

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 1 of 52

*Chicken Soup for the Soul*



“BY LEAVING YOUR COMFORT ZONE BEHIND AND TAKING A LEAP OF FAITH INTO SOMETHING NEW, YOU FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE TRULY CAPABLE OF BECOMING.”

-AUTHOR UNKNOWN

- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted ad
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- DARE Graduation held
- 3- Groton Legion Ad
- 3- Agtegra Ad
- 4- Reminder of Sump Pumps
- 4- Robert Whitmyre for Dist. 1
- 5- Flowers planted at Community Center
- 5- Bingo jackpot grows
- 5- Helmer's 90th Birthday
- 6- Groton Care and Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- National Weather map
- 8- Today's Weather Almanac
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

*"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"*

**NOW OPEN**

## Harris

**Auto Body** ABDN


**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

**Thursday, May 24**

**10 a.m.: Girls region golf at Dell Rapids**

## 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.



**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

**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

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 2 of 52

## 5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation held



All of the fifth graders wrote an short essay about D.A.R.E. Then they were all judged with the winners of both sides reading their essay during the D.A.R.E. graduation held Wednesday afternoon in the Groton Area Arena. Left to right, they are Kayla Lehr, third place; Gretchen Dinger, second place; Ashley Johnson, first place; Laila Roberts, first place; Faith Traphagen, second place; and Carter Simon, third place. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Aberdeen Police Officer Jarrod Zaruba and his K9 Dex fielded many questions from the Groton Area fifth grade D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) graduation class. Dex is a trained German Shepherd from Poland who sniffs out drugs.

(Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 3 of 52



Pictured in front, left to right, are Groton Chief of Police and D.A.R.E. Officer Stacy Mayou, Emma Bahr, Blake Dennert, Gretchen Dinger, Christian Ehresmann, Elizabeth Flihs, Alexis Geffre, Aiden Heathcote and Karsten Jeschke; in the middle row, left to right, are Ashley Johnson, Korbin Kucker, Emma Kutter, Kayla Lehr, Caden McInerney, Karlie McKane and teacher Janel Lone; in back, left to right, are Payton Mitchell, Nicholas Morris, Drew Thurston, Tobey Tunheim, Preston Vensel and Corbin Weismantel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Groton American Legion will perform Military honors as follows on Memorial Day:

Huffton 7:30

James 8:15

Verdon 8:45

Bates-Scotland 9:15

Ferney 10:00

Groton 11:00 (Lunch to follow at Groton Post #39)

**REMEMBERING THOSE  
WHO SERVED,  
FROM YOUR FRIENDS  
AT AGTEGRA!**





# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 4 of 52



In front, left to right, are Groton Chief of Police D.A.R.E. Officer Stacy Mayou, Carson Herrick, Brad Harms, Brevin Flihs, Ashlyn Feser, Jaden Dobbins, Teylor Diegel, Jacob Craig-Sattler, Kellen Antonsen; in the middle row, left to right, are Logan Pearson, Blake Pauli, Levi Parrow, Emily Overacker, Kayleigh McGannon, Jeslyn Kosel, Kaden Kampa and Jaeger Kampa; in back, left to right, are Chezney Williamson, Axel Warrington, Faith Traphagen, Turner Thompson, Carter Simon, Laila Roberts, Rebecca Poor, and teacher Shelby Hendrickson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Just A Reminder



Sump Pumps  
Must Be  
Discharged  
Outside (NOT In The  
Sanitary Sewer)!

Thanks For Your  
Immediate Compliance!

If You Are Already Pumping Outside  
Please Disregard This Notice.

*Groton City Council*

Failure To Comply Will Result In Fines

## Robert Whitmyre

Democrat for District 1  
House of Representatives



I would like to be a new voice in Pierre to work for our rural areas, the needs and rights of our citizens, and improve the opportunities for our young people that want to make South Dakota their home.

**I ask for your vote in the June 5th primary.**

- Lifelong Day County Ag Producer
- 30 Years in Manufacturing Industry
  - WEB Water Board of Directors
- National Farmers Union Policy Committee
- Odin Lodge Sons of Norway President
  - Webster High School Graduate
- BS in Mechanical Engineering from SDSU

Authorized and Paid for by  
Whitmyre for District 1 House Committee, |  
David Sigdestad Treasurer - 42449 133rd St. -  
Pierpont, SD 57468



**Ruby Donovan planted flowers at the Groton Community Center on Wednesday with the help of Lee Schinkel. The flowers were purchased with the help of a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial.**



## **Bingo Jackpot exceeds \$10,000**

No one won the Bingo jackpot Wednesday evening during the Groton Lions Club Bingo event held at the Groton American Legion. The new jackpot now stands at \$10,019.



## **90th Birthday**

LaVonne J. Helmer of Groton will be honored for her 90th birthday on May 27th from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Groton Community Center. Her family will host the event.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 6 of 52

## Today in Weather History

May 24, 1960: A tornado touched down about 7 miles northwest of Roscoe and destroyed a small shed near a country schoolhouse. Funnel clouds were also observed in Hosmer area, near Eureka, and 30 miles west of Aberdeen. An unofficial report of 4 inches of rain fell at Hosmer.

May 24, 2008: A supercell thunderstorm produced seven tornadoes in Dewey County. Since these tornadoes remained in the open country, all were rated EF0.

1896: An estimated F4 tornado passed ten miles north of Des Moines, Iowa during the late evening. As many as seven members of one family, the at the north edge of Valeria, Iowa, died as they ran to the storm cellar. Five others died in a nearby home. A steel railroad rail was reportedly driven 15 feet into the ground. The death toll was at least 21.

1973: An F4 tornado tore through the small town of Union City, Oklahoma, killing two and injuring four others. This tornado was the first storm to be studied in detail by the National Severe Storms Laboratory Doppler Radar Unit at Norman, OK and an armada of researchers in the field. Research of the radar data from the storm would lead to the discovery of a "TVS," or Tornado Vortex Signature. The presence of a TVS on Doppler radar data is a very strong indication of tornadic potential in a severe thunderstorm. Click [HERE](#) for a video of the Union City tornado.

1894 - Six inches of snow blanketed Kentucky. Just four days earlier as much as ten inches of snow had fallen across Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Six days earlier a violent storm had wrecked nine ships on Lake Michigan. (David Ludlum)

1930 - A tornado touched down near the town of Pratt, KS, and traveled at the incredibly slow speed of just 5 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1940 - Hail fell near Ada OK to a depth of six to eight inches, and rainfall runoff left drifts of hail up to five feet high. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas spawned a couple of tornadoes near Silverton, and produced golf ball size hail east of the town of Happy. Thunderstorms also produced large hail and damaging winds in Louisiana and Texas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 88 mph at Columbia, NC. Baseball size hail was reported near Tifton GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather across the Upper Midwest through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 30 tornadoes, and there were 158 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado caused five million dollars damage at Corning, IA,

and a powerful (F-4) tornado caused five million dollars damage at Traer, IA. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 88 mph killed one person and injured five others at Stephenville, WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

## Groton Job Opportunities C.N.A.s ~ Nurses Part-Time Cook

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

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



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton




# Groton Daily Independent


Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 7 of 52

| Thu<br>May 24 | Fri<br>May 25 | Sat<br>May 26 | Sun<br>May 27 | Mon<br>May 28 | Tue<br>May 29 | Wed<br>May 30 |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|               |               |               |               |               |               |               |
| 90°F          | 91°F          | 95°F          | 93°F          | 90°F          | 88°F          | 83°F          |
| 59°F          | 61°F          | 63°F          | 64°F          | 65°F          | 64°F          | 62°F          |
| S 17 MPH      | SW 13 MPH     | SW 7 MPH      | SE 8 MPH      | E 11 MPH      | SE 13 MPH     | SSE 13 MPH    |
| Precip 30%    |               |               |               |               |               | Precip 40%    |

## Severe Storms Possible This Afternoon & Evening

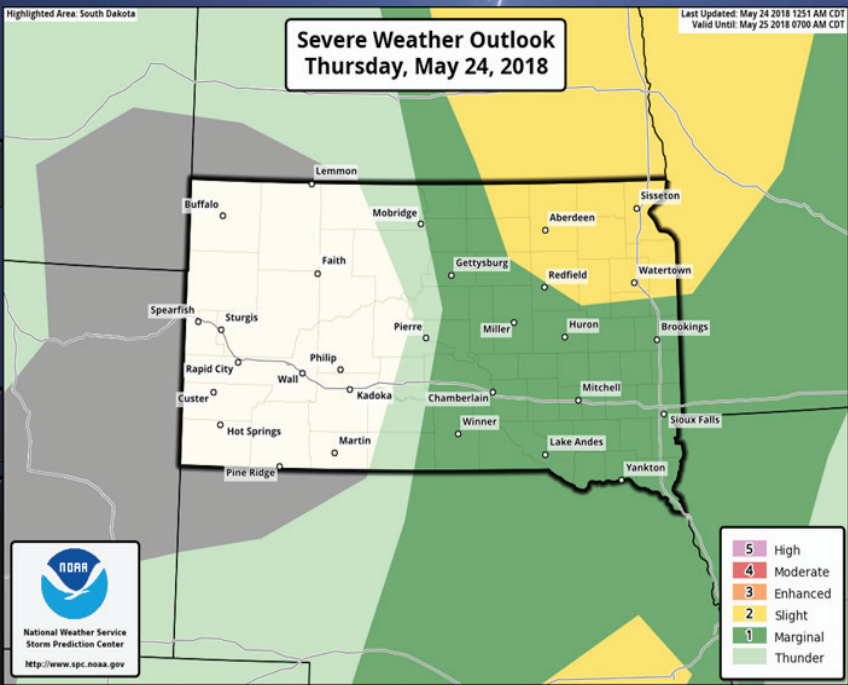


**Large Hail**



**Strong Winds**

**Not expecting widespread severe weather, storm coverage may be limited**





**Severe Weather Outlook**  
Thursday, May 24, 2018

Highlighted Area: South Dakota

Last Updated: May 24 2018 12:51 AM CDT  
Valid Until: May 25 2018 07:00 AM CDT

**National Weather Service**  
Storm Prediction Center  
<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>

- 5 High
- 4 Moderate
- 3 Enhanced
- 2 Slight
- 1 Marginal
- Thunder

**National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD**   Updated: 5/24/2018 4:52 AM Central

Published on: 05/24/2018 at 4:58AM

A warm, humid, and unstable air mass will remain in place over the region today. As a result, showers and thunderstorms are once again possible this afternoon and evening as a frontal boundary moves across the area. Some of these storms may be strong to severe. The Storm Prediction Center has highlighted the area in a Marginal or Slight risk of severe storms today. Large hail and strong winds are the main threats. Although, there is some question as to the overall storm coverage across the area. Storms may be more isolated or widely scattered in coverage. Regardless, the potential is there to see strong to severe storms later this afternoon and into the evening hours. Stay up to date on the latest forecasts and possible watches that may be issued later today.

# Groton Daily Independent

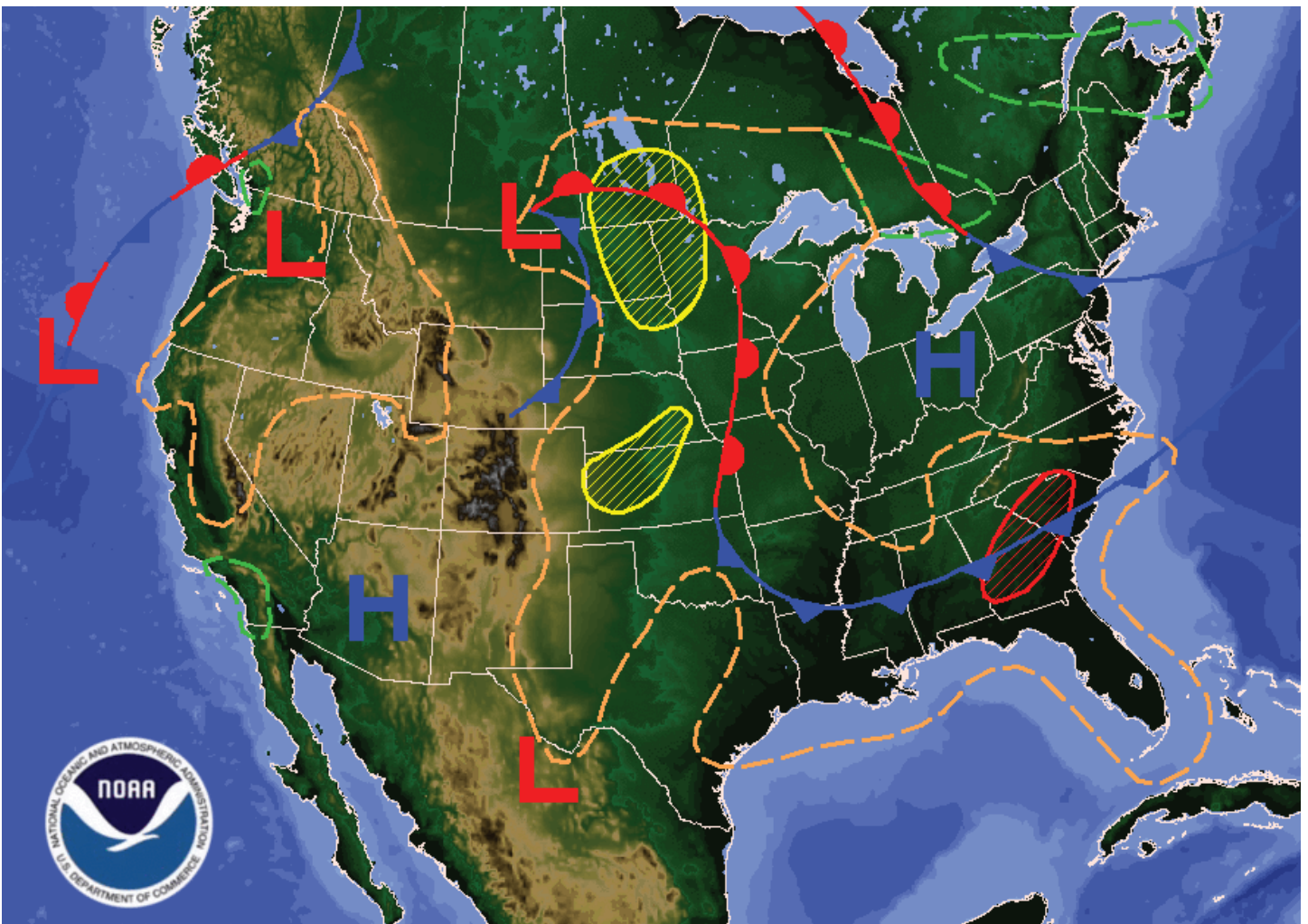
Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 8 of 52

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 81.2 F at 5:14 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 63.7 F at 10:34 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 12:03 PM**  
**Precip: 0.24**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 99° in 1926**  
**Record Low: 25° in 1897**  
**Average High: 71°F**  
**Average Low: 47°F**  
**Average Precip in May: 2.44**  
**Precip to date in May: 1.55**  
**Average Precip to date: 6.47**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.23**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:07 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:53 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, May 24, 2018, issued 4:25 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 9 of 52



## WHY PRAY?

"Prayer," said the anthropologist, "is a universal behavior." He continued his remarks by saying, "No matter where I have traveled or who I have talked to, everyone seems to need someone who is 'bigger' than they are. Everybody needs somebody when they have a problem they can't solve or are faced with a sickness that won't go away. Prayer seems to be a big part of everyone's soul."

The people that the researcher talked about prayed because they needed help. They faced certain situations that were beyond their ability to change - so they prayed. Of course we wonder what may have happened when they prayed or if it made any difference in their lives. We'll never know. It's sad, however, to think that most people who pray do not know whether or not the one they are praying to is listening to their cries or can do anything about their needs.

One Psalmist, however, has good news about prayer. "I love the Lord because He heard my voice. He heard my cry for mercy." Twice, in one sentence, the Psalmist said that when he prayed his God heard him. Not only did his God hear his voice and his cry for mercy but his God met his every need! What a great, gracious God we worship.

The God of Christians is responsive to the needs of Christians. We can always reach our God if we reach out to Him. Our God willingly "bends down to listen" to our prayers - meaning that He is always nearby waiting for our voice and willing to "hear our cry for mercy."

No wonder the Psalmist said, "I love the Lord!"

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for always being nearby as You wait anxiously to hear the voice of Your children. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 116:1-2 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

## 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

### **Disputed Keystone Pipeline project focus of court hearing**

**By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press**

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Attorneys for the Trump administration were due in a Montana courtroom Thursday to defend the disputed Keystone XL oil sands pipeline against environmental groups that want to derail the project.

The 1,179-mile (1,800-kilometer) line proposed by TransCanada Corporation was rejected in 2015 by former President Barack Obama because of its potential to exacerbate climate change.

President Donald Trump revived the project soon after taking office last year, citing its potential to create jobs and advance energy independence.

Environmentalists and Native Americans who sued to stop the line have asked U.S. District Judge Brian Morris to overturn its approval by the State Department. They and others, including landowners, are worried about spills that could foul groundwater and the line's impacts to their property rights.

But U.S. government attorneys assert that Trump's change in course from Obama's focus on climate change reflects a legitimate shift in policy, not an arbitrary rejection of previous studies of the project.

"While the importance of climate change was considered, the interests of energy security and economic development outweighed those concerns," the attorneys recently wrote.

Morris previously rejected a bid by the administration to dismiss the suit on the grounds that Trump had constitutional authority over the pipeline as a matter of national security.

Keystone XL would cost an estimated \$8 billion. It would begin in Alberta and transport up to 830,000 barrels a day of crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries.

Federal approval is required because the route crosses an international border.

TransCanada, based in Calgary, said in court submissions that the line would operate safely and help reduce U.S. reliance on crude from the Middle East and other regions.

The project is facing a separate legal challenge in Nebraska, where landowners have filed a lawsuit challenging the Nebraska Public Service Commission's decision to approve a route through the state.

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Dakota Cash

08-11-23-28-31

(eight, eleven, twenty-three, twenty-eight, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$34,000

Lotto America

07-11-24-41-42, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(seven, eleven, twenty-four, forty-one, forty-two; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$2.74 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$73 million

Powerball

20-54-56-61-64, Powerball: 7, Power Play: 4

(twenty, fifty-four, fifty-six, sixty-one, sixty-four; Powerball: seven; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

## South Dakota district signs up for school sentinel training

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Wednesday that his office has seen an uptick in interest from school districts about allowing approved employees to carry guns after deadly school shootings in Florida and Texas.

Training for school officials who want to become so-called school sentinels will occur this summer, Jackley told the Argus Leader. The program allows for the arming of school employees, hired security personnel or volunteers.

"After Florida and Texas, we've received significant requests on this," Jackley told the newspaper, referring to a February shooting at a high school in Florida and one last week at a southeast Texas high school that left 10 dead.

In South Dakota, Attorney General spokeswoman Sara Rabern said in an email that one district has signed up for the required training, which will be held from July 30-Aug. 10. Six districts have inquired about the training, but their names can't be released as a matter of safety, Rabern said.

State law requires anyone acting as a school sentinel to successfully complete the training designed by the same commission that sets training standards for law enforcement officers. It includes firearms proficiency, first aid, use of force and weapons retention and storage.

State regulations say a trainee must have a valid concealed weapons permit, have fingerprints taken by a law enforcement officer, get examined by a licensed physician and have a high school degree, among other requirements.

South Dakota legislative leaders in February encouraged districts to adopt the program after the rampage at a high school in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people.

South Dakota lawmakers passed a school sentinel law in March 2013, a few months after the deadly Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut. The Tri-Valley School District in 2016 became the first in South Dakota to approve a school sentinel policy.

Tri-Valley adopted the program because of concern it could take too long for authorities to reach the rural school facility in a crisis.

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

## Infant mortality rates rise in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Baby deaths are raising concerns for South Dakota officials as a new report shows infant mortality rates rose last year.

A Department of Health report released Wednesday shows the state averaged 7.8 deaths per 1,000 live births last year. That compares to 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016.

First lady Linda Daugaard, who chaired the 2011 governor's infant mortality task force, says the state needs to continue encouraging safe sleep guidelines and help pregnant women stop smoking.

State figures show babies born to mothers who smoke while pregnant are twice as likely to die before their first birthday. In 2017, 12.6 percent of pregnant women in South Dakota smoked while pregnant.

American Indian infant mortality rates fell to a record low last year but remained above the statewide average.

## Gov. Dennis Daugaard donates \$13K to legislative hopefuls

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has donated \$13,000 to Republican state legislative candidates across South Dakota ahead of the primary election.

The governor's campaign committee, Daugaard for South Dakota, filed a pre-primary campaign finance report this week showing \$1,000 contributions to more than a dozen legislative hopefuls. The primary is June 5.

Daugaard spokesman Tony Venhuizen says the recipients are mostly candidates who have supported the governor in the past and who requested contributions. They range from Rep. Michael Diedrich of Rapid



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 13 of 52

City to Reps. Thomas Holmes and Larry Zikmund of Sioux Falls.

Daugaard also reported giving \$1,000 to his former aide Dusty Johnson's congressional campaign.

Venhuizen says Daugaard donated \$50,000 to Lt. Gov. Matt Michels' campaign account so Michels will have a fund available to use for politics or charity once he leaves office.

## Mount Rushmore to improve avenue of flags in \$14M renovation

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — The Mount Rushmore National Memorial is getting a \$14 million upgrade, though the carved heads of U.S. presidents won't be touched.

Maureen McGee-Ballinger is chief of interpretation and education at the popular landmark. She told the Rapid City Journal that the construction is mostly overdue maintenance work.

"I've been here six-and-a-half years, and we've asked for it every year," she said.

The largest change funded by the \$14 million congressional appropriation will be a streamlined avenue of flags. The flags will be placed onto concrete structures along the walkway's sides so people in wheelchairs can more easily access plaques memorializing states, McGee-Ballinger said.

"Everyone will be able to see their states," she said. "People are very passionate about those flags."

Other upgrades in the 20-month project include removing part of the rock pergola to better reveal the terrace and installing lanterns to reduce light pollution.

Granite pavers damaged by flooding along the terrace will be replaced with decorative concrete. Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible ramps will also be improved near the parking lots.

The grand terrace just beneath the stone busts will close during the renovations, but the avenue of flags, bookstore, visitor's center and cafeteria will remain open.

The nonprofit Mount Rushmore Society is raising money in addition to the congressional funding in order to swap out dated video for the amphitheater and visitor center.

## Man struck, killed in Vermillion parking lot

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Police say a 77-year-old man has been struck and killed in the parking lot of a grocery store in Vermillion.

Authorities say the victim was on foot when he was hit about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday outside the Hy-Vee store. Police say the victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

## Construction worker killed at gravel pit near Fort Pierre

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A construction worker has died in an accident at a gravel pit west of Fort Pierre. The Stanley County Sheriff's Office says 61-year-old Steven Pigsley, of Black Hawk, was working for a Rapid City subcontractor on repaving Highway 34 and drove his truck to the Cody Briggs Gravel Pit.

The Dakota Radio Group reports Pigsley got out to chain his truck to a loader and was crushed between the two.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Information from: KGFX-AM, <http://www.drgnews.com/>

## Summit League headquarters moving to Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Summit League is relocating its conference headquarters from Elmhurst, Illinois to Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Division 1 college league said Wednesday it will move to a temporary location in Sioux Falls on Aug. 1 before moving into its permanent headquarters at the Sanford Sports Complex. Officials say the move gives the league a more centralized location.

The league's premier event, the Summit League Basketball Championships, have been held in Sioux Falls each year since 2009. The Summit League will become the 11th tenant of the Sanford Sports Complex.

## **SD man arrested for allegedly firing gun into neighborhood**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Spearfish man has been arrested for randomly firing gunshots around his neighborhood.

The Rapid City Journal reports 55-year-old Todd Anderson was arrested Sunday on charges of reckless discharge of a weapon and ingestion of a controlled substance.

The Lawrence County Sheriff's Office says Anderson started firing a .22-caliber weapon from his home late Sunday. Sheriff's Capt. Patrick Johnson says a nearby vehicle was hit by gunfire.

An initial report to authorities said that four rounds were fired, but Johnson says there were "numerous rounds after that." Anderson was arrested without incident.

It wasn't immediately clear if Anderson had an attorney.

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

## **Former Belle Fourche city councilwoman sentenced for threat**

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — A former Belle Fourche councilwoman received a suspended jail sentence after admitting to threatening a man who got into a fight with her son.

Court records show 55-year-old Toni Moncur pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of stalking for telling a 31-year-old man "that she was going to kill him." She earlier told the Black Hills Pioneer the incident stemmed from a rental payment dispute.

The Rapid City Journal reports Moncur was given a suspended 30-day jail sentence, and ordered to write a letter of apology, pay nearly \$600 in fines and court costs, and stay out of trouble for a year.

Moncur was indicted last December on the day she was sworn into office to fill a seat vacated by someone who had moved away. She didn't seek re-election in April.

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

## **Bucks' Brown decries 'police intimidation' during arrest**

**By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee police chief has apologized to Sterling Brown and says officers have been disciplined for acting "inappropriately" after the Bucks player was zapped with a stun gun during his arrest for a parking violation in January.

Brown, who is African-American, said in a statement Wednesday that the incident was "an attempt at police intimidation" and that it "shouldn't happen to anybody." Community groups in Milwaukee have criticized police for how they handled Brown.

Police Chief Alfonso Morales' apology at a news conference Wednesday came as police released body camera footage that showed how a simple interaction over an illegally parked car quickly escalated. The video represents another setback for a department that for years has tried to rebuild its image and relationship with Milwaukee's black residents after several high-profile cases of police misconduct.

Police did not identify the races of the officers, but most of the officers in the video appeared to be white.

It began around 2 a.m. on Jan. 26 in a Walgreens parking lot. As Brown walks out of the store, an officer standing by Brown's car asks him for his driver's license. When Brown gets close to his car's passenger door, the officer touches Brown and he tells the officer not to touch him.

"Back up! Back up!" the officer yells. "For what? I ain't did nothing," Brown responds. Brown eventually shows the officer his driver's license.

The conversation between the officer and Brown is testy as they wait for additional squad cars to show up. Brown says he has no problem with the officer's questions and the officer responds that he touched him "because you got up in my face."

"I got up on your face? Really?" Brown responds in disbelief.

It takes a turn for the worse when Brown, surrounded by four officers near his car, is asked to take his



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 15 of 52

hands out of his pockets. Almost immediately a scuffle ensues, with the officers swarming over Brown and one yelling "Taser! Taser! Taser!"

Brown is heard groaning in pain on the ground, although he's barely visible from the camera's viewpoint. Brown was not charged with anything.

"Our department conducted an investigation into the incident, which revealed members acted inappropriately and those members were recently disciplined," Morales said at the brief news conference.

"I am sorry this incident escalated to this level," he added.

He left without taking questions. He did not identify the officers or say how they were disciplined.

Brown, in his statement released Wednesday, said the experience "was wrong and shouldn't happen to anybody."

"What should have been a simple parking ticket turned into an attempt at police intimidation, followed by the unlawful use of physical force, including being handcuffed and tased, and then unlawfully booked," he said. "This experience with the Milwaukee Police Department has forced me to stand up and tell my story so that I can help prevent these injustices from happening in the future."

The Milwaukee Bucks signed the 6-foot-6 guard from Southern Methodist University in Texas last summer in a deal with the Philadelphia 76ers.

Later in the video, after officers used the stun gun, Brown can be heard having a conversation with someone away from the view of the camera.

"They tased me for no reason," an agitated Brown says.

"I asked you to step back and you didn't do it," the officer who had the initial interaction with Brown responds. Later, that same officer mocks Brown while talking to another officer about what happened, saying he thought Brown "was being an ass" and "trying to hide something."

"And now he's like, 'I'm a Bucks player, blah, blah, blah.' So what," the officer says.

City officials' concern over the content of the video was apparent earlier this week when Mayor Tom Barrett said he found it concerning.

Fred Royal, the president of the NAACP in Milwaukee, said Wednesday that he "didn't see anything that would warrant" a stun gun being used on Brown.

"I find it disturbing that an officer would incite an argument over a parking citation," Royal said.

A day before releasing the body-camera footage, Morales posted a video on YouTube to reiterate his commitment to rebuilding the public's trust in the department.

"If there's ever an incident where one of our members makes a mistake, unnecessarily escalating a situation, I'm going to be honest and transparent about it," he said. "In those incidents, where we have made mistakes and are wrong, I'm sorry."

Morales was appointed chief in February, following the retirement of Edward Flynn, who held the position for 10 years.

Last year, Milwaukee paid \$2.3 million to settle a lawsuit over the death of Dontre Hamilton, a mentally ill black man fatally shot by a police officer after the officer roused him from a park bench downtown. The officer said he shot Hamilton 14 times in self-defense because they got into a struggle when the officer frisked him for weapons.

In 2016, the city paid \$5 million to settle a lawsuit by 74 black residents who said police illegally strip-searched them between 2008 and 2012. The city is considering settling a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union in Wisconsin, which is representing eight residents who say police targeted them for stops because they were African-American or Latino and because of the high-crime areas where they lived.

In early May, police and prosecutors began investigating four officers who were involved in the violent arrest of a black man in a majority African-American neighborhood. Video from a bystander showed a group of officers kicking and punching the man on the ground while he was restrained. Police presented their body-camera footage of the encounter, which showed the man aggressively charging at officers and trying to punch them.

## Dem, GOP leaders to get classified briefing on Russia probe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House and Senate lawmakers from both parties are set to meet with top intelligence officials Thursday as President Donald Trump raises new suspicions about the federal investigation into his 2016 campaign.

Trump is calling his newest attempt at discrediting special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation "spygate." In recent days, he has been zeroing in on — and at times embellishing — reports that a longtime U.S. government informant approached members of his campaign during the 2016 presidential election in a possible bid to glean intelligence on Russian efforts to sway the election.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that the FBI had been caught in a "major SPY scandal."

Trump's latest broadsides set the stage for the unusual decision by the White House to arrange a briefing Thursday about classified documents for just two Republican House members, both Trump allies, as Trump and his supporters in Congress pressed for information on the outside informant.

After Democratic complaints and negotiations that went into the late evening Wednesday, the Justice Department said it would host a second classified briefing the same day and invite the bipartisan "Gang of Eight" — a group that includes the top Republicans and Democrats in each chamber and the top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees.

There were two other late additions to the list — White House chief of staff John Kelly and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders had originally said that no one from the White House would attend the briefing, at which the investigation into Trump's campaign will be discussed.

Rosenstein will replace another Justice Department official who was originally scheduled to attend. Rosenstein was left off the list as Trump on Tuesday declined to say whether he had confidence in him. Rosenstein appointed special counsel Robert Mueller, who is leading the Russia investigation, and is frequently criticized by Trump.

The two House lawmakers — Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes and Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy — were invited to attend both briefings, as were Kelly, Rosenstein, FBI Director Christopher Wray and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats.

All were invited to the second briefing, as well, plus Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr was also invited, along with the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, Sen. Mark Warner, and the top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, Rep. Adam Schiff.

Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter, had originally requested the information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation. And Trump took up the cause as the White House tried to combat the threat posed by Mueller's investigation into Russian interference and possible obstruction of justice.

Trump escalated his efforts to discredit the investigation Wednesday, tweeting: "Look how things have turned around on the Criminal Deep State. They go after Phony Collusion with Russia, a made up Scam, and end up getting caught in a major SPY scandal the likes of which this country may never have seen before! What goes around, comes around!"

It remained unclear what, if any, spying was done. The White House gave no evidence to support Trump's claim that the Obama administration was trying to spy on his 2016 campaign for political reasons. It's long been known that the FBI was looking into Russian meddling during the campaign and that part of that inquiry touched on the Trump campaign's contacts with Russian figures. Mueller later took over the investigation when he was appointed in May 2017.

Trump has told confidants in recent days that the revelation of an informant was potential evidence that the upper echelon of federal law enforcement had conspired against him, according to three people familiar with his recent conversations but not authorized to discuss them publicly. Trump told one ally this week that he wanted "to brand" the informant a "spy," believing the more nefarious term would resonate more in the media and with the public.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 17 of 52

As Republicans worked to show a Justice Department conspiracy against Trump, Democrats and former law enforcement officials defended the agency. Former FBI Director James Comey, who was fired by Trump last year, tweeted Wednesday that the agency's use of secret informants was "tightly regulated and essential to protecting the country."

"Attacks on the FBI and lying about its work will do lasting damage to our country," Comey tweeted. "How will Republicans explain this to their grandchildren?"

In an interview airing Thursday on "Fox & Friends," Trump referred to Comey as one of the "rotten apples" in FBI leadership and said he would have no problem explaining his actions to his own grandchildren.

"How is he going to explain to his grandchildren all of the lies, the deceit, all of the problems he's caused for this country?" Trump asked.

The back and forth between Congress and the Justice Department over the Nunes request — one of many over the course of the Russia investigation — has simmered for weeks.

The department originally rejected Nunes' appeal, writing in a letter in late April that his request for information "regarding a specific individual" could have severe consequences, including potential loss of human life. Negotiations over the information stalled, but restarted when Trump demanded in a tweet Sunday that the Justice Department investigate "whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political Purposes."

The Justice Department agreed by expanding an open, internal investigation to determine whether there was any politically motivated surveillance. And the White House said Kelly would organize the meeting with House lawmakers to discuss the documents.

The New York Times was the first to report that the FBI had an informant who met several times with Trump campaign officials who had suspicious contacts linked to Russia. No evidence has emerged to show that Obama-era authorities placed an informant inside the Trump campaign.

---

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

## North Korea demolishes nuke test site with series of blasts

PUNGGYE-RI, North Korea (AP) — North Korea carried out what it said is the demolition of its nuclear test site Thursday, setting off a series of explosions over several hours in the presence of foreign journalists.

The explosions at the nuclear test site deep in the mountains of the North's sparsely populated northeast were centered on three tunnels at the underground site and a number of buildings in the surrounding area.

The planned closing was previously announced by leader Kim Jong Un ahead of his planned summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, which is scheduled to take place next month.

The demolition came as the North lobbed another verbal salvo at Washington, calling Vice President Mike Pence a "political dummy" and saying it is just as ready to meet in a nuclear confrontation as at the negotiating table.

The North's decision to close the Punggye-ri nuclear test site has generally been seen as a welcome gesture by Kim to set a positive tone ahead of the summit. Even so, it is not an irreversible move and would need to be followed by many more significant measures to meet Trump's demands for real denuclearization.

By bringing in a small group of television journalists and other members of the news media, the North is likely hoping to have dramatic images of the closing — including explosions to collapse tunnel entrances — broadcast around the world.

The group of journalists that witnessed the demolition included an Associated Press Television crew.

The North did not invite international nuclear weapons inspectors to the ceremony.

The first blast visiting journalists witnessed happened at around 11 a.m. local time. North Korean officials said it collapsed the north tunnel, which was used for five nuclear tests between 2009 and last year.

Two other explosions at around 2:20 p.m. and 4 p.m. demolished the west and south tunnels, according to officials.

Thursday's demolition also involved the destruction of observation posts and barracks used by guards

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 18 of 52

and other workers at the facility.

Another tunnel on the eastern side of the facility was shut down after an initial nuclear test in 2006.

The journalists who were allowed to witness the demolition arrived in the morning and stayed at the site for around nine hours.

Getting to the remote site required an 11-hour overnight train journey from Wonsan, a port city east of the capital, Pyongyang.

The outburst at Pence, issued in the name of a top Foreign Ministry official, comes on the heels of another sharp rebuke of Trump's newly appointed national security adviser, John Bolton, and has raised concerns that a major gap has opened between the two sides just weeks before the June 12 summit in Singapore.

In both cases, Pyongyang was trying to push back against hard-line comments suggesting North Korea may end up like Libya if it doesn't move forward quickly and irreversibly with concrete measures to get rid of its nuclear weapons.

Choe Son Hui, a vice minister of foreign affairs, was quoted Thursday by the North's state-run news agency slamming as "ignorant" and "stupid" comments Pence made in an interview with Fox News that compared the nuclear-capable North to Libya. Libya gave up its program at an early stage only to see its longtime dictator overthrown and brutally killed years later.

The summit plan has hit a number of speed bumps recently as both sides have begun trading barbs and taking tougher positions. Trump met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday at the White House for consultations and suggested the summit could be delayed or even called off entirely.

Even so, both sides still seem to want to hold the meeting, which would be unprecedented.

Success in talks would be a huge accomplishment for Trump. Meeting with the U.S. president as an equal on the world stage would be a major coup for Kim.

## Ovechkin, Holtby shine in Game 7, Caps beat Lightning 4-0

By FRED GOODALL, AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Alex Ovechkin lifted the Prince of Wales Trophy, spun around and set it back down on a table.

The rest of the Capitals joined him for a team photo after beating the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-0 on Wednesday night in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final, a victory that sent Washington to the Stanley Cup Final for the first time in 20 years.

A decade of playoff frustration is fading fast.

"I think Ovie has been on a mission," Capitals coach Barry Trotz said. "They wanted this game, no question."

Ovechkin scored early and Andre Burakovsky added two second-period goals as the Caps continued to shed a label as postseason underachievers.

Braden Holtby stopped 29 shots for his second straight shutout and the Lightning, who led the NHL in goals during the regular season, failed to score in the last 159 minutes, 27 seconds of the series — a stretch of nearly eight periods.

Ovechkin, who had never advanced beyond the second round, scored 1:02 into the winner-take-all showdown he had described as probably the "biggest game in my life."

"The first goal was very important," Ovechkin said. "After that you could see we have all the momentum on our side. Holts was unstoppable today. He was special. Everybody was all in. Everybody was sacrificing their bodies. I think we all deserve the win."

To earn a spot in the Stanley Cup Final, where they'll play the Vegas Golden Knights, the Capitals beat the top-seeded Lightning three times on the road, improving to 8-2 away from home this postseason.

It's Washington's first Cup Final appearance since 1998, and the first during Ovechkin's 13-year career.

"We played a great game," defenseman John Carlson said. "We deserved to win this."

Two games after being a healthy scratch for Game 5, Burakovsky became the 17th player to score a goal for Washington in the playoffs this year — four shy of the NHL record — when he beat Andrei Vasilevskiy

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 19 of 52

on a breakaway at 8:59 of the second period.

The winger, who played two games in the first round against Columbus before sitting out 10 straight with an upper-body injury, added a breakaway goal to make it 3-0 heading into the last period.

Nicklas Backstrom had an empty-netter to complete the rout.

"What a game. What an experience. We had a lot of guys pitching in," winger T.J. Oshie said. "The biggest guy of all had to be Holts. He played fantastic, back to back shutouts."

Tampa Bay, which rebounded from losing the first two games at home to win three straight for a 3-2 series lead, had plenty of chances. A couple of shots clanged off the post, Yanni Gourde was unable to get his stick on a loose puck in front on an empty net and the game gradually slipped away.

Washington was the more physical team in evening the series with a bruising 3-0 victory in Game 6. They played with urgency from the start again Wednesday night and never let up.

Tampa Bay's last goal in the series came 33 seconds into the second period of Game 5, which the Lightning went on to win 3-2.

"We're here to win as team, no matter who gets the credit," said Holtby, the fifth goalie to deliver a Game 7 shutout to clinch a spot in the Stanley Cup Final.

"I felt we could have won every game," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "We ran into a tough Washington team that was probably feeling the same thing, and once you get this far you've probably done some magical things on the way."

It was the 33rd time in league history that a Game 7 was required to determine a Stanley Cup finalist. Home teams are 21-12 in those games.

Tampa Bay also played Game 7 in the Eastern Conference final in 2015, when they blanked the New York Rangers, and again two years ago, when they lost 2-1 to Pittsburgh.

Both of those deciding games were on the road. The Lightning had never lost a Game 7 at home before Wednesday night.

"It's going to take a few days to digest this. It's tough to sit here right now and think of positive things and how it was a pretty great season," Lightning captain Steven Stamkos said. "It doesn't seem that way when you have this group — and we've been to this position before — and you can't find a way to give yourself a chance a win. We thought we had that group. It's just an empty feeling right now."

Notes: Ovechkin and Backstrom made their 11th career Game 7 appearance, one shy of Boston's Zdeno Chara for the most among active NHL players. In addition to Chara, only five other players in NHL history have appeared in more Game 7s: Patrick Roy (13), Scott Stevens (13), Glenn Anderson (12), Ken Daneyko (12) and Stephane Yelle (12). ... Evgeny Kuznetsov's assist on Ovechkin's early goal extended his points streak to 10 games. ... Vasilevskiy made 19 saves. The Lightning outshot the Capitals (29-23) for the first time in the series.

More AP hockey: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

## China says no reason found for US staffer's sonic condition

By YANAN WANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — No explanation has yet been found for a U.S. government employee's report of abnormal sensations of sound and pressure, China said Thursday, as the incident in southern Guangzhou city recalled the experiences of illness-stricken American diplomats in Cuba.

"China is already conducting a careful investigation, and we have already given the U.S. preliminary feedback," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said during a regular news briefing.

"At this point, we have not yet found any reason or clue leading to the situation described by the U.S.," Lu said, adding that China adheres to the Vienna Convention on protecting foreign diplomats.

The State Department has dispatched a medical team to Guangzhou, where "subtle and vague, but abnormal, sensations of sound and pressure" were reported by an American government worker.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 20 of 52

The department said Thursday that it is aware of only one employee who has been affected and that there have been no reports of private U.S. citizens experiencing the phenomena.

Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the American employee had shown clinical findings similar to patients with mild traumatic brain injury, known commonly as a concussion.

The worker, who has been sent to the U.S. for additional testing, experienced "a variety of symptoms" from late 2017 through April, Nauert said Wednesday.

The Chinese state-owned Global Times newspaper said in an editorial Thursday that the investigation into the U.S. government employee's condition should be "objective." The newspaper said it was "inappropriate" for the U.S. to connect the incident with what American diplomats underwent in Cuba.

"It is completely unthinkable for there to be medical attacks launched against foreigners, particularly diplomats, in China," the Global Times said.

"A sonic attack especially requires exceptional imagination," the commentary said, asking, "What sort of 'profit' would make it worthwhile for China to take such a risk?"

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday that the medical indications of the Guangzhou incident "are very similar and entirely consistent with the medical indications of the Americans working in Havana."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who met Wednesday with Pompeo in Washington and then addressed a joint news conference, said China hasn't found any organization or individual responsible for "such a sonic influence."

"We don't want to see this individual case magnified, complicated or even politicized," Wang said.

Pompeo commended China's response and said it has offered to assist the U.S. in investigating.

Last October, the State Department ordered non-essential embassy personnel and the families of all staff to leave Havana after at least 24 Americans experienced a range of mysterious ailments, often after hearing an unusual sound.

While the symptoms and sensations have varied from person to person, some have permanent hearing loss or concussions, while others have struggled with nausea, headaches, concentration and common word recall.

---

Associated Press reporters Sam McNeil and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing and Matthew Lee and Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this report.

## North Korea slams Pence as summit with Trump grows shakier

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea has lobbed another verbal salvo at Washington ahead of an increasingly embattled plan for its leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald Trump to meet next month, calling Vice President Mike Pence a "political dummy" and saying it is just as ready to meet in a nuclear confrontation as at the negotiating table.

The outburst at Pence, issued in the name of a top Foreign Ministry official, comes on the heels of another sharp rebuke of Trump's newly appointed national security adviser, John Bolton, and has raised concerns a major gap has opened between the two sides just weeks before the June 12 summit in Singapore.

In both cases, Pyongyang was trying to push back against hard-line comments suggesting North Korea may end up like Libya if it doesn't move forward quickly and irreversibly with concrete measures to get rid of its nuclear weapons.

Choe Son Hui, a vice minister of foreign affairs, was quoted Thursday by the North's state-run news agency slamming as "ignorant" and "stupid" comments Pence made in an interview with Fox News that compared the nuclear-capable North to Libya. Libya gave up its program at an early stage only to see its longtime dictator overthrown and brutally killed years later.

She questioned whether the summit would be worthwhile if the remarks reflect Washington's position.

"We will neither beg the U.S. for dialogue nor take the trouble to persuade them if they do not want to

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 21 of 52

sit together with us," KCNA quoted her as saying. "Whether the U.S. will meet us at a meeting room or encounter us at nuclear-to-nuclear showdown is entirely dependent upon the decision and behavior of the United States."

The summit plan has hit a number of speed bumps recently as both sides have begun trading barbs and taking tougher positions. Trump met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday at the White House for consultations and suggested the summit could be delayed or even called off entirely.

Even so, both sides still seem to want to hold the meeting, which would be unprecedented.

Success in talks would be a huge accomplishment for Trump. Meeting with the U.S. president as an equal on the world stage would be a major coup for Kim.

Despite its insults to Pence and defiant rhetorical flourishes, Choe's statement did not directly criticize Trump and carefully noted that she would only recommend the North Korean leader withdraw from the meeting if Washington "clings to unlawful and outrageous acts."

Meanwhile, officials from the two sides are reportedly planning to meet in Singapore this weekend to further discuss the agenda and logistics. And North Korea was moving forward with a major gesture of goodwill ahead of the summit by dismantling its nuclear test site.

The North, which has vowed to stop all underground nuclear testing and intercontinental ballistic missile launches, has invited foreign media to the remote site to observe a ceremony to mark the closing. The ceremony was expected to be held Thursday or Friday, depending on the weather.

Choe, a veteran diplomat and former head of the North America desk at the North's Foreign Ministry, was responding to comments Pence made to Fox News this week that it would be a "mistake" for the North Koreans to think they can "play" Trump. Pence said both the Clinton and Bush administrations had been "played" by the North Korean government.

"We offered concessions to the North Korean regime in exchange for promises to end their nuclear weapons program, only to see them break those promises and abandon them," Pence said, adding that if Pyongyang does not go along with talks to give up its nuclear weapons, Washington could return to the "Libya model."

That suggestion — which Trump had earlier seemed to distance himself from — is especially inflammatory to Pyongyang.

The Libya model refers to negotiations in 2004 that led to the shipping of nuclear components to the U.S. from Libya under Moammar Gadhafi. But in Pyongyang's mind the most important part of the story is what came after that. Gadhafi was deposed after a 42-year reign and killed in 2011 — the year Kim assumed power in North Korea — while his country spiraled into chaos.

"In view of the remarks of the U.S. high-ranking politicians who have not yet woken up to this stark reality and compare the DPRK to Libya that met a tragic fate, I come to think that they know too little about us," Choe said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name.

She added: "To borrow their words, we can also make the U.S. taste an appalling tragedy it has neither experienced nor even imagined up to now."

---

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @EricTalmadge

## What's next? NFL sparks new questions with anthem policy

By PAUL NEWBERRY, AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — With its popularity threatened and critics stretching all the way to the White House, the NFL just wanted to get past the debate over taking a knee during the national anthem.

Put the focus back on football.

Instead, the league seemed to muddle the divisive issue even more with a new policy that stirred up defenders of free speech, prompted a couple of owners to quickly backtrack and raised all sorts of potential questions heading into next season.

After a tumultuous season, NFL owners wrapped up their spring meeting in Atlanta by announcing

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 22 of 52

Wednesday that players would be required to stand for the national anthem if they're on the field before a game, but gave them the option of staying in the locker room if they wanted to carry on the Colin Kaepernick-inspired campaign against police brutality and social injustice.

Commissioner Roger Goodell called it a compromise that respected the wishes of everyone, from those who consider "The Star-Spangled Banner" a sacred part of the American experience to those who believe the right to protest during the anthem is also in the best tradition of a free but imperfect society.

Yet, it was clear to everyone that the owners wanted to quell a firestorm by moving any further protests away from the public eye — especially if it lured back disgruntled fans while appeasing President Donald Trump and his vocal base of support.

Kneel if you like.

But stay out of sight.

"This is a fear of the diminished bottom line," said defensive end Chris Long of the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles. "It's also fear of a president turning his base against a corporation. This is not patriotism. Don't get it confused. These owners don't love America more than the players demonstrating and taking real action to improve it."

Trump addressed the issue during a political campaign, saying the NFL should fire any players who kneel during the anthem. He had no immediate comment on the new policy, but Vice President Mike Pence called it "a win for the fans, a win for (the president), and a win for America."

The NFL didn't consult the players' union on its new policy, though Goodell stressed that the league had talked to countless players over the past year and was committed both financially and philosophically to the fight for social justice.

"We want people to be respectful of the national anthem. We want people to stand," Goodell said. "We've been very sensitive on making sure that we give players choices, but we do believe that moment is an important moment and one that we are going to focus on."

In an attempt to quell a potential challenge from the NFL Players Association, the league said any violations of the new rules would result in fines against teams — not individual players.

But the league also gave teams the option of developing their own workplace rules, which many players interpreted as a backhanded way of subjecting them to fines — or worse — should they carry on with the protests.

"If the team says 'this is what we're doing,' and ownership (does too), you either deal with it or you're probably going to get cut," Pittsburgh Steelers guard Ramon Foster said.

The head of the NFLPA, DeMaurice Smith, angrily denounced the NFL's decision and called it a blow against America's most basic rights — freedom of speech.

Since the new policy is a change in the terms and conditions of employment that was not collectively bargained, any attempts to fine individual players would surely be opposed by the union.

"History has taught us that both patriotism and protest are like water; if the force is strong enough it cannot be suppressed," Smith wrote on Twitter. "The CEOs of the NFL created a rule that people who hate autocracies should reject."

But many players are mindful that Kaepernick, who began the protest movement in 2016 during his final year at quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, didn't play at all last season and still hasn't been picked up by another team. They're also aware of the plight faced by safety Eric Reid, one of Kaepernick's former teammates and another protest leader, who is also out of work with the upcoming season just a few months away.

Both have filed collusion grievances against the NFL.

Washington defensive back Josh Norman said the owners have a right to decide what the players can and cannot do, a sentiment shared by many of his colleagues around the league.

"They've pretty much got the teams," Norman said. "They make those decisions. We've just got to go through with it, I guess."

A handful of outspoken players vowed to carry on the cause, including Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins.

"I will not let it silence me or stop me from fighting," he said. "This has never been about taking a knee,



raising a fist or anyone's patriotism, but doing what we can to effect real change for real people."

While Goodell said the new policy was unanimously approved by the owners, CEO Jed York of the 49ers — Kaepernick's former team — contradicted the commissioner by saying he abstained. York said he didn't feel comfortable making a decision without directly involving the players' union.

New York Jets owner Christopher Johnson took a similar approach. He said his team will pay any fines doled out by the league, without passing on punishment to the players.

"I will support our players wherever we land as a team," Johnson said. "Our focus is not on imposing any club rules, fines or restrictions."

So, what happens next?

The NFL just wants the issue to go away.

Instead, it raised a whole new batch of questions.

---

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963](http://www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963) . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/paul%20newberry>

---

For more AP NFL coverage: [www.pro32.ap.org](http://www.pro32.ap.org) and [www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Texas shooting survivors seek purpose in shadow of Parkland

By **CLAIRE GALOFARO, AP National Writer**

SANTA FE, Texas (AP) — She had seen the memorials on television, the familiar white crosses erected after each massacre, and now there were 10 of them lined up on her high school's lawn.

Kyleigh Elgin was part of a new set of young victims, like many before her, who left flowers and letters and searched for ways that their tragedy might be different, that it might end the grim routine of school shootings.

"Our community is really small, but we're like one big family, and I genuinely feel like we can make a difference," said Elgin, a sophomore who ran for her life last week when a gunman blasted his way into a classroom and killed 10 people at Santa Fe High School near Houston.

But for these survivors, deciding what to do next has not come into focus as clearly as it did for the students who lived through the most recent mass school shooting, only three months ago, in Parkland, Florida. Those teens galvanized the nation with an impassioned and aggressive plea to tighten the nation's gun laws.

In Santa Fe, a rural Texas town with just 13,000 residents who pride themselves on responsible gun ownership, a different mantra was repeated: "It's not a gun issue. It's a heart issue," and heart issues are harder to fix than guns.

"We can't be compared to the Parkland kids," said Callie Wylie, a 16-year-old soccer player who lost eight classmates and two teachers in last week's attack. "It's too new. As we move on, maybe we'll build a stronger stance. Maybe we won't. But I hope we do."

Sandy Phillips has watched this agonizing search for purpose again and again, at the sites of nine mass shootings since her own daughter's name appeared on one of the white crosses.

Jessi Ghawi was gunned down with 11 others when a man opened fire in a Colorado movie theater six years ago. That's when Phillips began a morbid mission to visit the sites of American massacres to comfort the families of the dead and the ones who made it out alive. She believes her work can't end until the country gets serious about addressing the ease with which killers can get access to guns.

"America isn't handling this well," said Phillips, herself a gun owner who grew up around firearms. "I hear politicians say all the time, 'We're not going to let this define our community. We're not going to let this define who we are. Aurora Strong. Las Vegas Strong. Parkland Strong.'"

Each shooting has been followed by pleas for change and yet here Phillips stood again, among teenagers wearing shirts reading "Santa Fe Strong." The phrase has appeared on bumper stickers and storefronts and tattoos. The tight-knit community has gathered for vigil after vigil, day after day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 24 of 52

Greg Zanis, a Chicago carpenter who makes and delivers the crosses, said Santa Fe was particularly tough on him. Because everybody knew everybody else, the 10 deaths touched the entire town. Everyone is dressed in green and gold, the high school's colors.

Local chef Mary Bass hosted a community potluck specifically to try to sew the town together before the gun debate had a chance to tear it apart.

"We'll get tight and stay tight until we grow old," said 19-year-old Summer Buckmiller, a graduate of Santa Fe High School, who searched for hours for her 15-year-old brother after he hid from the gunman in a closet.

Buckmiller hopes something will change. But if the shooting's only legacy turns out to be bringing her town even closer together, that's good enough for her, she said.

Wylie, too, believes the town must heal itself first before taking a stand. She said she admires the Parkland survivors for turning death and despair into a movement. She knows classmates who have been in touch with them who might try to do the same in Santa Fe.

But Wylie also agrees with many of her classmates and neighbors who say gun control isn't the answer. She resents the political battles over guns that began here almost immediately after the last bullet was fired.

Gov. Greg Abbott, a firm gun rights advocate, convened a roundtable discussion Tuesday with a promise of "swift and meaningful action" to prevent future massacres. But drastic changes to Texas' gun laws — among the most permissive in the nation — are unlikely. State lawmakers have focused on calls to "harden" school campuses.

Santa Fe High School already had an award-winning safety plan and two armed security guards on campus. They had practice: The building went into lockdown in February when what sounded like gunshots were reported at the school. It was, that time, a false alarm. Wylie thought they were ready.

"Once it actually happens to you, you're not prepared," she said. "They prepare us physically, but they don't prepare us mentally and emotionally, and that's the biggest part of it."

So many here have made it a mission to rally around lawmakers' calls to better defend themselves.

Melissa Fewell, a mother of two children who are now terrified to go to school, launched an online petition demanding metal detectors at the schoolhouse doors. When surrounding districts reopened Monday, she read with terror that six threats — either children caught with guns or caught threatening to bring them in — had been reported in that single day in Houston-area schools.

"I can't just sit back and do nothing and pray and hope it doesn't happen to me and my kids," Fewell said.

Kristie Dickens, a 38-year-old elementary school teacher and mother of three, pleaded with her community to rise up and demand security guards and gates. She wants to carry a gun to her own classroom.

"And if it means my child's school looks like a prison, I'm fine with that because I know my kids will come home to me at the end of the day," she said.

Phillips noted that the journey of the Santa Fe survivors has only just begun.

Trolls will harass them on social media. Thieves will start fundraising pages in their name, and they'll never see a cent. The reporters and volunteers will leave, and there will be silence. The sounds of ambulances or helicopters or fireworks will feel like hell.

Some mornings they might wake up and wish they had died instead.

And there's always the prospect of another mass shooting to remind them that the cycle is starting again. Every massacre seems so similar, and yet each has its own rhythm, Phillips has noticed. Rural communities, like Santa Fe, tend to draw inward and reject calls for gun control.

Comparing the loud response of the Parkland survivors and the quiet one in Santa Fe, she sees a microcosm of the divide between left and right that always seems to stall the search for solutions.

"There's a routine to it, and it has to be a routine that is offensive to all of us," she said. "And we can't just turn our backs and pretend it's going to go away and you're going to go back to what your life was before."

## Milwaukee chief apologizes for arrest of Bucks guard Brown

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee Police Chief Alfonso Morales apologized to Bucks guard Sterling Brown on Wednesday for a January arrest that started with a parking violation and escalated to include the use of a stun gun, and he said some officers were disciplined.

Brown, who is African-American, responded with a statement that described the incident as “an attempt at police intimidation” and said it “shouldn’t happen to anybody.”

Morales’ apology came as police released body-camera footage that showed how a simple interaction over an illegally parked car quickly escalated. The video represents another setback for a department that for years has tried to rebuild its image and relationship with Milwaukee’s black residents after several high-profile cases of police misconduct.

Police did not identify the races of the officers, but most of the officers in the video appeared to be white.

It began around 2 a.m. on Jan. 26 in a Walgreens parking lot. As Brown walks out of the store, an officer standing by Brown’s car asks him for his driver’s license. When Brown gets close to his car’s passenger door, the officer touches Brown and he tells the officer not to touch him.

“Back up! Back up!” the officer yells. “For what? I ain’t did nothing,” Brown responds. Brown eventually does show the officer his driver’s license.

The conversation between the officer and Brown is testy as they wait for additional squad cars to show up. Brown says he has no problem with the officer’s questions and the officer responds that he touched him “because you got up in my face.”

“I got up on your face? Really?” Brown responds in disbelief.

It takes a turn for the worse when Brown, surrounded by four officers by his car, is asked to take his hands out of his pockets. Almost immediately a scuffle ensues, with the officers swarming over Brown and one yelling “taser, taser, taser!”

Brown is heard groaning in pain on the ground, although he’s barely visible from the camera’s viewpoint.

Brown ultimately was not charged with anything.

“The department conducted an investigation into the incident, which revealed members acted inappropriately and those members were recently disciplined,” Morales said at a brief news conference.

“I am sorry this incident escalated to this level,” he added.

He left without taking questions. He did not identify the officers or say how they were disciplined.

Brown, in his statement, said the experience “was wrong and shouldn’t happen to anybody.”

“What should have been a simple parking ticket turned into an attempt at police intimidation, followed by the unlawful use of physical force, including being handcuffed and tased, and then unlawfully booked,” he said. “This experience with the Milwaukee Police Department has forced me to stand up and tell my story so that I can help prevent these injustices from happening in the future.”

The Milwaukee Bucks signed the 6-foot-6 guard from Southern Methodist University in Texas last summer in a deal with the Philadelphia 76ers.

Later in the video, after officers used the stun gun, Brown can be heard having a conversation with someone away from the view of the camera.

“They tased me for no reason,” an agitated Brown says.

“I asked you to step back and you didn’t do it,” the officer who had the initial interaction with Brown responds. Later, that same officer mocks Brown while talking to another officer about what happened, saying he thought Brown “was being an ass” and “trying to hide something.”

“And now he’s like, ‘I’m a Bucks player, blah, blah, blah. So what,’” the officer says.

City officials’ concern over the content of the video was apparent earlier this week when Mayor Tom Barrett said he found it concerning.

Fred Royal, the president of the NAACP in Milwaukee, said Wednesday that he “didn’t see anything that would warrant” a stun gun being used on Brown.

“I find it disturbing that an officer would incite an argument over a parking citation,” Royal said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 26 of 52

A day before releasing the body-camera footage, Morales posted a video on YouTube to reiterate his commitment to rebuild the public's trust in the department.

"So if there's ever an incident where one of our members makes a mistake, unnecessarily escalating a situation, I'm going to be honest and transparent about it," he said. "In those incidents, where we have made mistakes and are wrong, I'm sorry."

Morales was appointed chief in February, following the retirement of Edward Flynn, who held the position for 10 years.

Last year, Milwaukee paid \$2.3 million to settle a lawsuit over the death of Dontre Hamilton, a mentally ill black man fatally shot by a police officer after the officer roused him from a park bench downtown. The officer said he shot Hamilton 14 times in self-defense because they got into a struggle when the officer frisked him for weapons.

In 2016, the city paid \$5 million to settle a lawsuit by 74 black residents who said police illegally strip-searched them between 2008 and 2012. Currently, the city is considering settling a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union in Wisconsin, which is representing eight residents who say police targeted them for stops because they were African-American or Latino and because of the high-crime areas where they lived.

In early May, police and prosecutors began investigating four officers who were involved in the violent arrest of a black man in a majority African-American neighborhood. Video from a bystander showed a group of officers kicking and punching the man on the ground while he was restrained. Police presented their body-camera footage of the encounter, which showed the man aggressively charging at officers and trying to punch them.

## Trump administration explores tariffs on autos, auto parts

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration launched an investigation into whether tariffs are needed on the imports of automobiles into the United States, moving swiftly as talks over the North American Free Trade Agreement have stalled. President Donald Trump predicted earlier that U.S. automakers and auto workers would be "very happy" with the outcome of the NAFTA talks.

The White House said in a statement Wednesday that the president had asked Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to consider whether the imports of automobiles, including trucks, and automotive parts threaten U.S. national security. The president said in the statement that "core industries such as automobiles and automotive parts are critical to our strength as a Nation."

The U.S. remains far apart on the talks over rewriting the trade pact with Canada and Mexico, with the discussions at an impasse over rules for car production. The initiation of the trade investigation could be seen as an attempt to gain leverage in the talks with the two U.S. neighbors. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said that efforts to renegotiate the trade agreement could spill into next year.

Nearly half of the vehicles sold in the U.S. are imported, with many coming from assembly plants in Mexico and Canada. During a meeting with auto executives earlier this month, Trump said he would push for an increase in the production of vehicles built at U.S. plants. He has also criticized European Union auto imports and tariffs and earlier this year threatened a "tax" on European imports.

A person familiar with the discussions said the president has suggested seeking new tariffs of 20 to 25 percent on automobile imports. The person spoke on condition of anonymity and was not authorized to speak about private deliberations.

Trump brought a little-used weapon to his fight to protect auto workers: Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. The provision authorizes the president to restrict imports and impose unlimited tariffs on national security grounds.

The Trump administration used that authority in March to slap tariffs of 25 percent on imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum imports. Until then, the United States had pursued only two such investigations since joining the World Trade Organization in 1995. Both times — in a 1999 case involving oil imports and a 2001 case involving iron ore and steel imports — the Commerce Department refused to recommend

sanctions.

Critics fear that other countries will retaliate or use national security as a pretext to impose trade sanctions of their own.

Daniel Ujczco, a trade lawyer with Dickinson Wright PLLC, said the tariff threat is likely meant to pressure Mexico into accepting U.S. demands for NAFTA changes that would shift more auto production to the U.S. from Mexico. But he questioned whether it would work.

"I do not believe that it will have the desired effect," Ujczco said. "Everyone knows that (the investigation) will take too long and has no chance of surviving any legal challenge."

Trump offered a hint about the move earlier in the day on the South Lawn, telling reporters that "you'll be seeing very soon what I'm talking about." He noted that both Mexico and Canada have been "very difficult to deal with" during the negotiations.

"I am not happy with their requests. But I will tell you in the end we win, we will win and will win big," Trump said before departing for New York. He said America's neighbors have been "very spoiled because nobody's done this but I will tell you that what they ask for is not fair. Our auto workers are going to be extremely happy."

Mexico has so far resisted U.S. attempts to get higher regional content rules in the auto industry and move production to higher-wage U.S. and Canadian factories. The U.S. has also sought to change NAFTA's dispute-resolution system, and include a sunset clause that would allow countries to exit after five years.

The Trump administration has already missed an informal deadline that had been set by House Speaker Paul Ryan to get a revamped deal to Congress in time for lawmakers to vote on it in a midterm election year. Mexico, meanwhile, will hold presidential elections on July 1 and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, the leftist candidate who has led in polls, has said the re-negotiation shouldn't be rushed through and should be left to the winner of the election.

If the negotiators fail to agree to a revamped version of NAFTA, the discussions could be extended into 2019. Trump could also carry out his threat to abandon the agreement that he has long railed against, throwing commerce among the three countries into disarray.

Trump has sought to overhaul NAFTA in an effort to return auto production to the United States and reduce America's trade deficit. The U.S. has been demanding that a percentage of a car's content of auto parts originate in a country — the U.S. or Canada — with average auto worker wages of about \$15 an hour to qualify for NAFTA's duty-free status.

But companies have built supply chains that straddle NAFTA borders and changing the rules could disrupt their operations, raise costs and potentially put them at a competitive disadvantage with manufacturers in Asia and Europe.

---

AP Business Writer Paul Wiseman contributed to this report.

## Hawaii volcano generates blue flames from burning methane

By AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Blue flames from burning methane are the latest natural phenomena being seen at the eruption of the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii.

Nighttime photos released Wednesday by the U.S. Geological Survey show the flames spouting from cracks in the pavement in the Leilani Estates neighborhood where the volcano has been gushing lava on the big island of Hawaii for the past three weeks.

The volcano produces methane when hot lava buries and burns plants and trees.

"The methane gas will flow through the ground, through the cracks that are already existing, and will come up wherever there's a place for them to come up," said Wendy Stovall, a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The methane can seep through cracks several feet away from the lava. It can also cause explosions when it's ignited while trapped underground. These blasts can toss blocks several feet away, Stovall said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 28 of 52

Hawaii County has ordered about 2,000 people to evacuate from Leilani Estates and surrounding neighborhoods since the eruption began on May 3.

The volcano has opened more than 20 vents in the ground that have released lava, sulfur dioxide and steam. The lava has been pouring down the flank of the volcano and into the ocean miles away.

The eruption has destroyed 50 buildings, including about two dozen homes. One person was seriously injured after being hit by a flying piece of lava.

Stovall said lava spatter from one of the vents was forming a wall that was helping protect a nearby geothermal plant.

Lava from that vent was shooting further into the air and producing the highest lava wall of all the vents, which was blocking molten rock from flowing north toward the plant.

Officials shut down Puna Geothermal shortly after the current eruption began.

On Tuesday, officials finished stabilizing wells that bring up hot liquid and steam to feed a turbine generator. A team from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and the company continued Wednesday to plug the wells to make sure the fluid inside doesn't move from one part of the well to the other, said Janet Snyder, a spokeswoman for Hawaii County.

Earlier this month officials removed a flammable gas called pentane from the plant to reduce the chance of explosions.

Tourism officials cheered news that a Norwegian Cruise Lines ship that tours the Hawaiian Islands would resume stopping in Kailua-Kona next week. Businesses catering to tourists on the cruise have taken a hit since the company suspended Big Island port visits after the eruption began.

The company said it would resume calling on Hilo, a town on the eastern side of the island closer to the lava, when conditions allow.

---

This story has been corrected to show officials have finished stabilizing wells at the geothermal energy plant, but some still remain unplugged.

---

Follow AP's complete coverage of the Hawaii volcano here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Kilauea>

## Seething over Russia probe, Trump tears into 'spygate'

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has branded his latest attempt to discredit the special counsel's Russia investigation as "spygate," part of a newly invigorated strategy embraced by his Republican colleagues to raise suspicions about the probe that has dogged his presidency since the start.

Trump now is zeroing in on — and at times embellishing — reports that a longtime U.S. government informant approached members of his 2016 campaign during the presidential election in a possible bid to glean intelligence on Russian efforts to sway the election. He tweeted Wednesday morning that the FBI has been caught in a "major SPY scandal."

Trump's latest broadsides set the stage for an unusual decision by the White House to arrange a briefing about classified documents for just two Republican House members, both Trump allies, in a meeting Thursday, as Trump and his supporters in Congress press for information on the outside informant.

After Democratic complaints and negotiations that went into the late evening Wednesday, the White House said it would also give a second briefing to a group of lawmakers known as the "Gang of Eight" immediately after the briefing for the two House Republicans. The "Gang of Eight" includes the top Republicans and Democrats in each chamber and the top Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees. According to the Justice Department, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein were also added to the roster after not being included on the original list.

It remains unclear what, if any, spying was done. The White House has given no evidence to support Trump's claim that the Obama administration was trying to spy on his 2016 campaign for political reasons.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 29 of 52

It's long been known that the FBI was looking into Russian meddling during the campaign and that part of that inquiry touched on the Trump campaign's contacts with Russian figures.

Trump has told confidants in recent days that the revelation of an informant was potential evidence that the upper echelon of federal law enforcement has conspired against him, according to three people familiar with his recent conversations but not authorized to discuss them publicly. Trump told one ally this week that he wanted "to brand" the informant a "spy," believing the more nefarious term would resonate more in the media and with the public.

He went on to debut the term "Spygate" on Wednesday, despite its previous associations with a 2007 NFL scandal over videotaping coaches.

Democrats said Wednesday that the briefing — held as special counsel Robert Mueller investigates Trump's campaign and whether it was involved in Russian meddling in the U.S. election — was highly inappropriate and asked for the "Gang of Eight" briefing instead of Thursday's GOP-only meeting. After negotiations with leaders on Capitol Hill, the White House announced the additional bipartisan meeting but said the original briefing would go on as well.

The two House lawmakers — Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes and Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy — will attend both briefings, as will Kelly, Rosenstein, FBI Director Christopher Wray and National Intelligence Director Dan Coats. The second meeting will include all of those people plus Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Paul Ryan and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr will also attend, along with the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence panel, Sen. Mark Warner, and the top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, Rep. Adam Schiff.

Nunes, an ardent Trump supporter, originally demanded the information on an FBI source in the Russia investigation. And Trump took up the cause as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by Mueller's investigation.

Trump escalated his efforts to discredit that investigation Wednesday, tweeting: "Look how things have turned around on the Criminal Deep State. They go after Phony Collusion with Russia, a made up Scam, and end up getting caught in a major SPY scandal the likes of which this country may never have seen before! What goes around, comes around!"

Former FBI Director James Comey, who was fired by Trump last year, tweeted Wednesday morning that the agency's use of secret informants was "tightly regulated and essential to protecting the country."

"Attacks on the FBI and lying about its work will do lasting damage to our country," he said. "How will Republicans explain this to their grandchildren?"

Trump told reporters in response: "What I'm doing is a service to this country and I did a great service to this country by firing James Comey."

The back and forth between Congress and the Justice Department over the Nunes request — one of many over the course of the Russia investigation — has been simmering for weeks.

The department originally rejected Nunes' appeal, writing in a letter in late April that his request for information "regarding a specific individual" could have severe consequences, including potential loss of human life. Negotiations over the information stalled, but restarted when Trump demanded in a tweet Sunday that the Justice Department investigate "whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political Purposes."

The Justice Department agreed by expanding an open, internal investigation to determine whether there was any politically motivated surveillance. And the White House said Kelly would organize the meeting with House lawmakers to discuss the documents, although he and other White House staffers would not be present.

The New York Times was the first to report that the FBI had an informant who met several times with Trump campaign officials who had suspicious contacts linked to Russia. No evidence has emerged to show that Obama-era authorities placed an informant inside the Trump campaign.

Separately on Wednesday, Mueller's prosecutors asked a federal judge to start the process of sentencing former Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos, who has been a key witness in the investigation

since his plea last year to lying to the FBI.

Prosecutors had been pushing off Papadopoulos' sentencing for months as he cooperated in the probe. Information about Papadopoulos' contact with people linked to Russia during the 2016 campaign triggered the FBI counterintelligence investigation that Mueller took over.

Associated Press writers Anne Flaherty, Chad Day, Desmond Butler, Jill Colvin, Eric Tucker and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

## Las Vegas strike would have far-reaching effect

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — What happens in Las Vegas could have a ripple effect across the country if 50,000 casino-hotel workers employed at more than 30 of the city's world-famous resorts go on strike at any time starting next week.

If members of the union that includes hotel and food workers don't show up to work, it could cost the destination millions and lead to travel woes for anyone taking a vacation or business trip to Sin City. It could also send casinos looking for temporary workers amid low unemployment rates.

Analysts declined Wednesday to weigh in on the financial impact that a strike could have on casino operators. But the casinos and hotels aren't the only ones who would feel the squeeze; local and state governments stand to lose millions from the impact on tourism.

The last time casino-hotel workers went on strike across Las Vegas, the job action lasted 67 days and cost workers and the city more than \$1 million a day each in lost wages and revenues, not counting gambling losses. The price could be much higher this time if the two sides can't reach agreements: The city has 90,000 more hotel rooms and gets an additional 29 million visitors a year.

David Fiorenza, who teaches urban economics at Villanova University, said local and state governments will start to notice a hit to their sales tax revenue if the strike lingers. And if hotel stays decrease, there will be less revenue from the local hotel tax.

Fiorenza doesn't expect an immediate impact on the number of people visiting Las Vegas if a strike happens, but it will affect bookings if the strike lasts more than a few days.

"People who already booked to go out there are not going to cancel," he said.

But the strike is a lingering worry for those still planning summer vacations.

"What happens during the summer in Las Vegas is you get a lot of people who are traveling. They say 'We are going to visit family in California, and then, we'll go on a trip to Las Vegas,'" said Michael McCall, a Michigan State University professor of hospitality business. "This would deter them. That's going to shut down everything."

The contracts of 50,000 members of the Culinary Union who work at 34 different casino-resorts on the Las Vegas Strip and downtown Las Vegas are set to expire at midnight May 31. Half of those workers cast ballots Tuesday, a majority of whom authorized a strike at any time starting June 1. Individual casino-operating companies and the union have failed to reach agreements through negotiations that began in February.

Union officials say workers want to increase wages, protect job security against the increasing use of technology at hotel-casinos, and strengthen language against sexual harassment.

MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment operate more than half the properties that would be affected by a strike. Both companies have said they expect to reach agreements with the union.

However, Fiorenza said major casinos have contingency plans and he expects them to find ways to continue operating if a strike does happen, such as using managers in front-line jobs and bringing in workers from outside the area.

Operators that have casino-hotels in other states likely have begun sending notices to some workers on those properties to draw them to Las Vegas temporarily, McCall said. It would be hard to hire short-term

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 31 of 52

replacement workers locally because unemployment is low in Las Vegas.

The last citywide strike was in 1984. As the strike deadline loomed, the agency responsible for promoting the destination responded by working up a \$158,000 advertising campaign that included a chef saying "Las Vegas, we're open and cooking," and a showgirl saying "Las Vegas, we're open with a lot to show you."

Statistics from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority show visitation did not decline overall that year, with about 12.8 million traveling to this desert oasis. The agency on Wednesday said it is monitoring the situation but would not say whether it expects visitation to decrease in the event of a strike.

More than 42.2 million people visited the destination last year.

Eric Brasure of Newark, Delaware, is planning a trip to Las Vegas to attend a Star Trek convention in the summer. He said he supports the union, and on Wednesday retweeted on his podcast's account a list of the hotel-casinos that would be affected by the strike.

"I fully intend to support the strike by not patronizing any casino where workers are striking," Brasure said in a Twitter message.

Before Tuesday, the union last voted for a strike in 2002 but reached a deal before employees walked out.

---

Associated Press journalist Annika Wolters in Phoenix and AP Business Writer Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, contributed to this report.

---

Follow Regina Garcia Cano on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/reginagarciakNO>

## Mexican Mafia busted for running crime in LA County jails

By **BRIAN MELLE**, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles County jails are run by the sheriff, but the Mexican Mafia wielded the power in the underworld behind bars.

The organization made up of leaders from various Latino gangs operated like an illegal government, collecting "taxes" on smuggled drugs, ordering hits on people who didn't follow their rules and even calling the shots on street crimes, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

Their clout was diminished as 83 members and associates were charged in a pair of sweeping federal racketeering conspiracies that alleged drug dealing, extortion, violent assaults and even murders.

"We just delivered a blow to a cold-blooded prison gang and their associates," U.S. Attorney Nick Hanna said during a news conference.

The so-called "gang of gangs" — an organization of imprisoned Latino street gang leaders who control operations inside and outside California prisons and jails — started in the 1950s at a juvenile jail and grew to an international criminal organization that has controlled smuggling, drug sales and extortion inside the nation's largest jail system.

"These Mexican Mafia members and associates, working together to control criminal activity within (LA County jails), have become their own entity or enterprise and effectively function as an illegal government," an indictment said.

The gang was also able to control street crime by using wives, girlfriends and lawyers to help relay orders to be carried out by members who were not incarcerated, an indictment said.

In some instances, gang members would deliberately get arrested on low-level charges so they could smuggle drugs into the jail and be released days later.

Because the Mexican Mafia controlled drug trafficking in the jails, they got the first shot to sell their supply of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin or marijuana, prosecutors said. Other groups had to wait and give a third of their contraband to the Mexican Mafia leadership.

The fee, known as a "thirds" tax, gave the name "Operation Dirty Thirds" to the investigation that led to the indictments and arrest of 32 people Wednesday. Another 35 defendants were in custody and 16 were fugitives.

The gang enriched itself through drug sales, taxes on drugs and even collected a share of purchases on



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 32 of 52

candy bars, deodorant and other items at the jail commissary, the indictment said, adding that the gang was able to exert control by threatening and carrying out violence if people didn't pay up or follow the rules.

The gang members were accused of committing vicious beatings, stabbings, kidnappings and murders in retaliation, Hanna said.

The indictment alleges crimes between 2012 and 2016, when a grand jury was convened and before President Donald Trump took office.

Trump has focused on gang violence but has singled out MS-13, pointing to the gang's gruesome crimes in a push for stronger immigration policies.

While MS-13 is associated with the Mexican Mafia, the majority of the crimes listed in the indictments Wednesday are alleged to have been committed by members affiliated with other street gangs.

The jail indictment said Jose Landa-Rodriguez and two now-deceased members of the Mexican Mafia controlled operations in the jail between 2012 and 2016.

Landa-Rodriguez, 55, is accused of sanctioning murders, assaults and the kidnapping and planned murder of a relative of a gang member who defied him, prosecutors said.

Landa-Rodriguez is not a U.S. citizen, though nearly all of the other defendants charged in the indictment are citizens, Hanna said.

A second higher-up, Luis Vega, 33, ordered a murder and directed assaults against those who showed disrespect or didn't obey rules, the indictment said.

In an effort to disrupt the gang's stronghold, the suspects will be held in federal facilities, and those already in custody in state prisons will be moved, authorities said.

Sheriff Jim McDonnell acknowledged that others will follow in their wake, as leadership in the gang that operates in most prisons and jails in the state is always changing.

"There will be new leaders, that's kinda how the whole system works. It's hierarchical," McDonnell said. "When one goes to jail or passes away then someone else backfills their spot just like any multilevel organization."

One of the group's facilitators was attorney Gabriel Zendejas-Chavez, who was able to carry messages to the gang members while operating under the shield of attorney-client privilege, the indictment said. He is also accused of enabling a plot to extort \$100,000 from the Mongols outlaw motorcycle gang.

Zendejas-Chavez was arrested Wednesday. A woman who answered the phone at his office was unaware of the arrest and didn't comment.

---

Associated Press Writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

## **AP source: Jared Kushner granted security clearance**

**By ERIC TUCKER and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been granted a security clearance after a lengthy background check, a move that ensures the key White House adviser with a broad international portfolio can have access to some of the country's most closely held secrets.

Kushner, who serves as a senior adviser on the Middle East and other issues, was among many White House advisers who had been operating for months without full security clearances. That led to a policy overhaul in February that downgraded access to sensitive information for Kushner and other White House officials who held interim clearances.

"With respect to the news about his permanent security clearance, as we stated before, his application was properly submitted, reviewed by career officials, and went through the normal process," Kushner's lawyer, Abbe Lowell, said in a statement. "Having completed these processes, Mr. Kushner is looking forward to continuing the work the President has asked him to do."

In addition, Kushner was interviewed for a second time last month by the office of special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

"In each occasion, he answered all questions asked and did whatever he could to expedite the conclu-

sion of all the (investigations)," Lowell said.

The first interview occurred last fall and the questions were limited to former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn, who subsequently pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI and began cooperating with Mueller.

The second interview occurred in April and concerned topics such as potential influence by foreign governments, including Russia, and the firing of former FBI director James Comey, Lowell said on CNN. The interview did not deal with Kushner's finances or his companies, he said.

Kushner was with Trump in New Jersey the weekend before Comey was fired, and he was among the attendees at a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer at which the president's oldest son was told he would negative information about Hillary Clinton.

Kushner — the point of contact for foreign officials during the campaign and transition — was also included to, though not by name, in Flynn's guilty plea as a transition team official who encouraged Flynn to contact representatives of foreign governments, including Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution against Israeli settlements.

FBI background checks for security clearances routinely examine an applicant's financial holdings and foreign contacts. The delay in Kushner's case was caused by a backlog in the new administration and Kushner's extensive financial wealth, which required lengthy review, Lowell said.

He said Kushner's clearance was decided by career officials in the intelligence community and the FBI.

"It happened the way it happens for thousands of people," Lowell told CNN, noting, "There was nobody in the political process that had anything to do with it."

As the application process was pending, Kushner's "top secret/sensitive compartmented information" access was downgraded in February when White House Chief of Staff John Kelly ordered that officials with interim clearances be cut off if they hadn't received permanent clearances. That meant Kushner was able to see information only at the lower "secret" level, but not highly classified information.

Mark Zaid, a Washington lawyer who specializes in security clearances, said that though it's hard to say with certainty whether Kushner's clearance means he's not facing legal jeopardy from Mueller, "At least looking at the facts as we know them today, it leads me to believe he is no longer in the crosshairs."

---

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Pompeo: Fate of US-NKorea summit rests with Kim Jong Un**

**By MATTHEW LEE and MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday he's "very hopeful" that a planned U.S.-North Korean summit will proceed but laid the fate of the historic meeting squarely with Kim Jong Un, who won't be reassured by U.S. demands for "rapid denuclearization."

The decision about whether the June 12 meeting in Singapore between Kim and President Donald Trump happens is "ultimately up to Chairman Kim," Pompeo told the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Lawmakers' questioning of Pompeo followed Trump's comment Tuesday that "there's a very substantial chance" the meeting would not proceed as scheduled.

Trump told reporters Wednesday, "Whatever it is, we will know next week about Singapore and if we go I think it will be a great thing for North Korea."

On Thursday, though, a top North Korean official said recent comments by Vice President Mike Pence were "stupid" and "ignorant" and warned the country is willing to pull out of the summit. Pence told Fox News on Monday that North Korea could end up like Libya if Kim failed to make a deal.

"Whether the U.S. will meet us at a meeting room or encounter us at nuclear-to-nuclear showdown is entirely dependent upon the decision and behavior of the United States," said Choe Son Hui, vice minister of foreign affairs.

Amid the uncertainty, a White House team is headed to Singapore this weekend to work on logistics for the trip. White House spokesman Raj Shah said the effort would be led by Joe Hagin, deputy chief of

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 34 of 52

staff for operations. Shah noted that an advance team goes out ahead of all scheduled presidential teams.

Also, the U.N. Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against North Korea has cleared the way for all members of Kim's delegation to travel to Singapore for the Trump meeting — even if they are on the U.N. sanctions blacklist, according to diplomats at the world body who spoke on condition of anonymity because the process was private. It also allows all delegation members to take home luxury goods whose import to North Korea is banned by the council. Kim himself is not on the sanctions blacklist, which bans travel and requires all countries to freeze assets.

If it goes ahead, it will be first meeting between a U.S. and a North Korean leader during more than six decades of hostility, and it would come just months after the North's rapid progress toward attaining a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike America fueled fears of war. But the North unexpectedly pulled out of planned peace talks with South Korea last week, objecting to U.S.-South Korean military exercises, and also threatened to abandon the planned Trump-Kim meeting, accusing the U.S. of a "one-sided demand" that it give up its nuclear weapons.

North Korea took particular offense at comments by Trump's hawkish national security adviser John Bolton that the U.S. was looking to the example of Libya, which relinquished its nuclear program in the early 2000s in exchange for sanctions relief. Libya's longtime autocratic leader Moammar Gadhafi was killed several years later after a Western-backed military intervention.

Pompeo steered away from that comparison, but said the U.S. wants "rapid denuclearization, total and complete, that won't be extended over time." He said Bolton's comments were alluding to the failure of past disarmament deals with North Korea "where in exchange for act x the United States sends a check across the transom," Pompeo said. "It is indeed not our model."

North Korea, which views its nukes as a guarantee that its authoritarian regime won't go the same way as those in Libya and Iraq, has said it wants a "phased and synchronous" approach to denuclearization, which neighboring China supports.

China's visiting foreign minister said his country supports the summit being held at its currently scheduled time and venue and sees no reason for a delay.

"There is already good basis and necessary conditions at the moment," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters at a joint news conference at the State Department with Pompeo. "If you want to solve the problem, now is the time. If you want peace, now is the time. If you want to make history, now is the time."

Trump hedged on the issue Tuesday. When asked if there could be an incremental approach, providing incentives along the way to the North, he said, "I don't think I want to totally commit myself. But all in one would be a lot better."

To date, North Korea has taken few concrete steps beyond halting the nuclear and missile tests that ratcheted up tensions last year. On Wednesday it was escorting a group of international reporters, including an Associated Press Television crew, to witness the closure of its atomic test site. While that could set a positive tone ahead of the summit, it is not an irreversible move and would need to be followed by many more significant measures to meet Trump's demands for real denuclearization.

Pompeo said that "if we can get America's interests safe and secure we are prepared to do a great deal," including security assurances for Kim. Pompeo said denuclearization would cover nuclear weapons, missiles, engines and systems related to space launch rockets, production of fissile material and associated technology and research.

The former CIA director, who has met twice with Kim since the start of April, told the committee that it's his hope that when Trump and Kim confer "we can get the North Koreans to make this strategic shift about how best to serve the country — that the nuclear weapons program isn't in fact the thing that keeps the regime in power, but the thing that prevents the regime from being in a place it wants to be with economic success."

Pompeo also touched on an issue that was once central to the administration's campaign of "maximum pressure" on North Korea, but has been rarely mentioned by U.S. officials since Trump agreed to the summit: human rights.



He said he had raised it with Kim "and it will be part of the discussions as we move forward." Asked by lawmakers whether he had a commitment from Kim to make it part of a deal, Pompeo said, "We have broad outlines of what it is that each nation is prepared to do."

The summit would offer a historic chance for peace between adversaries technically at war since the Korean War ended in 1953 without a peace treaty. But there also is the risk of a diplomatic failure that would allow the North to revive and advance its weapons program.

AP writers Catherine Lucey in Washington and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

## **Stylist: Man with Vegas gunman's name talked concert attack**

**By KEN RITTER, Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A hairstylist said a client with the same last name as the Las Vegas shooter spoke in the months before the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history about a concert venue being susceptible to attack, according to documents released by police Wednesday.

Las Vegas police released about 2,100 pages of police reports, witness statements and dispatch records after losing court battles to keep them secret. Witness names were blacked out, so their accounts could not be verified, and police and FBI officials said they would not comment on the newly released information.

The documents did not immediately yield answers to the key unanswered question more than seven months after the Oct. 1 attack that is still under investigation: a motive.

They recount tales of horror and heroism, chaos and confusion. They detail how officers responded to the massacre, initially believing the Las Vegas Strip faced large-scale attack by multiple shooters and struggling to direct panicked people to safety and help save victims who were bleeding, begging for help and getting trampled.

Authorities have not determined what led Stephen Paddock to open fire from his high-rise hotel room onto an outdoor concert below, killing 58 people and injuring hundreds more. Police and the FBI said they believe he acted alone and the attack had no link to international terrorism.

The hairstylist told investigators on Oct. 10 that a client named Paddock mentioned during a haircut in June or July that someone could shoot into a crowd at the outdoor concert venue from the casino across the way.

A woman later arrived, and the stylist believed it was Paddock's girlfriend, Marilou Danley.

"I asked her, 'Do you know what he's been saying to me?'" the stylist told police. "She's like, 'Oh, what, about somebody shooting into a crowd and, you know, wanting to hurt a lot of people?'"

The stylist told police that the client said, "I wonder what she's worried about? She'll be out of the country."

Danley was in the Philippines during the shooting. Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo, elected head of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, said earlier this year that he did not expect criminal charges against Danley. She had been called the only person of interest in the case.

The stylist reported feeling uneasy and calling police about the comments but couldn't say when and wasn't positive of doing so. Police say in the interview that there's no record of a call.

The documents also detailed gripping tales, including one from an officer who heard rapid gunfire on his radio and arrived to find hundreds of people running at him, many of them wounded and screaming.

Other officers said they crouched behind patrol vehicles, unable to determine where gunfire was coming from while a rear window shattered and bullets hit the ground around them. A rookie officer, Brady Cook, was wounded in the arm. Detective Casey Clarkson was struck in the neck.

Other officers, shielded by a block wall, reached concertgoers. An officer described trying to help a woman with blood gushing from a gunshot to her eye while a man held her head, asking for help.

Gunfire began again, the officer said, "and I heard impacts hitting in front of me. At this point, everyone started screaming and I told everyone to move."

Police tried to help people despite being unclear where the gunfire was coming from and facing reports

of multiple shooters.

The officer met with a rushing crowd said he responded to calls about active shooters at the New York-New York casino-hotel, the Tropicana across from the concert venue, and the Paris Las Vegas. No shooters were found.

Vehicles carrying bleeding and injured people sped away from the shooting scene, flashing lights and honking horns. Authorities set up makeshift triage areas, where one officer "tried to keep the victims focused on staying alive" while figuring out some kind of evacuation plan.

Another officer told a group of between 100 and 150 bystanders to take off any belts and T-shirts that could be used as tourniquets.

An off-duty officer attending the country music festival said he tried to get his fiancée and a friend to safety, lying over them multiple times as panicked people rushed to escape.

"As I was lying on top of them people were trampling over top of us trying to escape the area," wrote the officer, identified only as M. Amburgey.

Authorities say Paddock, 64, a real estate investor and high-stakes gambler, had amassed an arsenal of nearly two dozen assault-style rifles and numerous high-capacity ammunition magazines.

The documents also raised more questions about when police reached the shooter's room and why they waited more than an hour to enter it.

"When we got off on the 32nd floor, we heard active shooting still going on," a Mandalay Bay hotel employee who said he accompanied a Las Vegas police officer.

Authorities have said that gunfire stopped before police reached the 32nd floor, and that Paddock killed before officers reached his door.

Police said they have compiled thousands of documents and amassed hundreds of hours of video, including witness cellphone recordings and footage from officers' body-worn cameras.

The department has been releasing the information in waves after a court order in a lawsuit by The Associated Press and other media organizations.

---

Contributing to this report were Associated Press journalists Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas; Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada; Courtney Bonnell in Phoenix; Brian Eason in Denver; Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles; Martha Bellisle in Seattle; Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City; Terry Tang, Jacques Billeaud and Anita Snow in Phoenix; Mary Hudetz in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska; Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Arizona.

## **Judge: President can't block critics on Twitter**

**By LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that President Donald Trump is violating the First Amendment when he blocks critics on Twitter because of their political views.

U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald in Manhattan stopped short in her written decision of ordering Trump or a subordinate to stop the practice of blocking critics from viewing his Twitter account, saying it was enough to point out that it was unconstitutional.

"A declaratory judgment should be sufficient, as no government official — including the President — is above the law, and all government officials are presumed to follow the law as has been declared," Buchwald wrote.

The judge did not issue an order against Trump, and the plaintiffs did not ask for one. But in cases like this, plaintiffs can, in theory, go back and ask for such an order, and if it is not obeyed, the violator can be held in contempt.

Buchwald said she rejected the assertion that an injunction can never be lodged against the president but "nonetheless conclude that it is unnecessary to enter that legal thicket at this time."

The case was brought last July by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University and seven individuals blocked by Trump after criticizing the Republican president.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 37 of 52

Kerri Kupec, a spokeswoman for the Department of Justice, said in an email: "We respectfully disagree with the court's decision and are considering our next steps."

Jameel Jaffer, the Knight Institute's executive director, said in a release that his organization was pleased. "The president's practice of blocking critics on Twitter is pernicious and unconstitutional, and we hope this ruling will bring it to an end," he said.

Comedian Dana Goldberg, who says she was blocked by the president but was not a plaintiff in the lawsuit, said she looks forward to getting access restored.

"As a comedian, I really feel like it's my job right now to speak truth to power. I have a voice and a platform to use it, and I would rather challenge him on every false and misleading statement than stay silent. It will save me some time if I'm unblocked. I can just check his Twitter feed instead of Google his morning tirades," she said.

The lawsuit was filed after Trump blocked some individuals from @realDonaldTrump, a 9-year-old Twitter account with over 50 million followers, after each of them tweeted a message critical of Trump or his policies in reply to a tweet he had sent.

Justice Department lawyers had argued it was Trump's prerogative to block followers, no different from the president deciding in a room filled with people not to listen to some.

Buchwald ruled that the tweets were "governmental in nature."

"The President presents the @realDonaldTrump account as being a presidential account as opposed to a personal account and, more importantly, uses the account to take actions that can be taken only by the President as President," the judge said.

The judge noted that another defendant, Daniel Scavino — the White House's social media director and an assistant to the president — can unblock those followers without the president needing to do it himself. The judge dismissed Sarah Huckabee Sanders as a defendant in the case after it was established she does not have access to Trump's account.

Buchwald also said she recognized the impact on the individuals by Trump's action was not "of the highest magnitude." She said the First Amendment protects people even from trivial harm.

After a hearing this year, the judge had suggested that Trump mute rather than block some of his critics. At the time, a Justice Department attorney agreed that muting would enable Trump to avoid a tweet he doesn't want to read.

Twitter users can block people, which prevents them from seeing the user's feed while logged in. Or they can mute the person, which keeps the user from seeing that person's tweets and reply messages in their feed.

---

Associated Press Writer Barbara Ortutay contributed to this report.

## After mass shootings, NRA pins blame on familiar list

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

In the aftermath of recent school shootings, a familiar pattern has played out in the debate over guns. Gun-control advocates push for tougher laws, including universal background checks to prohibiting the sale and possession of AR-style long guns. The National Rifle Association and many Republican leaders insist the root of the problem is not guns but a range of issues such as mental health, school security, video games and excessive prescriptions of attention-deficit disorder drugs such as Ritalin.

Gun-control advocates call the strategy a clever smoke screen to avoid having to talk about gun control. The cycle repeats with the next mass shooting.

The talking points have evolved over the years and become part of the NRA playbook in response to recent school shootings — and in turn have been echoed by Republican leaders in states such as Texas that have experienced gun violence in schools.

Here is a closer look at contentions by the NRA:

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS:** After the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School that killed 26 people,



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 38 of 52

the NRA launched its School Shield program that offers to review and assess school properties and identify ways to make them harder to penetrate by a would-be school shooter. Among the thoughts are fewer entrances and exits, ensuring the administration offices are within sight of the main entrance to quickly see who is entering, fewer shrubs and trees up against the building, bulletproof windows and doors, and the ability to lock a classroom from inside the room.

School security experts say those structural changes are important to making school safer — but they don't replace other steps such as finding ways to identify students who are in some emotional trouble and encouraging students to report concerns about a classmate.

"Any type of hardware or equipment is only as strong as the weakest human link behind it," said Kenneth Trump, president of the National School Safety and Security Services, a Cleveland-based consulting firm.

**ARMING EDUCATORS:** President Donald Trump, the NRA and, most recently Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, all have said that having armed and trained educators would allow a school gunman to be confronted sooner and prevent mass casualties. The president has also suggested paying bonuses to teachers willing to undergo training and carry a firearm on campus.

There are some schools around the country that already allow educators to bring a firearm into the school. Consulting firms have sprouted up that provide specialized training for teachers.

Some law enforcement experts caution that arming teachers isn't practical and can create its own host of problems — from bad decisions about when to shoot to leading to PTSD for educators who find themselves in the situation. Law enforcement officials also say it could lead to confusion for officers responding to a shooting and not knowing who the bad guy is.

"What an individual officer or a team of officers will do in an active shooter incident calls on every aspect of their overall training and policing. And that's one of the reasons why you'd be hard-pressed to find someone in policing who thinks it's a good idea to arm teachers," said Rick Myers, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

"Teachers' training and expertise has nothing to do with police tactics — shoot-don't-shoot decision making, the psychological trauma that accompanies violence, all the things that are built into what police officers deal with on a daily basis."

**RITALIN:** The NRA's incoming president, retired Lt. Col. Oliver North, recently blamed school shootings on the drug Ritalin, which is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. His comments came in the days after the Santa Fe, Texas, school shooting. However it's not known if the suspect in that case had been prescribed that drug or was using it.

George DuPaul, a psychologist at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania whose research has focused on ADHD treatment, has said research doesn't support North's claim.

"There's really no evidence whatsoever that links treatment for ADHD with Ritalin and drugs like that with violence, let alone gun violence," he said.

**VIDEO GAMES:** North and others also have blamed a "culture of violence" and specifically video games that they say breed violence and encourage school shooters.

There has been research for decades on this topic but few definitive conclusions. Some studies suggest that playing video games leads to anti-social behavior and aggression, while others suggest it can have a calming effect and that there's no correlation to increased violence among those who play the games.

Ironically, North played a role in marketing and voicing one of the more popular video games: "Call of Duty: Black Ops 2," which features the retired Marine in one of its story lines.

One such study, created by a task force of the American Psychological Association, reported in 2015 that "the research demonstrates a consistent relation between violent video game use and increases in aggressive behavior, aggressive cognitions and aggressive affect, and decreases in prosocial behavior, empathy and sensitivity to aggression." It cautioned there was no single reason for violent behavior but

violent video games was one such factor.

Earlier this year, a study by the University of York found no correlation between gaming and leading players to become violent: "The findings suggest that there is no link between these kinds of realism in games and the kind of effects that video games are commonly thought to have on their players."

In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that video games were protected by the First Amendment and barred California from banning the sale of violent video games to children. In the majority decision, then Justice Antonin Scalia wrote: "Psychological studies purporting to show a connection between exposure to violent video games and harmful effects on children do not prove that such exposure causes minors to act aggressively. Any demonstrated effects are both small and indistinguishable from effects produced by other media."

**MENTAL HEALTH:** The NRA has sent mixed messages on how it believes the U.S. should address mental health and the possession of firearms.

It applauded President Trump's move early in his term to overturn an Obama administration rule that required the Social Security Administration to provide information to the gun-buying background check system on recipients with severe mental disorders. Then-President Barack Obama saw it as a common-sense solution to flag problematic behavior of people buying guns, but the gun lobby viewed it as arbitrarily stripping away a person's Second Amendment rights.

Earlier this year, the NRA expressed some support for so-called "red flag" laws but has not advocated for those measures, which allow relatives, guardians or police to ask judges to temporarily strip gun rights from people who show warning signs of violence. However, it also has expressed concern about the right to possess firearms being stripped away "without due process."

## **APNewsBreak: Prosecutor interviewing Schneiderman accusers**

**By MICHAEL R. SISK, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The special prosecutor investigating former New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has started conducting interviews with the women whose allegations of violent slapping, choking and other abuse led to his resignation this month, The Associated Press has learned.

Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas met Wednesday with Michelle Manning Barish, one of the four women whose allegations of abuse were the subject of a New Yorker expose on Schneiderman, according to two people familiar with the investigation.

Both people spoke about the interview on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

Singas' office declined comment, saying it would not do so until the investigation is finished. A lawyer for Manning Barish was traveling and could not be immediately reached.

Manning Barish, a Democratic activist and writer, was romantically involved with Schneiderman from mid-2013 through the end of 2014.

She told The New Yorker that Schneiderman, a Democrat, became controlling and abusive soon after they started dating. She said he slapped her hard across the face and choked her.

"I felt like I was being beaten by a man," she told the magazine.

Tanya Selvaratnam, who dated Schneiderman in 2016 and 2017, and two women whose names were withheld described similar abuse. Some of the women said Schneiderman was a heavy drinker.

Schneiderman, 63, announced his resignation hours after The New Yorker article appeared online. He implied in a statement that his conduct was either welcomed or was not as the women described.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed Singas as a special prosecutor the next day, taking the case away from Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest stemming from a probe into movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

Cuomo in March ordered Schneiderman's office to investigate how Vance's office handled a 2015 case against Weinstein that resulted in no criminal charges.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 40 of 52

Singas, in office since 2015, has assembled a team of top prosecutors from her suburban Long Island office for the Schneiderman investigation and is conducting many of the interviews herself.

The former sex crimes prosecutor, the founder of Nassau's special victims bureau, is working with authorities in neighboring Suffolk County and New York City to investigate incidents alleged to have occurred in the Hamptons and Manhattan.

Schneiderman's lawyer, Isabelle Kirshner, has said she is confident Singas "will conduct a fair, thorough and unbiased investigation" that won't result in any criminal charges.

The allegations tarnished Schneiderman's reputation as a defender of women at the forefront of the #MeToo movement. Schneiderman launched an investigation last year into movie producer Harvey Weinstein's studio, and in February filed a lawsuit aimed at securing better compensation for his sexual misconduct accusers.

After the story was published, Manning Barish wrote on Twitter: "After the most difficult month of my life-I spoke up. For my daughter and for all women. I could not remain silent and encourage other women to be brave for me. I could not."

Early Wednesday morning, she tweeted praise for Cuomo, who is being challenged by "Sex and the City" star Cynthia Nixon in the September primary.

Manning Barish said she was "deeply grateful" for Cuomo's "swift leadership" in the Schneiderman case.

"Leadership is defined in moments like these, where a statement is made before waiting for public opinion to decide it for you," she wrote. "He has my vote."

Follow Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## **BE MINE: Maker of candy hearts, Necco Wafers sold at auction**

**By WILLIAM J. KOLE, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — The bankrupt 171-year-old candy maker known for its chalky Necco Wafers and those little inscribed hearts that are everywhere on Valentine's Day got a sweet message from a rival Wednesday: BE MINE.

Ohio-based Spangler Candy Co. had the winning \$18.83 million bid for the New England Confectionery Co., or Necco, at a federal bankruptcy auction in Boston.

The deal from the company that makes Dum Dums lollipops will most likely ensure a future, at least in the short term, for some of the nation's most familiar candies.

"They're a crowd favorite," said Chris Baker, who sells Necco candies at his Old Country Store & Emporium in Mansfield, Massachusetts. "I like to see our traditions continue. Any time we lose one, it's a loss for all of us. And this is something that everybody's had a million times."

Necco's court-appointed bankruptcy trustee, Harry Murphy, said the company's suitors were mainly interested in its "sugar line" — its tubes of wafers, sheets of candy dots, and the conversation hearts popular on Valentine's Day for phrases such as BE TRUE and O U KID.

The future of Necco's other products — including the chocolate Sky Bar, the Clark Bar and peanut butter-flavored Mary Jane chews — remains unclear, he said. The company would continue to be run out of its longtime headquarters in Revere, just north of Boston, at least through the fall.

Necco, which calls itself the oldest continuously operating candy company in the U.S., couldn't keep pace with multinational competitors.

In March, it announced it would close its plant and lay off hundreds of workers if it couldn't find a buyer. Last month, it filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, saying it owed creditors millions.

Complicating matters, the Food and Drug Administration warned Necco on May 16 that its inspectors found rodent excrement "too numerous to count" at its main plant.

The warning that the company might go out of business triggered a run on Necco Wafers and other candies. A Florida woman even offered her 2003 Honda Accord for the entire wafer inventory held by Candystore.com, an online distributor. (The company brushed off what it dubbed "The Great Necco Wafer



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 41 of 52

Panic" and turned down the offer.)

Necco traces its roots to 1847, and it's an immigration success story. Oliver Chase, a young English newcomer, invented a lozenge cutter. Sales of his candy took off, and he and his brother, Silas, founded Chase and Co., which morphed into Necco.

Union soldiers fighting in the Civil War carried Necco Wafers, the company says. So did GIs during World War II; the War Department bought them by the caseload and sent them to Europe and the Pacific because they didn't melt and seldom broke during shipping.

In 1913, the Arctic explorer Donald Baxter MacMillan handed them out to Eskimo children. In the 1930s, Adm. Richard Byrd included 2½ tons of wafers on a supply list for a two-year expedition in Antarctica.

And Roman Catholics joke that they're the communion wafer of candy.

Critics insist they taste like antacid tablets, baby aspirin or chalk. But they have a certain old-school charm: pale, dusty candy discs packaged like a roll of coins and wrapped in wax paper.

"I don't think I've ever seen anything as beautiful as the production of the Necco Wafer," said Steve Almond, author of "Candyfreak," a best-selling book about America's confectionery industry.

"The street smelled like wafers when they were making them. The floors were a mosaic of broken wafers — all eight of those different colors. It was a beautiful thing."

Sweethearts, too, have become sentimental favorites since they began being stamped with pithy phrases in 1902. LOVE YOU, OOH LA LA and MARRY ME are classics, and over the decades, they've been joined by DIG ME, FAX ME and, more recently, TWEET ME, TEXT ME and BFF.

The 19th-century company has kept pace in other ways: In 2016, a Sweethearts online ad featured two gay men in their 80s, and Clark bars have made cameos in at least three episodes of "Seinfeld."

Even so, Almond takes a fatalistic view of Necco's future.

"The story of Necco is in some ways the story of American commerce and American culture," he said. "As sentimental as we might be about Necco Wafers, unless tons of people buy them, they're going to struggle. This is how capitalism works."

---

Follow Bill Kole on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/billkole> . His work can be found here .

## E-cigarettes disappoint in a workplace quit-smoking study

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

It's a big question for smokers and policymakers alike: Do electronic cigarettes help people quit? In a large study of company wellness programs, e-cigarettes worked no better than traditional stop-smoking tools, and the only thing that really helped was paying folks to kick the habit.

Critics of the study say it doesn't close the case on these popular vaping products. It didn't rigorously test effectiveness, just compared e-cigarettes to other methods among 6,000 smokers who were offered help to quit. That's still valuable information because it's what happens in daily life.

Providing e-cigarettes "did not improve the number of people who quit compared to essentially doing nothing," said Dr. Scott Halpern of the University of Pennsylvania. "The very best way to help them quit is to offer them money."

He led the study, published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. It was sponsored by the Vitality Group, which runs company wellness programs. The makers of NJOY e-cigarettes provided them but had no role in the research.

Separately in the journal, another study reports that lung cancer rates are now higher for white and Hispanic women under 50 than for men that age, a reversal of a longtime trend that can't be explained by smoking patterns alone.

### VAPING TO QUIT SMOKING

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that vaporize nicotine. They've been sold in the U.S. since 2007 and contain less toxic substances than traditional cigarettes. The Food and Drug Administration is mulling how to regulate them, and earlier this year, a national panel of experts said vaping may help folks

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 42 of 52

reduce smoking but that more research is needed.

The new study differed from usual studies of smokers wanting to quit: It automatically enrolled smokers in 54 company wellness programs and asked those who didn't want to join to opt out. Only 125 did, but the vast majority of the rest didn't actively participate yet their results were tracked as part of the study.

They were put into five groups: usual care, which was information on benefits of quitting and motivational text messages; free quit-smoking aids such as nicotine patches and medicines like Chantix or Zyban plus e-cigarettes if those failed; free e-cigarettes without any requirement to try other methods first; free quit-smoking aids and a \$600 reward if people were abstinent six months later; and free cessation tools plus \$600 placed in an account at the start of the study that they'd lose if they didn't quit.

The results: Only 0.1 percent in the usual care group succeeded; rates ranged from 0.5 percent to nearly 3 percent for the rest. The groups offered cash did best; rates among the other groups did not differ much from each other.

Success rates were higher — from 0.7 percent to nearly 13 percent — among 1,200 smokers who actively participated.

## COST

Average costs were less than a dollar per participant in the usual care group and around \$100 for those given redeemable cash accounts. But when looked at per successful quitter, the cash programs cost less than e-cigarettes or traditional methods.

Most big companies offer stop-smoking programs and half of them offer financial incentives, study leaders said. It costs companies \$3,000 to 6,000 more per year to employ a smoker versus a non-smoker.

## WHAT OTHERS SAY

"E-cigarettes are substantially less harmful than burned or lit cigarettes, but that doesn't mean they're helpful for cessation" and they're not regulated for that, said Cliff Douglas, the American Cancer Society's tobacco policy expert.

Gregory Conley, who heads the American Vaping Association, said the type used in this study is obsolete, and all of the methods proved "pathetic" because smokers were automatically enrolled and may not have wanted to quit. "You're just thrusting the product on people," he said.

Dr. Nancy Rigotti, director of the tobacco research and treatment center at Massachusetts General Hospital who was on the expert panel, said it was a well-done study that gives "a little discouraging and surprising" results. The value of traditional methods is well established, so counseling and support might have been inadequate in this study, she said.

Others were critical of the study's methods. David Abrams, a former tobacco researcher at the National Institutes of Health and now at New York University, said researchers don't know how many in each group actually used the quit-smoking tools.

"You can't conclude that the treatments didn't work if nobody used them," said Abrams, who called e-cigarettes "the best thing that's come along in 10 years to help people quit."

A smoker took a different view.

"For me personally, it was useless," said Georges Touaichi, a 22-year-old San Diego hotel worker who tried e-cigarettes but went back to smoking after a day or two.

An FDA spokesman said the agency was pondering the results, but that this is not the type of study needed to evaluate safety and effectiveness of e-cigarettes for smoking cessation.

## LUNG CANCER RATES

For the other study in the journal, researchers used U.S. cancer registries and federal health statistics to track new lung cancer cases by gender and race over various time periods. Rates historically have been higher in men but that trend reversed among whites and Hispanics born since the mid-1960s.

For example, among people ages 45 to 49 and diagnosed from 1995 to 1999, rates in women were 26 percent lower than for men. But in a more recent time period, 2010 to 2014, women had an 8 percent higher incidence rate than men, said one study leader, the American Cancer Society's Ahmedin Jemal.

Women are catching up to men in smoking rates — 14 percent smoke versus 17 percent of men — but

that's not enough to explain the switch, he said. Women also smoke fewer cigarettes than men.

One theory is that certain types of lung cancer are more common in women and the risk of them declines more slowly after someone quits, and women have lagged behind men in cessation rates, said Caitlin Murphy of the Simmons Cancer Center at UT Southwestern in Dallas.

"Maybe women are getting diagnosed more often through CT screening," which also would boost their rates compared to men, said Murphy, who had no role in the work.

For smokers who are 50, "if they quit now they can gain about six years of life," Jemal said. "They have this opportunity to avoid not only lung cancer but also other causes of smoking-related deaths."

AP writer Julie Watson in San Diego contributed to this report.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at @MMarchioneAP .

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## High hopes but tough road for black woman in governor's race

By BEN NADLER and RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — She's a Yale-educated attorney and a romance novelist who served a decade in the Georgia Legislature. Now Stacey Abrams has gained a shot at becoming the first black woman elected governor in U.S. history.

Abrams, 44, easily won the Democratic nomination in Tuesday's primary, and strong turnout among Democrats has fueled hopes she can take back the governor's mansion in November in a state where Republicans hold every statewide office from U.S. senator to insurance commissioner.

"We are writing the next chapter of Georgia's future, where no one is unseen, no one is unheard and no one is uninspired," Abrams declared after defeating fellow Democrat and former legislative colleague Stacey Evans.

Democrats see a potential window for victory in the race to succeed term-limited GOP Gov. Nathan Deal, but experts say it won't happen without a hard fight.

"As long as Republican turnout doesn't drop off dramatically, the advantage is still in their court," said Andra Gillespie, a political science professor at Emory University in Atlanta.

Republicans won't have their nominee until a July 24 runoff between Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and Secretary of State Brian Kemp — two white men who were the top vote-getters in a crowded five-candidate GOP primary Tuesday in which contenders focused on the sanctity of gun rights and talked tough on immigration.

Regardless of who emerges as the Republican nominee in nine weeks, Abrams faces a tough political road in what remains a deep red state.

Georgia hasn't elected a Democrat governor since 1998. And no Democrat seeking that office in the past 20 years, including former President Jimmy Carter's grandson in 2014, has gotten more than 46 percent of the vote.

Abrams is betting she can succeed by abandoning the political playbook of previous Democratic nominees, who ran centrist campaigns aimed at luring back older white voters who had come to favor Republicans. She is instead hoping to appeal to young voters and nonwhites who have been less likely to participate in elections.

That strategy seemed to work for Abrams in the primary. She won 76 percent of the Democratic vote to trounce Evans, a white candidate who ran a more traditional campaign.

"Evans was running a professional campaign, she was up on TV, and she got her clock cleaned," said Charles Bullock, a political science professor at the University of Georgia. "And I suspect that's because Abrams' game plan came through for her."

There might be another glimmer of hope for Georgia Democrats in the primary results Tuesday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 44 of 52

Democratic voters accounted for 47 percent of the 1.1 million ballots cast in the gubernatorial primaries. Republicans outstripped them by more than 53,400 votes. But the numbers show a big leap for the Democrats, whose share of primary ballots in contests for governor hasn't exceeded 36 percent since 2010.

"Abrams may have two factors in her favor," said William Hatcher, an Augusta University political science professor. "First, she has excited the Democratic base. Second, if the Trump administration remains unpopular, it will make it more likely that suburban moderates turn to the Democrats."

Abrams is an underdog with a compelling backstory. Raised by poor parents alongside five siblings in Mississippi, she went on to attend Yale Law School. She worked as a tax attorney and deputy city attorney for Atlanta, then started her own legal consulting firm.

On the side, using the pen name Selena Montgomery, she published several romance novels with titles such as "Hidden Sins" and "Secrets and Lies."

Abrams won election to the Georgia House in 2006 and rose to become the first black woman to serve as the chamber's Democratic leader. She resigned her seat last summer to focus on the gubernatorial campaign.

Heading into the primary, she received a last-minute recorded phone message from Hillary Clinton for use in calling voters. She was also endorsed by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders as well as California Sen. Kamala Harris, considered a potential 2020 White House contender.

Her campaign also drew celebrity support from Tracee Ellis Ross, star of ABC's "Black-ish," and Uzo Aduba of Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black."

On the downside, Abrams' 10-year political tenure generated ethics complaints and exposed personal financial debt that could haunt her in the fall campaign.

Abrams has denied allegations that she reimbursed herself thousands of dollars from campaign accounts without properly recording the transactions and that she used campaign staff to promote sales of her autobiography, "Minority Leader." Earlier this year, her financial disclosure forms showed more than \$220,000 in personal debt, including \$50,000 owed to the IRS.

Abrams said she is on a payment plan to settle her overdue taxes. She blamed the rest on credit card debt accumulated to support herself during law school and additional financial burdens she took on to help support her aging parents.

"Yes, we all still make money mistakes," Abrams wrote in an April commentary piece published by Fortune, "but they don't have to be fatal to our dreams."

Republicans are already arguing the public can't trust Abrams.

"Not only has Abrams spent years promoting reckless tax-and-spend policies that would take Georgia backwards, but her large amount of alarming ethical issues continue to raise serious questions about her record," Republican Governors Association spokesman Jon Thompson said in a statement after Abrams' primary victory.

On the Republican side, Georgia voters can expect a bruising battle between Cagle and Kemp.

Cagle in February led the Legislature in killing a tax break on jet fuel to punish Delta Air Lines for ending a discount program for members of the National Rifle Association. The NRA endorsed Cagle soon after.

Kemp stood out with a campaign ad in which he said he has a big truck "just in case I need to round up criminal illegals and take 'em home myself."

---

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. Associated Press writer Errin Haines Whack contributed to this report.

---

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from across the United States leading up to the 2018 midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw>



## Study offers new look at why our brains evolved to be so big

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Why do people have such big brains? Some researchers asked a really powerful brain — a computer — and got back a surprising answer.

In relation to body size, our brains are huge, about six times larger than one would expect from other mammals. And this three-pound organ sucks up fully 20 percent of the body's energy needs. Evolutionary theory says to build and maintain something that costly, there must have been a very good reason.

But what is it? Did our ancestors need more brainpower to cope with the environment, such as finding and storing food? Or was it driven more by the social complexities of dealing with their peers? Or was it all about the challenge of learning and teaching cultural knowledge?

In the past, scientists have tried to tease out an answer mostly by analyzing correlations, like how brain size relates to the size of social groups in living apes and our fossil ancestors.

Mauricio Gonzalez-Forero and Andy Gardner of St. Andrews University in Scotland turned instead to computer simulations. They report the result in a paper released Wednesday by the journal *Nature*.

The researchers created a hypothetical population of females, focusing on just one sex for simplicity, and followed them as they faced the challenges of living. The researchers plugged in data on things like a newborn's brain size and the energy costs of the brain and reproductive organs. And they simulated tasks that resemble the environmental and social challenges included in theories about brain evolution.

The computer pondered how the pressures of each challenge might affect changes of brain size over time. Drawing on evolutionary theory, it calculated how much energy the females would be expected to invest in growing the brain versus other tissues under the different challenges. It found that stronger mental demands tended to produce bigger brains.

Gonzalez-Forero said he and Gardner expected a strong contribution to bigger brains from social challenges, which he said has been the favorite idea for decades.

But their surprise, the computer said about 60 percent of the effect on boosting brain size came from an individual dealing with the environment on one's own, as in finding, storing and cooking food, and making stone tools. Another 30 percent came from cooperating to deal with the environment, such as banding together to hunt. The final 10 percent from competition between groups of people.

While the study didn't specifically look at the impact of cultural tasks, it gave evidence of a substantial influence from them, too, Gonzalez-Forero said. He plans to assess cultural factors in the future.

In any case, the results are not intended to be the final word, but rather an encouragement for other researchers to use computer simulation for studying the question of brain size. Much exciting work remains to be done, he said.

Experts unconnected to the study were skeptical of the conclusions.

Dean Falk, a brain-evolution expert at Florida State University, said the work doesn't assess the long-standing hypothesis that the development of language may have driven expansion of the brain. Gonzalez-Forero said the language idea is to some extent part of the cultural factors that remain to be addressed.

Falk also said the simulation strategy may have overemphasized the role of energy demands in influencing brain growth.

Robin Dunbar, a professor of evolutionary psychology at Oxford University, and paleoanthropologist Richard Potts of the Smithsonian Institution said they didn't think the simulation adequately mimicked the lives our ancestors lived.

---

Follow Malcolm Ritter at @MalcolmRitter . His recent work can be found here .

---

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 46 of 52

## Philip Roth: a generation's defining voice

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the self-imposed retirement of his final years, Philip Roth remained curious and removed from the world he had shocked and had shocked him in return.

He praised younger authors such as Ta-Nehisi Coates and Teju Cole, and confided that he had read "Born to Run," the memoir by another New Jersey giant, Bruce Springsteen. He followed with horror the rise of Donald Trump and found himself reliving the imagined horrors of his novel "The Plot Against America," in which the country succumbs to the fascist reign of President Charles Lindbergh.

But Roth, who died Tuesday at age 85, was also a voice — a defining one — of a generation nearing its end. He was among the last major writers raised without television, who ignored social media and believed in engaging readers through his work alone and not the alleged charms or virtues of his private self. He was safely outside Holden Caulfield's fantasy that a favorite author could be "a terrific friend of yours and you could call him up on the phone whenever you felt like it." He didn't celebrate romantic love or military heroism or even consider the chance for heavenly justice.

The meaning of life, he once said, paraphrasing his idol Franz Kafka, is that it stops.

"Life's most disturbing intensity is death," he wrote in his novel "Everyman," published in 2006.

Best known for works ranging from the wild and ribald "Portnoy's Complaint" to the elegiac "American Pastoral," Roth was among the greatest writers never to win the Nobel Prize. And he died, with dark and comic timing, in the year that the prize committee called off the award as it contended with a #MeToo scandal. He also died just minutes after the book world had concluded the annual Pen America gala in Manhattan and on the eve of another literary tradition — Wednesday's annual induction ceremony at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which voted Roth in more than 40 years ago.

"No other writer has meant as much to me," Jeffrey Eugenides, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and a new academy inductee, wrote in an email Wednesday to The Associated Press. "No other American writer's work have I read so obsessively, year after year."

Roth's novels were often narratives of lust, mortality, fate and Jewish assimilation. He identified himself as an American writer, not a Jewish one, but for Roth, the American experience and the Jewish experience were often the same. While predecessors such as Saul Bellow and Bernard Malamud wrote of the Jews' painful adjustment from immigrant life, Roth's characters represented the next generation. Their first language was English, and they spoke without accents. They observed no rituals and belonged to no synagogues. The American dream, or nightmare, was to become "a Jew without Jews, without Judaism, without Zionism, without Jewishness." The reality, more often, was to be regarded as a Jew among gentiles and a gentile among Jews.

He was a fierce satirist and uncompromising realist, committed to the narration of "life, in all its shameless impurity." Feminists, Jews and one ex-wife attacked him in print, and sometimes in person. Women in his books were at times little more than objects of desire and rage and The Village Voice once put his picture on its cover, condemning him as a misogynist. A panel moderator berated him for his comic portrayals of Jews, asking Roth if he would have written the same books in Nazi Germany. Jewish scholar Gershom Scholem called "Portnoy's Complaint" the "book for which all anti-Semites have been praying." When Roth won the Man Booker International Prize in 2011, a judge resigned, alleging the author suffered from terminal solipsism and went "on and on and on about the same subject in almost every single book." In "Sabbath's Theater," Roth imagines the inscription for his title character's headstone: "Sodomist, Abuser of Women, Destroyer of Morals."

Roth's wars also originated from within. He survived a burst appendix in the late 1960s and near-suicidal depression in 1987. For all the humor in his work — and, friends would say, in his private life — jacket photos usually highlighted the author's tense, dark-eyed glare. In 2012, he announced that he had stopped writing fiction and would instead dedicate himself to helping biographer Blake Bailey complete his life story, one he openly wished would not come out while he was alive. By 2015, he had retired from public life altogether.

Roth began his career in rebellion against the conformity of the 1950s and ended it in defense of the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 47 of 52

security of the 1940s; he was never warmer than when writing about his childhood, or more sorrowful, and enraged, than when narrating the betrayal of innocence lost.

Acclaim and controversy were inseparable. His debut collection, published in 1959, was "Goodbye, Columbus," featuring a love (and lust) title story about a working-class Jew and his wealthier girlfriend. It brought the writer a National Book Award and some extra-literary criticism. The aunt of the main character, Neil Klugman, is a meddling worrywart, and the upper-middle-class relatives of Neil's girlfriend are satirized as shallow materialists. Roth believed he was simply writing about people he knew, but some Jews saw him as a traitor, subjecting his brethren to ridicule before the gentile world. A rabbi accused him of distorting the lives of Orthodox Jews. At a writers conference in the early 1960s, he was relentlessly accused of creating stories that affirmed the worst Nazi stereotypes.

But Roth insisted writing should express, not sanitize. After two relatively tame novels, "Letting Go" and "When She was Good," he abandoned his good manners with "Portnoy's Complaint," his ode to blasphemy against the "unholy trinity of father, mother and Jewish son." Published in 1969, a great year for rebellion, it was an event, a birth, a summation, Roth's triumph over "the awesome graduate school authority of Henry James," as if history's lid had blown open and out erupted a generation of Jewish guilt and desire.

As narrated by Alexander Portnoy, from a psychiatrist's couch, Roth's novel satirized the dull expectations heaped upon "nice Jewish boys" and immortalized the most ribald manifestations of sexual obsession. His manic tour of one man's onanistic adventures led Jacqueline Susann to comment that "Philip Roth is a good writer, but I wouldn't want to shake hands with him." Although "Portnoy's Complaint" was banned in Australia and attacked by Scholem and others, many critics welcomed the novel as a declaration of creative freedom. "Portnoy's Complaint" sold millions, making Roth wealthy, and, more important, famous. The writer, an observer by nature, was now observed. He was an item in gossip columns, a name debated at parties. Strangers called out to him in the streets. Roth would remember hailing a taxi and, seeing that the driver's last name was Portnoy, commiserating over the book's notoriety.

With Roth finding himself asked whether he really was Portnoy, several of his post-Portnoy novels amounted to a dare: is it fact of fiction? In "The Anatomy Lesson," "The Counterlife" and other novels, the featured character is a Jewish writer from New Jersey named Nathan Zuckerman. He is a man of similar age to Roth who just happened to have written a "dirty" best seller, "Carnovsky," and is lectured by friends and family for putting their lives into his books.

In the 1990s, he reconnected with the larger world and culture of his native country. "American Pastoral" narrated a decent man's decline from high school sports star to victim of the '60s and the "indigenous American berserk." In "The Human Stain," he raged against the impeachment of President Bill Clinton over his affair with a White House intern. "The fantasy of purity is appalling. It's insane," he wrote. Near the end of his writing life, Roth was increasingly preoccupied with history and its sucker punch, how ordinary people were defeated by events beyond their control, like the Jews in "The Plot Against America" or the college student in "Indignation" who dies in the Korean War.

"The most beautiful word in the English language," Roth wrote, "In-dig-na-tion!"

## Pakistani teen slain at Texas school is buried in hometown

By ADIL JAWAD, Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Thousands of people in Karachi attended the funeral Wednesday for a 17-year-old Pakistani exchange student who was killed in a mass shooting at a Texas high school.

Sabika Sheikh was among 10 students and staff slain Friday at Santa Fe High School near Houston.

She was her family's oldest child and began classes at the high school last August. She had been planning to return to Pakistan in a few weeks for Eid al-Fitr, the three-day holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Her tearful father, Abdul Aziz Sheikh, went to the Karachi airport to receive her body early Wednesday as it arrived in her hometown.

Among the many mourners at a city mosque was the provincial governor.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 48 of 52

"Before her death, she was just my daughter, but now she is the daughter of Pakistan, and it is only because of the love of people, who mourned her killing," her father said.

After the coffin was lowered into the ground, he said her life and the lives of others would not be wasted if steps were taken for stricter gun control in the whole world.

According to her father, Sabika Sheikh had hoped to one day join Pakistan's foreign service and become a diplomat.

At a memorial service in Texas over the weekend, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said she continues to be a diplomat "because even in her death, she is pulling the relationships between Pakistan and the United States, specifically the Houston area, even closer."

Police have said the 17-year-old suspect in the shooting used his father's shotgun and .38-caliber handgun. The shooting reignited the debate over gun control in the United States.

Pakistan requires gun owners to be licensed, but the rules are poorly enforced, particularly in the tribal regions along the border with Afghanistan. Heavily armed militant groups have carried out scores of attacks in recent years, including at schools.

## **Pompeo: US will fight Russian interference in 2018 elections**

**By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday the Trump administration will not tolerate Russian interference in the 2018 congressional midterm elections.

Pompeo told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the administration will take "appropriate countermeasures" to fight what he called "continued efforts" by Russia to meddle in November's vote. He did not elaborate on the Russian interference or say what the countermeasures would be but said there was much more work to be done to stop Russia's efforts.

He said the U.S. had not yet been able to establish "effective deterrence" to halt them.

The top-ranking Democrat on the committee, Eliot Engel, however, contended that the Trump administration "is giving Russia a pass" because Russian President Vladimir Putin "supported President Trump over Hillary Clinton" in the 2016 presidential election.

"If we allow foreign interference in our elections so long as it supports our political objectives, then we've put party before country and put our democracy in crisis," Engel said.

Russian meddling in the presidential election remains a touchy topic for President Donald Trump, as the White House tries to combat the threat posed by special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign. Trump denies there was any collusion.

Pompeo was making his first congressional appearance since becoming top diplomat nearly a month ago, after Trump fired his predecessor, Rex Tillerson.

Pompeo was testifying on the State Department's budget, operations and policy priorities, but was asked about a wide range of issues, ranging from diplomacy with North Korea, the pullout from the Iran nuclear deal, and Russia.

"We will not tolerate Russian interference in the 2018 elections," he told lawmakers. "We will take appropriate countermeasures to continued Russian efforts."

He defended the Trump administration's "enormous efforts to push back against Russia," which he claimed were "light-years better than what was done in the previous administration."

## **Critics see no end to foreign favors to Trump businesses**

**By TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — First came news that a Chinese government-owned company had signed on to help build an Indonesian project that will include a Donald Trump-branded hotel and golf course. Then, days later, the president tweeted that his administration would ease sanctions against a Chinese smartphone maker accused of espionage. "Too many jobs in China lost," he wrote.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 49 of 52

Ethics watchdogs and political adversaries called last week's events a blatant case of Trump appearing to trade foreign favors to his business for changes in government policy, exactly the kind of situation they predicted would happen when the real estate mogul turned politician refused to divest from his sprawling business interests.

And they say that such dealmaking will likely become business as usual, unchecked by a Republican-led Congress, court cases that could take years and a public that hasn't gotten too excited about the obscure constitutional prohibition on the president accepting emoluments, or benefits, from foreign governments without congressional approval.

"It's an issue that seems highly technical and complex, and is difficult to link to everyday lives," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who is heading up an emoluments lawsuit brought by about 200 or so members of Congress.

"But when you bring it home to the reason for the emoluments clause, namely to prevent conflicts of interest, so the president will act only for the benefit of the United States, not for his own self-interest, then people should understand that his taking that benefit compromises his priorities," Blumenthal said.

Such concerns have dogged Trump since he took office. His Washington hotel, just blocks from the White House, has become a magnet for foreign governments seeking to influence his administration, including groups tied to Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Trump's financial disclosure last week showed the hotel took in more than \$40 million in revenue last year. To allay fears of conflicts, Trump promised to give the U.S. Treasury the profits from foreign stays at his hotels, which came to \$151,470. His company declined to say how that figure was calculated.

A Quinnipiac University National Poll released in March found that 57 percent of Americans believe Trump is not honest. Still, in the latest Quinnipiac poll last month, Trump's job approval rating stood at 41 percent, matching the highest mark of his presidency.

Shana Gadarian, a political psychologist at Syracuse University, said those who pay attention to politics tend to be more partisan and often set aside information they find inconsistent with their beliefs.

"To the extent that you like this administration," she said, "you might say this is just the way business is done. This isn't a concern."

Whether there was a quid pro quo in the China-Indonesia deal, similarly, depends on whom you ask.

An Indonesian company, MNC Land, confirmed last 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. MNC Land 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.

MNC Land said the Trump Organization 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.

The Trump Organization did not respond to a request for comment. China's foreign and commerce ministries and the Cabinet's news office also did not respond to requests for comment. Calls to the China Metallurgical Group rang unanswered.

James Schultz, a former associate White House counsel for Trump, said the argument that Trump was violating the emoluments clause merely because a theme park is being built near a Trump hotel property is "farfetched."

Just 72 hours after that deal was announced, Trump sent a tweet that marked what appeared to be a major reversal in the government's stance on massive Chinese phone company ZTE and on Trump's "America First" foreign policy.

The U.S. intelligence community has warned about the Chinese smartphone maker's perceived ties to the Chinese government and its possible use for remote surveillance. ZTE has been fined in recent years for shipping American goods to five embargoed countries, including Iran and North Korea. The Pentagon banned ZTE phones from retail stores on military bases because the devices could be a security risk. And 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 50 of 52

That ban particularly was devastating to ZTE and its 75,000 employees, with the company recently announcing it was halting operations.

Trump tweeted that he was working with the president of China "to give massive Chinese phone company, ZTE, a way to get back into business, fast. Too many jobs in China lost. Commerce Department has been instructed to get it done!"

Don Fox, the former general counsel of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, said the Chinese "knew exactly what they were investing in" with the deal in Indonesia. "It also strains credulity that the president wasn't aware of this when he made his favorable comments about ZTE."

Three pending lawsuits, which could potentially take years to litigate, are likely the key to untangling whether such a business deal, in addition to the various bookings of Trump properties by lobbyists, foreign governments, corporate and political interests, constitute emoluments. The president's attorneys have disputed that.

"It is our only real remedy," Blumenthal said of the cases. "It may sound like a sign of frustration, and inertia, but the founders provided us this sole remedy. ... We need a judge to order the president to obey the law."

## 'Nut rage' Korean Air heiress questioned over housekeepers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A Korean Air heiress whose tantrum over nuts delayed a flight nearly four years ago is being investigated by South Korean immigration officials on suspicion she unlawfully hired housekeepers from the Philippines.

Cho Hyun-ah on Thursday bowed and apologized for "causing troubles" before entering a Korea Immigration Service office in Seoul for questioning.

Cho and her sister resigned from their executive positions at Korean Air in April following public criticism over their behavior and allegations their family mistreated and abused employees. Investigators are also looking into suspicions that the Cho family, including the company's chairman Cho Yang-ho, evaded taxes and used airline services to smuggle luxury goods.

Cho's sister, Cho Hyun-min, is currently under investigation for allegedly hurling a cup of water during a business meeting.

In December 2014, Cho got angry after she was served macadamia nuts in a bag instead of on a dish and her tantrum forced the Korean Air plane to return to a boarding gate at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport. She was released from jail in South Korea in May 2015 after the top court suspended her sentence over the case.

Immigration officials suspect Cho and her mother, Lee Myeong-hee, unlawfully recruited and hired about 10 to 20 housekeepers from the Philippines by documenting them as Korean Air trainees. Under South Korean law, foreign nationals must obtain visas given to marriage migrants or people of Korean heritage to work as housekeepers.

## Asian shares mixed after Fed gives Wall Street a boost

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia on Thursday after U.S. stocks reversed early losses and finished higher as investors appraised the Federal Reserve's signal that it is not in a hurry to raise interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 1.2 percent to 22,418.18 and the Kospi in South Korea slipped 0.3 percent to 2,464.74. Australia's S&P ASX 200 gave up 0.2 percent to 6,021.60 and the Shanghai Composite index was down less than 0.1 percent at 3,167.83. Shares rose in Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore but fell in Thailand.

WALL STREET: Shares recovered from early losses after the Fed released minutes from its meeting in early May, where officials concluded that the U.S. central bank should be on track to keep raising interest

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 51 of 52

rates gradually. Some said it wouldn't be a problem if inflation briefly went past the Fed's target rate of 2 percent. The S&P 500 index rose 0.3 percent to 2,733.29 and the Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.2 percent to 24,886.81. The Nasdaq composite climbed 0.6 percent to 7,425.96. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks edged 0.1 percent higher, to 1,627.61.

ANALYST'S PERSPECTIVE: "Fasten up as this will surely get bumpier with Tariff's, NAFTA and North Korea dominating headlines still," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary. "The underperformance of emerging market currencies and heightened global geopolitical risks should continue to wear on investors risk appetite."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 19 cents to \$71.65 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 36 cents to \$71.84 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 25 cents to \$79.55.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dropped to 109.45 yen from 110.09 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1704 from \$1.1697.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay contributed. He can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 24, the 144th day of 2018. There are 221 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 24, 1968, the Rolling Stones single "Jumpin' Jack Flash" was released in the United Kingdom by Decca Records.

On this date:

In 1775, John Hancock was unanimously elected President of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, succeeding Peyton Randolph.

In 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message "What hath God wrought" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

In 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge, linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, was dedicated by President Chester Alan Arthur and New York Gov. Grover Cleveland.

In 1918, Bela Bartok's one-act opera "Bluebeard's Castle" had its premiere in Budapest.

In 1937, in a set of rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Social Security Act of 1935.

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British battle cruiser HMS Hood in the North Atlantic, killing all but three of the 1,418 men on board.

In 1958, United Press International was formed through a merger of the United Press and the International News Service.

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde supersonic transport service to Washington.

In 1980, Iran rejected a call by the World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages.

In 1994, four Islamic fundamentalists convicted of bombing New York's World Trade Center in 1993 were each sentenced to 240 years in prison.

In 2001, 23 people were killed when the floor of a Jerusalem wedding hall collapsed beneath dancing guests, sending them plunging several stories into the basement.

Ten years ago: British actor Rob Knox, 18, who had completed filming a minor role in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," was stabbed to death during a brawl in London. (His attacker was later sentenced to life in prison.) Comedy performer and director Dick Martin of TV's "Laugh-In" fame died in Santa Monica, California, at age 86.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 314 ~ 52 of 52

Five years ago: President Barack Obama addressed the sexual assault epidemic staining the military, telling U.S. Naval Academy graduates to remember their honor depended on what they did when nobody was looking and said the crime had "no place in the greatest military on earth." British fighter jets intercepted a Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 777 carrying more than 300 people from Pakistan and diverted it to an isolated runway at London-Stansted Airport, where two British passengers who had allegedly threatened to destroy the plane were arrested. Toronto Mayor Rob Ford denied that he smoked crack cocaine and said he was not an addict after a video purported to show him using the drug.

One year ago: Setting past differences and rude comments aside, President Donald Trump and Pope Francis put a determinedly positive face on their first meeting at the Vatican. Ariana Grande suspended her Dangerous Woman world tour and canceled several European shows due to the deadly bombing at her concert in Manchester, England, two days earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian-impressionist Stanley Baxter is 92. Jazz musician Archie Shepp is 81. Comedian Tommy Chong is 80. Singer Bob Dylan is 77. Actor Gary Burghoff is 75. Singer Patti LaBelle is 74. Actress Priscilla Presley is 73. Country singer Mike Reid is 71. Actor Jim Broadbent is 69. Actor Alfred Molina is 65. Singer Rosanne Cash is 63. Actor Cliff Parisi is 58. Actress Kristin Scott Thomas is 58. Rock musician Jimmy Ashurst (Buckcherry) is 55. Rock musician Vivian Trimble is 55. Actor John C. Reilly is 53. Actor Dana Ashbrook is 51. Actor Eric Close is 51. Actor Carl Payne is 49. Rock musician Rich Robinson is 49. Actor Dash Mihok is 44. Actor Bryan Greenburg is 40. Actor Owen Benjamin is 38. Actor Billy L. Sullivan is 38. Actor-rapper Jerod Mixon (aka Big Tyme) is 37. Rock musician Cody Hanson (Hinder) is 36. Dancer-choreographer-singer Mark Ballas is 32. Country singer Billy Gilman is 30. Rapper/producer G-Eazy is 29. Actress Brianne Howey is 29. Actor Cayden Boyd is 24.

Thought for Today: "The easiest thing to be in the world is you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don't let them put you in that position." — Leo Buscaglia, American motivational speaker (1924-1998).