

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 1 of 28



- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Senior Citizens donate trees
- 3- Dugouts being constructed
- 4- Footloose Photos
- 8- SunDial Manor Help Wanted Ad
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

## 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 Church – Groton. Lance Dennert and Sarah are registered at Bed, Bath and Beyond and Target.

## Thursday, May 18

12:30 p.m.: Elementary Track and Field Day at Doney Field

## Sunday, May 20

2 p.m.: Graduation

Oven Fresh Sandwiches   Hot Desserts   Snack Melts  
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 2 of 28



## Senior Citizens donate trees

The Groton Area Senior Citizens have donated three Quaking Aspen Trees to the community. The three trees were planted Tuesday in the boulevard west of the Groton Community Center. Top left photo features Dick Donovan putting the wrap on one of the trees. Top right photo features Dan Sunne pounding in a post for support. The trees were planted with the assistance of the city as the digger truck was used to dig the holes.



## Dugouts being constructed

**New dugouts are being constructed for Falk Field and Nelson Field at the Groton Baseball Complex. The dugouts are made possible with the Minnesota Twins grant program.** (Photos from Baseball/Softball Foundation Facebook page)



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 4 of 28

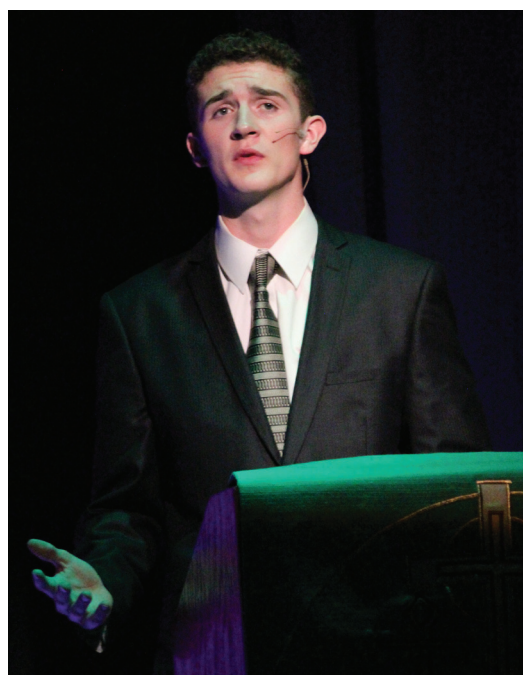


The All School Play, "Footloose" was performed Tuesday evening at the GHS Gym. Here are some photos from the play as taken by Melodee Lane.



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 5 of 28



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 6 of 28



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 7 of 28



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 8 of 28

## Today in Weather History

May 16, 1883: Benchmark flooding in the Black Hills occurred in 1883, with extremely high flows reported throughout the hills that resulted from heavy rainfall on top of snowmelt. Click [HERE](#) for more images from USGS.

May 16, 1929: On this day, Aberdeen recorded 3.0 inches of snow. This snowfall is the latest measurable snow for the city of Aberdeen on record.

May 16, 1992: It was a wild day across the tri-state region of Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa, with tornadoes and destructive straight-line winds. A tornado damaged three-grain bins and two farm wagons in Cedar County of northeast Nebraska before crossing into Dixon County. As it traveled east, it destroyed two barns and a garage and was responsible for killing between 5,000 and 10,000 chickens at a chicken farm. In northwest Iowa, Sioux City reported winds of around 60 miles an hour causing some minor damage. Elsewhere, winds gusted as high as 75 miles an hour in Spencer and 74 miles an hour in Le Mars.

1874: The Mill Creek disaster occurred west of North Hampton, MA. Dam slippage resulted in a flash flood that claimed 143 lives and caused a million dollars property damage. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the New England Historical Society.

1983: An unyielding spring storm dumped heavy snow across the Front Range in Colorado. High winds of 20 to 40 mph with gusts to 55 mph produced blizzard conditions at times. The Foothills received 1 to 2 feet of snow with 4 to 12 inches along the Foothills. Blowing snow whipped the snow into drifts several feet deep closing schools and highways. Power outages occurred; with 20 square miles of Denver blacked out. Hundreds of passengers were stranded as only half of the runways were open at Stapleton International Airport. The high temperature at Denver the next day of just 40° set a record low maximum. Much of the snow melted on the 18th as temperatures rebounded into the middle and upper 50s causing widespread street flooding.

1989: Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather in the south-central U.S. Thunderstorms spawned twenty tornadoes, and there were 180 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A tornado in Cleburne, Texas caused thirty million dollars damage. A violent F-4 tornado touched down near Brackettville, Texas and a strong F-3 tornado killed one person and injured 28 others at Jarrell, Texas.



**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**



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 9 of 28

Wed May 16	Thu May 17	Fri May 18	Sat May 19	Sun May 20	Mon May 21	Tue May 22
86°F	83°F	75°F	64°F	71°F	73°F	77°F
59°F	60°F	47°F	42°F	46°F	51°F	62°F
S 10 MPH	SSE 17 MPH Precip 20%	SSE 14 MPH Precip 70%	N 18 MPH	NNE 8 MPH	S 10 MPH	SSE 11 MPH Precip 20%

Today	Tonight	Thursday
Isolated/Weak Afternoon Thunderstorms	Isolated/Weak Overnight Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms
Highs: Mid/Upper 80s	Lows: 50s	Highs: Low/Mid 80s



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 5/16/2018 5:11 AM Central

Published on: 05/16/2018 at 5:18AM

Dry and hot conditions could lead to a weak heat-of-the-afternoon thunderstorm or two in central South Dakota today, and weak/isolated convection is possible overnight for most of the area too. More widespread convection is anticipated Thursday and Friday.

# Groton Daily Independent

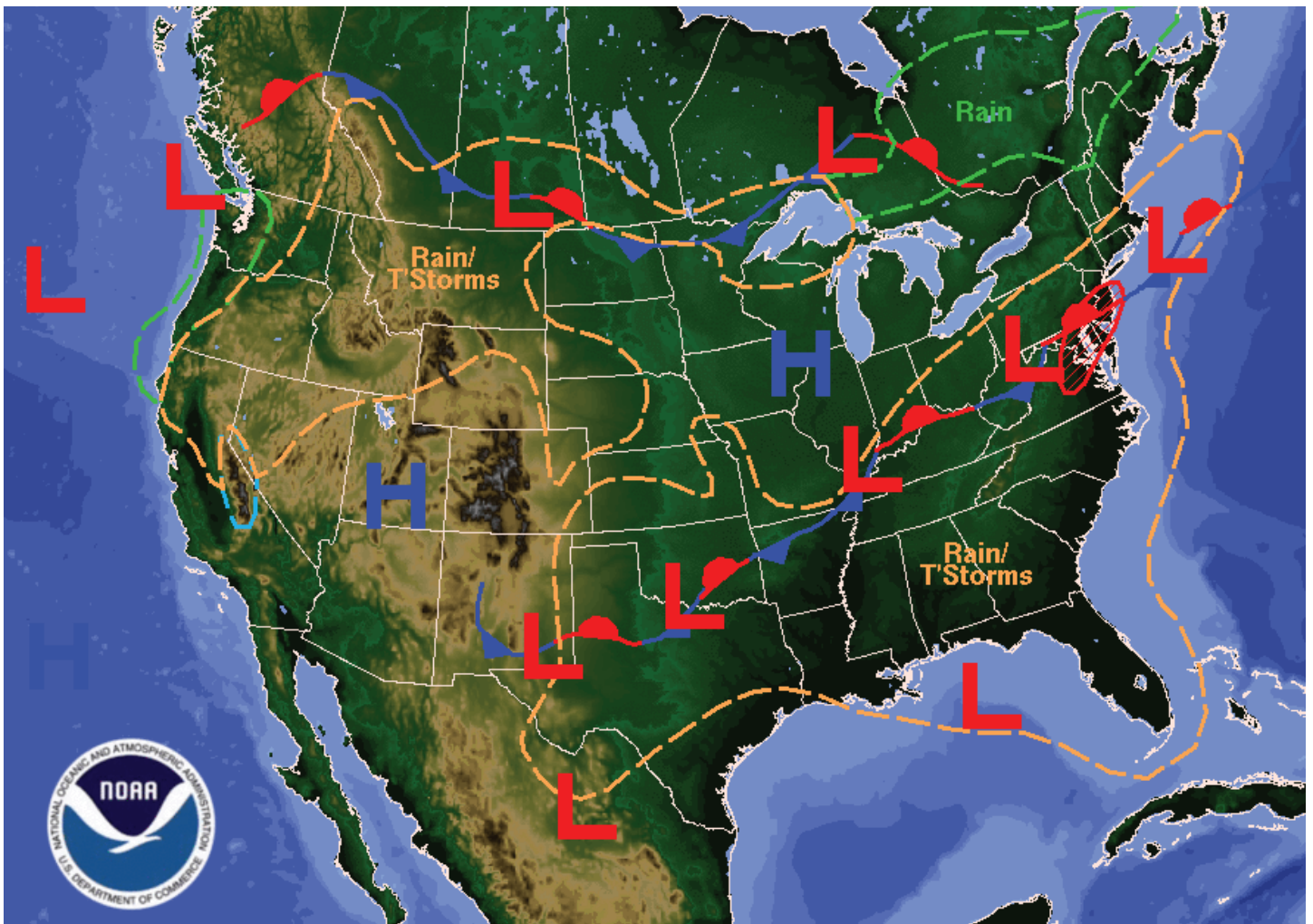
Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 10 of 28

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 80.0 F at 6:09 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 45.3 F at 4:33 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 12:11 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 101° in 1934**  
**Record Low: 23° in 2014**  
**Average High: 69°F**  
**Average Low: 44°F**  
**Average Precip in May: 1.64**  
**Precip to date in May: 1.31**  
**Average Precip to date: 5.67**  
**Precip Year to Date: 3.99**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:58 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:00 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, May 16, 2018, issued 4:44 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 11 of 28



## OUR FAITHFUL GOD

He was late for church and slipped quietly into his regular place for Sunday morning worship. He listened as the pastor prayed: "We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we ought not to have done." After a moment of silence he continued, "You know, Lord, I believe I've found my kind of people. I belong here."

No one escapes failure but our Lord. Whatever He said He would do, He did. Whatever He has promised, He has or will fulfill – in the past, present and future.

The Bible contains about 5,000 promises. As the One who created the universe, all of its laws and living beings that are under His control and command, no one or no thing can stop Him from keeping His promises. "Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave," said Solomon.

His compassion for His children never fails. His Son has experienced suffering and humiliation that is beyond us and has endured them with grace. So, He can be sympathetic with us in the deepest, darkest moments of our lives. Jeremiah reminds us that "His compassion never fails."

Equally important is His faithfulness. He is not strong one day and weak the next, nor attentive one moment and indifferent the next. When He created us He did so with the knowledge that He would be faithful to us. Said the Psalmist, "I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness!"

Prayer: We thank You, Father, that we can trust You to honor Your Word to guard us, guide us and give us hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 89:33 Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 12 of 28

## 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

## News from the Associated Press

### **CWD testing considered for deer killed in Custer State Park**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks proposal would require deer killed by hunters in Custer State Park to be tested for chronic wasting disease.

The Rapid City Journal reports the proposal is similar to a current requirement for elk killed in the park. It's aimed at determining the prevalence of CWD in the deer population.

CWD is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of deer, elk and moose.

In South Dakota, CWD has been detected in wildlife from Lawrence, Pennington, Custer and Fall River counties, along with Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park.

The deer proposal will be considered for adoption after a public hearing set for June 7 in Aberdeen during the next Game, Fish and Parks Commission meeting.

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

### **Rapid City man accused in shooting using insanity defense**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of shooting and injuring four people while they were in a vehicle has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

Twenty-eight-year-old Dwight Quigley faces four counts of attempted first-degree murder and other charges. The Rapid City Journal reports he was arraigned Tuesday.

Authorities allege Quigley used a .223-caliber rifle to fire at the vehicle the night of March 29, in an apparent random shooting. The people inside suffered either gunshot wounds or shrapnel wounds, and some had other injuries when the driver lost control and the vehicle crashed into a pole. All survived.

Court documents show Quigley sent a letter to the judge in April referencing a personal history of psychiatric problems.

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

### **Public comment sought on monarch butterfly conservation plan**

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Public comment is being sought on a draft of a conservation plan expected to help reverse eastern monarch butterfly population declines.

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources says the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy builds on existing efforts by state, federal, and local agencies and private organizations and individuals.

Monarch butterflies found east of the Rocky Mountains have declined by more than 80 percent over the past 20 years primarily due to habitat loss, including reduced milkweed required for reproduction and fewer nectar plants.

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will receive comments through May 31 on the strategy that covers a 16-state region stretching from Texas to the Upper Midwest. The region encompasses the primary production and migratory habitat areas for the butterflies.

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

21-34-44-49-61, Mega Ball: 21, Megaplier: 2

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 14 of 28

(twenty-one, thirty-four, forty-four, forty-nine, sixty-one; Mega Ball: twenty-one; Megaplier: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball  
Estimated jackpot: \$280 million

## South Dakota grad Mooney will immediately help Texas Tech

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — South Dakota graduate Matt Mooney is transferring to Texas Tech, where the guard will be eligible to play immediately next season.

Texas Tech coach Chris Beard announced Mooney's signing on Tuesday.

Mooney started all 68 games the past two seasons at mid-major South Dakota, where he averaged 18.7 points, 2.6 assists and 4.3 rebounds a game while shooting 36 percent on 3-pointers (152 of 423). He scored 31 points in a game at TCU last season.

The 6-foot-3 guard from Chicago played as a freshman at Air Force in 2014-15 before transferring to South Dakota.

Texas Tech is coming off its first NCAA Elite Eight appearance. All-Big 12 guard Keenan Evans was among five seniors, and standout freshman guard Zhaire Smith has left the team to turn pro.

More AP college basketball: <https://collegebasketball.ap.org> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## ICE officials arrest 78 in five-state immigration sweep

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have arrested 78 people in a five-state immigration sweep in the Midwest.

Officials say the arrests happened over six days. Iowa and Nebraska each saw 25 arrests, while there were 15 arrests in Minnesota, 10 in South Dakota and three in North Dakota.

ICE says the operation targeted those who have criminal records, are public safety threats or violated immigration laws.

Sixty-two of the people arrested had prior criminal convictions; 31 had illegally re-entered the United States after having been previously deported.

Most of the people arrested are from Mexico. The arrests also included people from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, the Ivory Coast and Sudan.

They will remain in ICE custody pending additional proceedings.

## Sioux Falls School Board bans 'timeout' rooms

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls School Board has approved a rule change that bans "timeout" rooms as a form of student discipline.

The policy revision made Monday is a result of a state law passed this year that requires all districts to adopt rules banning the practice of physically restraining students and locking them in padded rooms, the Argus Leader reported. South Dakota schools have until July to update their rules.

The Sioux Falls district's move is more of a formality because its schools no longer use timeout rooms, according to school leaders.

"I know we don't have padded rooms in the district and we certainly don't intend to have padded rooms," Superintendent Brian Maher said.

The new law prohibits educators from locking students in a room alone unless there is a "clear and present danger." Schools also must notify parents whenever a student is physically restrained or placed in seclusion.

"We're just making sure we're compliant with the state law," said Kate Parker, board president.

Micaela Boice's daughter was physically restrained and locked in a room by teachers at the now-defunct

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 15 of 28

Jefferson Elementary School about five years ago. Boice pulled her daughter out of the Sioux Falls School District and transferred her to Tri-Valley public schools in Colton.

Boice believes the practice only added to her daughter's issues and said the rule change is a step in the right direction for students.

"They need positive structure and positive modeling of behaviors," Boice said. "Shoving them in a padded room isn't teaching them to properly behave."

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

## Rollover crash in Hand County kills 26-year-old man

MILLER, S.D. (AP) — A 26-year-old man is dead after a one-vehicle crash in Hand County.

The Highway Patrol says the man's sport utility vehicle rolled in the ditch off state Highway 45, about 2 miles north of Miller.

The crash happened about 6:30 p.m. Monday. The man was later pronounced dead at a hospital in Miller. His name wasn't immediately released.

## Police chief says 2nd precinct needed for growing Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City's police chief expects growth over the next decade will precipitate a need for a second precinct in the western part of the city.

Chief Karl Jegeris says space will become a problem for his department in the next five to 10 years.

The department this year asked for city money to buy and renovate a building for a new precinct but eventually pulled the request due to city budget constraints.

Jegeris says the request was less about securing funds than it was a measure of support from the council.

He calls the plan "a vision" based on the city's needs. About half of Rapid City's land and population is in the west, and hills buffering that area from the east present accessibility challenges for officers.

## Man convicted in double-fatal crash gets 3 years in prison

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge man convicted of involuntary manslaughter in a crash that killed two people has been sentenced to about three years in federal prison.

The U.S. attorney's office says 22-year-old Brent Janis was driving drunk on April 8, 2016, when he lost control of his vehicle and it rolled in a ditch on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Two passengers were killed.

Janis was recently sentenced to 37 months in custody, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

## Air Force holding exercise in Northern Plains training area

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Air Force is holding another training session in the massive Powder River Training Complex over the Northern Plains.

The Combat Raider training is scheduled Tuesday through Thursday, with several types of aircraft. The military says there's the potential for loud noises associated with sonic booms.

The Federal Aviation Administration approved quadrupling the training airspace to 35,000 square miles in March 2015. The expanded complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming officially opened in September of that year, with large-scale exercises such as the one this week limited to 10 days per year.

The training complex is the largest over the continental U.S.

## Giuliani's confusing media statements may hurt his business

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyer Rudy Giuliani's decision to join President Donald Trump's legal team could backfire on the former New York mayor if potential clients of his international consulting business view him as too erratic and go elsewhere for representation, according to legal experts.

Giuliani has become a lightning rod in the short time he's been in the president's corner leading an aggressive media blitz to fight back against accusations that could threaten Trump's presidency. He's stunned Trump's inner circle by making confusing and at times contradictory statements that could trigger even more legal and political headaches for the White House. Giuliani, for example, recently had to backpedal after he was quoted as saying that Trump had denied AT&T's bid to purchase Time Warner for \$85 billion.

"Giuliani's television appearances do not inspire confidence in his ability as a lawyer or as a public relations professional," said Kathleen Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. She said she could understand why the powerhouse law firm Greenberg Traurig, where Giuliani worked until last week, "would want to distance itself" from Giuliani's on-air performance.

Norm Eisen, who served as President Barack Obama's special assistant for ethics and government reform, said Giuliani hasn't demonstrated the steady hand that "sophisticated legal consumers" demand.

"It could be good for Giuliani's consulting and legal work if he were doing a better job," Eisen said. "But no clients are going to be won over by the fact that he's implicated Trump," said Eisen, who chairs the left-leaning Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a nonprofit watchdog group that's frequently challenged Trump for alleged conflicts of interest.

As the public face of Trump's legal team, Giuliani has said he couldn't guarantee that the president wouldn't end up asserting his constitutional right to refuse to answer any questions from special counsel Robert Mueller's team investigating Russia's election intrusions. Trump suggested during the presidential campaign that innocent people don't take the Fifth Amendment.

The Associated Press last week reported that Trump was angered by Giuliani's comments about hush money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels. The president, who has denied the affair with Daniels, was dismayed that Giuliani may have given the impression that other women may have made similar charges of infidelity.

Despite the rough patches, Giuliani seems to be a natural fit for Trump. They are in their 70s, have known each other for decades and share a pugnacious, often over-the-top rhetorical style honed in New York. Giuliani, a former U.S. attorney and presidential candidate, had been expected to join Trump's Cabinet but was passed over the post he most wanted, secretary of state.

But he's now in a position to play a pivotal role for Trump. Successfully steering the president through the Mueller probe could make Giuliani the top contender for attorney general if Trump ever decides to replace Jeff Sessions, said Paul Rosenzweig, a fellow at the R Street Institute and a former legal adviser to Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel in the Whitewater investigation.

Giuliani resigned May 9 from Greenberg Traurig, where he'd been a senior adviser and head of its cybersecurity, privacy and crisis management practice since 2016. He initially had taken an unpaid leave of absence, but the firm noted in a statement that his work for Trump is "all consuming" and lasting longer than anticipated.

Separately, Giuliani has a consulting firm in New York that he founded in 2002 after leaving the mayor's office. Giuliani Partners didn't return a request for comment on his status while he assists Trump.

Scott Amey, general counsel at the Project on Government Oversight, said Giuliani should adhere to the ethics pledge required of the president's appointees that bans "influence peddling" by those joining or leaving government service for terms of one year or much longer.

"Access is everything in Washington and Giuliani shouldn't use his position on President Trump's legal team to provide a direct line of communication between his law firm's clients and the president or to funnel information back to those clients," Amey said.

Giuliani has never registered with the U.S. government as a lobbyist. He declared in a 2016 New York Times interview that he's never lobbied for any interests, foreign or otherwise. But Giuliani Partners has



helped companies on behalf of foreign governments, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. He also advised TransCanada, which sought to build the Keystone XL pipeline, and helped the maker of the painkiller drug OxyContin settle a dispute with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

He's at times represented foreign governments and multinational corporations with interests that diverged from those of the United States. Giuliani traveled to Belgrade to meet with leaders of a Serbian political party once allied with Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic. And his firm received money for supporting the Mujahedin-e Khalq, the Iranian dissident group, even as it was a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization.

Giuliani also is chairman of Giuliani Security & Safety, which offers foreign governments and multinational corporations a "full platform of security, investigative and crisis management services," according to the firm's web site. Giuliani visited Kharkiv, Ukraine, in November as part of the firm's work to help improve security in the city.

Clark, the Washington University law professor, said Giuliani might have been gambling that his increased visibility and access to Trump could attract clients who want the president's ear.

"As long as Giuliani remains in Trump's good graces, those clients might be willing to pay Giuliani for that access to Trump," she said.

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

## Watchdog: Chlorine used in Syrian town of Saraqeb

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The international chemical weapons watchdog said Wednesday that chlorine was likely used as a weapon in the rebel-held northern Syrian town of Saraqeb in early February, the latest report of poison gas being unleashed in Syria's civil war.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons released details of a report into the chlorine use, but did not say which side in the fighting used it. The OPCW is not mandated to apportion blame for the attack.

The probe into the use of chlorine gas in the Saraqeb attack comes amid the OPCW's investigation into another attack two months later in Douma, near the capital Damascus — a much larger attack in April that triggered U.S., British and French strikes against government posts in Syria a week later.

The OPCW said that its Fact-Finding Mission probing alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria "determined that chlorine was released from cylinders by mechanical impact in the Al Talil neighbourhood of Saraqeb."

On Feb. 4, the White Helmets search-and-rescue group and a medical charity reported that several people suffered breathing difficulties after a suspected chlorine gas attack on Saraqeb, days after the Trump administration accused President Bashar Assad's government of producing and using "new kinds of weapons" to deliver poisonous gases. Damascus denied the White House's charges.

At the time, the White Helmets said three of its rescuers and six other people suffered breathing problems. The Syrian American Medical Society said its hospitals in Idlib treated 11 patients for suspected chlorine gas poisoning.

OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu harshly criticized the chemical attack.

"I strongly condemn the continued use of toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone, for any reason, and in any circumstances," Uzumcu said in a statement. "Such acts contradict the unequivocal prohibition against chemical weapons enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention."

The OPCW said its team based its findings on evidence including "the presence of two cylinders, which were determined as previously containing chlorine; witness testimony; environmental samples that demonstrated the unusual presence of chlorine in the local environment; and the number of patients at medical facilities shortly after the incident who showed signs and symptoms consistent with exposure to chlorine and other toxic chemicals."

Saraqeb is in the northern Idlib province, a stronghold for rebels and opposition to Assad's government.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 18 of 28

The province is also home to al-Qaida-linked militants. The town has before come under suspected chemical attacks, including in 2016 and in 2013.

The mission also is investigating allegations that poison gas was used in Douma, near the capital Damascus, in a deadly April 7 attack. That attack led to the U.S., France and Britain blaming the Syrian government and launching joint punitive airstrikes targeting suspected Syrian chemical weapons facilities on April 14. The organization has not yet issued a report on that attack.

Assad's forces have repeatedly been accused of using chemical weapons in the civil war. His regime denies the allegations. Rebels also have been accused of using poison gas.

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb in Beirut contributed to this report.

## Celtics survive 42-point night by LeBron, down Cavs 107-94

By KYLE HIGHTOWER, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The Celtics punched the Cavaliers first and never looked back in rolling to a Game 1 rout. LeBron James took a literal shot to the jaw in Game 2 but kept right on scoring.

So did the Celtics.

Jaylen Brown scored 23 points and Boston withstood a 42-point night by James to beat Cleveland 107-94 on Tuesday and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

Terry Rozier added 18 points, while Al Horford finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Boston improved to 9-0 this postseason at TD Garden. The Celtics have never blown a 2-0 series lead in the playoffs.

"We're going to fight," Rozier said. "At this point we don't care if we win by half a point. If we win, that's all that matters."

James added 12 assists and 10 rebounds. He scored 21 of Cleveland's 27 points in the first quarter, tying his playoff career high for points in a period. His 42 points marked his fifth 40-point game of this postseason. James had just 15 points and missed all five of his 3-point attempts in the Cavs' Game 1 loss.

But he didn't seem to play with the same force after straining his neck in a first-half collision and the Cavaliers wilted in the second half, with the Celtics outscoring them 59-39.

"I think I'll be fine. I'm not going to lose sleep over it. You go out and when you lay everything on the line, at the end of the day, you can live with that," he said. "They did what they had to do, and that was protect home, and now it's our time to try to do that, as well."

Kevin Love finished with 22 points and 15 rebounds for Cleveland.

As expected, Tristan Thompson started in place of Kyle Korver in the hopes his presence could energize what was a sluggish Cavs offense in Game 1. Thompson got Cleveland's first basket of the night and helped to limit Horford's effectiveness on the inside early on.

Korver added 11 points off the bench for Cleveland. But starters Thompson, JR Smith and George Hill combined for just 11 points on 5-of-17 shooting.

Tempers flared with 3:49 to play with Boston leading 97-89. Marcus Smart got in Smith's face after Smith pushed Horford in the back to prevent a layup. Smith shoved Smart and the pair had to be separated.

Smith was assessed a flagrant foul and both received technical fouls.

"I felt like it was uncalled for that type of play there," Horford said. "We have each other's backs. ... We moved on to the next play way and we locked in after that."

Smith said there was no malicious intent on the play.

"I blatantly pushed him. It wasn't like I was trying to low bridge him or something. Just make sure he didn't get it," Smith said. "It was a good, hard foul."

Boston's balanced attack was effective again, with six players reaching double figures. Cleveland had 15 turnovers leading to 13 Boston points. The Celtics turned it over just six times.

Boston led 84-77 after three quarters and took command late in the fourth with the Cavs getting little offense other than from James. Cleveland's starters were pulled with 1:48 left and the Cavs down 14.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 19 of 28

James was on the attack from the opening tip. He turned the ball over the Cavs' first possession. But it was one of his only miscues in the first quarter.

James was also astoundingly efficient, using his dribble to create space, while he knocked down an assortment of jump shots.

He finished the opening quarter 8 of 13 from the field and 4 of 7 from the 3-point line.

His momentum was stunted briefly at the 3:50 mark of the second quarter, when Jayson Tatum was whistled for a foul after catching James jaw with his shoulder as he attempted a steal. James stayed in the game and connected on one of his ensuing free throws, but then exited to the locker room with Cleveland leading 47-36.

The Cavaliers said James had a neck sprain. He returned after missing less than two minutes of game time.

Boston flurried just before the half, getting six points from Morris in the final minute to trim Cleveland's lead to 55-48 at the break.

"I think we just have a group of guys that really believe in each other," Horford said. "Our group in tough times, we've always found a way."

## TIP-INS

Cavaliers: Were outscored 50-42 in the paint after being outscored 60-38 in Game 1.

Celtics: Went 10 of 31 from the 3-point line.

## QUOTABLE

"We've got to be tougher. I think they're playing tougher than we are. We see that. They're being physical. They're gooning the game up and we've got to do the same thing." — Cavaliers coach Ty Lue

## 40-POINT MAN

According to Elias Sports Bureau, James now has three career playoff 40-point triple-doubles. That is the most in NBA postseason history.

## DEFENDING A TEAMMATE

Smart said Smith's play was a "dirty shot."

"That's not the first time JR has done some dirty stuff, especially playing against us," he said. "It's like a bully, you keep letting a bully keep picking on you, he's going to pick on you until you finally stand up. And that's what I tried to do."

## UP NEXT

Game 3 is Saturday in Cleveland.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

## False starts, failures in diplomacy with North Korea

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — No, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un isn't killing his summit with President Donald Trump. Or at least, he's highly unlikely to.

Pyongyang breaking off a high-level meeting with Seoul and threatening to scrap next month's historic summit with Washington over regular allied military drills is seen as a move by Kim to gain leverage and establish that he's entering the crucial nuclear negotiations from a position of strength.

Washington and Seoul, which have no intentions to overpay for whatever Kim brings to the table, have been saying strengthened international sanctions and pressure forced Kim into talks after a flurry of weapons tests. Pyongyang has now countered by saying it won't be unilaterally pressured into abandoning its nukes, analysts say.

Nonetheless, North Korea's surprise declaration on Wednesday was a fresh reminder of many false starts and failures that derailed previous diplomatic attempts to resolve the decades-long standoff. It's also a frustrating development for South Korea, which has been selling last month's inter-Korean summit — where the leaders issued a vague vow for the "complete denuclearization" of their peninsula — as a meaningful

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 20 of 28

breakthrough in peace.

A look at the history of negotiations between Washington, Seoul and Pyongyang:

## BAD START WITH WASHINGTON

The United States reached a landmark nuclear agreement with North Korea in 1994 following months of war fears triggered by the North's threat to turn its stockpile of nuclear fuel into bombs.

Under the "Agreed Framework," North Korea halted construction of two reactors the United States believed were for nuclear weapons production in exchange for two alternative nuclear power reactors that could be used to provide electricity but not bomb fuel, and 500,000 metric tons of annual oil supply. Pyongyang constantly complained about delayed oil shipment and the construction of the reactors that were never delivered. Washington criticized the North's pursuit of ballistic missile capability.

The deal collapsed in 2002 after North Korea admitted it had been running a clandestine nuclear program using enriched uranium.

## DERAILED SIX-PARTY TALKS

It didn't take long for the United States to be roped back into talks with North Korea, but this time in a six-party forum that also included China, South Korea, Russia, and Japan.

After months of tense negotiations that began in August 2003, the North accepted a deal in September 2005 to end its nuclear weapons program in exchange for security, economic and energy benefits.

However, disagreements between Washington and Pyongyang over financial sanctions imposed on the North temporarily derailed the six-nation talks before North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in October 2006.

The disarmament talks resumed a few weeks later and the six governments in February 2007 reached a deal where North Korea would receive an aid package worth about \$400 million in return for disabling its nuclear facilities and allowing international inspectors to verify the process.

But a final attempt to complete an agreement to fully dismantle North Korea's nuclear program fell through in December 2008 when the North refused to accept U.S.-proposed verification methods.

The six-nation talks have stalled since then and the North conducted another nuclear test in May 2009.

## INTER-KOREAN EBBS AND FLOWS

Since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, relations between the Koreas have been marked by wild swings, with three historic summits mixed with hostility that often pushed the rivals to the brink of a major military conflict.

The rivals most recently came near a military clash in 2015 following land mine blasts blamed on North Korea that maimed two South Korean soldiers. The Koreas avoided disaster with a last-minute deal in which the North offered a vague regret over the blasts in exchange for the South temporarily stopping anti-Pyongyang broadcasts over the border.

The agreement led to a high-level meeting between the Koreas at the northern border town of Kaesong in December. But those talks fell apart after the South refused to agree to restart joint tours to the North's scenic Diamond Mountain resort, which were suspended in 2008 following the shooting death of a South Korean tourist.

A month later, North Korea went on to conduct its fourth nuclear test, which marked the start of a torrid run in weapons tests that peaked in 2017, when the country detonated a purported thermonuclear warhead and flight-tested three developmental intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to strike the U.S. mainland.

Wednesday was hardly the first time the North called off an important inter-Korean event at the last minute. In 2013, North Korea abruptly canceled reunions for families separated by the Korean War just days before they were scheduled to be held to protest what it called rising animosities ahead of joint military drills between Seoul and Washington, which the North claim are invasion rehearsals.

## WILL KIM GO BACK?

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 21 of 28

Months after taking power following the death of his father, Kim in 2012 reached a major agreement with the United States to suspend nuclear weapons and missile tests and uranium enrichment in exchange for food aid. But the deal was killed just weeks later after the North launched a long-range rocket in a failed attempt to deliver a satellite, which outside governments saw as a disguised test to advance ballistic missile capability.

Even amid the North's diplomatic outreach of recent weeks, there are lingering doubts on whether Kim would fully relinquish the nukes he likely sees as his only guarantee of survival.

Some analysts believe that Kim would seek a deal where he gives up his ICBMs but retains some of his shorter arsenal, which might potentially satisfy Trump but drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul. Or he might try to drag out the process and wait out the Trump administration, which has provided a credible threat of military force against the North.

Whatever his true intentions are, Kim will almost certainly show up for his talks with Trump in Singapore on June 12, analysts say. The past few months have seen the formerly reclusive leader belly-laughing with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, releasing detained Americans and declaring a halt to nuclear and ICBM tests while inviting foreign journalists to witness the dismantling of his nuclear test site scheduled for next week.

He has simply come too far to go fully back. He also desperately needs sanctions relief to build his economy. In Washington, he sees a president who seems eager to prove his deal-making skills and thinks less of the traditional alliance with Seoul than his predecessors did. In Seoul, he sees a dovish liberal leader who's eager to revive Seoul's "Sunshine" policy of the 2000s that led to temporary rapprochement and joint economic projects. Kim likely knows he probably isn't getting a better shot than this.

"North Korea is responding to the Washington-Seoul drills based on internal principles and routines," said Kim Dong-yub, a former South Korean military official who's now an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies. "The North is not trying to subvert the table for talks."

Follow Kim Tong-hyung on Twitter at @KimTongHyung

## Homeowners scramble as Hawaii volcano spews ash, lava

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Patricia Deter moved from Oregon to Hawaii to be closer to her two daughters, but the Kilauea volcano burned down her home only a month after she bought it.

Now Deter and others who have recently lost homes to the lava-spewing mountain are on an urgent quest for answers about insurance, desperate to learn whether their coverage will offer any help after molten rock wiped out most of what they owned.

The eruption has destroyed about two dozen homes in the Leilani Estates subdivision on the Big Island.

Authorities on Tuesday reported a new fissure opened in the adjoining Lanipuna Gardens subdivision, bringing the number of cracks in the ground spitting out lava and toxic gas to nearly 20 since the eruption began May 3. Another fissure that opened up last weekend was sending molten rock crawling toward the ocean at about 20 yards (18 meters) per hour. An ash plume from within Kilauea volcano's summit crater rose as high as 12,000 feet (3,658 meters) above sea level, prompting geologists to issue a "red" warning for pilots and air traffic controllers as the ash could disrupt flights.

Few insurance companies will issue policies for homes in Leilani Estates because it is in an area deemed by the U.S. Geological Survey to have a high risk of lava.

But homeowners are not without options. One possibility is the Hawaii Property Insurance Association, a nonprofit collection of insurance companies created by state lawmakers in 1991 to provide basic property insurance for people who are unable to buy coverage in the private market.

The horror of seeing houses turned to ash has motivated some people who had no insurance to scramble to purchase a policy. The association announced last week that it would issue policies to uninsured home-

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 22 of 28

owners in the affected area — but they will have to wait six months.

Some homeowners believe fire coverage will suffice for homes burned by fire from the lava. And a list of frequently asked questions from the Hawaii Insurance Division supports that idea, saying that lava damage may be covered “as a fire peril.”

However, there are exceptions. If policies specifically exclude lava damage, the fire coverage will not apply, said Judy Moa, an insurance broker who specializes in catastrophic coverage for Hawaii.

“The cause of damage is lava at the end of the day,” she said. “If lava came down the hill, and they have lava exclusion and trees catch fire, which burn the house, that’s not covered.”

Some homeowners forgo policies that include lava coverage because they can cost more than \$3,000 per year, said Moa, who has fielded many calls from anxious homeowners.

The same insurance questions haunt people whose homes are standing but could still be torched by future lava flows.

Todd Corrigan and his wife left their Leilani Estates home on May 4 after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake knocked belongings off their shelves. That jolt convinced them it was time to evacuate.

Corrigan said the most stressful part of the experience might be the uncertainty about what insurance will cover. His policy will pay for damage from a fire but not from lava. His insurer also cautioned him that it will not cover damage if he has not been at home for 30 days. That requirement could be a problem if he is gone for a long time.

“You have to worry about that stress when you’re trying to deal with everything else,” Corrigan said.

Coverage details vary depending on policies and companies, said Insurance Division Commissioner Gordon Ito, who encouraged homeowners to contact agents to find out what is covered.

State Farm stopped writing policies for homes in the two highest-risk lava zones in the 1990s, but the company grandfathered-in any existing policies, said Kim Silva, a State Farm sales executive in Hawaii.

The policies of the company cover fire from volcanic activity, she said, “but every claim has to be handled on its own merit.”

Deter’s daughters live in the same area as their 88-year-old mother. They know the eruption risks, so they made sure their mother’s home was covered by a policy that included lava.

The family’s Hawaii-based insurance agent assured daughter Vickie Pruitt that her mother’s house was fully covered for lava.

But a phone call from an adjuster on the U.S. mainland told them it looked like the damage was from an earthquake — not the lava — and that the home would not be covered.

“I’m like, ‘What?’” Pruitt said. “I’m laughing hysterically. But it’s not funny. It’s tragic.”

They were waiting for a follow-up call they hoped would provide more clarity.

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Associated Press Writer Audrey McAvoy and Sophia Yan contributed to this report.

## Trump backs 2 successful US Senate nominees in primaries

By **ASHLEY THOMAS** and **MARC LEVY**, Associated Press

President Donald Trump backed two successful U.S. Senate nominees in Pennsylvania and Nebraska, which were among four states holding primaries Tuesday.

The primaries began to settle swing state Pennsylvania’s chaotic congressional landscape after a court fight ended with redrawn districts just three months ago. Amid the redistricting, Republican Rick Saccone recorded his second loss in two months in two U.S. House districts.

Among the more unusual results of Tuesday’s primaries was the loss by Pennsylvania’s Democratic lieutenant governor, Mike Stack, who was ousted by mayor John Fetterman.

Oregon and Idaho also held primary elections.

Here’s a look at some of the other interesting races:

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TRUMP’S PICKS PREVAIL

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 23 of 28

Two of the president's favored candidates, Lou Barletta in Pennsylvania and Deb Fischer in Nebraska, won their U.S. Senate primaries.

Barletta, currently a congressman, was heavily favored over state Rep. Jim Christiana to become the Republican challenger for Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, who is seeking a third term in November.

Barletta was a Trump supporter before the 2016 presidential nomination was settled. Trump asked Barletta to run for Senate, and the president is expected to visit Pennsylvania to campaign for him. The president also recorded telephone calls last weekend backing Barletta "fully, strongly and proudly."

Fischer, the incumbent, defeated four GOP challengers and will be the strong favorite to win re-election in deep-red Nebraska. Her Democratic opponent is Lincoln City Councilwoman Jane Raybould.

Early Tuesday afternoon, Trump tweeted: "Nebraska - make sure you get out to the polls and VOTE for Deb Fischer today!"

Last week, Trump urged GOP Senate primary voters to support Rep. Jim Renacci in the Ohio Senate and oppose former coal company executive Don Blankenship in West Virginia. Renacci won and Blankenship lost.

## WOMEN RULE IN REDRAWN DISTRICTS

Pennsylvania could send at least three women Congress next year, breaking the all-male hold on the state's 18-member U.S. House delegation.

Mary Gay Scanlon won a 10-way Democratic primary and Madeleine Dean won a three-way Democratic primary on Tuesday night for two suburban Philadelphia seats that are likely to flip to Democrats following a court-ordered redrawing of the state's congressional district boundaries.

Meanwhile, Chrissy Houlahan is the uncontested Democratic nominee for another suburban Philadelphia seat where she's heavily favored in November.

Women won contested Democratic primaries in three other seats in Pennsylvania, although two of those seats are in solidly Republican districts and another is considered a toss-up in November.

## INCUMBENT LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FALLS

Mike Stack became the first holder of the Pennsylvania lieutenant's office to lose in a primary election.

John Fetterman, the Braddock mayor, won the five-way Democratic Party primary race for lieutenant governor Tuesday, meaning he will run on a ticket with Gov. Tom Wolf in the fall. Pennsylvania first started allowing lieutenant governors to serve a second term in the 1970s.

Fetterman had made a failed bid in 2016 for the U.S. Senate.

Stack, a former Philadelphia state senator, has had a chilly relationship with Wolf in their first term together.

Wolf last year ordered an investigation into the treatment of state employees by Stack and his wife and stripped Stack of state police protection.

## SECOND LOSS IN TWO MONTHS FOR SACCONI

Pennsylvania state Rep. Rick Saccone, who lost a special election two months ago to Democrat Conor Lamb for a congressional seat, has now lost a two-way Republican primary for a different U.S. House seat.

Saccone lost Tuesday's 14th Congressional District primary election to state Sen. Guy Reschenthaler for the open seat in a heavily Republican, newly drawn district.

In March, Lamb narrowly beat Saccone in a district that President Donald Trump won in 2016 by about 20 percentage points. The president campaigned in the district twice and sent several tweets on Saccone's behalf. The White House later contended that it was Lamb who had embraced the president's policies and vision.

## POLITICAL NEWCOMER WINS IN NEBRASKA

Social worker and political newcomer Kara Eastman has won the Democratic nomination for Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District.

Eastman defeated former Rep. Brad Ashford in Tuesday's primary election with a campaign that cast her

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 24 of 28

as a champion of liberal ideals, including supporting a single-payer health care system.

Eastman contrasted herself against Ashford, a centrist and former Republican who focused on his legislative experience and willingness to work with conservatives.

She will now face Rep. Don Bacon, a first-term Republican who defeated Ashford in the 2016 election.

Ashford had been the first Democrat in two decades to win the district, which encompasses much of the Omaha metro area. Although Omaha's strong Democratic core is balanced out by more conservative suburbs, the district gives Democrats a fighting chance of capturing a congressional seat in a state that is otherwise overwhelmingly Republican.

## OREGON CHOOSES GOP CANDIDATE AMONG 10 GUBERNATORIAL HOPEFULS

State Rep. Knute Buehler has emerged from a crowded primary to capture the Republican nomination for Oregon governor.

Buehler, who ran for secretary of state in 2012, was the most centrist of the Republican front-runners. He was among 10 GOP candidates in the primary.

However, Democratic Gov. Kate Brown remains the favorite to win in November. Brown became governor in 2015 upon the resignation of Gov. John Kitzhaber following an ethics scandal, and she won a special election in 2016.

Oregon is among eight states where Democrats control the governorship and both houses of the state legislature. Voters who identify as Democrats also outnumber their Republican counterparts by more than 9 percentage points.

## IN IDAHO GOVERNOR'S RACE, A DEMOCRATIC FIRST

When former state Rep. Paulette Jordan, 38, won her primary, she became the first woman to be the Democratic gubernatorial nominee in Idaho. If she wins the general election, Jordan, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, would not only be the first woman to serve as Idaho governor but also the first Native American woman to serve in that position in any state.

But she faces a difficult race: Idaho hasn't elected a Democratic governor since 1990, and the Republican Party now controls a supermajority on all federal, state and legislative seats.

Lt. Gov. Brad Little, 64, a rancher who has spent the past 16 years in elected office, secured the GOP nomination. He's the pick of Republican Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, who decided not to seek a fourth term.

## Trump Indonesia project gets Chinese government partner

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chinese government-owned company has signed on to build a theme park in a vast development in Indonesia that also features a Trump hotel and condos, a deal that stands to benefit President Donald Trump's company just as top Chinese envoys head to Washington for trade talks.

In a move that has alarmed Trump critics, an Indonesian company confirmed this week that it hired the subsidiary of the state-owned Metallurgical Corp. of China to build a theme park in its Lido City development outside Jakarta. The property owner three years earlier struck a deal for the development to include a Trump-branded hotel, 400 luxury villas and condos, and an 18-hole championship golf course.

Even though Trump's involvement in the project predated his election, ethics experts say it's still trouble for the president, possibly putting him in violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution, which bans gifts from foreign governments.

"This clearly benefits the Trump Organization, and therefore its owner Donald Trump," said Harvard Law professor Laurence Tribe, who is advising on several lawsuits against the president. He added that it is irrelevant if the benefit came "indirectly" from China through the Indonesian company.

MNC Land, the Indonesian company that is developing the park, is owned by billionaire Hary Tanoesoedibjo, who attended Trump's inauguration last year. In a statement, MNC Land said the Trump Organization



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 25 of 28

has “no relationship” with the theme park that the Chinese company is building. It also said that news reports that a Chinese government-backed \$500 million loan for the project had been signed were false.

White House officials steered clear of talk of Chinese backing for the project, dismissing the belief that it could violate the emoluments clause or the Trump Organization’s pledge to refrain from new foreign business while the president was in office.

Staffers pointed to an answer Monday from White House deputy press secretary Raj Shah, who referred all questions to the president’s business. The Trump Organization declined to comment.

The deal also raised questions about possible links between the investment and the president’s seemingly out-of-the-blue tweet Sunday in which he called for Chinese telecommunications company ZTE to “get back into business, fast” because “too many jobs in China” had been lost, a call to help that seemed a stark departure from Trump’s “America First” foreign policy.

Just last month, the Trump administration ordered a seven-year halt in American shipments of computer microchips and software that are at the heart of most of ZTE’s telecommunications gear. The Commerce Department accused ZTE of violating American sanctions by selling to Iran and North Korea. ZTE phones had also been banned from U.S. military bases earlier this year over fears they could pose a security threat.

White House officials denied any connection between the company and the Indonesia project. Instead, they framed the tweet as a call to protect American jobs — many of the ZTE components are made in the United States — and placed it in the context of ongoing negotiations about trade between the two countries certain to accelerate when senior Chinese officials arrive in Washington later this week.

The overture could also reduce tension with Beijing as Trump leans on China for help in the weeks before his summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

## North Korea threatens to cancel Trump-Kim summit over drills

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **FOSTER KLUG**, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Wednesday threatened to scrap a historic summit next month between its leader, Kim Jong Un, and U.S. President Donald Trump, saying it has no interest in a “one-sided” affair meant to pressure Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons.

The warning by North Korea’s first vice foreign minister came hours after the country abruptly canceled a high-level meeting with South Korea to protest U.S.-South Korean military exercises that Pyongyang has long claimed are invasion rehearsals.

The surprise moves appear to cool what had been an unusual flurry of outreach from a country that last year conducted a provocative series of weapons tests that had many fearing the region was on the edge of war. Analysts said it’s unlikely that North Korea intends to scuttle all diplomacy. More likely, they said, is that Pyongyang wants to gain leverage ahead of the talks between Kim and Trump, scheduled for June 12 in Singapore.

“We are no longer interested in a negotiation that will be all about driving us into a corner and making a one-sided demand for us to give up our nukes and this would force us to reconsider whether we would accept the North Korea-U.S. summit meeting,” the first vice foreign minister, Kim Kye Gwan, said in a statement carried by state media.

He criticized recent comments by Trump’s top security adviser, John Bolton, and other U.S. officials who have said the North should follow the “Libyan model” of nuclear disarmament and provide a “complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement.” He also took issue with U.S. views that the North should fully relinquish its biological and chemical weapons.

Some analysts say bringing up Libya, which dismantled its rudimentary nuclear program in the 2000s in exchange for sanctions relief, jeopardizes progress in negotiations with the North. Kim Jong Un took power weeks after former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi’s gruesome death at the hands of rebel forces amid a popular uprising in October 2011. The North has frequently used Gadhafi’s death to justify its own nuclear development in the face of perceived U.S. threats.

The North’s warning Wednesday fits a past North Korean pattern of raising tensions to bolster its posi-

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 306 ~ 26 of 28

tions ahead of negotiations with Washington and Seoul. But the country also has a long history of scrap-  
ping deals with its rivals at the last minute.

In 2013, North Korea abruptly canceled reunions for families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War just  
days before they were scheduled to begin to protest what it called rising animosities ahead of joint drills  
between Seoul and Washington. In 2012, the North conducted a prohibited long-range rocket launch  
weeks after it agreed to suspend weapons tests in return for food assistance.

On Wednesday, senior officials from the two Koreas were to sit down at a border village to discuss how to  
implement their leaders' recent agreements to reduce military tensions along their heavily fortified border  
and improve overall ties. But hours before the meeting was to start, the North informed the South that it  
would "indefinitely suspend" the talks, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

In a pre-dawn dispatch, the North's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, called the two-week  
Max Thunder drills, which began Monday and reportedly include about 100 aircraft, an "intended military  
provocation" and an "apparent challenge" to last month's summit between Kim Jong Un and South Korean  
President Moon Jae-in, when the leaders met at the border in their countries' third summit talks since  
their formal division in 1948.

"The United States must carefully contemplate the fate of the planned North Korea-U.S. summit amid the  
provocative military ruckus that it's causing with South Korean authorities," the North said. "We'll keenly  
monitor how the United States and South Korean authorities will react."

Kim Dong-yub, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said the North isn't  
trying to undermine the Trump-Kim talks. The North's reaction is more like a "complaint over Trump's way  
of playing the good cop and bad cop game with (Secretary of State Mike) Pompeo and Bolton," he said.

Seoul's Unification Ministry, which is responsible for inter-Korean affairs, called North Korea's move "re-  
grettable" and urged a quick return to talks. The Defense Ministry said the drills with the United States  
would go on as planned.

Annual military drills between Washington and Seoul have long been a major source of contention be-  
tween the Koreas, and analysts have wondered whether their continuation would hurt the detente that,  
since an outreach by Kim in January, has replaced the insults and threats of war. Much larger springtime  
drills took place last month without the North's typically fiery condemnation or accompanying weapons  
tests, though Washington and Seoul toned down those exercises.

The KCNA dispatch said the U.S. aircraft mobilized for the drills include nuclear-capable B-52 bombers  
and stealth F-22 fighter jets, two of the U.S. military assets it has previously said are aimed at launching  
nuclear strikes on the North. Seoul has said F-22s are involved in the drills, but has not confirmed whether  
B-52s are taking part.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department emphasized that Kim had previously indicated he understood  
the need and purpose of the U.S. continuing its long-planned exercises with South Korea. State Depart-  
ment spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the U.S. had not heard anything directly from Pyongyang or  
Seoul that would change that.

"We will continue to go ahead and plan the meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong Un," Nauert  
said.

U.S. Army Col. Rob Manning said the current exercise is part of the U.S. and South Korea's "routine, an-  
nual training program to maintain a foundation of military readiness." Manning, a Pentagon spokesman,  
said the purpose of Max Thunder and exercise Foal Eagle — another training event — is to enhance the  
two nations' abilities to operate together to defend South Korea.

"The defensive nature of these combined exercises has been clear for many decades and has not  
changed," Manning said.

Washington and Seoul delayed the earlier round of springtime drills because of the North-South diplo-  
macy surrounding February's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in the South, which saw Kim send his sister  
to the opening ceremonies.

Kim told visiting South Korean officials in March that he "understands" the drills would take place and  
expressed hope that they'll be modified once the situation on the peninsula stabilizes, according to the

South Korean government.

Despite Kim's outreach, some experts were skeptical about whether he would completely give up a nuclear program that he had pushed so hard to build. The North previously vowed to continue nuclear development unless the United States pulls its 28,500 troops out of South Korea and withdraws its so-called "nuclear umbrella" security guarantee to South Korea and Japan as a condition for its nuclear disarmament.

Wednesday's threat could also be targeted at showing a domestic audience that Kim is willing to stand up to Washington. Kim has repeatedly told his people that his nukes are a "powerful treasured sword" that can smash U.S. hostility.

On Tuesday, South Korea's military said North Korea was moving ahead with plans to close its nuclear test site next week, an assessment backed by U.S. researchers who say satellite images show the North has begun dismantling facilities at the site.

The site's closure was set to come before the Kim-Trump summit, which had been shaping up as a crucial moment in the decades-long push to resolve the nuclear standoff with the North, which is closing in on the ability to viably target the mainland United States with its long-range nuclear-armed missiles.

\_\_\_Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul and Lolita Baldor and Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this report.

## Authorities investigate California explosion as intentional

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal and local investigators searched through debris, looking for remnants of a possible explosive device, after a blast at a Southern California medical office building that left a woman dead and three other people injured.

The explosion occurred around 1 p.m. Tuesday in Aliso Viejo, about 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) south of Los Angeles. It blew siding off the walls, exposing insulation and framing and shattering windows at the two-story building that houses medical offices.

"The corner of that building, the whole bottom floor is pretty much blown out," fire Capt. Tony Bommarito said.

The cause of the blast remained a mystery for much of the day, with officials initially believing a car had smashed into the building. But sheriff's officials said the size of the blast made it suspicious.

A federal official told The Associated Press late Tuesday that the explosion was believed to be an intentional act and the blast may have come from a package.

The official said the information was based on a preliminary investigation. Authorities said they hadn't yet located an explosive device and were searching through debris.

The official, who was briefed on the investigation, was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Bomb technicians and agents from the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were at the scene Tuesday night.

"We have not found any type of specific device inside of the building right now that would tell us or lead us to exactly what the device was, if there was a device," sheriff's Cmdr. Dave Sawyer said.

The woman who was killed inside the building was "in close proximity" to the explosion, Sawyer said. The three people who were injured were nearby and were being questioned by investigators late Tuesday night, he said.

"Anytime you see an explosion of this magnitude, it would definitely be suspicious to us," Sawyer said.

Authorities were not searching for any specific suspects Tuesday night, but the investigation was continuing, he said.

Mary McWilliams told the Orange County Register that she arrived for an appointment to find smoke surrounding the area and car alarms going off.

McWilliams said she saw two burned women staggering out of the building, covered in ash and soot.

One woman, who had skin peeling on her arm from burns, said, "Take care of my mother," McWilliams

said. The other woman was bleeding from her head.

Fire officials said a third person suffered smoke inhalation.

A daycare center and preschool across the street was evacuated. Some children held hands as they were led out by firefighters while sheriff's deputies rolled out babies in cribs.

"When I was playing outside I heard the big crash, I thought it was a garbage truck but it was a building that smashed," 6-year-old Kingston Dik told KNBC-TV.

No children were hurt.

## **Lawyer: Ex-CIA employee in leak probe 'deeply saddened'**

**By DEB RIECHMANN and LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former CIA employee is "deeply saddened" that he may face espionage charges in the government's probe of a massive leak of cyber hacking tools, his lawyer says.

Joshua Adam Schulte, 29, already held without bail in Manhattan on child pornography charges, learned last Friday during a New York court appearance that additional charges were likely to be filed against him in about 45 days from what Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Laroche said was a "broader investigation" unrelated to the pornography case.

"Mr. Schulte has spent years working to ensure the safety of his country and is deeply saddened to hear that he could face charges of espionage," assistant federal defender Sabrina Shroff said Tuesday in response to a request for comment.

Laroche had told U.S. District Judge Paul A. Crotty that the new charges were unlikely for several weeks.

"We're consulting with a lot of folks that are not within our office, so we're moving as quickly as we can on that front," he said.

The cryptic description at Friday's hearing led Shroff, who entered the case in March, to demand more.

"Are they secret charges that I'm not allowed to know about? What are these charges?" Shroff asked, saying she wanted to know of possible charges, whether they be sedition or something else. "Are they charging him with espionage?"

Laroche said it involved an ongoing grand jury investigation and added, "I don't think we have an obligation to disclose it at this time, but we certainly have had discussions with Ms. Shroff about the nature of the underlying investigation."

At a January hearing, Laroche said Schulte was a target of an ongoing investigation into the theft of tools that were used by the CIA to spy overseas. No charges have been filed against Schulte in that investigation, and his defense lawyers have insisted he was not involved.

Schulte's name was first reported Tuesday by The Washington Post.

The CIA declined comment.

WikiLeaks began releasing some of the CIA's hacking tools in March 2017. The U.S. government has all but publicly acknowledged the embarrassing leak from the CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence. President Donald Trump told a television host then, "I just want people to know the CIA was hacked, and a lot of things taken."

At January's hearing, Laroche said the material was taken from the CIA during the more than six years that Schulte worked for the agency in various positions, including technical development officer.

"The government immediately had enough evidence to establish that he was a target of that investigation," Laroche said. "They conducted a number of search warrants on the defendant's residence."

Laroche said he disagreed with Schulte's lawyer at the time, who claimed the search warrants had not yielded anything consistent with the material released by WikiLeaks. "In fact, our investigation is ongoing," Laroche said. "He remains a target of that investigation."

Schultz, of New York, is being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan.

Jacob Kaplan, Schulte's attorney at the January hearing, told the court that "the government had full access to his computers and his phone, and they found the child pornography in this case, but what they didn't find was any connection to the WikiLeaks investigation."

\_\_\_ Neumeister reported from New York. Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.