2017 — would prohibit state agencies from paying more than the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for prescription drugs.

The state spent more than \$63 million last budget year on prescription drugs, with the majority of that for state health plan members and Medicaid recipients, according to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office.

## **Pierre student struck in crosswalk; injuries appear minor**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A middle school student in Pierre was taken to a hospital for evaluation of apparent minor injuries after being struck by a car.

KCCR radio reports the 12-year-old girl was hit Wednesday morning while in a crosswalk near Georgia Morse Middle School.

Police say the view of the 35-year-old man driving the car was obstructed by other vehicles as the girl crossed between them. He was not cited.

Information from: KCCR-AM, <http://www.todaykccr.com/>

## **Porcupine man charged in crash that killed family**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Porcupine man has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in a crash that killed a family on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 28-year-old Tyler Makes Him First is accused of being drunk while driving a pickup truck that collided head-on with a car driven by Waylon Red Elk Sr. near Porcupine last Nov. 4.

Red Elk died, along with his pregnant wife, 34-year-old Jaylene Pretends Eagle, and their 1-year-old son,

Waylon Red Elk Jr.

Makes Him First also is charged in tribal court with drunken driving. Court documents don't list an attorney for him. A telephone listing for him couldn't be found.

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

## **Body found in Lake Alvin; no foul play suspected in death**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — No foul play is suspected in the death of a man whose body was found in Lake Alvin.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office says someone putting a boat in the water Wednesday afternoon discovered the body and notified authorities.

A cause of death was not immediately released.

## **Gazans rally near Israel border in blockade-busting campaign**

**By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza activists burned tires near the sealed border with Israel on Friday in a seventh weekly protest aimed at shaking off a decade-old blockade of their territory. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas volleys from the other side of the border fence.

The protest came just three days ahead of what the leader of Gaza's ruling Hamas group has said will be a march by tens of thousands who could burst through the border fence into Israel. The crowd on Monday will be unarmed and peaceful, but like a "starving tiger" in pent-up anger and unpredictability, Yehiyeh Sinwar told foreign reporters Thursday.

Israel has warned that it will prevent any border breach. It has stuck to its open-fire policies, such as targeting "main instigators" and those approaching the fence, despite growing international criticism. Israel says it has a right to defend its border and has accused Hamas of using the protests as a cover for attacking the border. Rights group say the use of potentially lethal force against unarmed protesters is unlawful.

Since the Hamas-led marches began in late March, 40 Palestinian protests have been killed and more than 1,700 wounded by Israel army fire. The protests, driven by despair among Gaza's 2 million people, are part of a campaign to break the blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after the Islamic militant Hamas overran Gaza in 2007.

There are growing concerns that if Israel and Hamas dig in, a widespread border breach in coming days could lead to large numbers of casualties.

Monday's border march is meant to protest the planned move of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to contested Jerusalem that day.

The embassy's inauguration comes five months after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a move that outraged Palestinians as blatantly pro-Israel.

The Israeli-annexed eastern sector of Jerusalem is sought as a future Palestinian capital — at least by those supporting Hamas' political rival, West Bank-based Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas seeks an Islamic state in the entire historic Palestine, including what is now Israel, but has said it is ready for a long-term truce.

Another large-scale protest is planned for Tuesday, when Palestinians mark their "nakba," or catastrophe, referring to their mass uprooting during the Mideast war over Israel's 1948 creation. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven out or fled homes in what is now Israel. More than two-thirds of Gaza residents are descendants of refugees.

On Friday, hundreds of protesters gathered in five tent camps set up weeks ago, each several hundred meters (yards) from the border.

From one of the camps, east of Gaza City, dozens moved closer to the fence. Some burned tires they had stashed in a ditch, releasing large plumes of black smoke. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas.

Witnesses said Israeli forces on the other side of the fence had added reinforcements, including cement

slabs, as protective cover.

In recent weeks, soldiers have fired from behind sand berms.

## Volcano explosion won't be deadly if people stay out of park

By SOPHIA YAN and SETH BORENSTEIN, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — A Hawaii volcano that sputtered lava for a week, forced around 2,000 residents to evacuate, destroyed some two dozen homes and threatened a geothermal plant now threatens to blow its top in the coming days or weeks.

Experts fear it could hurl ash and boulders the size of refrigerators miles into the air.

Scientists note that as long as people stay out of closed areas of a national park around the volcano, the possible explosion won't be deadly.

"If it goes up, it will come down," said Charles Mandeville, volcano hazards coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey. "You don't want to be underneath anything that weighs 10 tons when it's coming out at 120 mph (193 kph)."

The added threat of an explosive eruption could ground planes at one of the Big Island's two major airports and pose other dangers. The national park around the volcano announced that it would close indefinitely starting 10 p.m. Thursday because of the risks.

"We know the volcano is capable of doing this," Mandeville said, citing similar explosions at Kilauea in 1925, 1790 and four other times in the last few thousand years. "We know it is a distinct possibility."

He would not estimate the likelihood of such an explosion, but said the internal volcanic conditions are changing in a way that could lead to a blast in about a week. The volcano's internal plumbing could still prevent an explosion.

If it happens, a summit blast could also release steam and sulfur dioxide gas.

Kilauea has destroyed 36 structures — including 26 homes — since May 3, when it began releasing lava from vents about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of the summit crater. Fifteen of the vents are now spread through the Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens neighborhoods.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige said crews at a geothermal energy plant near the lava outbreak accelerated the removal of stored flammable fuel as a precaution. The Puna Geothermal Venture plant had about 50,000 gallons (189,270 liters) of pentane. It was removed early Thursday.

Barbara Lozano, who lives within a mile of the plant, said she would have thought twice about buying her property if she had known the risks.

"Why did they let us buy residential property, knowing it was a dangerous situation? Why did they let people build all around it?" she asked.

Avani Love, 29, moved to the Big Island about a month ago from Maui with her four children. They evacuated their home May 3, and only found out it was destroyed when a relative went back to get her personal belongings.

While saying she's sad to have lost her home, she also feels a sense of renewal brought on by Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, to correct overpopulation of the island.

"Everyone comes here," she said. "When you have that, it's Pele's way of clearing house and restoring the place. There's beauty and also darkness."

No one lives in the immediate area of the summit. Communities around 2 miles (3 kilometers) away may be showered by pea-size fragments or dusted with nontoxic ash, said Tina Neal, scientist-in-charge at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory.

What could happen is not an eruption of volcanic gases but mostly trapped steam from flash-heated groundwater released like in a kitchen pressure cooker, with rocks, said volcanologist Janine Krippner of Concord University in West Virginia.

The problem is the lava lake at the summit of Kilauea is draining fast, about 6.5 feet (2 meters) per hour, Mandeville said.

In little more than a week, the top of the lava lake has gone from spilling over the crater to almost 970



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 18 of 49

feet (295 meters) below the surface as of Thursday morning, Mandeville said. The lava levels in the lake are dropping because lava is spewing out of cracks elsewhere in the mountain, lowering the pressure that filled the lava lake.

"This is a huge change. This is three football fields going down," Mandeville said.

The fear is that it will go below the underground water table — another 1,000 feet further down — and that would trigger a chain of events that could lead to a "very violent" steam explosion, Mandeville said.

At the current rate of change, that is about six or seven days away.

Once the lava drops, rocks that had been superheated could fall into the lava tube. And once the lava drops below the water table, water hits rocks that are as hot as almost 2,200 degrees (1,200 Celsius) and flashes into steam. When the water hits the lava, it also steams. And the dropped rocks hold that steam in until it blows.

A similar 1924 explosion threw pulverized rock, ash and steam as high as 5.4 miles (9 kilometers) into the sky, for a couple of weeks. If another blast happens, the danger zone could extend about 3 miles (5 kilometers) around the summit, land all inside the national park, Mandeville said.

The small, aptly named town of Volcano, Hawaii, population 2,500, is about 3 miles (4.83 kilometers) from the summit. Janet Coney is office manager of the Kilauea Lodge, an inn and restaurant. She said USGS officials told her lodge employees probably won't have to worry about rocks raining down on them, but they might experience falling ash.

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Borenstein reported from Washington, D.C. Associated Press journalists Audrey McAvoy, Caleb Jones, Haven Daley and Jennifer Sinco Kelleher contributed to this report.

## Family of 7 dead with gunshot wounds in rural Australia

By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A family of seven including four children was found dead with gunshot wounds Friday at a rural property in southwest Australia in what could be the country's worst mass shooting in 22 years, police and news media said.

The children died with their mother and grandparents. The three generations had moved in 2015 to Osmington, a village of fewer than 700 people near the tourist town of Margaret River, to grow fruit, media reported.

Police would not comment on the possibility of murder-suicide, but said they are not looking for a suspect.

After being alerted by a phone call before dawn, police found the bodies and two guns at the property, Western Australia state Police Commissioner Chris Dawson said. Police wouldn't say who made the call.

The bodies of two adults were found outside a house and the others were found inside. They all resided at the property, he said.

Police said they have no information that would raise concerns about wider public safety, suggesting a shooter is not at large.

"Police are currently responding to what I can only describe as a horrific incident," Dawson told reporters.

"This devastating tragedy will no doubt have a lasting impact on the families concerned, the whole community and, in particular, the local communities in our southwest," he added.

Police were attempting to make contact with the victims' relatives, Dawson said. He declined to release the names or ages of the dead.

Philip Alpers, a Sydney University gun policy analyst, said the tragedy appeared to be the worst mass shooting in Australia since a lone gunman killed 35 people in Tasmania state in 1996, prompting the nation to introduce tough gun controls.

Australia's gun laws are widely acclaimed as a success, with supporters including former U.S. President Barack Obama saying Australia has not had a single mass shooting since they were implemented.

The generally accepted definition of a mass shooting — four deaths excluding the shooter in a single event — has been met only once in Australia since then. In 2014, a farmer shot his wife and three children

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 19 of 49

before killing himself.

Police have revealed few details about the recent killings, and it is not clear whether there was more than one shooter.

Farmers are allowed to own guns under Australian law because they have a legitimate need to use them to kill feral pests and predators or sick or injured livestock. But automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns are banned from public ownership.

Osmington is a collection of a few streets, farms, vacation accommodations and vineyards supplying the premium winemaking district known as Margaret River.

Samantha Lee, chair of the Gun Control Australia lobby group, said rural areas were over-represented in Australian gun deaths, including suicides.

"Regional and rural areas are particularly vulnerable to these sorts of tragedies, because of the combination of isolation, sometimes mental or financial hardship and easy access to firearms," Less said in a statement.

"Although the details of this tragedy are yet to come to light, Australia has a tragic history of higher rate of gun deaths in rural areas," she added.

## Singapore ties with US, NKorea make city-state summit site

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore's diplomatic ties with North Korea and its relative proximity made the Southeast Asian city-state a natural choice for the historic summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump announced in a tweet Thursday the two leaders will meet in Singapore on June 12.

The city is "a great location" for the summit, said Tom Plant, who specializes in nuclear and proliferation issues at London's Royal United Services Institute. "Kim will be on friendly territory, not hostile territory. But he wouldn't be on home turf."

Among the factors: It's closer for Kim than possible Europe venues, the experience of Singapore's security forces, and the fact that Pyongyang has had diplomatic relations with the country since 1975.

Singapore is familiar ground for the reclusive communist country, which has its embassy in Singapore's central business district.

Single-party rule since Singapore gained independence in 1965 has ensured stability and fostered a security state that is among the world's most efficient. Located between two Muslim majority nations — Malaysia and Indonesia — with Islamic State group sympathizers, it has effectively checked terrorist threats.

It's also a perfect venue for top security meetings — protests are not allowed without permission, movement is strictly controlled and media are kept under control.

Singapore is sometimes decried by civil libertarians as repressive. Among the most common complaints: preventive detention without warrants or charges; monitoring of private electronic or telephone communications also without warrants; the use of defamation laws to discourage government criticism and strict laws limiting freedom of association, according to the annual U.S. State Department human rights report.

North Korea's state companies have, in the past, conducted legal and illegal business dealings with Singaporean companies. The city-state, under pressure from the U.S. and a leaked U.N. report, officially cut off trade relations with North Korea in 2017 to abide by sanctions.

Singapore also is welcome ground for the United States.

It is a large trading partner, the second-largest Asian investor, and a longtime supporter of its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. It's also the regional headquarters of large U.S. companies including Google, Facebook and Airbnb. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1966.

"The North Korean side will likely have a very large number of logistical and protocol issues it wants addressed by the summit venue, so having a (North Korean) embassy in the country where the summit is to be held is likely a requirement," said Malcolm Cook, a senior fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 20 of 49

Located just over 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) from North Korea, Singapore is comfortably within the flying range of its aircraft. Flying to western Europe would require a stop or two to refuel.

"Singapore is neither too far away as European nations are, allowing Kim Jong Un's private jet to make it here without refueling, nor too close that Trump might be seen as 'giving way' to Kim by having to travel a longer distance than the latter," said Nah Liang Tuang, a research fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Singapore David Adelman said Singapore was ideal because it has been "an honest broker between East and West."

"Singapore has been a great friend to the U.S. but also Singapore has carefully worked to be a friend to all, which has earned it trust in capitals around the world," he said.

Its free enterprise philosophy welcomes trading partners from everywhere, regardless of politics.

"We hope this meeting will advance prospects for peace in the Korean Peninsula," Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

In 2015, Singapore was the site of another unprecedented summit between two leaders burdened with a legacy of mutual distrust: Chinese President Xi Jinping and rival Taiwan's then-President Ma Ying-jeou, the first such meeting since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

It also has hosted regional meetings, including the summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2007 and 2018. Since 2002, an annual security conference has been held there, featuring defense chiefs and officials from countries including the U.S., China and South Korea.

For such gatherings, roadblocks are set up around the summit venues, where armed Nepalese Gurkhas stand guard.

In 2015, Gurkha officers fired at a car that breached four roadblocks and crashed into a concrete barrier. The driver was killed and two passengers arrested in what turned out to be a drug-related crash, rather than an attack.

Valued foreign guests won't be troubled by protesters, either. Demonstrations in Singapore can only be held in a designated area, the 2.4-acre (0.9-hectare) Hong Lim Park.

Amnesty International says amendments to the country's Public Order Act have given authorities more power to restrict public assembly, and participants in peaceful protests have been arrested.

## UN chief asks for halt to 'all hostile acts' in Middle East

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate halt to "all hostile acts" to avoid "a new conflagration" in the Middle East after Israeli forces bombed Iranian targets inside Syria.

Guterres' comments came as a calm night followed intense attacks on parts of Syria by Israel. Israel said the strikes early Thursday were retaliation for an Iranian rocket barrage on its positions in the Golan Heights and has called on the U.N. Security Council and secretary-general to immediately condemn Iran's attack.

Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned Israel's attacks and called it a blatant violation of Syria's sovereignty.

In Iran's first official reaction to the attack, a Friday report in state-run IRNA quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying the Israeli attack on Syria under "fabricated and baseless excuses" is a breach of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria.

He added that Syria has the right to defend itself "against the aggressors."

The Security Council, deeply divided over Syria, is highly unlikely to issue a statement and as of Friday morning no council member had asked for a meeting.

Israel and Iran have long fought each other through proxies, and with the new exchange each seemed to be sending a warning that a direct clash between them could swiftly escalate.

The scope of the attacks — which Israel called its largest in Syria since the 1973 Mideast war — raised the specter of a full-fledged war between Iran and Israel in Syria, a conflict that could potentially drag the militant Hezbollah and Lebanon into the mix with devastating effects, although both sides appeared

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 21 of 49

to signal they wanted the confrontation to remain contained, at least for now.

Near the capital Damascus, opposition fighters and their families left three southern suburbs that were held by rebels bringing the area under government control for the first time in years, Syrian state media and a war monitor say

Syria's state news agency SANA said opposition fighters who decided to stay in the suburbs of Babila, Beit Sahem and Yalda will hand over the weapons and return to normal life.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a total of 8,400 fighters and civilians left the area since May 3 and the last group left Thursday night.

Syrian state TV and the Observatory said police forces are getting ready to enter the area on Friday to guarantee security.

With the capture of the three suburbs, the only area outside government control in Damascus is that of the neighborhood of Hajar al-Aswad and the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Yarmouk that are partially controlled by the Islamic State group.

Government forces have been on the offensive against IS in the area since last month and its capture would boost security in President Bashar Assad's seat of power.

## Red Sox rebound for 5-4 win, Yanks' 2nd loss in 19 games

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Cora watched the New York Yankees erase a late deficit for the second straight night, and the Boston Red Sox manager wasn't surprised.

"For them, it's fun to watch," he said. "For me, it's like, oh God, here we go again."

This time, the Red Sox rebounded after wasting a four-run lead for a win that seemed more important than most.

J.D. Martinez hit a tiebreaking home run against Dellin Betances leading off the eighth inning, just beyond Aaron Judge's reach at the right-field wall, and the Red Sox escaped New York with a 5-4 victory Thursday night that handed the Yankees only their second loss in 19 games.

"Definitely huge," Martinez said. "Kind of hoping that we can almost slow them down in a sense."

Boston moved back into a tie with the Yankees for the AL East lead at 26-11, the best record in the major leagues. The rivals have split six games this year and meet 13 more times but not until June 29 in the Bronx.

"You walk off there disappointed but also proud of the way the guys continue to compete through the end and give ourselves a chance on a night when maybe it doesn't look that way," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Even Iris Cora admires the Baby Bombers.

"I hate to say it, but my mom kind of like — liked what happened with them," the Boston manager said. "It's a fun team. It's an athletic team, and I think the fans are buying into it."

Boston built a 4-0 lead against CC Sabathia as Hanley Ramirez drove in three runs with a run-scoring groundout in the first, an RBI single in a two-run third and a homer in the fifth just before a 55-minute rain delay.

But the Yankees tied the score in the seventh after loading the bases with one out against Heath Hembree.

Joe Kelly (2-0), who served a six-game suspension for hitting the Yankees' Tyler Austin with a pitch last month, was booed loudly when he entered. Kelly forced in a run with a four-pitch walk to Brett Gardner, gave up an RBI single to Judge and a run-scoring groundout to Didi Gregorius, who is hitless in 24 at-bats. Kelly then bounced a run-scoring wild pitch off catcher Christian Vazquez.

Martinez had driven in a run in the third with a liner off the glove of second baseman Gleyber Torres that was turned into a forceout, and as he walked to the plate in the eighth, Ramirez told him to hit a home run.

"He was saying it as a joke," Martinez remembered.

No joke. Martinez sent a 97 mph fastball from Betances (1-2) to the opposite field, just over Judge's outstretched glove.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 22 of 49

"I was like blowing, praying, doing everything I can to push it over," Martinez said.

Judge reached over the fence, and a spectator's glove touched his. But the ball was clearly over the wall and Martinez circled the bases with his ninth home run.

"Once it goes past that imaginary line, it's fair game for him. So it's no interference," Judge said. "I just missed it."

Austin flied out on the first pitch he saw from Kelly with a runner on in the eighth. Kelly threw a called third strike past Neil Walker to end the inning with two on — the seventh Yankees batter caught looking as New York repeatedly questioned the strike zone of plate umpire Stu Scheurwater.

A night after giving up Gardner's go-ahead, two-run triple in a four-run eighth, Craig Kimbrel struck out Gardner, then retired Judge on a flyout and Gregorius on a chopper that Kimbrel snagged on the left side of the infield for his 301st career save and 10th in 12 chances this season.

"I enjoyed having the same part of the lineup up and getting another chance," Kimbrel said. "Mentally, yesterday's not going to get to me. I've blown many a save and come back the next day. It's part of my job."

Mookie Betts had three hits, raising his batting average to a major league-leading .361. New York, held without an extra-base hit for the first time this year, had won eight straight games overall and 11 in a row at home.

In the glow of the win, Ramirez didn't see the division race getting decided in the late stages.

"It's not going to be like this all year," he said. "We're going to take off."

## STARTERS

Boston lefty Eduardo Rodriguez struck out eight — including six looking. He has a 2.25 ERA in six starts at new Yankee Stadium. Sabathia allowed nine hits in four innings as his ERA rose from 1.39 to 2.23.

## CHEERED

Booed in his final weeks as a Yankees player two years ago, Alex Rodriguez was cheered when shown on the video board while watching the game after the rain delay.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Red Sox: RHP Tyler Thornburg, coming back from surgery last June 16 to correct thoracic outlet syndrome, made his fifth minor league rehab appearance. He gave up two runs and two hits while getting two outs for Double-A Portland. He will join the Red Sox in Toronto on Friday for a bullpen session. ... OF Jackie Bradley Jr. (.173) was not in the starting lineup for the second straight day and might not play Friday.

Yankees: 1B Greg Bird (right ankle surgery on March 27) played five innings in his first rehab game for Class A Tampa and was 0 for 3 with two flyouts and an RBI grounder. ... OF Billy McKinney (left shoulder sprain on March 31) played seven innings in left field during his first rehab appearance for the Tarpons and went 0 for 1 with a groundout and two walks.

## UP NEXT

Red Sox: Sale (3-1, 2.02 ERA) starts Friday at Toronto, which sends RHP Aaron Sanchez (2-3, 4.14) to the mound.

Yankees: RHP Sonny Gray (2-2, 6.00) starts Friday's series opener against Oakland, his first game against his former team since the Athletics traded him to New York last summer.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

## Facing anti-Washington winds, Senate Democrats point to home

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, STEVE PEOPLES and BILL BARROW, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Feeling no relief from anti-incumbent Republican primaries, Democratic senators in GOP-leaning states are working to convince voters they're free of Washington's stigma.

The Democrats seeking re-election this fall in states Republican Donald Trump carried — the battlefield in the fight for Senate control — are portraying themselves as independent actors and known entities in hopes of inoculating themselves against Republican accusations that they are lockstep obstructionists to Trump's agenda.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 23 of 49

Among them: West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who wasted no time after Tuesday's GOP primary telling the many Republicans who have backed him over the decades he was no creature of Washington.

"If it makes sense for West Virginia, makes sense to me, I vote for it, doesn't matter whether it's Democrat or Republican," the former governor told supporters as he faces the most difficult re-election campaign of his 30-year career.

Though an act of pure survival for senators in a pronounced anti-Washington environment, Manchin's tack, like that of North Dakota's Heidi Heitkamp and others, shows the challenge Republicans face against incumbents with established brands.

"All of these Democrats have gotten elected in red states, which by definition means they have a brand at least somewhat independent of the national Democratic Party," said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, who is advising a group that supports Republican Senate candidates. "We'll see whether those brands can withstand an even more partisan time than when they were first elected."

In West Virginia and Indiana, Republican primary voters turned down U.S. House members' bids for the Senate, keeping the pressure on Manchin and Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly, who might have been able to attack an incumbent congressman's record during the campaign. Instead, they're facing outsiders with no federal record at a time when national polls show 80 percent of the public disapproves of the job Congress is doing.

But Manchin, like others, has been preparing for such a scenario by portraying himself as loyal to his home state rather than party ideology.

At his primary-night rally in Charleston, for instance, 94-year-old Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams, a Trump supporter, introduced Manchin with a call-and-response: "Repeat after me. I know Joe. You know Joe. We all know Joe."

Manchin goes so far as to say "Washington sucks" in a recent ad. "For me, it's always about West Virginia," Manchin says, wearing blue jeans and standing near the monument to a 1968 West Virginia coal mine disaster that killed 78 miners, including Manchin's uncle.

Similarly, Donnelly has an ad with him driving a motorhome along a rural highway. "You've got to be willing to drive down the Hoosier common-sense middle," he says.

In North Dakota, Heitkamp is reprising a jocular spot of her six siblings teasing her about laundry duty, aimed at casting the former state attorney general and petroleum lawyer as the amiable woman next door.

Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill's first campaign ad for her 2018 re-election campaign features the Democrat's work on behalf of a local veteran who had been denied government benefits after exposure to poisonous gas seven decades ago.

In Wisconsin, Sen. Tammy Baldwin has recently aired a lighthearted ad about her work to protect the state's prized cheese industry, complete with mooing cows.

"What we're seeing in these early ads is an effort to localize and personalize these candidates — to put distance between them and Washington," said Steven Law, who heads Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's super PAC Senate Leadership Fund. "In effect, they're saying: 'I'm like you. I'm not part of the D.C. mess.'"

Trump took on Donnelly during a campaign-style rally Thursday night in Elkhart, Indiana, calling him "Sleepin' Joe" and a "swamp person." He said Democrats like Donnelly will say one thing at home "and then they go to Washington and vote for the radical, liberal agenda. It never, ever fails. You know there's about 12 of 'em. You think you have their vote. And they talk a good game. But they always raise their hand for the radical left of Nancy Pelosi. Always."

Some of the incumbents find ways to align themselves with Trump or to cast themselves as being at odds with some of their Democratic colleagues.

Manchin said Wednesday he would vote for Trump's nominee to lead the CIA, Gina Haspel, despite widespread opposition among Democrats. The day before, he said he backs Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement as long as the president pursues "a better deal."

McCaskill isn't so friendly with Trump. But she recently chided Hillary Clinton after the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee said she topped Trump in "the places that are optimistic, diverse, dynamic, moving

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 24 of 49

forward." Said McCaskill, "For those of us that are in states that Trump won, we would really appreciate if she would be more careful and show respect to every American voter and not just the ones who voted for her."

Whether Republicans can expand their 51-49 Senate edge or Democrats can regain the majority begins with the fate of the 10 Democrats seeking re-election in states Trump carried, including Florida, Michigan, Montana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Each of the 10 Democratic senators, along with the entire party caucus, voted against the GOP tax cut measure Trump signed in December, a point Republican groups are using to overpower the Democrats' effort to appear above partisanship.

That's exactly what powerful outside groups such as the Koch brothers-backed Americans for Prosperity have been doing for weeks already.

Such groups have already spent nearly \$10 million on ads attacking Baldwin in Wisconsin, though she won't have a general election opponent until after the August primary.

They've spent \$5 million doing the same against Donnelly and more than that combined against Heitkamp, McCaskill, Manchin and Montana Sen. Jon Tester.

"You just tie them to their votes," said Republican media consultant Will Ritter.

Though the Democratic incumbents are trying to explain their votes as fiscally responsible and necessary to protect Social Security and Medicare, a steady stream of messages pounding at the tax cut opposition and other party-line votes can chip away at a personal brand over time, strategists and pollsters in both parties said.

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Peoples reported from New York.

## In Indiana, Trump urges GOP to mobilize for 2018 midterms

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

ELKHART, Ind. (AP) — Embracing his role as party leader, President Donald Trump issued a stern warning at a rally Thursday that Democrats would disrupt the economic progress of his administration, imploring Republicans to mobilize during the 2018 midterm elections.

Trump used one of his signature rallies in northern Indiana to paint a rosy picture of his presidency, pointing to low unemployment, "booming" job growth and optimism under his watch. Two days after Indiana wrapped up a divisive Republican Senate primary, the president praised a lengthy ticket of House and Senate candidates by name and predicted Democrats would dismantle his agenda if they regained control of Congress.

"You have to work every day between now and November to elect more Republicans so that we can continue to make America great again," Trump said, referencing his 2016 campaign slogan.

The president, who was joined at the Elkhart rally by home-state Vice President Mike Pence, said Democrats would raise taxes, "destroy your jobs" and "knock the hell out of your border."

Chief among his targets: Indiana's Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly, who faces Republican businessman Mike Braun in what is expected to be one of the nation's most competitive Senate races.

Trump branded Donnelly as "Sleepin' Joe." He assailed him for opposing the president's signature tax cuts and his attempt to end the Affordable Care Act. And he criticized Donnelly for supporting the Iran nuclear deal forged by President Barack Obama and withdrawn from by Trump this week.

Trump said Donnelly would "do whatever Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi tell him to do" and claimed the senator would "say one thing in Elkhart," and then support the "radical, liberal agenda."

After the rally, Donnelly said in a statement it was "okay" that Trump and Pence were "here today for politics, but problems only get solved when you roll up your sleeves and put in the hard work."

"I'm Indiana's hired help in the Senate because I don't work for any president or any political party — I work for Hoosiers, and that will never change," he said. Donnelly's campaign said he had voted with Trump 62 percent of the time.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 25 of 49

Basking in the cheers of thousands of supporters wearing his red campaign hats, Trump hailed his decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and his tough stance on trade deals, appealing to the region's manufacturing base. He reissued his campaign pledge to build a border wall with Mexico, telling the crowd the work had started despite opposition from Democrats.

And he celebrated the return of three Americans who had been held captive in North Korea, saying: "We welcomed them back home the proper way."

But for a onetime political novice who ran as an outsider, Trump played the role of party champion ahead of midterm elections that typically haunt the party that holds the White House.

Trump is expected to ramp up his political travel in the coming months, and his advisers viewed the event as a way to project party unity following a rough primary that pitted Braun, a former state legislator, against two Republican congressmen.

Imploring Braun to join him on stage, Trump turned the podium over to the Senate nominee, who credited the president for providing an inspiration to his candidacy. "I'm a businessman and an outsider, just like our president," Braun said to cheers.

The president, who helped raise \$132 million for the Republican National Committee in 2016, won 10 states where Democratic senators are on the ballot this year. He's expected to campaign heavily to help Republicans maintain Senate and House majorities and elect GOP governors.

In his remarks, Trump painted a glowing picture of his presidency.

"We are all making America proud. We are rockin,'" he said. "The great news keeps rolling in."

Missing was any reference to the clouds cast by the special counsel's ongoing investigation into Russian election meddling and near-daily revelations about Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen's payments to a porn actress who alleges an affair with Trump.

Cohen appears to have used his relationship with Trump to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars — a practice at odds with Trump's "Drain the swamp" campaign message.

But Trump instead lobbed the "swamp person" charge at Donnelly, prompting the audience to break into a "Drain the swamp" chant.

The Indiana rally was Trump's fourth political-style event in the past two weeks. Trump skipped the White House Correspondents' Dinner late last month to rally supporters in Macomb County, Michigan.

He spoke last week to the National Rifle Association in Dallas. And last Saturday, Trump was in Ohio, long the key electoral piece for any GOP presidential hopeful.

As he travels the country, Trump will face the question of whether his appeal is transferable to down-ballot candidates, much in the way that Obama struggled to rally core Democrats when he wasn't running himself.

Obama suffered broad losses in Congress and in statehouses during the 2010 and 2014 midterm elections, an outcome Trump hopes to avoid.

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Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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

## **Mahathir Malaysia's leader again after ruling party booted**

**By EILEEN NG and STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad was sworn in as prime minister on Thursday, cementing a stunning political comeback and a historic change in government after leading opposition parties to their first election victory in six decades.

The ceremony before Malaysia's king at the official state palace in Kuala Lumpur ended a day of uncertainty during which rumors swirled that the National Front, Malaysia's perennial ruling party, would try to stay in power. People waiting outside the palace cheered, waved opposition flags and sounded car horns.

The election result is a political earthquake for the Muslim-majority country, sweeping aside the 60-year



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 26 of 49

rule of the National Front and its leader Najib Razak, whose reputation was tarnished by a monumental corruption scandal, a crackdown on dissent and a new sales tax that hurt his coalition's poor rural supporters.

It was also a surprising exception to backsliding on democratic values in Southeast Asia, a region of more than 600 million people where governments of countries including Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines have swung toward harsh authoritarian rule. Amnesty International said Malaysia's first-ever change in government is an opportunity to "eradicate repressive policies" and put human rights first.

"We need to have this government today without delay," Mahathir, 92, said before the ceremony. "There is a lot of work to be done. You know the mess the country is in and we need to attend to this mess as soon as possible and that means today."

Many analysts had thought the National Front might lose the popular vote but cling to a parliamentary majority due to an electoral system that increases the ballot power of rural Malays, the coalition's core supporters. After the result of the election became clear, supporters of the incoming government took to the streets to celebrate.

People stood on roadsides waving the white, blue and red flag of the triumphant opposition alliance. Cars honked their horns as they sped past.

"I'm so happy," said Zarini Najibuddin while waving the opposition flag. "I hope we'll have a better Malaysia now. Malaysia reborn!"

Ibrahim Suffian, co-founder of the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research, said the new government will have to contend with "enormous forces of inertia and resistance from within the government elites."

"The bureaucracy and the rest of the government apparatus has never been used to this idea, having been, you know, more than 60 years under the same political party," he said.

Mahathir, prime minister for 22 years until stepping down in 2003, was credited with modernizing Malaysia but was also known as a heavy-handed leader who imprisoned opponents and subjugated the courts.

Angered by the graft scandal at state investment fund 1MDB, Mahathir emerged from political retirement and joined the opposition in an attempt to oust Najib, his former protege.

The U.S. Justice Department says \$4.5 billion was looted from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014, including \$700 million that landed in Najib's bank account and a \$23 million pink diamond necklace bought for Najib's wife. He has denied wrongdoing.

Mahathir said the new government will not conduct a witch hunt, but Najib will have to face the consequences if he has broken the law.

Bridget Welsh, a Southeast Asia expert at John Cabot University in Rome, said it was hugely ironic that Mahathir, who damaged Malaysia's democratic institutions with his strong-arm rule, has returned as its political savior.

"It is not just a comeback," she said. "It is about making amends about his mistakes and moving Malaysia forward."

Mahathir has said the new government would seek the release and full pardon of Anwar Ibrahim, an opposition icon imprisoned on sodomy charges that Anwar and his supporters said were fabricated by the National Front to crush the opposition. Anwar, whose sentence ends on June 8, should be free to participate in politics, he said. Anwar, a former deputy prime minister in the ruling party, was also imprisoned under Mahathir following a power struggle.

On the economic front, Mahathir vowed to cancel a goods and service tax imposed since 2015 and said the government could also renegotiate the terms of Chinese loans for infrastructure projects.

He criticized a "fake news" law pushed through parliament by the National Front during the lead-up to the election. Mahathir is being investigated under that law for claiming a plane he was to travel on was sabotaged during the campaign.

Najib, 64, said he accepted the "verdict of the people."

The National Front "will honor the principle of democracy in the parliament," he said.

## Jury selection begins in trial of Missouri governor

By JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens appeared in court Thursday as jury selection got underway in a criminal trial accusing him of taking a compromising photo of a woman with whom he has acknowledged having an affair.

The Republican governor faces the potential of prison time if convicted of the felony invasion-of-privacy charge but has consistently denied any criminal wrongdoing. The trial is expected to last through next week.

Jury selection was taking longer than anticipated. St. Louis Circuit Judge Rex Burlison, prosecutors and Greitens' attorneys had planned to work through 80 prospective jurors during the first day of jury selection. They only got through 40.

Seventeen of that 40 were retained for further consideration and could possibly make it onto the 12-member jury. The judge said 120 prospective jurors still haven't gone through the selection process.

Most of those released so far were sent home at the request of Greitens' attorneys after expressing negative views about the governor.

One questioned Greitens' truthfulness and another was aware of legislative discussions about his possible impeachment. One dismissed woman had described an unspecified Greitens campaign ad as "kind of a jerky thing to do" but had said she could be impartial during his trial.

Greitens, 44, listened attentively to the questioning, occasionally taking notes. Attorneys are sorting through as many as 160 potential jurors.

Greitens arrived at the courthouse through a back entry and was greeted with a handshake and hug by a local law officer who was waiting there for him. The governor, who often wears blue jeans at the Capitol, wore a suit and tie for his trial.

He is accused of taking and transmitting an unauthorized photograph of a blindfolded and partially naked woman while she was bound to exercise rings in the basement of his St. Louis home in 2015, before he was elected. The woman, a hairdresser with whom Greitens has admitted having an affair, told investigators she saw a flash through the blindfold and heard what sounded like a photo being taken.

Greitens allegedly told her, "You're never going to mention my name, otherwise there will be pictures of (you) everywhere."

The woman, whose name has not been released by authorities, said she became upset and that Greitens later told her he deleted the picture. Prosecutors acknowledged in court this week that they have not found such a photo. Greitens has repeatedly declined to say whether he took a picture.

The penalty for first-degree invasion of privacy in Missouri is up to four years in prison.

In addition to the invasion-of-privacy case, Greitens faces a separate criminal charge of tampering with computer data for allegedly disclosing the donor list of The Mission Continues to his political fundraiser in 2015 without the permission of the St. Louis-based veterans' charity he founded. No trial date has been set yet.

The Legislature also is to convene in special session May 18 to consider whether to try to impeach Greitens. That session could last up to 30 days. If Greitens were impeached, the Senate would appoint a panel of judges to preside over a trial on whether to remove him from office.

Attorneys representing the governor's office said Thursday that they want the House to establish rules allowing for public hearings in which Greitens' attorneys can call and question witnesses and present evidence, similar to what would occur in court. During typical legislative hearings, only those lawmakers who are members of the committee question witnesses.

"The notion of potentially disciplining a governor is an incredibly rare and serious thing," said Ross Garber, a Washington-based attorney hired to represent Greitens' office. "It needs to be done solemnly and carefully and in a way that is fair and the public accepts the results."

Garber is being paid \$320 an hour from taxpayer funds. The Graves Garrett law firm in Kansas City also is representing the governor's office at a rate of \$340 an hour. Greitens also is being represented personally by the Dowd Bennett law firm from St. Louis, which is handling his criminal defense.

A special House committee investigating Greitens has so far conducted nearly all of its work in secret while publicly releasing two reports containing allegations against Greitens of sexual misconduct and misusing charity resources for political purposes.

House Speaker Todd Richardson said parts of the investigation — such as interviewing witnesses whose names had not publicly been released — had to be done privately.

“But as we move into special session those things will be conducted in a very open, transparent manner,” Richardson said.

Associated Press reporters David A. Lieb, Summer Ballentine and Blake Nelson contributed from Jefferson City.

## **Nurse charged in death of former Trump adviser’s father**

**By ALEXANDRA VILLARREAL and MICHAEL RUBINKAM, Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A nurse was charged Thursday in the death of the father of President Donald Trump’s former national security adviser after authorities said she failed to give him a series of neurological exams following his fall at a Philadelphia senior care facility.

Christann Shyvin Gainey, 30, was charged with involuntary manslaughter, neglect and records tampering in the death of H.R. McMaster Sr.

The 84-year-old retired U.S. Army officer died April 13, about eight hours after falling and hitting his head at the Cathedral Village retirement community.

Surveillance video showed that Gainey, who worked as a contract nurse at Cathedral Village, failed to conduct a series of eight neurological evaluations of McMaster as required, prosecutors said. Gainey then allegedly falsified documents to make it seem she had.

Gainey’s attorney, Sharon Piper, said her client intends to plead not guilty. She declined further comment, as did Gainey’s employer, General Healthcare Resources of Plymouth Meeting.

McMaster’s son, H.R. McMaster Jr., served as Trump’s national security adviser from February 2017 until he resigned in March.

“Our father ... was a tough and compassionate soldier and public servant,” McMaster’s daughter, Letitia McMaster, said in a statement. “The best way to honor his memory is for all of us to do all we can to prevent others from suffering at the hands of those who lack compassion and abandon even the most basic standards of human decency. Today’s charges are an important step forward in that connection.”

McMaster was admitted to Cathedral Village on April 9 for rehabilitation following a stroke. Three days later, according to court documents, he was found on the floor of his room by a nursing assistant, who alerted Gainey, the charge nurse.

Cathedral Village policy mandates close neurological monitoring of patients who hit their heads, including assessments every 15 minutes for the first hour and every hour for the next three.

An assistant nursing director told police that after McMaster’s death, she asked Gainey whether the nurse had conducted the required evaluations of McMaster. Gainey replied she had and said, “They were fine,” according to a police affidavit.

When the supervisor noted the last entry on McMaster’s neurological chart indicated that an evaluation had been performed 20 minutes after his death, Gainey told her, “Well, I falsified that one,” the affidavit said.

Police reviewed about eight hours of surveillance video and concluded Gainey had failed to perform a single neurological exam.

A medical examiner ruled McMaster died of “blunt impact head trauma.”

“Gainey could have saved Mr. McMaster’s life had she simply done her job. Instead, she intentionally ignored her job responsibilities, falsified paperwork, and lied to her supervisors to cover up this inexcusable conduct,” Democratic Attorney General Josh Shapiro said at a news conference Thursday.

Cathedral Village said in a statement after the arrest that it removed Gainey, who was not a Cathedral

Village employee, immediately following McMaster's death.

The retirement community said last week it also re-educated staff on neurological checks and protocols for responding to suspected abuse and neglect and began a new initiative to prevent falls.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health inspected Cathedral Village after McMaster's death, but the results aren't yet available.

Rubinkam reported from northeastern Pennsylvania.

## Hawaii volcano could spew boulders the size of refrigerators

By SOPHIA YAN and SETH BORENSTEIN, Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — If Hawaii's Kilauea volcano blows its top in the coming days or weeks, as experts fear, it could hurl ash and boulders the size of refrigerators miles into the air, shutting down airline traffic and endangering lives in all directions, scientists said Thursday.

"If it goes up, it will come down," said Charles Mandeville, volcano hazards coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey. "You don't want to be underneath anything that weighs 10 tons when it's coming out at 120 mph."

The volcano, which has been spitting and sputtering lava for a week, has destroyed more than two dozen homes and threatened a geothermal plant. The added threat of an explosive eruption could ground planes at one of the Big Island's two major airports and pose other dangers. The national park around the volcano announced that it would close because of the risks.

"We know the volcano is capable of doing this," Mandeville said, citing similar explosions at Kilauea in 1925, 1790 and four other times in the last few thousand years. "We know it is a distinct possibility."

He would not estimate the likelihood of such an explosion, but said the internal volcanic conditions are changing in a way that could lead to a blast in about a week. The volcano's internal plumbing could still prevent an explosion.

If it happens, a summit blast could also release steam and sulfur dioxide gas.

Kilauea has destroyed 36 structures — including 26 homes — since May 3, when it began releasing lava from vents about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of the summit crater. Fifteen of the vents are now spread through the Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens neighborhoods.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige said crews at a geothermal energy plant near the lava outbreak accelerated the removal of stored flammable fuel as a precaution. The Puna Geothermal Venture plant has about 50,000 gallons (189,270 liters) of pentane. It was removed early Thursday.

Barbara Lozano, who lives within a mile of the plant, said she would have thought twice about buying her property if she had known the risks.

"Why did they let us buy residential property, knowing it was a dangerous situation? Why did they let people build all around it?" she asked.

About 2,000 people have been evacuated from the neighborhoods where lava has oozed from the ground.

Avani Love, 29, moved to the Big Island about a month ago from Maui with her four children. They evacuated their home May 3, and only found out it was destroyed when a relative went back to get her personal belongings.

While saying she's sad to have lost her home, she also feels a sense of renewal brought on by Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, to correct overpopulation of the island.

"Everyone comes here," she said. "When you have that, it's Pele's way of clearing house and restoring the place. There's beauty and also darkness."

No one lives in the immediate area of the summit crater. The crater and surrounding region are a part of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, which planned to close at 10 p.m. Thursday.

Officials don't expect a possible explosion to be deadly as long as people stay out of the closed park. Communities a mile or two (kilometers) away may be showered by pea-size fragments or dusted with nontoxic ash, said Tina Neal, scientist-in-charge at the Hawaii Volcano Observatory.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 30 of 49

What could happen is not an eruption of volcanic gases but mostly trapped steam from flash-heated groundwater released like in a kitchen pressure cooker, with rocks, said volcanologist Janine Krippner of Concord University in West Virginia.

The problem is the lava lake at the summit of Kilauea is draining fast, about 6.5 feet (2 meters) per hour, Mandeville said.

In little more than a week, the top of the lava lake has gone from spilling over the crater to almost 970 feet (295 meters) below the surface as of Thursday morning, Mandeville said. The lava levels in the lake are dropping because lava is spewing out of cracks elsewhere in the mountain, lowering the pressure that filled the lava lake.

"This is a huge change. This is three football fields going down," Mandeville said.

The fear is that it will go below the underground water table — another 1,000 feet further down — and that would trigger a chain of events that could lead to a "very violent" steam explosion, Mandeville said.

At the current rate of change, that is about six or seven days away.

Once the lava drops, rocks that had been superheated could fall into the lava tube. And once the lava drops below the water table, water hits rocks that are as hot as almost 2,200 degrees (1,200 degrees Celsius) and flashes into steam. When the water hits the lava, it also steams. And the dropped rocks hold that steam in until it blows.

A similar 1924 explosion threw pulverized rock, ash and steam as high as 5.4 miles into the sky, (9 kilometers) for a couple of weeks. If another blast happens, the danger zone could extend about 3 miles (5 kilometers) around the summit, land all inside the national park, Mandeville said.

The small, aptly named town of Volcano, Hawaii, population 2,500, is about 3 miles (4.83 kilometers) from the summit. Janet Coney is office manager of the Kilauea Lodge, an inn and restaurant. She said USGS officials told her lodge employees probably won't have to worry about rocks raining down on them, but they might experience falling ash.

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Borenstein reported from Washington, D.C. Associated Press writers Audrey McAvoy, Caleb Jones, Haven Daley and Jennifer Sinco Kelleher contributed to this report.

## Summit set, detainees free; Trump sees NKorea 'big success'

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Envisioning "a very special moment for world peace," President Donald Trump announced Thursday he will meet North Korea's Kim Jong Un for highly anticipated summit talks in Singapore on June 12. He set the stage for his announcement by hosting a 3 a.m., made-for-TV welcome home for three Americans held by Kim's government.

"We welcomed them back home the proper way," Trump told supporters at a campaign rally in Indiana Thursday evening.

Final details in place, Trump and Kim agreed to the first face-to-face North Korea-U.S. summit since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. It's the most consequential and perhaps riskiest foreign policy effort so far in Trump's presidency as North Korea's nuclear program approaches a treacherous milestone — the capacity to strike the continental U.S. with a thermonuclear warhead.

Trump says the U.S. is aiming for "denuclearization" of the entire Korean peninsula, but he has yet to fill in just what steps that might include and what the timing would be.

"We're starting off on a new footing," Trump said of himself and Kim as he welcomed the detainees in a floodlit ceremony at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington. He hailed their release as a potential breakthrough in relations between the longtime adversary nations.

He and Kim "will both try to make it a very special moment for World Peace!" he said of the summit later on Twitter. He told his rally crowd, "I think it's going to be a very big success."

Kim has suspended nuclear and missile tests and put his nuclear program up for negotiation, but questions remain about how serious his offer is and what disarmament steps he would be willing to take. The

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 31 of 49

White House has said withdrawal of thousands of U.S. troops from South Korea is "not on the table."

Long before dawn Thursday, with the former detainees by his side on the air base tarmac, Trump said it was a "great honor" to welcome them back to the U.S. but "the true honor is going to be if we have a victory in getting rid of nuclear weapons."

The ceremony, which also featured a giant American flag suspended between the ladders of two fire-trucks, emphasized Trump's penchant for the dramatic as he raised expectations for the summit. And it underscored how closely the fate of his foreign policy agenda is being tied to the North Korean negotiations.

He had wanted to hold the summit in the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas but yielded to the concerns of officials who thought a DMZ meeting would focus attention on relations between the North and South rather than the nuclear question.

Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, other top officials and first lady Melania joined the president for the air base celebration. The former detainees — Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim — had been released Wednesday at the end of Pompeo's visit to North Korea.

They appeared tired but in excellent spirits, flashing peace signs and waving their arms as they emerged from the aircraft. One said through a translator, "It's like a dream; we are very, very happy." They later gave the president a round of applause.

Pence said Pompeo had told him that at a refueling stop in Anchorage, "one of the detainees asked to go outside the plane because he hadn't seen daylight in a very long time." The men were taken to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for evaluation before being reunited with their families.

Trump thanked North Korean leader Kim for releasing the Americans and said, "I really think he wants to do something" on denuclearization.

Pence said on NBC News, "In this moment the regime in North Korea has been dealing, as far as we can see, in good faith."

Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado, who was among several Republican lawmakers who dined with Trump and National Security Adviser John Bolton Wednesday evening before the detainees returned, said their release was a positive development, but he remained cautious about North Korea's intentions.

"We are in uncharted waters," he said. "This is the highest level diplomacy that the United States has to offer. Failure would be a significant setback to diplomatic efforts."

As for the venue, why Singapore?

White House spokesman Raj Shah said the country has relationships with both the U.S. and North Korea, meaning both presidents' security — and a sense of neutrality — can be assured.

Located at the southern tip of Malaysia, the prosperous city state is a regional Southeast Asia hub whose free enterprise philosophy welcomes trading partners from everywhere. It has close diplomatic and military ties with the U.S. and yet is also familiar ground for North Korea, with which it established diplomatic relations in 1975.

"Since their independence, they've very deliberately developed a reputation as an honest broker between East and West," said David Adelman, the former U.S. ambassador.

The White House choreographed the arrival event at the air base, the image-conscious president telling reporters, "I think you probably broke the all-time-in-history television rating for 3 o'clock in the morning."

The public display stood in stark contrast to the low-key, private reception that the State Department had envisioned, in keeping with a practice of trying to protect potentially traumatized victims from being thrust into the spotlight so soon after an ordeal.

Shortly after they touched down in Alaska, the department released a statement from the freed men. They expressed their appreciation to Trump, Pompeo and the people of the United States and added: "We thank God, and all our families and friends who prayed for us and for our return. God Bless America, the greatest nation in the world."

North Korea had accused the three of anti-state activities. But their arrests were widely seen as politically motivated and had compounded the dire state of relations over the isolated nation's nuclear weapons.

The three are:

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 32 of 49

— Kim Dong Chul, 64, a South Korea-born U.S. citizen and the longest-serving detainee. He received a 10-year prison term with hard labor in April 2016 for allegedly “perpetrating state subversive plots and espionage against” North Korea. Before his sentencing, the former Virginia resident publicly apologized for slandering North Korea’s leadership, collecting and passing confidential information to South Korea and joining a smear campaign on the North’s human rights situation. Other foreigners have publicly admitted crimes but have said later their confessions were given involuntarily.

— Tony Kim, who also goes by the Korean name Kim Sang-duk, had a master’s degree in business administration from the University of California, Riverside, and taught accounting at a private university in Pyongyang. He was detained at the Pyongyang airport for “criminal acts of hostility aimed to overturn” North Korea, according to the North’s Korean Central News Agency, which didn’t detail those acts.

— Kim Hak Song, who worked in agricultural development at an experimental farm run by the same school, the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology. He was accused of engaging in unspecified “hostile acts” against North Korea.

The last American to be released before this, college student Otto Warmbier, died in June 2017, days after he was repatriated to the U.S. with severe brain damage. Warmbier was arrested in January 2016, accused of stealing a propaganda poster and sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor.

“We are happy for the hostages and their families,” the Warmbiers said in a statement Wednesday. “We miss Otto.”

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey and Ken Thomas in Washington, Grant Peck in Bangkok, and Eric Talmadge in Pyongyang contributed to this report.

## Republicans override Dem objections to confirm federal judge

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The political battle over President Donald Trump’s judicial nominees escalated on Thursday when the Senate took the rare step of confirming the nomination of a Wisconsin attorney to serve as a federal judge despite the objections of one of his home-state senators.

The Senate voted along party lines to confirm Milwaukee attorney Michael Brennan to fill an opening on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The tally was 49-46. The seat has been open for more than eight years, the longest for the nation’s appellate courts.

The Senate gives lawmakers a chance to weigh in on a judicial nominee from their home state by submitting a blue-colored form called the “blue slip.” A positive blue slip signals the Senate to move forward with the nomination process. A negative blue slip, or withholding it altogether, signals a senator’s objection and almost always stalls the nomination.

Until this year, it had been nearly three decades since the Senate confirmed a judge without two positive blue slips. Brennan’s confirmation marked the second time it has happened this year. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., declined to return her blue slip.

The move to go ahead with a hearing for Brennan and a vote on the floor had Democrats complaining that Republicans were eroding one of the few remaining customs in the Senate that forced consultation on judicial nominations. They also noted that Republicans used the blue slip to block one of President Barack Obama’s nominees for the very same judgeship.

“I’d admonish my friends on the other side of the aisle, this is a very dangerous road you’re treading,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “As everyone knows, the winds of political change blow swiftly in America. The minority one day is the majority the next.”

The warning was reminiscent of the one that Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell issued when Democrats changed the rules to lower the threshold necessary to end a filibuster for district and circuit court judges. Under the change, the Senate can cut off debate with a simple majority rather than 60 votes.

At the time, the Kentucky Republican said, “You’ll regret this, and you may regret this a lot sooner than you think.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 33 of 49

Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Democrats' complaints were based on an incorrect understanding of the blue slip's history.

"The blue slip courtesy is just that — a courtesy," Grassley said.

He said past chairmen of the committee had rarely used negative or unreturned blue slips as unilateral vetoes. The most recent exception was Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, who was chairman during the first six years of Obama's presidency.

"That was his prerogative," Grassley said.

Still, Democrats counter that the blue slip has been in use for more than a century, and until this year, only a handful of judges had won confirmation without two blue slips.

Grassley said that under his tenure, the blue slip will be used to ensure the president consults with home-state senators, but not as a veto for appellate court nominees. He said he was satisfied in Brennan's case that the White House consulted with both of Wisconsin's senators before the president nominated him.

Republicans have made it a priority to confirm the president's nominees, particularly those who will serve on federal appeals courts. It's a top issue with social conservatives leading into this year's midterm elections. With Democrats slow-walking many of Trump's nominees, McConnell said last October that the blue slip process should not be used to "blackball" nominees.

For Democrats, it was particularly galling that Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., used his blue slip to object to Obama nominee Victoria Nourse to serve on the 7th Circuit. She eventually withdrew from consideration.

"It's an appalling double standard," Schumer said.

Johnson said more than 1 million of the state's residents had voted for him, and he had no role whatsoever in the nomination of Nourse, "so I decided not to return the blue slip."

He said he does not believe the blue slip should be used as an absolute veto, though.

"The blue slip from my standpoint should primarily be used just as the advice and consent of one senator expressing an opinion on a judge from their state," Johnson said.

Republicans went ahead with a committee hearing and a vote for David Stras of Minnesota to serve as a circuit judge earlier this year despite one of his home-state senators, former Democratic Sen. Al Franken, declining to return his blue slip. But Franken resigned about four weeks before the Stras confirmation vote.

The Senate has confirmed 35 of Trump's judicial nominees so far, and Republicans are anxious to keep going.

"I have pleaded with McConnell to work nights, to work Saturdays and weekends, and put the pressure on the Democrats. And we've got to have every Republican around and even cancel a recess so we can clear the calendar of these important nominees," Grassley said during an appearance on "The Hugh Hewitt Show."

Democrats on the Judiciary Committee issued a report after the vote voicing their alarm about the pace of confirmations. They said Trump will likely secure confirmation for 21 circuit court nominees in less than 16 months in office. By comparison, it took Obama 33 months to secure that many circuit court confirmations.

"President Trump and Senate Republicans have been rushing nominees through the Senate at a break-neck pace by changing the process for consideration and eliminating traditions that had been followed for over a century," the Democrats said.

The focus on circuit judges by both sides reflects their critical role. The Supreme Court generally hears arguments in fewer than 100 cases a year while the circuit courts hear thousands of cases.

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Reach Kevin Freking on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/APkfreking>

## Oldest person in US dies; Pennsylvania woman was 114

HUNTINGDON, Pa. (AP) — A 114-year-old Pennsylvania woman who was the oldest person in the United States has died, according to a funeral home.

The Robert D Heath Funeral Home in Mount Union said that Delphine Gibson died Wednesday.

Lessie Brown, of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, 113, is now believed to be the oldest American, according to



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 34 of 49

the Gerontology Research Group in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

Gibson, who had been living at a Huntingdon nursing home since 2004, when she was 100, attributed her long life to good food, her faith in God and her church.

"Frances and I are saddened to hear of the passing of Delphine Gibson, America's oldest citizen," said Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf. "She was an incredible Pennsylvanian and she will be missed."

Although she was blind and deaf near the end of her life, she still enjoyed singing and humming songs like "Amazing Grace," nursing home unit manager Miranda Glover told WJAC-TV in February 2017.

She took no medication except for a single vitamin a day, Glover said.

"She has an amazing spirit," Glover said. "She always singing to us or sharing the gospel. She is a treasure to the nation."

On her 112th birthday, Huntingdon Mayor Dee Dee Brown declared it "Delphine Gibson Week" in the borough.

Kammi Plummer, admissions director at AristaCare at Huntingdon Park, where Gibson lived most recently, told the Altoona Mirror she informed Gibson when she became the oldest living American.

"She just kind of acted surprised and said, 'You don't say?'" Plummer said. "We also told her she was she prettiest. She just said, 'I know that.'"

Born Delphine Tucker on Aug. 17, 1903, in Ridgeway, South Carolina, she helped on her family's farm until she married Taylor Gibson in 1928.

The couple lived for a time in North Carolina then moved to Mount Union to join a growing community of African-Americans who came up from the South to work in the area's now-historic brickyards. The couple had three children.

Her husband worked at Harbison Walker Refractories for 20 years before retiring in 1962, according to his obituary. He died in 1980.

She became the country's oldest person following the February 2017 death of 114-year-old Adele Dunlap, of Flemington, New Jersey.

Gibson's funeral will be Saturday at Mount Hope Baptist Church in Mount Union.

## Maryland gubernatorial candidate, county exec dies at 60

By DAVID McFADDEN, Associated Press

TOWSON, Md. (AP) — A palpable sense of unease filled Baltimore County's executive offices Thursday, based partly on uncertainty about the future but mostly on the knowledge of what they just lost.

The populous county's longtime political leader and a top Democratic candidate for Maryland governor, Kevin Kamenetz, died early Thursday after going into cardiac arrest. His sudden death shocked everyone in county government.

He was just 60, trim and so health conscious he would trot up stairs and routinely tease colleagues about eating donuts and other junk food.

"He was a yogurt, granola and salad kind of guy," said Don Mohler, Kamenetz's chief of staff.

Kamenetz was one of seven candidates vying for the Democratic nomination in the June primary to oppose Republican Gov. Larry Hogan this fall. He had chosen Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin as his running mate.

His death "has the potential to dramatically reshape the race" because many of his supporters may now look to other candidates who have been trying to gain support, said Todd Eberly, a political science professor at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Kamenetz woke up early Thursday, complaining to his wife, Jill, about chest pains. They drove to a volunteer fire station near his home in Owings Mills because he didn't want to disturb his neighbors with an ambulance, according to Mohler.

"It doesn't surprise me that he was thinking of his neighbors and others. He said: 'Well, its two in the morning, let's not wake them all up with sirens and lights,'" said Mohler, who joined Kamenetz's wife at the local hospital where he was pronounced dead at 3:22 a.m.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 35 of 49

Kamenetz apparently walked into the firehouse under his own power but his condition quickly deteriorated, Baltimore County Fire Department spokeswoman Elise Armacost said at a news conference. Rescuers performed chest compressions and used a defibrillator but he never regained consciousness.

Kamenetz was in "full cardiac arrest" when he arrived at St. Joseph Medical Center and was pronounced dead shortly afterward, chief medical officer Dr. Gail Cunningham said.

After beginning his public service career as a prosecutor in the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, Kamenetz was elected in 1994 to the Baltimore County Council, where he served four terms. He was a former president of the Maryland Association of Counties and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. He was first elected county executive in 2010 and re-elected in 2014.

A native of Baltimore County, he attended Johns Hopkins University and the University of Baltimore School of Law. He is survived by his wife and two teenage sons.

Political science professor Eberly described Kamenetz as one of the top three Democratic contenders in the race, along with Rushern Baker and Ben Jealous.

Condolences from political leaders began rolling in after the news broke Thursday morning.

"He was a dedicated public servant in Baltimore County for more than two decades, and we join with the citizens of Baltimore County and all Marylanders in mourning," Gov. Hogan said in a statement. The governor ordered state flags to fly at half-staff.

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh called Kamenetz a "friend and a supporter who always gave good advice" and championed the city. Baltimore County rings the mid-Atlantic city.

Kamenetz's campaign touted his track record on education and the environment, highlighting a \$1.3 billion investment in public education and the renovation or construction of 90 schools. On his campaign website, he also emphasized his fiscal policies, which he said resulted in no tax increases or government furloughs or layoffs during the Great Recession.

While Kamenetz led Baltimore County, the suburban county of 830,000 people underwent some growing pains. Swaths of the county made a transition from a traditional suburban area to a more congested one with some urban characteristics. Housing costs ticked up and the division between the county's well-off residents and low-income families grew.

Eberly said Kamenetz took those challenges seriously and committed the county to expanding affordable housing options and acceptance of federal housing vouchers by landlords in an effort to expand opportunities.

"He did not shy away from controversial or politically unpopular issues if he believed that addressing them was the right thing to do," Eberly said.

Orrester Shaw, Baltimore County's special assistant for education, health and human services, said what impressed him most about Kamenetz was the opportunities he gave to African Americans to serve in local government.

"He gave us opportunities that were not afforded to us in the past. I think to him your color wasn't any determining factor — it's whether you could do the job," Shaw said.

A funeral will be held Friday afternoon at a local synagogue.

Longtime county administrative officer Fred Homan will serve as acting executive until the council votes on a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

Sean Naron, Kamenetz's campaign spokesman, did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment about the campaign.

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Associated Press writer Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report.

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## Military finds multiple failures led to deadly Niger ambush

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Multiple failures led up to the deadly Niger attack last October, but top military leaders said Thursday that none directly caused the overwhelming enemy ambush that killed four American service members and sent others fighting and running for their lives.

"The direct cause of the enemy attack in Tongo Tongo is that the enemy achieved tactical surprise there and our forces were outnumbered approximately three-to-one," Maj. Gen. Roger Cloutier Jr. told reporters during a Pentagon press conference.

He described a brutal, chaotic firefight, as 46 U.S. and Nigerien forces battled more than 100 enemy fighters. Amid the chaos, he said, there were repeated acts of bravery as the outnumbered and outgunned soldiers made split-second decisions under heavy fire, struggling to protect and rescue each other during the more than hourlong assault.

Killed in the attack were: Army Sgt. La David T. Johnson, 25, of Miami Gardens, Florida; Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, 35, of Puyallup, Washington; Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, 39, of Springboro, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright, 29, of Lyons, Georgia. Four Nigerien troops were also killed, and two American soldiers and eight Nigerien forces were wounded.

The Americans who were killed "gave their last full measure of devotion to our country and died with honor while actively engaging the enemy," the report said. None were captured alive by the enemy, and all died immediately or quickly from their wounds, it said.

After months of silence during the investigation, Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, head of U.S. Africa Command, laid out the findings and took responsibility for what happened.

He said the report, which has not yet been made public in full, singles out three individuals whose actions could be faulted. He did not name them. U.S. Special Operations Command will make any discipline decisions, as well as recommendations on awards for valor, Waldhauser said, adding he believes there will be awards for numerous acts of extraordinary bravery by the troops.

Navy Capt. Jason Salata, spokesman for Special Operations Command, said a full review of the report has begun and "we are totally committed to resolving every issue addressed" in it.

The investigation has already triggered changes in the way military activities are carried out in Niger and elsewhere in Africa, including giving teams the option to use heavily armored vehicles and beefed-up firepower.

"We are now far more prudent on our missions," said Waldhauser, who sat alongside Cloutier, Africa Command's chief of staff who led the investigation.

A report summary released Thursday includes recommendations to improve mission planning and approval procedures, re-evaluate equipment and weapons requirements, and review training that U.S. commandos conduct with partner forces.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis directed Waldhauser to take immediate steps to address shortfalls, and has given senior leaders four months to complete a review and lay out a plan for additional changes.

The summary lays out a confusing chain of events that unfolded on Oct. 3-4, ending in the ambush, and points to "individual, organizational, and institutional failures and deficiencies that contributed to the tragic events." But it concludes that "no single failure or deficiency was the sole reason" for what happened.

It said the U.S. forces didn't have time to train together before they deployed and did not do preparatory battle drills with their Nigerien partners. And the report said lax communication and poor attention to details led to a "general lack of situational awareness and command oversight at every echelon."

Robert Karem, the assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, who also spoke, said there are about 800 U.S. troops in Niger, and that none are supposed to be engaged in direct combat. Most are involved in the construction of a new air base there.

According to the report, the Army Special Forces team left Camp Ouallam on Oct. 3 to go after Doundou Chefou, a leader of the Islamic State group who was suspected of involvement in the kidnapping of an American aid worker. But the team leader and his immediate supervisor submitted a different mission to their higher command, saying they were simply going out to meet tribal leaders.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 37 of 49

Waldhauser called the mischaracterization of the mission unacceptable, but Cloutier rejected suggestions the team leaders lied. It's not clear if those two are among the three service members he said could face discipline.

"It wasn't a deliberate intent to deceive," Cloutier said. "It was lack of attention to detail."

When the Ouallam team got to the location the insurgent wasn't there.

Senior commanders, unaware of the team's earlier actions, then ordered the troops to serve as backup for a second team's raid, also targeting Chefou. That mission was aborted when weather grounded the second team. The Ouallam team members were then ordered to another location to collect intelligence also linked to Chefou, which they did without problems. On their way back to their home base they stopped at the village of Tongo Tongo to get water.

Soon after leaving Tongo Tongo, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) north of Niamey, Niger's capital, they were ambushed by Islamic State-linked militants carrying small arms and machine guns.

The report concludes that although the enemy fighters can move freely around the village area, "there is not enough evidence to conclude that the villagers of Tongo Tongo willingly (without duress) aid and support them. Additionally, there is insufficient evidence to determine if villagers aided the enemy or participated in the attack."

Cloutier said it appears insurgents attempted to take away the bodies of three of the killed American troops — Black, Wright and Jeremiah Johnson — but fled when French fighter jets buzzed the area. Two of the bodies were found in the bed of an enemy truck, and another was beside it.

The other American fatality, La David Johnson, and two Nigerien soldiers got separated from the others during the battle and were gunned down. Johnson's body wasn't found until two days later. All were stripped of weapons and equipment.

Families of the fallen have expressed frustration with the incident and the briefings they got.

"The whole thing was a screwed-up mess," said Arnold Wright, father of Staff Sgt. Dustin Wright of Lyons, Georgia, who was killed in the attack. Wright said he's concerned the Army may be pinning blame on lower-ranking soldiers and not accepting responsibility high enough up the chain of command.

And Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., said she had hoped to hear more about why it took so long to find La David Johnson.

"Nearly eight months after Sgt. Johnson and his fellow soldiers were killed, the Johnson family and I still have as many questions as we did when we first learned of this tragic loss of life," she said. "We will not rest until our questions have been satisfactorily answered."

Wilson became embroiled in a political squabble with President Donald Trump after he told Johnson's pregnant widow in a phone call that her husband "knew what he signed up for." Wilson was riding with Johnson's family to meet the body and heard the call.

## **Q&A: Cohen's ties to Trump, corporate clients pose questions**

**By RICHARD LARDNER and BERNARD CONDON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney Michael Cohen's simultaneous relationship with Donald Trump and several blue chip companies that paid him for insight into the new president strikes legal experts as unusual and has triggered questions about client confidentiality.

Cohen's arrangement stands out, even in Washington where corporations, trade associations and other organizations spend upward of \$3 billion annually to influence legislation and get access to the highest levels of government. He appears to have worked as Trump's personal lawyer while at the same time accepting tens of thousands of dollars from third parties to disclose information about his client.

"If Cohen was representing the president as an attorney, which he has certainly argued was the case, then Cohen's obligations as a member of the bar would seemingly make this arrangement troubling," said Josh Rosenstein, a partner with the Washington firm Sandler Reiff and a specialist in lobbying compliance.

Rosenstein said that if Cohen had Trump's permission to reveal confidential information about him, then the implications may be significant. For example, it may be possible evidence that Trump knew what Cohen



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 38 of 49

was doing and was involved, he said.

"So the devil is in the details," Rosenstein said. "What did the president believe these payments would be used for? What did the president believe he was giving to the companies in exchange for the payments?"

Here are questions and answers about legal and ethical scrutiny Cohen is facing:

## ARE THERE ANY RECENT PARALLELS TO COHEN'S ARRANGEMENT?

Not really, said Craig Holman of Public Citizen, a nonprofit watchdog group. "It strikes me as exceedingly brazen," said Holman.

But self-described "fixers" like Cohen who make bad stories go away or help presidents with other thorny matters are not uncommon.

Vernon Jordan served in a fixer role for former President Bill Clinton. A close friend of Clinton's, Jordan chaired his presidential transition team in 1992 while also working for the powerhouse lobbying firm Akin Gump. Jordan, occasionally called the "First Friend," helped White House intern Monica Lewinsky find a job after Clinton ended his intimate relationship with her in May 1997.

## WAS COHEN A LOBBYIST?

Cohen wasn't registered as one. Paul S. Ryan of Common Cause said Cohen had plenty of wiggle room to help his corporate clients, which included AT&T and pharmaceutical giant Novartis, without running afoul of lobbying rules. Those rules, for instance, require that lobbyists register as such only if they've spent at least 20 percent of their time with a client over a three-month period doing lobbying work.

"There is a whole lot of influence peddling that Michael Cohen could do without falling into the scope of federal lobby legislation," said Ryan, vice president of policy and litigation at the good government group. He added, though: "It's slimy. It looks like an effort to personally profit from his relationship with the president, and hide it all from the public through a shell company."

AT&T said Cohen's company, Essential Consultants, did no legal or lobbying work for the company. Novartis said Cohen was hired to advise the company as to how the Trump administration may approach health care policy.

But Holman of Public Citizen said Cohen's actions appeared to be well beyond the gathering of "political intelligence" and dispensing advice.

"Cohen's corporate clients had business pending before the Trump administration," he said. "Novartis needs FDA clearance for the sale of its drugs and supports rolling back (the Affordable Care Act). AT&T has a lucrative business merger being blocked by Trump's Department of Justice."

## WAS COHEN OBLIGATED TO INFORM TRUMP OF HIS CORPORATE CLIENTS?

Cohen's payments from companies while acting as a personal lawyer to the president may raise legal issues besides whether the consulting work constituted lobbying.

Government ethics lawyer Kathleen Clark said Cohen had an obligation under New York state law to inform Trump of the consulting work if it potentially conflicted with Cohen's work as a personal lawyer to the president. She said failure to inform the president, and get his consent, could expose Cohen to the loss of his law license or other disciplinary measures.

"Trump has a right to know that AT&T is paying Cohen," said Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "These financial relationships may affect the degree to which he trusts what Cohen tells him."

## WAS COHEN BOUND BY THE ETHICS PLEDGE REQUIRED FOR TRUMP'S APPOINTEES?

No. Cohen isn't an employee of the U.S. government and therefore not bound by the pledge, which restricts influence peddling to those coming into or leaving the Trump administration. The pledge, which Trump instituted shortly after his inauguration, prohibits former lobbyists, lawyers and others from participating in any matter that they worked on for private clients within two years of going to work for the

government.

Even though the pledge didn't apply, Brendan Fischer of the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center said Cohen's arrangement shows that Trump has failed to "drain the swamp" in Washington as he promised he would do.

"This is a snapshot into a dark form of influence peddling," Fischer said.

Condon reported from New York.

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

## Facebook ads show Russian effort to stoke political division

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats on the House intelligence committee have released more than 3,500 Facebook ads that were created or promoted by a Russian internet agency, providing the fullest picture yet of Russia's attempt to sow racial and political division in the United States before and after the 2016 election.

Most of the ads are issue-based, pushing arguments for and against immigration, LGBT issues and gun rights, among other issues. A large number of them attempt to stoke racial divisions by mentioning police brutality or disparaging the Black Lives Matter movement. Some promote President Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders, who ran against Hillary Clinton in the Democratic presidential primary. Few, if any, support Clinton.

The intelligence committee Democrats released a sampling of the ads purchased by Russia's Internet Research Agency last year, but they are now releasing the full cache of ads that Facebook officials turned over to the panel after acknowledging in September they had discovered the Russian efforts. The release of ads from early 2015 through mid-2017 does not include 80,000 posts that the agency also shared. Some of the ads are partially redacted, part of an effort by Facebook and the committee to protect unsuspecting people whose names or faces were used.

An Associated Press review of the thousands of ads and their data shows how precisely — and sometimes randomly — the agency targeted them.

Some ads designed to appeal to critics of immigration were targeted to users who liked specific Fox News hosts, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, "Old Glory" and the United States Constitution, among other words.

Others were more narrowly targeted. Facebook users within 12 miles of Buffalo, New York, were directed to an event supporting justice for a black woman who died in a county jail. Another ad criticizing a Texas school teacher who lost her job after making racist remarks was aimed at adults living in Cleveland, Baltimore, St. Louis and Ferguson, Missouri.

One ad that targeted African-Americans concerned about discrimination was only to be shown to users accessing Facebook on Wi-Fi, rather than cellular. There was no explanation as to why that was.

Sometimes the targeting appeared to work — after a try or two. A January 2016 ad that promised news on "bad" refugees got five clicks when targeted at those interested in immigration or conservatism. But the same ad got 163 clicks when targeted at those interested in Syria, the Republican Party or politics.

Others got many more clicks. A pro-patriotism ad created on June 23, 2015 featuring a stylized drawing of a bald eagle was viewed nearly 530,000 times and was clicked on 72,000 times.

As the Russians attempted to pose as Americans, their language sometimes hinted at their origin. One ad railed against immigrants who "should prove that they are deserved to stay in the United States." Another read: "Your life matter. My life matter. Black matters."

Facebook revealed in September that it had discovered the divisive ads, which were paid for in rubles. Ads were still running in July and August of 2017, weeks before Facebook made the effort public.

In February, special counsel Robert Mueller indicted 13 Russians of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, charging several people associated with the Internet Research Agency with running

a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Trump defeat Clinton. The indictment was part of Mueller's larger investigation into Russian intervention in the election and whether Trump's campaign was involved. There has been no evidence that Trump's campaign was in any way associated with the social media effort.

The trove of ads released Thursday appears to back the assertion that the Russians wanted to hurt Clinton. Some spread rumors about her husband, former president Bill Clinton, or promote lies about her. Several depict Clinton behind bars.

Hundreds of the ads ran after the election, continuing the effort to sow discord. A series of ads posted two days after Trump was elected urge his supporters to show up at Trump Tower in Manhattan to respond to the "massive crowds of libtards" who protested him. It targets people within 50 miles of New York City and provides the street address.

That was one of many ads that attempted to set up events — sometimes on opposing sides of an issue.

In May 2017, the fake group "United Muslims of America" ran seven ads promoting two June 3 protests against the war in Syria — one at Trump Tower, the other at the White House. One of those ads targeted people with interests in peace, human rights, feminism and pacifism and those who were "likely to engage with political content (liberal)."

Facebook has said that more than 10 million people in the United States saw the ads, more than half of which ran after the election. Under fire from Congress, the social media giant has pledged improvements to its ad policies and enforcement. Facebook has made it easier to see the origins of ads, is forcing buyers to be more transparent about who they are and has worked to find more fake accounts, among other changes.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the intelligence committee, said he was releasing the ads so it doesn't happen again.

"The only way we can begin to inoculate ourselves against a future attack is to see firsthand the types of messages, themes and imagery the Russians used to divide us," he said.

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Associated Press writers Chad Day, Eric Tucker, Tom LoBianco and Desmond Butler in Washington, Mae Anderson and Nick Jesdanun in New York, David Hamilton and Michael Liedtke in San Francisco, Frank Bajak in Boston and Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island contributed to this report.

## Israel, Iran engage in most serious confrontation in Syria

By ZEINA KARAM and ARON HELLER, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli forces unleashed a heavy bombardment against Iranian military installations in Syria on Thursday in what Israel called retaliation for an Iranian rocket barrage on its positions in the occupied Golan Heights, the most serious military confrontation between the two bitter enemies to date.

The two rivals have long fought each other through proxies, and with the new exchange each seemed to be sending a warning that a direct clash between them could swiftly escalate.

"If we get rain, they'll get a flood," Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman warned.

The scope of the attacks — which Israel called its largest in Syria since the 1973 Mideast war — raised the specter of a full-fledged war between Iran and Israel in Syria, a conflict that could potentially drag the militant Hezbollah and Lebanon into the mix with devastating effects, although both sides appeared to signal they wanted the confrontation to remain contained, at least for now.

Israel, however, has been emboldened by President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal earlier this week, and the latest escalation seemed to signal a potentially coordinated surge in military activity targeting Iran.

The Israeli military said Thursday it hit nearly all of Iran's military installations in Syria in response to the overnight Iranian rocket barrage that targeted Israeli front-line military positions in the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. It was the first time Israel has directly accused Iran of firing toward Israeli territory.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 41 of 49

Iranian media described the Israeli attack as "unprecedented," but there was no official Iranian comment on Israel's claims.

Iran has vowed to retaliate for repeated Israeli airstrikes targeting its forces in Syria. But it seemed to carefully calibrate its response by targeting the Golan Heights, which Israel annexed in 1981 in a move that is not internationally recognized, instead of striking Israel proper.

Tehran is wary of a wider military conflagration with Israel that could jeopardize its military achievements in Syria at a time when it is trying to salvage the international nuclear deal and may be limited in its ability to strike back.

The recent clashes reveal the difficulty both sides face in dealing with an unprecedented situation, said Jean-Pierre Filiu, a professor of Middle East studies at Sciences Po, Paris School of International Affairs.

The clashes will eventually likely lead not to further escalation, but to the "consolidation of new 'red lines' tacitly endorsed by Israel and Iran," he said in an analysis written for the Carnegie Middle East Center.

The extent of the damage inflicted by the Israeli airstrikes was not immediately clear.

Israel said among the targets were weapons storage, logistics sites and intelligence centers used by elite Iranian forces in Syria. It also said it destroyed several Syrian air-defense systems after coming under heavy fire and that none of its warplanes were hit.

The Syrian military acknowledged that the strikes destroyed a radar station and an ammunition warehouse, and damaged a number of air defense units. It said three people were killed and two were wounded.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which closely monitors the civil war through sources inside Syria, said 23 fighters, including five Syrian soldiers, were killed. It was not immediately clear if any Iranians were among the dead.

The White House swiftly condemned Iran's "provocative rocket attacks from Syria against Israeli citizens" and expressed strong support for "Israel's right to act in self-defense," while Russia said the Israeli strikes marked a dangerous escalation and urged both Israel and Iran to avoid provoking each other.

In a statement, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said "the Iranian regime's deployment into Syria of offensive rocket and missile systems aimed at Israel is an unacceptable and highly dangerous development for the entire Middle East."

Israel has carried out over 100 airstrikes in neighboring Syria since the civil war erupted in 2011, most believed to be aimed at suspected Iranian weapons shipments bound for the Hezbollah militant group.

But in the past few weeks, Israel has shifted to a more direct and public confrontation with Iran, striking at Iranian bases, weapons depots and rocket launchers across Syria, and killing Iranian troops. Israel accuses Tehran of seeking to establish a foothold on its doorstep, something it has vowed never to allow.

Reflecting the scope of the pre-dawn attack, Russia's military said 28 Israeli jets were involved, striking Iranian and government sites in Syria with 70 missiles. It said half the missiles were shot down.

Speaking at the Herzliya Conference, an annual security gathering north of Tel Aviv, Lieberman said Israel would respond fiercely to any further Iranian actions.

"We will not let Iran turn Syria into a forward base against Israel," the Israeli defense minister said. "If we get rain, they'll get a flood. I hope that we ended this chapter and that everyone understood."

In a statement issued as Israel's security cabinet met, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the strike sent a "clear message" that "whoever attacks us — we will attack them sevenfold and whoever prepares to attack us — we will act against them first."

Iranian state television announced the Israeli strikes, sourcing the information to Syria's state-run SANA news agency, and described the Israeli attack as "unprecedented."

Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 war and annexed it in 1981. In 1974, Israel and Syria reached a cease-fire and a disengagement deal that froze the conflict lines with the plateau in Israeli hands.

Damascus shook with sounds of explosions just before dawn, and firing by Syrian air defenses over the city was heard for more than five hours.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow sees Thursday's strikes as a "very alarming development."



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 42 of 49

He noted that in contacts with the leadership of both countries, including a meeting Wednesday between Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, "we underlined the necessity of avoiding any actions that might be mutually provocative."

Russia sent forces to Syria to back President Bashar Assad in 2015. But Israel and Russia have maintained close communications to prevent their air forces from coming into conflict. The pan-Arab Al Hayat newspaper reported Thursday that Russia and Israel were developing an agreement to keep Iran out of southern Syria and allow Syrian government forces to retake the region.

Israel said early Thursday that Iran's Quds Force fired 20 rockets at Israeli front-line military positions in the Golan Heights. Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said four of the rockets were intercepted, while the others fell short of their targets. The incoming attack set off air raid sirens in the Golan.

Conricus said Israel was not looking to escalate the situation but that troops will continue to be on "very high alert."

"Should there be another Iranian attack, we will be prepared for it," he said.

The two sides have been on a collision course for months.

In February, Israel shot down what it said was an armed Iranian drone that entered Israeli airspace. Israel responded by attacking anti-aircraft positions in Syria, and an Israeli warplane was shot down during the battle.

Earlier this week, Syrian state media said Israel struck a military outpost near Damascus. The Observatory said the missiles targeted depots and rocket launchers that likely belonged to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard, killing at least 15 people, including eight Iranians.

Last month, an attack on Syria's T4 air base in the central Homs province killed seven Iranian military personnel.

Heller reported from Jerusalem. Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb in Beirut, Albert Aji in Damascus, Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow and Ian Deitch in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

## **Iraqi forces capture 5 top IS leaders in cross-border raid**

**By SUSANNAH GEORGE and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi forces in coordination with U.S.-backed Syrian forces have captured five senior Islamic State group leaders, the U.S.-led coalition said Thursday in a statement.

The arrest was a "significant blow to Daesh," coalition spokesman Army Col. Ryan Dillon said, using the Arabic acronym for the extremist group.

A Pentagon spokesman, Marine Maj. Adrian J.T. Rankine-Galloway, said the U.S. credited Iraqi security forces with the militants' capture "on the Iraq-Syria border."

"These arrests are a significant blow to ISIS as we continue to remove its leadership and fighters from the battlefield," Rankine-Galloway said.

IS fighters no longer control significant pockets of territory inside Iraq, but do maintain a grip inside Syria along Iraq's border.

The U.S. -led coalition supported Iraqi ground forces and Syrian fighters known as the Syrian Democratic Forces in the more than three-year war against IS.

After Iraqi forces retook the Iraqi city of Mosul from IS last summer, Syrian forces on the other side of the border claimed a series of swift victories, but the campaign was stalled recently when Turkey launched a cross-border raid into Syria's north.

Earlier this month the coalition announced a drive to clear the final pockets of IS territory inside Syria.

U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted about the anti-IS raid Thursday, saying those arrested were the "five most wanted" IS "leaders." It was unclear what criteria, if any, Trump was using to describe the IS operatives as the "five most wanted."

A U.S. national security official said there were no indications that the operation had captured Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of IS who has long been the coalition's top target. The official wasn't authorized

to discuss the targets publicly and requested anonymity.

Last year the Pentagon said that there were "some indicators" that al-Baghdadi was still alive a month after Russia claimed to have killed him in a strike near the Syrian city of Raqqa.

None of the statements released Thursday from the president or the coalition named the IS fighters arrested.

IS fighters swept into Iraq in the summer of 2014, taking control of nearly a third of the country. At the height of the group's power their self-proclaimed caliphate stretched from the edges of Aleppo in Syria to just north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

Now, with the group's physical caliphate largely destroyed, anti-IS operations are increasingly focused on targeting the extremists' remaining leadership.

Lederman reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## **At least 44 killed as dam bursts in Kenya, officials say**

**By TOM ODULA, Associated Press**

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Villagers said it started with a loud rumble, then houses collapsed one by one under an approaching wall of water.

"We took our children and rushed to higher ground," farmer Joseph Maina told The Associated Press. Their home was submerged and their crops were washed away but unlike dozens of others, they survived.

At least 44 were dead and another 40 were missing Thursday after a dam swollen by weeks of seasonal rains burst in Kenya's Rift Valley, sweeping away hundreds of homes and sending people fleeing, officials said.

At least 20 of the dead were children.

"Many people are missing. It is a disaster," said Rongai town police chief Joseph Kioko.

The bursting of the Patel Dam in Solai, Nakuru County, on Wednesday night was the deadliest single incident yet in the seasonal rains that have killed more than 170 people in Kenya since March. The floods hit as the East African nation was recovering from a severe drought that affected half of the country.

Almost an entire village was swept away by silt and water from the burst dam, said Gideon Kibunja, the county police chief in charge of criminal investigations. Officials said homes over a radius of nearly 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) were submerged.

Forty people have been reported missing, Regional Commissioner Mwongo Chimwanga said, while about 40 others were rescued from the mud and taken to local hospitals.

The area has seven dams used by a commercial farm, said Keffa Mageni, an official with an advocacy group that helps to resettle displaced people. With the heavy seasonal rains the dams do not have an outlet, he said.

"There are two other dams which are leaking," one resident, Stephen Nganga, said. He asked the government to investigate them for the residents' safety.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi, visiting the scene, said the government had launched investigations to determine the stability of the other dams.

Nakuru County Governor Lee Kinyanjui said water from one of the other dams will be discharged to avoid a disaster and that a village near that dam will be evacuated.

More than 225,000 people in Kenya have been displaced from their homes since March, according to the government. Military helicopters and personnel in the past week have been deployed to rescue people marooned by the flooding.

The dam burst has again raised concerns about the state of Kenya's infrastructure. The National Construction Authority in the past has blamed contractors of bypassing building codes to save on cost.

In April 2016 a residential building in the capital, Nairobi, collapsed during rains, killing 52 people. Last May the wall of a hospital collapsed due to rains, killing six people in Kenya's second largest city, Mombasa.

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## Starbucks changes bathroom policy following racial firestorm

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starbucks is opening its bathrooms to everyone regardless of whether they've bought anything following the arrest last month of two African American men at one of its coffee shops in Philadelphia.

Chairman Howard Schultz says he doesn't want the company to become a public bathroom, but feels employees can make the "right decision a hundred percent of the time," if that choice is removed at the store level.

One of the men arrested on April 12 was denied use of a bathroom before sitting down to await a business meeting. He and his business partner were arrested minutes later.

Schultz, speaking at the Atlantic Council in Washington, said Starbucks had a "loose policy" on bathroom use. The Washington, The Seattle Times, and other media outlets reported.

## Pilots warn of weak taxiways at Bangkok's busy airport

BANGKOK (AP) — A pilots' organization is warning that soft ground conditions at Bangkok's main international airport, a major regional hub, can cause its taxiways and aircraft parking positions to buckle or otherwise fail.

The warning issued this week by the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Association says soft spots have been reported by flight crews and ground service providers at Suvarnabhumi International Airport since at least 2008. The group issued a similar warning four years ago.

The group, which represents over 100,000 pilots worldwide, said it was told by the airport's operator, Airports of Thailand, that the cause of the pavement failures was "deficiencies in the asphalt materials used in pavement construction and the height of the water table below the airport." The airport was built on a former swamp.

It said Airports of Thailand said permanent repairs are not expected to begin until at least late 2019, but that a team is on standby around the clock to make stopgap repairs.

The association said the conditions have resulted in "soft spots and failures on heavily transited areas after about two years, which is well below the expected pavement life of around seven years."

It is not the first time Thailand has come under criticism for its aviation safety standards.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration downgraded Thailand's safety rating in 2015 to "category 2." The downgrade signified that Thailand's civil aviation authority is deficient in one or more critical areas or that the country lacks laws and regulations needed to oversee airlines in line with international standards, while also barring Thai airlines from establishing new services to the United States. Thai aviation authorities expect its rating to be upgraded later this year.

Last October, the U.N.'s International Civil Aviation Organization removed Thailand from its list of countries red-flagged for safety concerns.

In June 2014, it had added Thailand to a list of 12 other nations found deficient in managing their airlines. An ICAO spokesman said at the time that its main concern was Thailand's ability to conduct air operator certifications.

## Royal retreat of Windsor prepares to party for Harry, Meghan

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Few towns are as stereotypically English as Windsor, the bucolic riverside locale where Prince Harry and American actress Meghan Markle will get married on May 19.

And few towns are as pleasing when a warm spring sun bakes off the morning mist. Even the plump white swans on the Thames seem relieved that the long, hard winter is over.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 45 of 49

Most of the swans belong to Queen Elizabeth II and must be counted each year by Her Majesty's Swan Marker in a ritual that reflects the dominant role the Windsors play in the town whose name the royal family has adopted as a surname a century ago.

All roads seem to lead to Windsor Castle, a magnificent fortress perched high on a hill topped by the royal standard when the queen is in residence. It is here — a favored royal playground since William the Conqueror built the first structure here in 1070 — that the royal wedding will take place. Harry, one of the least traditional young royals, has chosen the most traditional of venues.

Fevered preparations are underway: Many roads have been repaved, street signs are being repainted, storefronts decked out with life-size cutouts of Harry and Markle, and shoppers are being lured by all kinds of souvenirs.

Windsor is getting a bit of a makeover, just like the monarchy, which is rebranding itself with attention focused on the new, younger generation of princes as the 92-year-old queen slowly reduces her public duties.

"Everything is now in place, we're 99.9 percent of the way there," said town councilor Phillip Bicknell, who expects more than 100,000 people if the weather is good. "We believe this is going to be the biggest number of people fitting into Windsor for any event. It's going to be quite tight, but the atmosphere will be electric."

There is already a party feel in Windsor well in advance of the actual party. Tourists from around the world arrive daily by train and walk through the royal shopping arcade to the castle. No one, it seems, can resist the impulse to take a selfie in front of the castle.

It's a party on a grand scale, with 600 guests invited to the actual ceremony in St. George's Chapel, another 2,640 invited to the castle grounds, and tens of thousands more expected to throng the narrow streets hoping for a glimpse of the newlyweds.

Security barriers are being put in place and an elaborate police deployment has been mapped out. It's fairly easy to establish a secure perimeter around the castle grounds, and a no-fly, no-drone zone will be enforced to keep the airspace clear, but Harry and Meghan are determined to ride outside the castle in an open horse-drawn carriage, which calls for extra protective measures.

Police are using an automatic license plate recognition system to flag any known suspicious vehicles, and many roads into the town center will be blocked off to lessen the chance of a vehicle attack on the huge crowds expected to line the streets at the foot of the castle.

There are already police with automatic weapons visible on the streets of Windsor, a jarring fact of life reflecting that Britain's official terrorism threat level is set at "severe," indicating an attack is judged highly likely.

Before the spate of extremist attacks on Britain last year, it was common to see some royals in the streets and in the parkland surrounding the town. When the queen was younger it wasn't unusual to see her on horseback, walking through a park, or driving her Jaguar through the narrow streets.

That happens less frequently now, but the royal presence still permeates Windsor and many are excited about the mantle being handed to Harry and older brother Prince William.

"You'll see them about now and again," says Dean Wright, an artist at the darkened Rogue Tattoo Windsor studio. "You'll see the Duke of Edinburgh (the queen's husband, also known as Prince Philip) riding in a carriage in the morning. I've seen her go by in a convertible, a nice one. The royals are popular. With the princes becoming more public, the people really like them."

Wright has had a surge in demand for tattoos with traditional British themes: the castle, the crown, the London skyline — and a profile of the queen's face lit with the famous David Bowie lightning flash.

"The wedding will make us busier for sure," he said of Windsor's business community. "It will definitely bring more people in. Everyone wants to get involved."

Vijay Kapur, the manager of the nearby Havana House cigar emporium, is less certain. He fears extra security, road closures and big crowds may keep real shoppers at bay. But he knows the long-term benefit of having a major royal event in the heart of Windsor.

He's offering two cigars — a Romeo and Julieta, for its romantic connotations, and a Rocky Patel Royale,



because it has royal in the name — packaged with a cigar cutter and cigar matches in a special royal wedding gift box with the hope some will splurge to mark the day. But he's not expecting a crush of buyers.

"Some businesses may suffer if the road to their stall is closed that day, but I think the royal presence is great," Kapur said. "It adds to the aura of the town, especially the castle. You can absorb and feel the culture and the tradition and the history. It puts the town on the map."

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Complete AP coverage of the royal wedding: <https://apnews.com/tag/Royalweddings>

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A previous version of this story has corrected the name to William the Conqueror, not Henry.

## What's that smell? Flower town's shift to pot creates stink

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

CARPINTERIA, Calif. (AP) — This picturesque coastal town cradled by mountains and sandy shores is a scene out of a Southern California postcard. Residents of Carpinteria say they feel lucky to live in what they consider a slice of paradise.

But change is in the air. And sometimes, they say, it stinks.

That's because marijuana has become a new crop of choice in the farmlands surrounding this tight-knit community of 14,000, which has long helped fuel the U.S. cut flower industry.

Residents say a thick, skunk-like odor from the marijuana plants settles over the valley in the evenings and before dawn. To keep out the stench, they have tried stuffing pillows under doors, lighting incense and shutting windows, a reluctant choice since it also keeps out the cool ocean breezes that are part of the town's allure.

"We don't want a marijuana smell," said Xave Saragosa, a 73-year-old retired sheriff's deputy who was born and raised in the town and lives near a greenhouse that grows marijuana. "We want fresh air."

Saragosa said the odor pervades his hillside home at night and keeps his wife up coughing.

Carpinteria, about 85 miles (137 kilometers) from Los Angeles, is in the southeast corner of Santa Barbara County, a tourist area famous for its beaches, wine and temperate climate. It's also becoming known as a haven for cannabis growers.

The county amassed the largest number of marijuana cultivation licenses in California since broad legalization arrived on Jan. 1 — about 800, according to state data compiled by The Associated Press. Two-thirds of them are in Carpinteria and Lompoc, a larger agricultural city about an hour's drive to the northwest.

Virtually all of Carpinteria's licenses are for small, "mixed-light" facilities, which essentially means greenhouses.

The result is a large number of licenses but small total acreage. Only about 200 acres of the county's farmland is devoted to marijuana, compared with tens of thousands sown with strawberries and vegetables, said Dennis Bozanich, who oversees the county's marijuana planning.

The area's greenhouses have their roots in Carpinteria's cut flower industry, which was sapped after the U.S. government granted trade preferences to South American countries in the 1990s to encourage their farmers to grow flowers instead of coca, the plant used to make cocaine.

In an ironic twist, some California flower growers weary of import competition have started trying to grow cannabis, a plant that, like coca, is deemed illicit by the federal government. Others have sold their greenhouses to marijuana investors.

"We have literally no carnation production in the United States any longer because South America grows them so cheaply," said Kasey Cronquist, chief executive of the California Cut Flower Commission. "Farmers had to move crops, and that is what we have seen happen over time — they've gone to crops that are more valuable or more difficult for Ecuador and Colombia to ship."

Domestic cut flower growers saw their share of the U.S. market drop to 27 percent in 2015 from 58 percent in 1991. Sales of imported cut flowers grew to more than \$1 billion during the same period, according to data compiled by the commission.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 47 of 49

Greenhouses that once produced flowers are seen as ideal for marijuana. In Carpinteria's climate, the greenhouses heat and cool easily and inexpensively, and the plants thrive. It takes only about three months to grow cannabis in pots of shredded coconut husks, so farmers can get multiple harvests each year.

In the hills of the so-called Emerald Triangle of Northern California, where most of the state's pot is grown, there is a single harvest each year.

Some farmers see cannabis as a plant that can help preserve the area's farming culture, said Mollie Culver, a consultant for the Cannabis Business Council of Santa Barbara County. Many growers live locally and welcomed the county's recently crafted regulations requiring odor abatement, she said.

"Santa Barbara isn't like cannabis run amok," said Jared Ficker, a partner at advocacy group California Strategies who consults with local cannabis growers. "It is actually the most compliant market we've seen in the state."

Some residents said the stench has decreased in recent months as some growers installed systems aimed at reducing the smells. Others said the problem persists.

The county passed rules in February requiring growers to submit odor abatement plans and designate a representative to handle complaints. They are expected to take effect in some county areas this year and in Carpinteria following a review by state coastal regulators.

Californians voted to legalize marijuana in 2016, but counties and cities have a say on whether they allow cannabis production, distribution or sales.

Even before the ballot measure, Santa Barbara County recognized a number of farmers were growing marijuana to supply the state's medical market. So officials started looking at establishing odor, security and other rules.

"We have a lot of people who are interested in being compliant and getting into the regulated market," Bozanich said. "If we can continue that kind of relationship where they're going to stay in the regulated market," it will be easier to target and eliminate black market growers, he said.

All of the county's licenses are to grow medical marijuana, Bozanich said, though the state allows some crossover into the adult market.

In Carpinteria, some residents worry property values will fall if the town keeps reeking of pot. They hope the smell will fade as more growers install odor control systems and those who don't are shut down.

Toni Stuart, an 80-year-old retired Episcopal priest, said the odor doesn't creep into the area near the beach where she lives, but she worries about the community changing.

"I would not like Carpinteria to be the 'cannabis capital' of Southern California. I like it the way it is. It's a very quiet, unpretentious beach town," she said.

"If people want to grow cannabis instead of flowers or avocados or macadamia nuts — I suppose that's their right. But they've got to think about their neighbors."

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## Asian shares rally as modest inflation eases rate hike fears

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets rallied on Friday, tracing gains on Wall Street after weaker than expected inflation figures soothed concerns about a possible acceleration of interest rate hikes. Oil prices were hovering at a fresh multiyear high.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 1 percent to 22,725.99 and South Korea's Kospi added 0.6 percent to 2,479.36. Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.2 percent to 31,182.96 but the Shanghai Composite slipped 0.2 percent to 3,168.74. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.2 percent to 6,132.50. Indexes in Taiwan's and Southeast Asia also were higher.

INFLATION: U.S. consumer prices rose a modest 0.2 percent in April, indicating that that broader inflation pressure in the world's No. 1 economy remains muted. Slower growth in core prices may relieve pressure

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 48 of 49

on the Federal Reserve to accelerate interest rate hikes. The U.S. central bank is expected to lift rates three times this year, but some analysts believe an uptick in inflation or economic growth might spur the Fed to add another hike. Other releases on Thursday added to signs of tempered global inflation: Chinese consumer prices rose 1.8 percent in April, slower than the previous month's 2.1 percent, while the Bank of England held off on raising rates, citing weaker than expected price growth.

**MARKET INSIGHT:** "While inflation is continuing to trend up it's only happening slowly. So Goldilocks continues," said Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy at AMP Capital. The Fed will keep "normalizing, but for now it can remain gradual, with the next hike still on track for June."

**SINGAPORE MEETING:** Geopolitical uncertainty eased after news that a highly anticipated meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will happen June 12 in Singapore. The confirmation follows the return of three Americans held by Kim's government.

**WALL STREET:** Major U.S. benchmarks finished with solid gains for a second day. The S&P 500 index rose 0.9 percent to 2,723.07. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 0.8 percent to 24,739.53. The Nasdaq added 0.9 percent to 7,404.97.

**ENERGY:** Oil futures slipped after hitting their highest level since 2014 as President Donald Trump's decision this week to re-impose sanctions Iran, the world's fifth-biggest oil producer, reverberated. Benchmark U.S. crude oil dipped 12 cents to \$71.23 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 22 cents to settle at \$71.36 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 17 cents to \$77.30 per barrel.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar rose to 109.48 from 109.39 yen. The euro was flat at 1.1916.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, May 11, the 131st day of 2018. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 11, 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which was held by the Japanese; the Americans took the island 19 days later.

On this date:

In 1502, Christopher Columbus left Cadiz, Spain, on his fourth and final trip to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant arrived in New Amsterdam to become governor of New Netherland.

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1888, songwriter Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in Temun, Russia.

In 1927, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was founded during a banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1988, master spy Harold "Kim" Philby, the notorious "third man" of a British espionage ring, died in the Soviet Union at age 76.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1998, India set off three underground atomic blasts, its first nuclear tests in 24 years. A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

Ten years ago: Serbia's pro-Western president, Boris Tadic (boo-RIHS' TAH'-dich), declared victory in parliamentary elections in a stunning upset over ultranationalists. Parvati Shallow was the last woman

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, May 11, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 301 ~ 49 of 49

standing on CBS' "Survivor: Micronesia — Fans vs. Favorites." (Shallow had previously come in sixth place on "Survivor: Cook Islands.")

Five years ago: Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (nah-WAHZ' shah-REEF') declared victory following a historic election marred by violence. A pair of car bomb attacks in Turkey killed 52 people near the Syrian border.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed an executive order launching a commission to review alleged voter fraud and voter suppression, building upon his unsubstantiated claims that millions of people voted illegally in the 2016 election. The Senate confirmed President Trump's nominee for U.S. trade representative, Robert Lighthizer (LYT'-hy-zur), by a vote of 82-14 despite complaints from some Republicans.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Mort Sahl is 91. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is 85. Jazz keyboardist Carla Bley is 82. Rock singer Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 77. Actress Pam Ferris is 70. White House chief of staff John F. Kelly is 68. Actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ahg-DAHSH'-loo) is 66. Actress Frances Fisher is 66. Sports columnist Mike Lupica is 66. Actor Boyd Gaines is 65. Country musician Mark Herndon (Alabama) is 63. Actress Martha Quinn is 59. Country singer-musician Tim Raybon (The Raybon Brothers) is 55. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 54. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 50. Country musician Keith West (Heartland) is 50. Actor Nicky Katt is 48. Actor Coby Bell is 43. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'-tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 40. Actor Austin O'Brien is 37. Actor-singer Jonathan Jackson is 36. Rapper Ace Hood is 30. Latin singer Prince Royce is 29. Actress Annabelle Attanasio (TV: "Bull") is 25. Musician Howard Lawrence (Disclosure) is 24.

Thought for Today: "The worst-tempered people I've ever met were people who knew they were wrong."  
— Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).