


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 1 of 38



- 1- Schultz Construction Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Three record highs set
- 2- Robert Whitmyre for Dist. 1
- 2- Groton Care and Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 3- Groton Legion Ad
- 3- The First Official Memorial Day
- 3- Agtegra Ad
- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- National Weather map
- 6- Today's Weather Almanac
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 9- News from the Associated Press



Check out our portfolio on Facebook at
Schultz-Construction-LLC
~ New Construction and Remodeling-
renovations, additions, and carpentry
work
~ Concrete- foundations, flatwork,
decorative concrete surfaces.

605-380-1717
www.shawnschultzconstruction.com

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

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.

We will be Livestreaming the Groton Memorial Day Program at GDILIVE.COM.

It starts at 11 a.m. today.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 2 of 38

Three record highs set

The last three days have set record highs according to information from the National Weather Service in Aberdeen. On Friday, a new record high of 94 degrees was set, breaking a high of 93 degrees set in 1941. Saturday saw a record high of 97 degrees breaking a record high set in 1900 of 94 degrees. A new record was set on Sunday with the temperature reaching 101 degrees in Aberdeen. That shattered the previous record of 98 degrees set in 1934.

I don't think we will set a new record today as the temperature is suppose to cool down into the upper 80s to low 90s. The record high for today is 102 degrees set, again, in 1934.

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

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 3 of 38

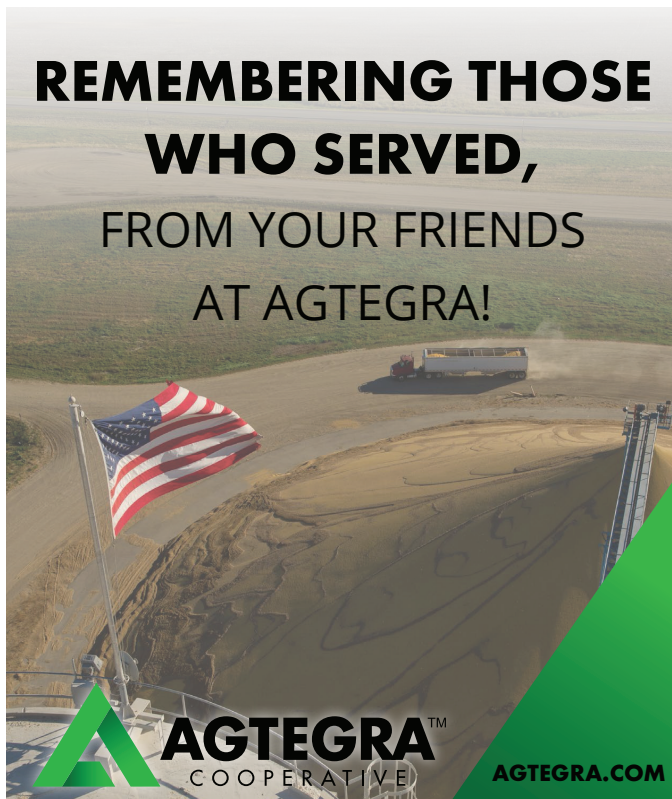
The First Official Memorial Day

May 30, 1868

Do you celebrate Memorial Day? In 1868, Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the grand Army of the Republic issued what was called General Order Number 11, designating May 30 as a memorial day. He declared it to be "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land." Where do you suppose that first Memorial Day took place?

The first national celebration of Memorial Day (originally Decoration Day) took place May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. The national observance of Memorial Day still takes place there today, with the placing of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the decoration of each grave with a small American flag. The holiday has changed a bit since it first began, which some argue was even earlier than Logan's dedication.


Southern women decorated the graves of soldiers even before the end of the Civil War. After the war, a women's memorial association in Columbus, Mississippi, put flowers on the graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers in 1866, an act of generosity that inspired the poem by Francis Miles Finch, "The Blue and the Grey," published in the Atlantic Monthly. In 1971, federal law changed the observance of the holiday to the last Monday in May and extended it to honor all those who died in American wars. People pay tribute not only with flowers but also with speeches and parades. Whom do you honor on Memorial Day?



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

AGTEGRA™
COOPERATIVE

AGTEGRA.COM



All gave some...
Some gave all
Remember them this
Memorial Day

**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)**

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 4 of 38

Today in Weather History

May 28, 1934: Watertown recorded a high temperature of 102 degrees, which is the earliest yearly date when Watertown reached 100 degrees.

May 28, 1965: Low temperatures were mostly for the mid to upper 20s across a broad area. The low temperatures set back some crops and caused light damage to others. Some low temperatures around the area include; 26 degrees in Andover; 27 in Ipswich; 28 in Britton, Leola and McLaughlin; and 29 in Clear Lake, Eureka, Gettysburg, and Pierre.

1880: An estimated F4 tornado hit Savoy, Texas. The storm killed 14 people, and 60 others were injured. It leveled the entire business and northeast residential sections. The tornado was described as "a funnel blazing with balls of fire."

1877 - A "terrific" two day long sandstorm (sand) blasted Yuma, AZ. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1942 - The latest snowstorm of record for the state of Iowa left ten inches at LeMars, eight inches at Cherokee, and 7.5 inches at Waukon. Afternoon highs were in the lower 30s in parts of northwestern Iowa. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - A storm produced heavy snow across Wisconsin, with ten inches reported at Gay Mills. The snow damaged fruit and other trees, and downed power lines. The storm was followed by the coldest weather of the month for much of the High Plains Region and Missouri Valley. Williston ND reported a low of 21 degrees the morning of the 28th, and the next morning Cheyenne WY reported a morning low of 16 above zero. (David Ludlum)

1973: An F3 tornado moved east and struck the northern portion of Athens, Georgia. Destruction was massive near Athens, with losses estimated at ten million dollars. Damage from the storm included 545 homes and 17 businesses. Hundreds of large trees more than 100 years old were destroyed.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in Oklahoma and northern Texas. Lake Altus, OK, was deluged with nine inches of rain. Up to eight inches drenched northern Texas, and baseball size hail was reported north of Seminole and at Knickerbocker. Ten to 13 inch rains soaked central Oklahoma the last five days of May resulting in an estimated 65 million dollars damage, and forcing several thousand persons to evacuate their homes, many by boat or helicopter. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front began to usher cold, wet and windy weather into the western U.S. Thunderstorms in the Great Plains Region produced wind gusts to 80 mph near Brookings, SD. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in Florida. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The record high of 98 degrees at Lakeland, FL, was their fifth in a row. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Florida late in the day, with golf ball size hail reported at Kissimmee. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Two to five inches of rain over southeastern Ohio on the 28th and 29th capped an exceptionally wet month of May, and triggered widespread flooding. Flooding which resulted claimed three lives, and caused millions of dollars damage. Numerous roads in southeast Ohio were flooded and impassable, and many other roads were blocked by landslides. (Storm Data)





2015: Some parts of Oklahoma have seen more than a foot of rain during May 2015. Storms killed at least 17 people in Texas and Oklahoma, and more than a dozen are still missing. State climatologist Gary McManus from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey calculated the May rainfall total averaged over all Sooner State reporting stations through midday May 29 - 14.18 inches - was easily outpacing the previous record wet month, set in October 1941 (10.75 inches).

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 5 of 38

Mon May 28	Tue May 29	Wed May 30	Thu May 31	Fri Jun 1	Sat Jun 2	Sun Jun 3
						
90°F	85°F	82°F	87°F	92°F	83°F	78°F
67°F	64°F	58°F	63°F	65°F	57°F	60°F
NE 13 MPH	SSE 19 MPH	S 13 MPH	N 8 MPH	SE 17 MPH	SE 14 MPH	WSW 11 MPH
Precip 30%	Precip 40%	Precip 40%			Precip 50%	

Scattered Showers and Storms again Today into Wednesday

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
			
Highs: 78-92 F	Lows: 61-67 F Highs: 79-87 F	Lows: 58-66 F Highs: 80-85 F	Lows: 55-62 F Highs: 82-88 F

Memorial Day will be slightly cooler across the region with highs ranging from the upper 70s west of the Missouri River to the lower 90s east of the James Valley. Otherwise, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop again this afternoon and tonight. Some strong to severe storms are possible.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 6 of 38

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 99.4 F at 5:40 PM (RECORD HIGH)

Low Outside Temp: 71.5 F at 4:29 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 37.0 Mph at 3:50 PM

Precip: 0.07

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1934

Record Low: 30° in 1965

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May: 2.81

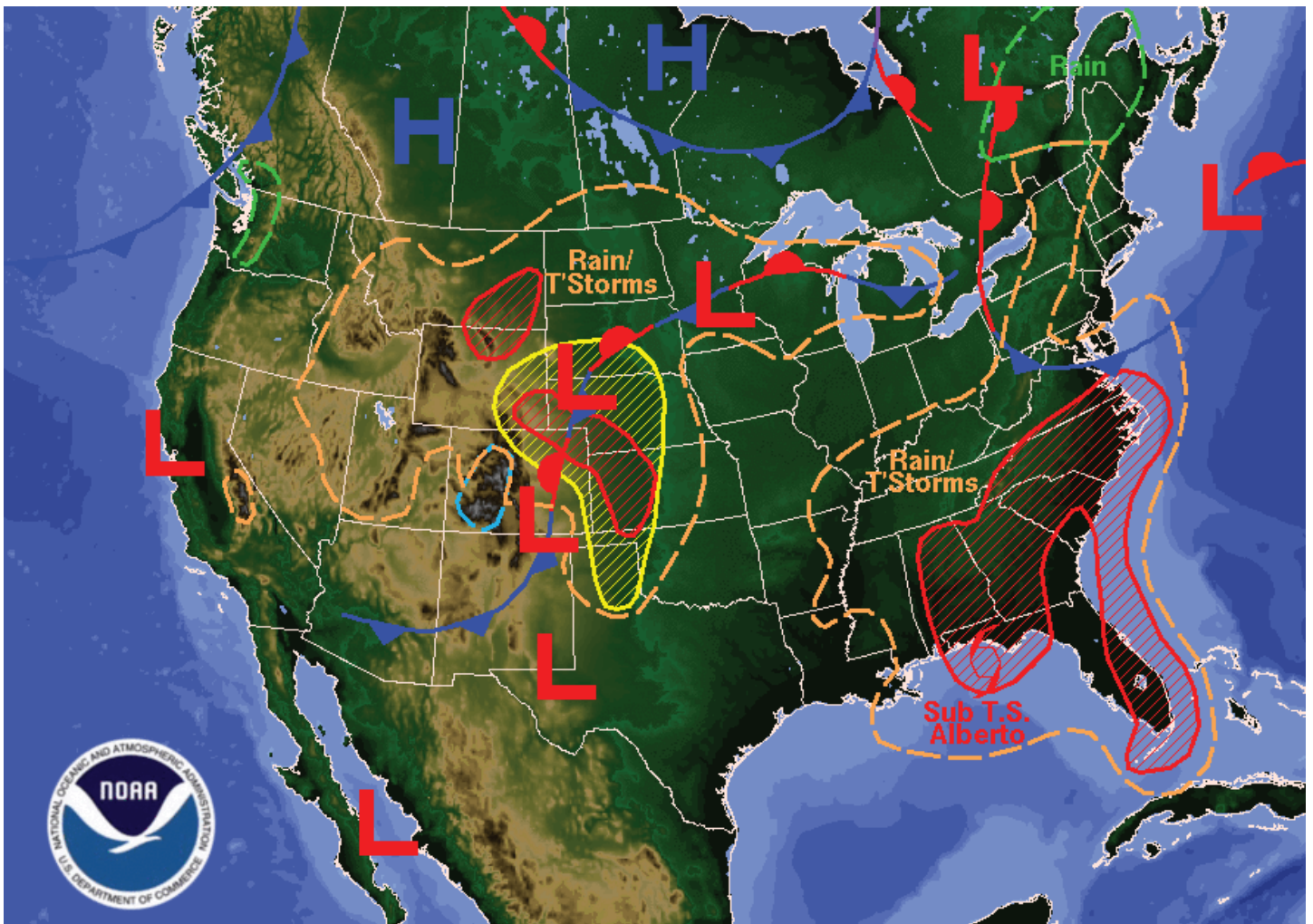
Precip to date in May: 1.62

Average Precip to date: 6.84

Precip Year to Date: 4.30

Sunset Tonight: 9:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, May 28, 2018, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 7 of 38



GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

Betsy ended her prayer and was about to get in bed. With a puzzled look on her face she turned to her Dad and asked, "Daddy, did I leave anything out? I have so many things to thank Jesus for. I sure don't want to forget any of them. Jesus is really good to us, isn't He Daddy?"

The author of Psalm 116 was also aware of God's goodness. Betsy wanted to make sure that she thanked God for being so good to her. She must have itemized her list in her mind like she had been to a grocery store and wanted to make sure that she remembered everything.

However, the Psalmist must have had a balance sheet in mind when he asked, "How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?" How different from Betsy. She simply wanted to offer her thanks for the gifts that He gave her. But the Psalmist looked at what God gave him from a different perspective: He wanted to pay God for what He had done for him. However, it is impossible to repay God! If we could somehow pay God for His gifts they would not be gifts.

This brings us to the very heart of the Bible - a loving God who gives. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." God gives and we are to receive.

Suddenly, the Psalmist realized that the Lord is not a salesman who has anything to sell - but a Giver who gives His salvation freely. Rejoicing he said, "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord."

There is nothing that delights our Creator more than for those who He created to accept the Gift of His Son.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the many gifts You lavish on us each day. But we are most thankful for saving us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 116:13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 8 of 38

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)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 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

Residents in Armour recall 2017 storm

By MARK ANDERSEN, The Daily Republic

ARMOUR, S.D. (AP) — Bank employees Arlene Hinckley and Sheila Payer rushed to a pane of glass overlooking Armour's Main Street just as sheets of metal roofing raced ahead of the pouring rain and hail.

One full year later, sitting beneath a new bank roof, they questioned why they lacked enough sense to seek shelter during the morning excitement of May 15, 2017.

"I don't want to live through that again," said Hinckley, before adding, "or I want to be smart enough to take cover."

The storm brought winds of 60- to 80-mph and up to 2 inches of rain. It revealed not only the good of rural living — people volunteering to help people — but also the challenge of owning a small business on the Plains.

As baby cumulus clouds recently bubbled into calm heavens, residents of Armour, population 880, recalled how people trailed outside after the departing storm clouds to cut neighbors' fallen limbs, haul debris and patch roofs. Hinckley and Payer bought cases of water and delivered bottles to thirsty farmers on tractors, small children picking up branches, and even the elderly doing what they could.

"Everybody pitches in," Payer said.

A year later, all visible trace of the storm has been removed except for some broken red bricks alongside a downtown veterinary clinic, The Daily Republic reported.

But not everyone sees rainbows, and the storm may have presented just one challenge too many for Bryan Mulder of Trail Rite, whose trailer manufacturing and repair shop sustained some of the worst damage.

To Mulder, it seems as if the storm singled him out, missing the next-door bar, peeling the large roof off his building, sparing his neighbor to the north, and then destroying his paint booth just beyond.

A year later, he's hired a lawyer to fight an insurance company, looks at the flat farm economy, threats of pending tariffs, and wonders whether his 32nd year at the Armour business will be his last.

"It could always be worse," he said, repeating past consolations, and then adding, "but I don't know how."

People watching his store from across Hwy. 281 told Mulder the roof lifted straight into the sky, spun seven or eight times, slid over slightly and slammed onto two recently completed trailers.

The National Weather Service defined the storm as straight-line winds, although people watching from outside of town swear they saw tails descending from funnel clouds.

As notes Tyler Wilson, manager of Wilson True Value, straight winds and tornadoes have a similar character.

Inside Wilson's store, a gift and small appliance section got soaked after the store's roof was rent by debris. True Value recovered quickly from the storm. Wilson boarded up a broken window, emergency crews patched the old rubber roof, staff swept up glass and broken wall, and then Wilson set out to help neighbors. Insurance covered the bulk of damages and a new roof, Wilson said. It took a few weeks to sort through and replace soaked items. On the storm's one-year anniversary, nobody really took notice.

"I didn't hear anybody talking about it," Wilson said as he repaired mowers in his back shop.

Mulder's wife, however, brought it up immediately when she called her husband at his trailer shop Tuesday morning.

"I had a long talk with my wife the other day," Mulder said. "We'll see how it goes the next six months. It may be time to move on, move out," he said. "There's nothing here in Armour for me anymore."

It's OK to print that, Mulder said. He's been saying it out loud.

On May 15, 2017, the winds came, then rain, then hail, and then rain again. Afterward, his roof was gone, his plasma cutters and welding machines tipped over and soaking wet, inside and out. He did what he could to move equipment into a protected area, and by midafternoon more than a dozen guys had shown up with offers of help.

"Then there were a lot of 'ifs,' 'ands' and 'buts,'" he said.

It took more than two months to find a contractor with enough slack in their schedule to make the repairs, and Mulder bartered two trailers into a deal to make it happen even that quickly. For three months, he said, his business was at a standstill.

His insurer paid for damages to the building but balked at paying for most of the soaked items inside. A call to regulators in Pierre yielded nothing, Mulder said, so he has hired a Wagner lawyer.

"It's more of a struggle now than it was at the time," he said.

The presidential threat of a tariff on Chinese steel has driven metal costs crazy, Mulder said. Meanwhile, low farm income and the worries of Chinese retaliation tariffs against agriculture have put farmers in a saving mood.

"I don't think farmers will be spending any money now on trailers," he said.

Mulder started working in what was his father's shop in 1986. He has two employees. It's been getting harder to compete with other operations.

"It's been a year I'll never forget," he said.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

South Dakota teacher retires after 50 years

By **PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Children crowded around Jan McEntee and called out requests for their favorite story.

McEntee paused, thinking about which one to tell first.

Or maybe she was just taking it in — one of the last times excited third-graders would surround her at the front of the class, asking to hear stories from the farm.

There's one about the time her brother tied her to a tree. Or the time she and her siblings sewed the leg back on a pig.

"This is the best story," said Sydney Patzwald, 9, sidling up to McEntee as she launched into another tale.

For 50 years, McEntee courted the attention students at St. Mary School in Sioux Falls with farm stories, lessons and love.

May 17 was the last classroom day for the teacher everyone at St. Mary knows as "Miss Mac."

In the morning, McEntee asked her students clean out their desks for the last time. The 70-year-old Mitchell native called out orders, reminding students to scrub twice.

Children dutifully obeyed. One boy came up to ask about what he should do about the gum under his desk. He returned a few minutes later, insisting he would find some way to scrape it off before McEntee told him to leave it alone.

Curriculum trends swing back and forth like a pendulum, but a pendulum always passes through the middle, McEntee said. She believes the key to being a good teacher is knowing each student.

Know each child, and you can better figure out how to help them learn, McEntee said.

"They have to know that you love them," she told the Argus Leader. "If they know that, then you can teach them anything."

McEntee was in third grade when she decided to become a teacher. She had a bad experience and wanted to make a difference.

"To make learning fun," she said. "Because for me, it was not fun."

McEntee graduated with a two-year certificate from Presentation College in Aberdeen before starting at St. Mary in 1968.

There just happened to be an opening in third grade, because the old teacher moved to a different class.

She taught in the same classroom for 27 years before moving to her current room on the other side of the building.

All along, she taught third grade. She loves teaching students that age.

"They're the best. You start out the year and they still need you," McEntee said. "And then, as they go through the year, you start seeing that independence start developing."

Rowan Noonan, 9, will remember McEntee for her helpfulness and hugs.

"I love her hugs," Noonan said.

The trick is patting the other person's back, McEntee said.

"They call me the Mad Hugger of St. Mary's," she said.

Before McEntee started teaching, she made a deal with God. She promised she would teach for 50 years if God gave her a good place to teach good students, McEntee.

By the end of Thursday, McEntee made good on her word.

"This was my mission," she said.

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

Pavement pounding: Record high temps lead to buckling roads

MILWAUKEE (AP) — It has been a hot holiday weekend across areas of the Upper Midwest.

Record high temperatures were recorded Sunday across Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas, where authorities have reported concrete roads buckling from the heat.

Several cities reported highs in the mid- to upper-90s.

The heat took its toll on many roads. In Wisconsin, the southbound lane of Interstate 41 near Fond du Lac was shut down for about two hours after the concrete broke apart. In South Dakota, a similar situation was reported along Interstate 90 near Chamberlain.



South Dakota DOT was called to Interstate 90 near Humboldt SD to fix this.

(Photo from SD Highway Patrol Facebook Page)



With the heat comes the chances for concrete roads to #BuckleUp. This was the situation yesterday on Interstate 90 in Brule County, near #Chamberlain-SD. SDDOT had just finished patching the driving lane when the inside lane buckled up. No vehicles were damaged. Be aware of this occurring on any concrete based road in this kind of heat. The Brule County Sheriffs Department assisted with traffic control..

(Photo from SD Highway Patrol Facebook Page)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 12 of 38

Several cities have opened up cooling centers, including in Rock County, Wisconsin, and the Twin Cities metro area.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued an air quality alert for Monday for several cities in the southern part of the state.

South Dakota student wins national land judging competition

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A high school student in eastern South Dakota has become a national champion after winning the National Land and Range Judging Contest.

McCook Central High School sophomore Katelyn Winberg was awarded first place in homesite evaluation at the national competition held in Oklahoma City earlier this month, the Daily Republic reported. Winberg is a member of FFA, a national group for students interested in agriculture and leadership.

Land judging gives students the opportunity to learn about land productivity and conservation management. Homesite evaluation involves soil properties and landscape position that can impact how suitable a site is for home construction.

Winberg competed against roughly 900 FFA and 4-H students. She's also a member of 4-H, the largest youth development organization in the U.S.

After competing for a year in 4-H and FFA, Winberg qualified to compete nationally for agriscience in eighth grade, she said.

"Qualifying for Nationals was my first big achievement," she said.

The 67th annual National Land and Range Judging Contest this year followed the South Dakota State FFA Convention in Brookings last month. Winberg won first place in nursery landscape.

Winberg said her FFA adviser and teacher, Terry Rieckman, had her practice soil, slopes and textures every day to prepare for the competition.

"Texture and slope are probably the two hardest things to determine, but if you can determine those two, you can be like Katelyn Winberg and get a perfect score," Rieckman said.

Winberg said the experience taught her to push herself and work hard.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

South Dakota city plans \$500K sidewalk renovation

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — Construction is set to begin later this year on a \$500,000 sidewalk project in a city the southwest part of South Dakota.

The Hill City project has been years in the making, the Rapid City Journal reported. City administrator Brett McMacken said it's a simple project with "a few curveballs."

Plans are being made to reconfigure the sidewalk in front of downtown businesses on the west side of the city's Main Street. It currently has an upper sidewalk that was installed decades ago and convenient for delivery trucks to offload goods. The sidewalk also includes a lower walkway for pedestrian traffic.

McMacken said the uneven transition between the upper and lower sidewalks is a safety concern.

The renovation project will include widening the upper sidewalk and ridding the transition step. A railing will also be installed. The sidewalk's access points will provide safer pedestrian access to the businesses.

The project is expected to be funded through a combination of dollars from the city and federal transportation grant funds administered through the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

The city will pay about \$70,000, with \$340,000 to \$360,000 coming from grant funds.

"Those are kind of floating numbers that may change once we get into the construction phase," McMacken said. "We're looking at a \$450,000 to \$500,000 project when it's all said and done."

McMacken said he hopes to have bids on the project in the next couple of months, with construction starting in October.

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

Criticisms sharpen as Republican governor primary nears

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's polite Republican governor primary burst into recriminations in its waning days as Rep. Kristi Noem pressed Attorney General Marty Jackley over the timing of a state payout to a former state agent — a charge Jackley's team dismissed as a "desperate political stunt."

The primary had been quietly racing toward the June 5 election, but Noem's campaign last week sharpened its message, criticizing Jackley for what it called a "blatant disregard for the needs of victims." Jackley's side accused Noem of going negative just before Election Day after a race marked mostly by coded criticisms.

GOP primary voters will decide between the pair as their nominee to succeed outgoing Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Noem, who would be South Dakota Republicans' first female governor nominee, has money on her side, recently reporting more than \$1 million in the bank compared to Jackley's roughly \$630,000. The winner will face Democrat Billie Sutton, a state senator and former professional rodeo cowboy, in the general election.

The candidates tried to stand out on experience. Noem said she's fought for conservative values in D.C.; Jackley touted his tenure as South Dakota's former U.S. attorney and attorney general, a post he's held since 2009.

Noem said crime has gotten worse during Jackley's time as the state's chief law enforcement officer, while Jackley repeatedly criticized "Washington" — without naming Noem — as ineffective. But the reproaches took a harsher edge after a federal judge ordered the state Division of Criminal Investigation director to appear in court over the timeline for paying roughly \$1.5 million to a former agent who won a discrimination and retaliation lawsuit.

The settlement was paid after the judge's order, but Noem's campaign said Jackley — who oversees DCI — tried to silence the victim for political gain. Noem stopped short of making the criticisms herself during a debate.

Jackley's team said a state risk management office negotiated the settlement and Jackley had no authority over it.

"Marty Jackley has been a tireless advocate for victims, and South Dakota will see through any attempt to detract from his character in the final days of this campaign," campaign manager Jason Glodt said in a statement.

As attorney general, Jackley has ushered a wide range of legislation through the statehouse, listing as accomplishments laws addressing public corruption, fighting human trafficking and imposing harsher penalties for methamphetamine dealing and manufacturing.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, who has worked with Jackley for years on litigation, said Jackley led the charge in a legal bid to collect sales taxes from out-of-state internet retailers, a case that could have national implications for e-commerce. North Dakota was among dozens of states that filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, which Jackley argued in April before the Supreme Court.

"He took the lead on that from the beginning, and it's unusual that an attorney general gets an opportunity to argue personally in the Supreme Court of the United States," Stenehjem said. "It will be especially important if he wins, which I think he will."

Noem — who was first elected to Congress in 2010 — highlighted her role negotiating the 2014 Farm Bill and the GOP's recent federal tax cuts. State House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a farmer near Platte, said Noem was instrumental in the tax overhaul.

"She had a huge hand in that, and all of this has been very beneficial to small business, to farmers and ranchers, and I know that that's where her heart lies, is with small business," Qualm said. "She knows what we go through every day out there."

Noem said she's also secured additional funding for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System and passed legislation changing ownership of nine Black Hills cemeteries from the U.S. Forest Service to their local communities.

Noem said the biggest challenges South Dakota is facing are getting workers to fill jobs and crime and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 14 of 38

drug use. She's promised to protect state residents from tax increases and more government regulations, improve state transparency and fight federal government intrusion.

"I recognize that we have a wonderful state, but we should not be happy with the status quo," Noem said.

Both have vowed not to raise taxes. But Noem has pledged not to create new government boards or commissions, while Jackley has said he would use them because "government doesn't have all the solutions."

Jackley said his priorities as governor would be creating new and higher-paying jobs, strengthening education, providing access to more affordable health care and keeping South Dakota communities safe.

"South Dakotans have not seen Washington solving their problems, and there's a feeling that we need somebody that knows South Dakota best and will always put South Dakota first," Jackley said.

Economist to lead Italy to new election amid political drama

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Amid growing political turmoil, economist Carlo Cottarelli was tapped on Monday to lead Italy to early elections, possibly as soon as after the summer, after populist parties failed to convince the president their Cabinet picks wouldn't destroy international investors' faith in the country.

A former International Monetary Fund official and a specialist in budget slashing, Cottarelli told reporters at the presidential Quirinal Palace that he had accepted President Sergio Mattarella's request to form a government "that will bring the country to new elections."

Inconclusive March 4 elections left the country facing what has proved to be an intractable political impasse. Bond markets suggested investors are becoming more cautious about lending to Italy.

Cottarelli expressed hope his appointment could calm the markets.

"In the last few days, tensions have increased in the financial markets," the premier-designate said. "In any case, the Italian economy is growing, and the public accounts remain under control. A government led by me would assure prudent management of our public accounts."

But with the prospect of anti-euro political sentiment suddenly gaining traction in Italy, and another election approaching, markets remained on edge. The government's benchmark borrowing rate increased further, a sign of caution, even after Cottarelli was tapped. The 10-year rate hit 2.6 percent Monday, up sharply from 1.7 percent last month. That is still very manageable for the government, however, and well below the 7 percent rate that forced a change of government in 2011.

Weeks ago, an exasperated Mattarella told the nation that if Italy's squabbling parties failed to join forces for Italians' common good and forge a viable coalition, he would tap a technocrat, an expert not directly affiliated to political parties, to take the country to elections by year's end.

That is what ultimately happened after Mattarella on Sunday night refused to approve the populists' choice of an economy minister who has raised the specter of Italy having to someday exit from the euro, the EU currency shared by 19 countries.

The 5-Star Movement and the right-wing League, the Eurosceptic parties which were thwarted in their bid to give Italy its first populist government, have vowed to give Cottarelli the thumbs down in required confidence votes in Parliament.

A government led by Cottarelli "is born dead," said 5-Star proponent Manlio Di Stefano. "It makes no sense to speak about it in a serious way."

Mattarella's veto enraged both the 5-Stars' Luigi Di Maio, who threatened to start impeachment proceedings against him, and League leader Salvini, who had essentially issued the president an ultimatum over his economy minister candidate — approve him or the coalition implodes and the turndown becomes campaign fodder to excite voters feeling their political will was foiled.

Buoyed by recent triumphs in local elections, Salvini immediately started charting the new political landscape with elections looming on the horizon.

"This isn't democracy, this isn't respect for the popular vote," Salvini said. "It's just the last gasp of the strong powers who want Italy as a frightened, precarious slave."

"The next elections will be a plebiscite, the people and real life against the old castes and the Lords of

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 15 of 38

the Spread," Salvini said, referring to financial speculators, in a statement issued by his League.

In his brief remarks, Cottarelli made plain he knew any government of fellow technocrats he assembles might not be approved by Parliament.

"In case of failing to win the confidence votes, the government would immediately resign, and its task would be that of routine administration until elections after the month of August," he said.

Cottarelli said that should his proposed Cabinet be confirmed in Parliament, he would set to work to ensure the country's official budget is approved by lawmakers. The budget law must be approved by December.

After that, Mattarella would dissolve Parliament and set elections for 2019, Cottarelli said.

Mattarella said he had vetoed Salvini's economy minister candidate to spare Italian investors, businesses and families seeing more of their resources "burned" up by nervous markets losing faith in Italy's willingness to back the euro and European Union.

Colleen Barry in Milan and Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this report.

Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at www.twitter.com/fdemilio

US team in NKorea raises expectations of a Trump-Kim summit **By CATHERINE LUCEY, MATTHEW LEE, HYUNG-JIN KIM and FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press**

A U.S. team was in North Korea to plan a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, according to President Donald Trump, raising expectations that the on-off-on meeting would indeed take place.

Both the State Department and South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the American and North Korean officials have been engaged in talks at the Korean village of Panmunjom, which straddles the border inside the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ. One can cross the border simply by stepping across a painted line, but moving beyond several footsteps into the North at Panmunjom would be rare for U.S. officials.

Trump withdrew from a planned June 12 Singapore summit with Kim last Thursday, but quickly announced it could still happen. His tweet Sunday afternoon, which offered praise for the longtime U.S. adversary, was the latest signal that his concerns about the North's stance toward the summit had been allayed.

"Our United States team has arrived in North Korea to make arrangements for the Summit between Kim Jong Un and myself," he tweeted Sunday. "I truly believe North Korea has brilliant potential and will be a great economic and financial Nation one day. Kim Jong Un agrees with me on this. It will happen!"

South Korean President Moon Jae-in gave details about his surprise meeting Saturday with Kim in Panmunjom, saying Kim had committed to sitting down with Trump and to a "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tapped veteran American diplomat Sung Kim, the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, to handle pre-summit negotiations. On a separate but complementary track was the CIA team Pompeo set up last year when he headed the spy agency. And on a third track was a White House logistical group sent to Singapore on Sunday to prepare in case the summit takes place. It was led by Joe Hagin, White House deputy chief of staff for operations.

The Korean leaders' second summit in a month saw bear hugs and broad smiles. But their quickly arranged meeting appeared to highlight a sense of urgency on both sides of the world's most heavily armed border.

The talks, which Moon said Kim Jong Un requested, capped a whirlwind 24 hours of diplomatic back and forth. They allowed Moon to push for a U.S.-North Korean summit that he sees as the best way to ease animosity that had some fearing a war last year.

Kim may see a meeting with Trump as necessary to easing pressure from crushing sanctions and to winning security assurances in a region surrounded by enemies.

Moon told reporters that Kim said he's willing to cooperate to end confrontation and work toward peace for the sake of the successful summit with Trump.

Moon said he told Kim that Trump has a "firm resolve" to end hostile relations with North Korea and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 16 of 38

initiate economic cooperation if Kim implements "complete denuclearization."

"What Kim is unclear about is that he has concerns about whether his country can surely trust the United States over its promise to end hostile relations (with North Korea) and provide a security guarantee if they do denuclearization," Moon said.

"During the South Korea-U.S. summit, President Trump said the U.S. is willing to clearly put an end to hostile relations (between the U.S. and North Korea) and help (the North) achieve economic prosperity if North Korea conducts denuclearization," he said.

Kim, in a dispatch issued by the North's state-run news service earlier Sunday, "expressed his fixed will on the historic (North Korea)-U.S. summit talks." During Saturday's inter-Korean summit, the Korean leaders agreed to "positively cooperate with each other as ever to improve (North Korea)-U.S. relations and establish (a) mechanism for permanent and durable peace."

They agreed to have their top officials meet again June 1. Moon said military generals and Red Cross officials from the Koreas will also meet separately to discuss how to ease military tensions and resume reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Trump's trade agenda runs into reality of global geopolitics

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's hard-line views on trade, a staple of his message long before he entered politics, are beginning to collide with the cold realities of global geopolitics.

Trade talks on China and the North American Free Trade Agreement have hit stumbling blocks, posing a challenge for a president who vowed to make trade deals more equitable for the United States during his 2016 campaign and who famously tweeted that trade wars are "easy to win."

Trump's trade agenda — at least lately — has not been so easy.

After threatening China with \$150 billion in tariffs, Trump's administration has suspended plans to impose the tariffs for now and the president tweeted Wednesday that a "different structure" would be needed in the trade talks involving the world's two largest economies.

The president has bemoaned the massive U.S. trade deficit with China — \$337 billion last year — as evidence that Beijing has been complicit in abusive trading practices and outsmarted his predecessors.

Pointing to a pause in the trade dispute, the administration pointed to China's plans to "significantly increase" its purchases of U.S. goods and services and make "meaningful increases" in U.S. exports of agriculture and energy products. Financial markets, wary of a calamitous trade war, were relieved.

But Beijing did not agree to any specific dollar amounts, despite the Trump administration's push to lower the U.S. trade deficit by at least \$200 billion. And doubts remain about whether China will address allegations the Chinese engage in cybertheft of trade secrets, force U.S. companies to transfer some of their technology in exchange for market access or back away from its China 2025 plan to dominate emerging technologies.

"Chinese r laughing at us again. They have never delivered on 1 promise in the past. Appeasement is the devils friend," tweeted Dan DiMicco, a former Nucor steel chairman and trade adviser to Trump's campaign and transition team, last Monday.

Separately, on Friday, the U.S. reached a deal on ZTE Corp. that will allow the Chinese telecommunications giant to remain in business. Under the deal, ZTE will oust its management team, hire American compliance officers and pay a fine — on top of the \$1 billion it's already paid for selling equipment to North Korea and Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. In return, the U.S. Commerce Department will lift a seven-year ban on ZTE buying components from U.S. companies. The ban, imposed this month, threatened to put ZTE out of business.

Trump said earlier that a resolution would help U.S. firms that supply ZTE with components, but members of Congress, including several Republicans, warned that the U.S. is being too lenient on a company that has violated U.S. sanctions.

"ZTE presents a national security threat to the United States — and nothing in this reported deal ad-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 17 of 38

dresses that fundamental fact," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat. "If President Trump won't put our security before Chinese jobs, Congress will act on a bipartisan basis to stop him."

Trump's team, meanwhile, has hit an impasse with Canada and Mexico on negotiations over NAFTA. The president has sought to overhaul NAFTA as a way of returning automobile production to the U.S. and reduce America's trade deficit with Mexico.

But the talks are running into the complications of Mexican elections in July and the U.S. midterm elections in November along with a dispute over rules for car production.

Seeking leverage, Trump's administration launched an investigation into whether tariffs might be necessary on car imports, based on national security concerns. The potential penalties could affect Mexico, Canada, Japan and the European Union.

The administration used a similar Commerce Department probe to impose tariffs in March on imported steel and aluminum.

But auto manufacturers said they didn't push for the auto investigation, and members of Congress questioned the validity of the probe.

"The Honda Accord is not a threat to our national security," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, hours after joining Trump for a bill signing at the White House. But he added that "taxing it with trade tariffs is a threat to the economic security of millions of hard-working American families."

Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation, said Trump remains focused on how the trade policies affect the financial markets and economic growth. But he expects the president to continue to press for a better deal with China.

"As a long-term strategy, I don't see him backing down in his demands on China," Moore said.

The trade talks with China have come against the backdrop of Trump's efforts to hold a June summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which the president said Friday could get back on track after he nixed it a day earlier. His attempts to push Kim toward denuclearization have required the cooperation of China, something the president acknowledged to reporters earlier in the week.

The president said alongside South Korean President Moon Jae-in, prior to this week's uncertainty over the Singapore summit, that he has a "much bigger picture" in mind as he considers China trade, a reminder that his trade policies are no longer a matter of campaign rhetoric.

"I'm also thinking about what they're doing to help us with peace with North Korea. That's a very important element," Trump said. "So we'll see how it all works out. But in the end, it will work out. Can't tell you exactly how or why, but it always does."

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

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

Maryland community heartbroken after second flood in 2 years

ELLCOTT CITY, Md. (AP) — After flash floods sent cars floating down Main Street in historic Ellicott City, Maryland, local officials said they were heartbroken to see the community so severely damaged again less than two years after a devastating flood killed two people and caused millions in damages.

As the flood waters receded late Sunday, officials were just beginning the grim task of assessing the destruction.

During an evening news conference, Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman said authorities aren't aware of any fatalities or missing people. But first responders and rescue officials were still going through the muddied, damaged downtown, conducting safety checks and ensuring people evacuated.

Kittleman said the damage was significant and appeared to him to be worse than the flooding two summers ago.

Residents and business owners, Kittleman said, "are faced with the same daunting task again."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 18 of 38

"We will be there for them as we were in 2016," he said.

Gov. Larry Hogan also toured the area and promised "every bit of assistance we possibly can."

"They say this is a once every 1,000-year flood and we've had two of them in two years," Hogan said.

The flooding Sunday swept away parked cars in Ellicott City, set along the west bank of Maryland's Patapsco River and about 13 miles (20 kilometers) west of Baltimore.

Jessica Ur, a server at Pure Wine Cafe on the city's Main Street, told The Baltimore Sun that she watched as gushing waters swept three or four parked cars down the street.

"It's significantly higher than it was before," she told the newspaper, comparing the floodwaters to those of 2016.

Mike Muccilli, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sterling, Virginia, said it's too early to make comparisons between the two floods. But he said both were devastating.

In July 2016, Ellicott City received 6.6 inches (17 centimeters) of rain over a two- to three-hour period. On Sunday, the community received nearly 8 inches (20.32 centimeters) of rain over a six-hour period, but most of it fell during an intense, three-hour period, Muccilli said.

"In a normal heavy rain event, you wouldn't see this amount of flooding, where you see cars floating down the road," Muccilli said. "This was a true flash flood."

Some people reported hearing a blaring alarm during the flooding. Others said they gathered in the second story of a building to anxiously watch the seething waters. One sight during the flood: a handmade, white flag hung from an upper story of a Main Street building bearing the letters SOS.

"If you are trapped, we are coming," the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services tweeted at one point.

Ellicott City has been rebuilding since the 2016 flooding damaged and destroyed businesses. Local officials recently said that 96 percent of the businesses were back in operation and more than 20 new businesses had again opened in the Main Street area.

Just two weeks ago, Hogan announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had awarded the state and county more than \$1 million to pay for projects aimed at reducing the flood risk in areas around Main Street.

Some are already asking questions about whether enough was done after the last flood to prevent a similar catastrophe.

Hogan said temporary improvements were in place and more things were in the works to reduce the community's vulnerabilities. But he said big changes take time, and no one expected such a huge flood so soon after 2016.

Storm Alberto maintains strength as it approaches Gulf Coast

By TAMARA LUSH and REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Subtropical Storm Alberto gained the early jump on the 2018 hurricane season as it headed toward anticipated landfall sometime Monday on the northern Gulf Coast, where white sandy beaches emptied of their usual Memorial Day crowds.

Though the Atlantic hurricane season doesn't officially start until Friday, Alberto has become the first named storm this year, throwing disarray into long holiday weekend plans up and down Florida's Gulf Coast. And just as Memorial Day marked summer's unofficial start in the U.S., Alberto gave it the unofficial start of what forecasters recently predicted would be an active hurricane season.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said at 5 a.m. EDT Monday that Alberto was maintaining its strength as it approached the Florida panhandle and was centered about 125 miles (200 kilometers) south of Destin. The storm that was expected to make landfall later Monday had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph).

"On the forecast track, the center of Alberto will move over the northern Gulf of Mexico overnight and cross the northern Gulf Coast in the warning area on Monday," the National Hurricane Center said. It warned of life-threatening surf conditions, the possibility of a few brief tornadoes in much of Florida and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 19 of 38

parts of Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama. And, it said, heavy rains are also expected in many areas.

Lifeguards posted red flags along the white sands of Pensacola Beach, where swimming and wading were banned amid high surf and dangerous conditions. Gusty showers were to begin lashing parts of Florida on Sunday, and authorities were warning of the possibility of flash flooding. The hurricane center said a tropical storm warning was in effect from the Suwannee River in Florida to the Mississippi-Alabama state line.

The storm's approach also triggered mandatory evacuations of some small, sparsely populated Gulf Coast barrier islands in one Florida county. The Florida Division of Emergency Management said in a statement Sunday that a mandatory evacuation has been issued in Franklin County for all barrier islands there and those in the county living directly on the coast in mobile homes or in recreation vehicle parks.

A subtropical storm like Alberto has a less defined and cooler center than a tropical storm, and its strongest winds are found farther from its center. Subtropical storms can develop into tropical storms, which in turn can strengthen into hurricanes. Forecasters cautioned that heavy rain and tropical storm conditions could reach the northern Gulf Coast well ahead of the center of Alberto making landfall.

The storm prompted Florida, Alabama and Mississippi to launch emergency preparations over the weekend amid expectations Alberto would reach land sometime Monday. Rough conditions were expected to roil the seas off the eastern and northern Gulf Coast region through Tuesday.

Mark Bowen, the Bay County Emergency management director, said at a Sunday afternoon news conference that the concern isn't with storm surge due to the timing of landfall and the tides. He said Alberto's biggest threat will be its heavy rains, with forecasts of anywhere from four to 12 inches (10-30 centimeters) of rain in some areas.

In Taylor County, there were voluntary evacuations for those in coastal zones and beach communities, mobile homes, RV parks and low-lying areas. In Gulf County, T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park began evacuations Sunday morning.

In Miami, organizers called off the sea portion of the Miami Beach Air & Sea Show on Sunday because of heavy rain and rough waters. And in the Tampa Bay area on the central Gulf Coast, cities offered sandbags for homeowners worried about floods.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released a hurricane season forecast Thursday that calls for 10 to 16 named storms, with five to nine hurricanes. One to four hurricanes could be "major" with sustained winds of at least 111 mph (178 kph). If that forecast holds, it would make for a near-normal or above-normal season. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which six become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

"There are no strong climate signals saying it's going to be extremely active, like last year, or extremely weak," said Gerry Bell, the lead hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, speaking with reporters Thursday.

AP writer Rebecca Santana reported from New Orleans.

Colombia set for combative runoff with divisions over peace

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's presidential election is heading into a divisive runoff between two ideological opposites as the conservative first-place finisher in Sunday's voting took a hard line against the country's peace deal while his rival pledged to champion the poor and excluded.

Former senator Ivan Duque won nearly 39 percent of vote, falling short of the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a second round in three weeks. One-time rebel Gustavo Petro got 25 percent support, edging out former Medellin mayor Sergio Fajardo, who could end up being kingmaker following a surprise surge.

The showdown between Duque and Petro could have broad implications for the nation's peace agreement ending more than five decades of armed conflict that left at least 250,000 dead, 60,000 missing and more than 7 million displaced.

Duque is vowing to modify the polarizing accord with changes to ensure that drug trafficking is not an

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 20 of 38

amnestied crime and that guerrilla leaders who haven't made reparations to victims are barred from political office. The signed accord allows former rebels who fully confess their crimes to avoid any jail times and transform into a political party.

"We don't want to tear up the accord," Duque said in his victory speech. "What we want is for the peace of Colombia to be peace with justice."

The election has sparked fears on both the left and right, with Duque's critics cautioning that his presidency would be tantamount to a constitutionally barred third term for Alvaro Uribe, the influential former president responsible for boosting his campaign. Though hugely popular among Colombians for improving security and weakening illegal armed groups, Uribe also presided over grave human rights violations by the military.

Meanwhile, Petro and his populist "Humane Colombia" platform have drawn comparisons from critics to the late Venezuelan socialist leader Hugo Chavez, who Petro once admired. The ex-Bogota mayor brought Chavez to Colombia in 1994 shortly after the Venezuelan paratrooper was released from jail, where he was sent for staging a military coup.

Petro describes himself as a "strong adversary" of the neighboring country's current president, Nicolas Maduro, but his early ties to Chavez have dogged him throughout the campaign. His campaign likened the comparisons to fear-mongering tactics by a traditional political class no longer able to court votes based on their hardline stance against leftist rebels.

The firebrand contender supports the peace accord and has galvanized youth voters angered by deeply entrenched corruption and income inequality. Colombia has one of the region's highest levels of income inequality, ranking second only to Haiti according to one study. Petro has proposed ending Colombia's dependence on oil exports and raising taxes on vast swaths of unproductive land to boost agricultural production and bring millions out of poverty.

Critics have warned his rise could push Colombia dangerously toward the left and rattle markets in the traditionally conservative country.

In a speech before hundreds of supporters Sunday night, Petro said fears that he would turn Colombia into an authoritarian state where wealth is redistributed are unfounded. He said his proposals instead amount to a "democratization" of opportunities so that more Colombians can benefit from education and join the middle class.

"The nearly 5 million votes we received today are the votes of the youth, of excluded sectors far and wide across Colombia who have decided to burst in and say, 'We are present,'" he said to cheers and applause.

Supporters waved flags emblazoned with the Soviet Union's hammer and sickle and the logo of the disbanded M-19 rebel group that Petro belonged to in his youth.

Edilia Pinzon, 55, was among those cheering on Petro.

"We are making history," said Pinzon, a street merchant. "The others who have reached power haven't fulfilled their promises, especially to those of us with few means."

More than 19 million voters cast ballots in the election, the highest turnout in two decades.

The results were especially harsh for Fajardo, who tried unsuccessfully for weeks to form an alliance with like-minded centrist Humberto de la Calle, whose 2 percent vote haul would've been enough to push Fajardo past Petro.

Fajardo conceded defeat but showed no sign of who he'll support in a runoff where his 4.5 million supporters are likely to be decisive.

"This is the worst scenario possible," said Monica Mendez, a chemical engineer who voted for Fajardo and said she was crushed over the result.

Mendez said she was considering casting a blank ballot in the next round, dismissing Petro as an egoistic leader who doesn't listen to opinions different from his own and Duque as a mere placeholder for his mentor, Uribe, "another person who is arrogant and power hungry."

Petro and Duque differ on almost every critical issue facing Colombia: Duque favors forcibly eradicating coca crops that have skyrocketed to record levels, whereas Petro favors substitution. Historically tight relations between the U.S. and Colombia would likely remain unchanged under a Duque presidency, whereas

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 21 of 38

Petro has called U.S. assistance to Colombia "help that has served for nothing."

In a victory speech to supporters little changed from his regular campaign stump, Duque stressed law and order issues that are red meat to his conservative base. But he also appeared to make some overtures toward moderate voters, saying he wants to be the president "who unites our country and not govern with a rearview mirror."

Ramiro Bejarano, a columnist for El Espectador newspaper, said that both candidates have no choice but to look for votes in the political center.

But he sees Duque's more-divisive discourse, with its focus on hot-button issues like abortion and gay rights, as well as his criticisms of the peace process, proving a harder sell to the mass of independent voters who preferred Fajardo.

Still, he said Duque's 14-point advantage will be hard to surmount for Petro, whose main challenge is to convince voters he won't convert Colombia into another Venezuela.

"If he manages to overcome the fear factor he can win," Bejarano said.

De la Calle, the government's chief negotiator with the FARC, without specifically endorsing Petro, made an impassioned plea not to backtrack on implementation of the peace accord when a future free of armed conflict is within reach.

"The war brought us together during eight years," he said. "And now peace is dividing us."

Associated Press writer Cesar Garcia contributed to this report from Bogota.

LeBron's 35 help Cavs beat Celtics 87-79, reach NBA Finals

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — With another Game 7 victory at stake, LeBron James would not sit out.

He would not say goodbye to Cleveland again — not yet, anyway.

And he would not be denied an eighth straight trip to the NBA Finals.

The four-time league MVP scored 35 points with 15 rebounds and nine assists on Sunday night, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to an 87-79 win over the Celtics and eliminating Boston from the Eastern Conference finals in the decisive seventh game.

"He's had a lot of gaudy games," Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said. "But I just think Game 7, in Boston, all the circumstances that surround Boston, the history ... to come here in a hostile environment: (it's) right there."

In the first close game, the lowest-scoring and the first victory for a road team in the series, James played all 48 minutes, scoring 12 of his points in the fourth quarter for his sixth straight Game 7 win. Lue used his timeouts to get his star an extra few minutes of rest when he could, and James didn't warm up at halftime to conserve his energy.

"It was asked of me tonight to play the whole game," he said. "And I just tried to figure out how I can get through it."

James played all 82 regular-season games for the first time in his career and is already at 100 for the year with at least four more to come. He tired late in Game 5, when the Celtics won their 10th straight at home this postseason.

Celtics coach Brad Stevens said the plan was to wear James out.

Nice try.

"Our goal going into the series was to make him exert as much energy as humanly possible and try to be as good as we can on everybody else," Stevens said. "For the most part, I thought we were pretty good at that ... but he still scored 35. It's a joke."

For James, a potential free agent, the victory postponed a decision about his future until next month.

Now, the only question is who the Cavaliers will play for a chance at their second title in three years: The Rockets host Game 7 of the Western Conference finals against Golden State on Monday night, and the winner will host the opener of the NBA Finals on Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 22 of 38

The Cavaliers are expected to be underdogs against either.

"We have an opportunity to play for a championship," James said. "It doesn't matter what the story line is going to be, it doesn't matter if we're picked to win or not. I'm the wrong guy to ask. I just like to compete."

Jayson Tatum scored 24 points, Al Horford had 17 and Marcus Morris added 14 points with 12 rebounds for the Celtics, who were looking to return to the NBA Finals for the first time since 2010.

Tatum had a dunk over James with 6:41 left — staring down the Cavaliers star and bumping him with his chest — then followed it with a 3-pointer that gave the Celtics a 72-71 lead. But that would be Boston's last basket for more than five minutes while Cleveland went on a 15-2 run to put the game away.

James embraced Horford and Tatum after the buzzer, then the Cavaliers donned celebratory hats and T-shirts before shuffling off the court to receive the Eastern Conference championship trophy.

It's not the one they want.

James has been in the finals every year since 2011 — four with Miami, and now four straight with Cleveland.

This might be his weakest supporting cast.

He had to do it without Kevin Love — Cleveland's only other all-star — who sustained a concussion in Game 6 and was replaced in the lineup by Jeff Green. Making his first start since the first-round opener against Indiana, Green scored 19 points and added eight rebounds — the star of James' starless supporting cast.

"We said we want to do this for Kevin," Lue said. "Kevin wanted to play, to be in a Game 7 situation like this in the Eastern Conference Finals, being an All-Star, being our second-best player, and he just wasn't able to go. The guys picked him up, so now he has another chance when we get to the finals to be ready."

The Celtics have had more time to get used to their injuries: Gordon Hayward has been out since the first game of the season, and Kyrie Irving has been sidelined since March. With the rookie Tatum and second-year Jaylen Brown, Boston established itself as the team of the future in the East.

"It was pretty incredible run by an incredible group of guys, and an absolute pleasure and privilege to be around them every day," Stevens said. "We obviously have a good thing going."

But the present still belongs to James.

And, for now, that means Cleveland, too.

ADMIRING HIS WORK

The Celtics led by as many as 12 points in the first half, and they had a 51-47 lead midway through the third quarter when James hit a long 3-pointer and then Green made a 3 of his own. James hit Tristan Thompson for an alley-oop to give Cleveland a 55-51 lead, but then James threw the ball away and sent Terry Rozier off on a fast break.

James tracked the Celtics guard from the far sideline, timing his attack. When Rozier went up for the lay-in, James blocked it off the backboard and right to Green. James did not run back down the court, resting up while Green drew a foul at the other end and made one free throw to give the Cavaliers their biggest lead of the game.

TIP-INS

Cavaliers: Shot just 2 of 17 from 3-point range in the first half, making three of their first 22 shots from long range before James and Green connected on back-to-back attempts midway through the third quarter.

Celtics: Tatum is the first rookie to have 10 or more playoff games with at least 20 points since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1970. Tatum's 351 points this postseason was one short of Abdul-Jabbar's record of 352. ... Paul Pierce, whose number was retired by the Celtics this season, cheered the team on from courtside. ... Rapper 21 Savage was also at the game. ... Boston was 7 for 39 from 3-point range, with Rozier missing all 10 of his attempts.

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

Conservative, leftist head to contentious runoff in Colombia

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO** and **JOSHUA GOODMAN**, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The conservative protege of a powerful former president and a leftist former guerrilla who has galvanized voters with an anti-establishment message are headed for what promises to be a polarizing presidential runoff after gaining the most votes in Sunday's election.

With almost all quick-count results in, former senator Ivan Duque was leading with 39 percent of the ballots cast, short of the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a June runoff. One-time rebel and ex-Bogota mayor Gustavo Petro trailed in second place with 25 percent, edging out former Medellin Mayor Sergio Fajardo, who garnered nearly 24 percent.

Duque and Petro represent opposite ends of Colombia's political spectrum and have presented dramatically different visions for the future of the Andean nation as it moves forward with a historic peace process with leftist rebels.

Duque is the handpicked candidate of Alvaro Uribe, the ex-president and chief critic of the nation's 2016 peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. He is promising to amend important aspects of the accord like ensuring that drug trafficking is not an amnestied crime and blocking guerrilla leaders from political office.

Petro supports the accord and has galvanized youth voters angered by deeply entrenched corruption and income inequality. He is vowing to end Colombia's dependence on oil exports and raise taxes on vast swaths of unproductive land in hopes of boosting agricultural production. Critics have warned his rise could push Colombia dangerously toward the left and rattle markets.

"The result was a sharp blow to traditional politics," said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue. "With a Duque/Petro runoff, Colombians will face a starker choice than in many years."

The election has sparked fears on both the left and right, with Duque's critics cautioning that his presidency would be tantamount to a constitutionally barred third term for Uribe. Though hugely popular among Colombians for improving security and weakening illegal armed groups, Uribe also presided over grave human rights violations by the military.

Meanwhile, Petro and his populist "Humane Colombia" platform have drawn comparisons from critics to the late Venezuelan socialist leader Hugo Chavez, who Petro once admired. He brought Chavez to Colombia in 1994 shortly after the Venezuelan paratrooper was released from jail, where he was sent for staging a military coup.

Petro describes himself as a "strong adversary" of the neighboring country's current president, Nicolas Maduro, but his early ties to Chavez have dogged him throughout the campaign. His campaign likened the comparisons to fear-mongering tactics by a traditional political class no longer able to court votes based on their hardline stance against leftist rebels.

In a speech before hundreds of supporters Sunday night, Petro said fears that he would turn Colombia into an authoritarian state where wealth is redistributed are unfounded. He said his proposals instead amount to a "democratization" of opportunities so that more Colombians can benefit from education and join the middle class.

"The nearly 5 million votes we received today are the votes of the youth, of excluded sectors far and wide across Colombia who have decided to burst in and say, 'We are present,'" he said.

Supporters waved flags emblazoned with the Soviet Union's hammer and sickle and the logo of the disbanded M-19 rebel group that Petro belonged to in his youth.

Edilia Pinzon, 55, was among those cheering on Petro.

"We are making history," said Pinzon, a street merchant. "The others who have reached power haven't fulfilled their promises, especially to those of us with few means."

More than 19 million voters cast ballots in the election, the highest turnout in two decades.

The results were especially harsh for Fajardo, who fell less than 2 points behind Petro and failed to advance to the next round. During weeks of negotiations he tried unsuccessfully to form an alliance with like-minded centrist Humberto de la Calle, whose 2 percent vote haul would've been enough to push

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 24 of 38

Fajardo past Petro.

Fajardo conceded defeat but showed no sign of who he'll support in a runoff where his 4.5 million supporters are likely to be decisive.

Petro and Duque differ on almost every critical issue facing Colombia: Duque favors forcibly eradicating coca crops that have skyrocketed to record levels, whereas Petro favors substitution. Historically tight relations between the U.S. and Colombia would likely remain unchanged under a Duque presidency, whereas Petro has called U.S. assistance to Colombia "help that has served for nothing."

In regards to the peace deal, Duque has said he'll introduce a constitutional reform mandating that drug trafficking cannot be an amnestied crime. Under the accord, guerrillas involved in drug trafficking and violent crimes during the conflict who fully confess can avoid jail time. Many Colombians consider those terms far too generous.

The FARC long funded itself by leveling a "war tax" on cocaine moving through territory it dominated, and 50 members of its leadership structure were indicted in 2006 in the U.S. on charges of running the world's largest drug cartel.

In April, Colombian authorities arrested a former top rebel peace negotiator on a U.S. drug warrant on charges that he conspired with three others to smuggle several tons of cocaine into the U.S. with a wholesale value of \$15 million.

In a victory speech to supporters little changed from his regular campaign stump, Duque stressed law and order issues that are red meat to his conservative base. He said he didn't want to "tear up" Colombia's peace agreement but rather make modifications that would ensure victims of the conflict achieve "peace with justice."

"I want to be the president who unites our country and not govern with a rearview mirror," he said.

Analysts said that mostly urban voters turned off by Colombia's polarizing politics will play kingmaker in the second round.

Political analyst Leon Valencia, himself a former rebel, said Duque will face a steeper challenge winning over supporters of Fajardo and other centrist candidates because he's more hostile to the peace process, while Petro from the campaign's outset has tried to portray himself — so far with mixed success — as a moderate.

"Whichever candidate is able to move more to the center is the one who will win the election," said Valencia.

De la Calle, the government's chief negotiator with the FARC, without specifically endorsing Petro, made an impassioned plea not to backtrack on implementation of the peace accord when a future free of armed conflict is within reach.

"The war brought us together during eight years," he said. "And now peace is dividing us."

Associated Press writer Cesar Garcia contributed to this report from Bogota.

This story corrects first name of analyst Leon Valencia.

Bloody but forgotten WWII battle still haunts soldiers

By MARK THIESSEN and MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — William Roy Dover's memory of the World War II battle is as sharp as it was 75 years ago, even though it's been long forgotten by most everyone else.

His first sergeant roused him from his pup tent around 2 a.m. when word came the Japanese were attacking and had maybe even gotten behind the American front line, on a desolate, unforgiving slab of an occupied island in the North Pacific.

"He was shouting, 'Get up! Get out!'" Dover said.

Dover and most of the American soldiers rushed to an embankment on what became known as Engineer Hill, the last gasp of the Japanese during the Battle of Attu, fought 75 years ago this month on Attu

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 25 of 38

Island in Alaska's Aleutian chain.

"I had two friends that were too slow to get out," the 95-year-old Alabama farmer recalled. "They both got bayoneted in their pup tents."

Joseph Sasser, then a skinny 20-year-old from Carthage, Mississippi, also found himself perched against the berm on Engineer Hill when a captain with a rifle took up a position about 10 feet (3 meters) away.

"I noticed about after 30 minutes or so, he was awfully quiet," Sasser said. "We checked to see if he had a pulse and if he was alive, and he was not."

"We didn't even know he had been shot," said Sasser, also 95.

American forces reclaimed remote Attu Island on May 30, 1943, after a 19-day campaign that is known as World War II's forgotten battle. Much of the fighting was hand-to-hand, waged in dense fog and winds of up to 120 mph (193 kph).

The battle for the Aleutian island was one of the deadliest in the Pacific in terms of the percentage of troops killed. Nearly all the Japanese forces, estimated at about 2,500 soldiers, died with only 28 survivors. About 550 or so U.S. soldiers were killed.

American forces, many poorly outfitted for Alaska weather and trained in California for desert combat, recaptured Attu 11 months after the Japanese took it and a nearby island, Kiska. It was the only WWII battle fought on North American soil.

The Japanese staged a last-ditch, desperate offensive May 29 at Engineer Hill.

"Japanese soldiers surprise American forces on Attu with a fanatical charge out of the mountains," recounts an Associated Press chronology of WWII events in 1943. "Savage fighting rages throughout the day and into the following night."

About 200 Japanese soldiers died in the assault, and the remaining 500 or so held grenades to their bellies and pulled the pins. It was the first official case of "gyokusai," a Japanese euphemism for annihilation or mass suicide in the name of Emperor Hirohito, which increasingly occurred in other Japanese battlefields.

Tomimatsu Takahashi told Japanese public television network NHK in 2010 he was being treated for a bullet wound when the order for the final charge came. "I was going to die, I thought," he said.

But as he headed out to fight, he collapsed, likely because he hadn't eaten in days. He was captured and sent to several mainland POW camps — including in Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago — before he returned home to Japan's Iwate prefecture in 1947.

His family already had a funeral and grave for him.

"I felt so relieved to be home," he said. "But I never thought I was lucky to be alive. I thought I survived because I was not lucky. I felt I was not supposed to come back, because those who went to war were not supposed to come back, and that's what we were taught."

After the battle, Dover said things went back to normal for the American soldiers — except one thing: "Somebody had to bury those Japanese."

During the war, the U.S. Army buried the Japanese soldiers' bodies with care, built a memorial, set up a grave post and paid respects to the spirits, said Nobuyuki Yamazaki, whose grandfather died on Attu.

Yamazaki was among a delegation of Japanese soldiers' descendants who attended a 75th anniversary celebration this month in Anchorage. The families have formally petitioned the Japanese government to have the remains returned, Anchorage television station KTVA reported.

"Japanese people find great comfort when the remains of the Japanese are buried in our homeland," Yamazaki said.

The Aleut people living on Attu Island also suffered losses, becoming the only North American community to be imprisoned in Japan during the war, according to the book "Attu: The Forgotten Battle," by John Haile Cloe.

While Kiska was unpopulated, about 45 Aleuts lived on Attu Island. When Japanese forces invaded, the Aleuts were captured and sent to Japan's Hokkaido Island, where about half died, most from malnutrition or starvation.

The survivors never returned to Attu. The Army said it would be too expensive to rebuild their village, and they were relocated after the war.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 26 of 38

The battle over Attu proved to be unimportant to the rest of the war, possibly why it's forgotten today. However, American planes did use the island to bomb the northernmost reaches of Japan. And author and historian Cloe, who died in 2016, told the AP in 1993 that the Army learned much about amphibious landings and Japanese tactics from the battle.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now owns Attu Island, which is part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Seventy-five years later, 102-year-old Allan Seroll of Massachusetts, who worked in communications including Morse code for the Army Signal Corps, still carries the burden of the Battle of Attu.

"I wake up in the middle of the night, and I can't go back to sleep," Seroll told KTVA. "That's what this has done to me. That's how much it affected me and still does."

Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo.

Trump says US team in NKorea planning summit with Kim **By CATHERINE LUCEY, MATTHEW LEE, HYUNG-JIN KIM and FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press**

President Donald Trump said Sunday a U.S. team was in North Korea to plan a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, raising expectations that the on-off-on meeting would indeed take place.

The State Department said earlier that a team was in Panmunjom, which straddles the border inside the demilitarized zone, or DMZ, separating the North and South Korea. One can cross the border simply by stepping across a painted line, but moving beyond several footsteps into the North at Panmunjom would be rare for U.S. officials.

Trump withdrew from a planned June 12 Singapore summit with Kim last Thursday, but quickly announced that it could get back on track. His tweet Sunday afternoon, which offered praise for the longtime U.S. adversary, was the latest signal that his concerns about the North's stance toward the summit had been allayed.

"Our United States team has arrived in North Korea to make arrangements for the Summit between Kim Jong Un and myself," he tweeted. "I truly believe North Korea has brilliant potential and will be a great economic and financial Nation one day. Kim Jong Un agrees with me on this. It will happen!"

South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in, gave details about his surprise meeting Saturday with Kim in the Panmunjom truce village, saying Kim had committed to sitting down with Trump and to a "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tapped veteran American diplomat Sung Kim to handle pre-summit negotiations. On a separate but complementary track was the CIA team Pompeo set up last year when he headed the spy agency. And on a third track was a White House logistical group sent to Singapore on Sunday to prepare in case the summit takes place. It was led by Joe Hagin, White House deputy chief of staff for operations.

Kim, the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, also served as ambassador to South Korea and was part of the U.S. negotiating team that last held substantive denuclearization talks with North Korea during the George W. Bush administration in 2005.

The Korean leaders' second summit in a month saw bear hugs and broad smiles. But their quickly arranged meeting Saturday appeared to highlight a sense of urgency on both sides of the world's most heavily armed border.

The talks, which Moon said Kim Jong Un requested, capped a whirlwind 24 hours of diplomatic back and forth. They allowed Moon to push for a U.S.-North Korean summit that he sees as the best way to ease animosity that had some fearing a war last year.

Kim may see a meeting with Trump as necessary to easing pressure from crushing sanctions and to winning security assurances in a region surrounded by enemies.

Moon told reporters that Kim "again made clear his commitment to a complete denuclearization of the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 27 of 38

Korean Peninsula." Moon added that Kim said he's willing to cooperate to end confrontation and work toward peace for the sake of the successful summit with Trump.

Moon said he told Kim that Trump has a "firm resolve" to end hostile relations with North Korea and initiate economic cooperation if Kim implements "complete denuclearization."

"What Kim is unclear about is that he has concerns about whether his country can surely trust the United States over its promise to end hostile relations (with North Korea) and provide a security guarantee if they do denuclearization," Moon said.

"During the South Korea-U.S. summit, President Trump said the U.S. is willing to clearly put an end to hostile relations (between the U.S. and North Korea) and help (the North) achieve economic prosperity if North Korea conducts denuclearization," he said.

Kim, in a dispatch issued by the North's state-run news service earlier Sunday, "expressed his fixed will on the historic (North Korea)-U.S. summit talks." During Saturday's inter-Korean summit, the Korean leaders agreed to "positively cooperate with each other as ever to improve (North Korea)-U.S. relations and establish (a) mechanism for permanent and durable peace."

They agreed to have their top officials meet again June 1. Moon said military generals and Red Cross officials from the Koreas will also meet separately to discuss how to ease military tensions and resume reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Saturday's Korean summit came hours after South Korea expressed relief over revived talks for a Trump-Kim meeting.

Despite repeated references to "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" by the North, it remains unclear whether Kim will ever agree to fully abandon his nuclear arsenal.

The North has previously used the term to demand the United States pull out its 28,500 troops in South Korea and withdraw its so-called nuclear umbrella security commitment to South Korea and Japan. The North hasn't openly repeated those same demands after Kim's sudden outreach to Seoul and Washington.

Moon has insisted Kim can be persuaded to abandon his nuclear facilities, materials and bombs in a verifiable and irreversible way in exchange for credible security and economic guarantees. Moon said Sunday that the North's disarmament could still be a difficult process even if Pyongyang, Washington and Seoul don't differ over what "complete denuclearization" of the peninsula means.

Before he canceled the summit, Trump did not rule out an incremental approach that would provide incentives along the way to the North.

Following an unusually provocative 2017 in which Kim's engineers tested a purported thermonuclear warhead and three long-range missiles theoretically capable of striking mainland U.S. cities, the North Korean leader has engaged in a flurry of diplomatic activity in recent months. He has had the summits with Moon and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, as well as two meetings with Pompeo.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul contributed to this report.

Florida panhandle braces as storm Alberto gains new strength

By TAMARA LUSH and REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, Subtropical Storm Alberto, gained strength as it approached the northern Gulf Coast, emptying out beaches in Florida ahead of Memorial Day.

The storm disrupted long holiday weekend plans from Pensacola in the Florida Panhandle to Miami Beach on Florida's southeastern edge. Lifeguards posted red flags along the white sands of Pensacola Beach, where swimming and wading were banned amid high surf and dangerous conditions.

It also triggered mandatory evacuations of some small, sparsely populated Gulf Coast barrier islands in one Florida county. The Florida Division of Emergency Management said in a statement Sunday that a mandatory evacuation has been issued in Franklin County for all barrier islands there and those in the county living directly on the coast in mobile homes or in recreation vehicle parks.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 28 of 38

Alberto got an early jump on the 2018 hurricane season, which doesn't officially start until June 1. The storm prompted Florida, Alabama and Mississippi to launch emergency preparations over the weekend amid expectations Alberto would reach land sometime Monday. Rough conditions were expected to roil the seas off the eastern and northern Gulf Coast region through Tuesday.

"These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions," the National Hurricane Center in Miami said in a statement.

Gusty showers were to begin lashing parts of Florida on Sunday, and authorities were warning of the possibility of flash flooding.

At 7:30 p.m. EDT Sunday, Alberto was centered about 195 miles (315 kilometers) west of Tampa and had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) — up from 50 mph (85 kph) earlier. Forecasters said Alberto has most recently taken a north-northwest track that would bring it over the northern Gulf of Mexico during the night and make landfall on or in the vicinity of the Florida Panhandle on Monday.

A subtropical storm like Alberto has a less defined and cooler center than a tropical storm, and its strongest winds are found farther from its center. Subtropical storms can develop into tropical storms, which in turn can strengthen into hurricanes. Forecasters cautioned that heavy rain and tropical storm conditions could reach the northern Gulf Coast well ahead of the center of Alberto making landfall.

Meanwhile, the National Hurricane Center in Miami discontinued all storm surge warnings for most of the state's peninsula. It said isolated tornadoes remained a threat in Florida in the coming hours.

Mark Bowen, the Bay County Emergency management director, said at a Sunday afternoon news conference that the concern isn't with storm surge due to the timing of landfall and the tides. He said Alberto's biggest threat will be its heavy rains, with forecasts of anywhere from four to 12 inches (10-30 centimeters) of rain in some areas.

In Taylor County, there were voluntary evacuations for those in coastal zones and beach communities, mobile homes, RV parks and low-lying areas. In Gulf County, T. H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park began evacuations Sunday morning.

In Miami, organizers called off the sea portion of the Miami Beach Air & Sea Show on Sunday because of heavy rain and rough waters. And in the Tampa Bay area on the central Gulf Coast, cities offered sandbags for homeowners worried about floods. Live video from webcams posted in Clearwater and Destin showed half-empty beaches, and whitecaps roiled the normally placid Gulf waters.

The hurricane center said Sunday that a tropical storm warning was in effect from Bonita Beach, Florida, to the Mississippi-Alabama border.

In Gulf Shores, Alabama, webcams showed beaches starting to fill up as the storm's track shifted slightly east away from the region, but red flags on the beach warned beachgoers to stay out of the rough water. Grant Brown, the city's public information officer, said they had already finished a number of preparations such as clearing culverts to prepare for big rains but Sunday had turned into a "really nice day."

With conditions expected to worsen overnight, officials are encouraging people planning to check out Monday to give themselves extra time.

Jeffrey Medlin, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service's Mobile office, warned that even after the storm moves north there will still be swells coming up from the south that could cause dangerous rip currents. Just because it's "nice and sunny" after the storm passes, Medlin said, there's still a risk for swimmers.

"People have drowned by going out to the water too soon," he said.

AP writer Rebecca Santana reported from New Orleans.

With a roar, flash flood smashes into a Maryland community

ELLCOTT CITY, Md. (AP) — Roaring flash floods struck a Maryland city Sunday that had been wracked by similar devastation two years ago, its main street turned into a raging river that reached the first floor of some buildings and swept away parked cars, authorities and witnesses say.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 29 of 38

News outlets showed photos and video of sudden, violent floodwaters surging down Main Street in Ellicott City, some 13 miles (20 kilometers) west of Baltimore. The community, set along the west bank of Maryland's Patapsco River, was also stricken by deadly flash flooding in July 2016.

This time, witnesses say, the flash flooding came with a roar of onrushing water after hours of heavy rain had soaked the region around Baltimore.

After the floodwaters receded, emergency officials had no immediate reports of fatalities or injuries. But by nightfall first responders and rescue officials were still going through the muddied, damaged downtown, conducting safety checks and ensuring people evacuated.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who declared a state of emergency for the flooded community, traveled there late Sunday for a firsthand look at the destruction.

Footage of Sunday's flash flooding showed the seething floodwaters engulfing cars and pickup trucks. The Howard County Fire & EMS agency tweeted that water was above the first floor of some buildings at the height of the disaster.

Some residents of Ellicott City told The Baltimore Sun the flooding appeared to be worse than the 2016 flooding that killed two people and destroyed local businesses.

Jessica Ur, a server at Pure Wine Cafe on the city's Main Street, told the paper she watched as gushing waters swept three or four parked cars down the street. She had been around the last time the area flooded, but said this time it appeared worse.

"It's significantly higher than it was before," she told the newspaper, comparing the floodwaters to those of 2016.

Mike Muccilli, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sterling, Virginia, said it's too early to make comparisons between the two floods. But he said both were devastating.

In July 2016, Ellicott City received 6.6 inches (17 centimeters) of rain over a 2- to 3-hour period. On Sunday, the community received nearly 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain over a 6-hour period, but most of it fell during an intense, 3-hour period, Muccilli said.

"In a normal heavy rain event, you wouldn't see this amount of flooding, where you see cars floating down the road," Muccilli said. "This was a true flash flood."

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman said authorities aren't aware of any fatalities or missing people. But officials were just beginning to assess the damage.

Kittleman said he toured the historic county seat after the flash flood receded and was "heartbroken" by seeing it so severely damaged again since the flooding of 2016. As he spoke at an outdoor news conference, Maryland Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford put a comforting hand on Kittleman's back.

Kittleman said he considers the damage worse than the flooding two summers ago. Of the city's residents and business owners, Kittleman says "they are faced with the same daunting task again."

"We will be there for them as we were in 2016," he said.

Hogan also toured the area and promised "every bit of assistance we possibly can."

"They say this is a once every 1,000-year flood and we've had two of them in two years," Hogan said.

Some people reported hearing a blaring alarm during the flooding. Others said they gathered in the second story of a building to anxiously watch the seething waters. One sight during the flood: a handmade, white flag hung from an upper story of a Main Street building bearing the letters SOS.

"If you are trapped, we are coming," the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services tweeted at one point. It added that multiple rescues were carried out, and rescue swimmers were called in. Swift water units from as far away as Northern Virginia also were summoned.

Meanwhile, some roads were also flooded in neighboring Baltimore County. A spokeswoman in Baltimore County said the fire department has received dozens of calls about cars stuck in high water, as well as flooded basements.

Ellicott City has been rebuilding since the 2016 flooding damaged and destroyed businesses. Local officials recently said that 96 percent of the businesses were back in operation and more than 20 new businesses had again opened in the Main Street area.

Just two weeks ago, Hogan announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had awarded

the state and county more than \$1 million to pay for projects aimed at reducing the flood risk in areas around Main Street.

Giuliani advises no Mueller interview without informant info

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's legal team would advise that he refuse to submit to an interview with special counsel Robert Mueller unless the team can review classified information shared with select lawmakers about the origins of the FBI investigation into Russia's election meddling, Trump's personal lawyer said Sunday.

Rudy Giuliani said that should Mueller's investigators seek a court order to compel the president to testify, Trump's lawyers would fight such a subpoena all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

"I think we win it," Giuliani said.

Giuliani downplayed the chances that Trump would fire Mueller, a Republican who once was FBI director and has served under GOP presidents. Asked if Trump would dismiss anyone if the investigation kept going, Giuliani told "Fox News Sunday" that firings would play "into the hands of playing the victim, Watergate."

Giuliani's public negotiation over terms of an interview focuses on the use of a government informant who approached members of Trump's 2016 campaign in a possible bid to glean intelligence on Russian efforts to sway his race against Democrat Hillary Clinton. Trump has made unproven claims of FBI misconduct and political bias and has denounced the informant, without evidence, as "a spy."

The two meetings with select lawmakers, held last Thursday, were requested by Trump's GOP allies in Congress and arranged by the White House. The president has tried to sow suspicions about the legitimacy of the FBI investigation, and he and his allies have focused on the use of the informant. After the meetings, which included Justice Department, FBI officials, congressional leaders from both parties and Democratic and Republican leaders of the intelligence committees, Democrats said they saw no evidence to support Republican allegations that the FBI acted inappropriately.

Nonetheless, Giuliani said the Trump camp wants access to the material presented at those briefings to help prepare the president for a possible interview with Mueller.

"If they don't show us these documents, well, we are just going to have to say no," Giuliani said. It's unclear, however, if Trump would heed his lawyers' advice.

Justice Department officials didn't immediately return a message seeking comment on whether the president had requested a briefing similar to what was provided to members of Congress last week.

In a separate television appearance, Giuliani said Trump was "adamant" about wanting to agree to an interview, saying, "If he wasn't thinking about it and it wasn't an active possibility, we would be finished with that by now and we would have moved on to getting the investigation over with another way."

The new wrinkle, he said, is the disclosure about the informant.

"We are more convinced, as we see it, that this is a rigged investigation. Now we have this whole new 'Spygate' thing thrown on top of it, on top of already very legitimate questions," he told CNN's "State of the Union."

Giuliani also raised the specter of a protracted legal fight over the question of a Trump interview if Mueller decided to seek a subpoena.

"What we have to do is go to court and seek protection from the court, if we have to do that. Our first thing is we sure as heck are not going to testify unless it's all straightened out, unless we learned the basis of that Russian investigation," Giuliani told Fox.

Budget battle brews as Trump threatens another shutdown

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has warned Congress that he will never sign another foot-tall, \$1 trillion-plus government-wide spending bill like the one he did in March. His message to lawmakers in both parties: Get your act together before the next budget lands on my desk.

After a brief government shutdown earlier this year, Democrats and Republicans now agree on the need

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 31 of 38

for budgeting day-to-day operations of government by the old-fashioned way. That means weeks of open debate and amendments that empower rank-and-file lawmakers, rather than concentrating power in the hands of a few leaders meeting in secret.

But Capitol Hill's dysfunction is so pervasive that even the most optimistic predictions are for only a handful of the 12 annual spending bills to make it into law by Oct. 1, the start of the new budget year. The rest may get bundled together into a single, massive measure yet again.

The worst-case scenario? A government shutdown just a month before Election Day, Nov. 6, as Republicans and Democrats fight for control of the House and possibly the Senate. Trump is agitating for more money for his long-promised border wall with Mexico. So far, he has been frustrated by limited success on that front.

"We need the wall. We're going to have it all. And again, that wall has started. We got \$1.6 billion. We come up again (in) September," Trump said in a campaign-style event in Michigan last month. "If we don't get border security, we'll have no choice. We'll close down the country because we need border security."

At stake is the funding for daily operations of government agencies. A budget deal this year reversed spending cuts that affected military readiness and put a crimp on domestic agencies. A \$1.3 trillion spending bill swept through Congress in March, though Trump entertained last-minute second thoughts about the measure and promised he would not sign a repeat.

The demise of the annual appropriations process took root after Republicans took over the House in 2011 and is part of a broader breakdown on Capitol Hill. The yearly bills need bipartisan support to advance, which has grated on tea party lawmakers. GOP leaders such as House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and his predecessor as speaker, Ohio Republican John Boehner, have preferred to focus on other priorities.

Ryan did throw his weight behind a two-year budget agreement this year that set an overall spending limit of \$1.3 trillion for both 2018 and 2019, citing a need to boost the Pentagon.

That, in theory, makes it easier to get the appropriations process back on track. But in the GOP-controlled House, where Democratic votes are generally needed to pass the bills, Democrats are complaining that Republicans have shortchanged domestic agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Agency.

That's not the case in the Senate, where the new chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Alabama Republican Richard Shelby, is determined to get the system working again. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York is on board, as is Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., himself a decades-long veteran of that powerful committee.

"We want this to work," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who criticized the GOP-controlled House for continuing to pack legislation with "poison pills."

Obstacles remain, however.

For starters, floor debates could lead to votes on contentious issues such as immigration, the border wall, gun control and others that some lawmakers might hope to avoid.

Democrats are wary of Republicans trying to jam through the Pentagon spending bill before dealing with some agencies.

And Trump could blow up the whole effort at any time.

Trump is prone to threatening government shutdowns on Twitter or when he riffs in public, and then backing off when bills are delivered to him.

In the House, a familiar problem awaits.

Many conservative Republicans won't vote for some bills because they think they spend too much money. That means Democratic votes are a must. But many Democrats are upset over unrelated policy add-ons pushed by the GOP, and they won't vote for the spending bills unless those provisions are removed, which usually doesn't happen until end-stage talks.

At the same time, House GOP leaders are distracted by disputes over immigration, and they haven't made the appropriations bills a priority.

An effort led by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., to cut or "rescind" \$15 billion in unspent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 32 of 38

money has run into greater opposition than anticipated. Meantime, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., is unpopular with some House conservatives, who cite his votes against a recent farm bill and against last year's tax cut measure, and that may hamper his effectiveness.

Will Power wins Indy 500, No. 17 for car owner Roger Penske

By JENNA FRYER, AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Will Power hated racing on ovals. He wasn't a fan of Indianapolis Motor Speedway and figured he would never win the Indianapolis 500.

That kind of attitude doesn't fly when you drive for Roger Penske.

Power had to change his thinking and his performance on oval tracks. He learned to respect the speedway. And the 37-year-old Power is now a winner of one of the biggest races in the world.

"I've slowly changed to be a more positive person. It's hard when you're very negative," said Power, who pulled away in the final moments to win the 102nd running of the Indy 500. "You've got to have determination. That's what I had. You work hard at something, it comes to you. It eventually comes to you. (Indy) was the last box to tick, to be considered as a very successful driver."

The different approach landed Power in the most storied winner's circle in history Sunday when he gave Penske a 17th victory in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing." Power actually swept the month of May at Indy after winning on the road course two weeks ago and his 34 wins tied him with Al Unser Jr. for eighth on IndyCar's all-time list.

Power is also the winningest IndyCar driver in Penske history (31). He is the first Australian victor in 102 editions of the race, and joined countryman Daniel Ricciardo as winners on the biggest day of the year in motorsports. Ricciardo won Formula One's Monaco Grand Prix earlier Sunday.

Power celebrated the checkered flag by screaming into his radio: "Show me respect, (expletive)!" When he got to the winner's circle, he screamed some more. Some two hours after the race, he was exhausted.

"I just screamed like I've never screamed before. It was just amazing. The last two laps, the last lap, seeing the white flag, the checkered, I mean, you can't explain it," Power said. "It's what I needed so badly, what I wanted so badly, and it came true. Anyone here knows how that would feel. You want something so much, it comes through to you through hard work and determination."

Penske arrived in Indy with four fast Chevrolets, and the engine builder was determined to snap Honda's two-race Indy 500 winning streak. The Chevys were the fastest cars in the field and Team Penske had four equal chances to win.

As Power held off pole winner Ed Carpenter to win his first Indy 500, the 81-year-old Penske pumped his fist in the air and clapped. Penske was elected to the NASCAR Hall of Fame earlier this month, and had a shot at closing Sunday with a victory in the Coca-Cola 600 in North Carolina.

"To be able to race on Memorial Day in the biggest sporting event in the world, have America the way it is, that's what I'm going to take away from this race," Penske said. "I'm just so thrilled, 17 wins. Now I have to worry about 18. I'm not going to look back, I'll look forward. We have to be back next year."

Penske also credited his strong lineup of 2014 series champion Power, 2016 champion Simon Pagenaud, reigning champion Josef Newgarden and three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves.

"We had four great cars. That's what you have to have here. You have to have four bullets, whatever it takes," Penske said.

In the winner's circle, Power could not contain his glee.

He screamed to wife, Liz, took a sip of the traditional milk, then dumped the rest over his head and around his crew. Liz Power reached for the empty milk bottle, then pointed out to her husband that he'd sprayed milk all over one of the Indy 500 princesses. He apologized, then started screaming again.

Splashing the princess was the only wrong move Power made all day during an event that saw many top drivers make costly mistakes. James Hinchcliffe, a championship contender, failed to make the race at all. Castroneves, Tony Kanaan, Sebastien Bourdais and Danica Patrick were among those who crashed

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 33 of 38

in single-car spins. Defending race winner Takuma Sato was also knocked out when he ran into the back of a slower car.

Power led 59 laps but his final pit stop dropped him to fourth, behind three cars that were trying to win on fuel mileage. Kanaan's crash with 12 laps remaining set up a final restart with Oriol Servia out front. He didn't get a great restart and was passed by Stefan Wilson and Jack Harvey. But all three needed enough gas to get to the finish line, and it was Power who was frantically chasing them down.

Wilson and Harvey both ducked onto pit lane for gas, giving Power the lead with four laps remaining. He knew he had it won when he took the white flag all alone, and spent the final lap yelling to himself in joy as he drove away from the field.

"I was wondering if I would ever win it and thoughts when through my mind during the month, my career," he said. "I've had so many wins, so many poles. Everyone talks about the 500 and I just couldn't imagine winning a race in front of a crowd like this, this many people. It's just amazing."

Carpenter was second in a Chevy and noted just how much Power used to hate the speedway.

"He hated ovals and now he loves them," he said. "He and I love racing together. Maybe someday he'll race for me. I don't know if we have a tampering rule in IndyCar, but congrats Will."

Scott Dixon stretched his fuel to finish third and was followed by Alexander Rossi, who drove from 32nd to fourth and made some of the most spectacular moves in the race. Rossi had no choice: It was difficult to pass in the 2018 car on a day that fell just 2 degrees short — it was 91 — of being the hottest 500 in history.

The conditions created a slick, 2 ½-mile track, and new cars with less downforce proved to be a handful for even the most experienced of drivers.

Castroneves' bid to win a record-tying fourth 500 ended when he spun exiting Turn 4. The popular Brazilian has been chasing Rick Mears, A.J. Foyt and Al Unser Sr. in the record books and even though Penske moved him to sports cars this year, Castroneves was given a seat for Indy.

Penske said if Castroneves won a fourth, he'd get a chance at a fifth and the team confirmed that after the race. Still, Castroneves savored his final moments on the track Sunday and instead of taking an ambulance ride to the care center, he made the long walk down pit lane, waving to fans on the way.

Patrick was completing the "Danica Double" after wrecking out at the Daytona 500. She decided long ago that the race that made her famous would be her last, and while she called the outcome disappointing, she also expressed appreciation for all that Indianapolis had given her.

"Yeah, it's an entire career," she said, "but what really launched it was this. It's both of them. I had a lot of good fortune here and did still have some this month. It just didn't come today."

Bourdais crashed a year after missing the race because of a harrowing, high-speed accident during qualifying. Bourdais had led at least one lap in every race this season, and led for the first time in his career at Indianapolis.

Honda didn't win the race but did manage to put six of its cars in the top 10. Kanaan led at least one lap in his 14th Indy 500 to break a record he had shared with four-time race winner A.J. Foyt.

More AP auto racing: www.racing.ap.org

Power eludes Italy's populists, angry over president's veto

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's president on Sunday vetoed a euro-skeptic choice for economy minister, foiling a bid by populists to form Italy's next government and increasing the prospects of a quick return to the polls, 12 weeks after national elections produced a political impasse.

The pair of rival populists who had agreed to forge a governing coalition together exploded in anger after President Sergio Mattarella announced at the Quirinal presidential palace that he was refusing to appoint a minister whose views could rattle already nervous markets and drive up Italy's already staggeringly high debt.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 34 of 38

Luigi Di Maio, who was determined to see his anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, Parliament's largest party, achieve government power for the first time, raised the specter of a move to impeach Mattarella, who, as head of state, must give his approval to any new government.

"If we go to vote (again) and we win, and then we go back to the Quirinale and they tell us we can't go into a government, for this I say, we must put the president under accusation" in Parliament, Di Maio said in a phone call to a late-night talk show.

Right-wing leader Matteo Salvini, who overcame rivalry with Di Maio to try to forge a coalition with him, told a rally of his League party supporters after learning his pick for economy minister was rejected: "If we're not free to decide, better to go back to vote." He added: "we're not a free country" but have "limited sovereignty."

The political novice and 5-Star supporter selected by Di Maio and Salvini to be premier told reporters at the palace he had tried his best but didn't succeed, four days after Mattarella formally gave him a mandate to try to form the government on behalf of the populists.

"Good luck to anyone" who next gets tapped by Mattarella to be premier-designate, Giuseppe Conte, a law professor at the University of Florence, told reporter. He said he did best to try to give the country "a government of change."

An irritated-looking Mattarella said he would reveal his next move "in a few hours."

Italian media said the president would convene Carlo Cottarelli, an economist who assisted a former center-left government, to the palace late Monday morning. Mattarella was expected to ask the former International Monetary Fund official to assemble and lead a government of "technocrats" until early elections.

But as analyst Wolfango Piccoli noted early Monday that such a government risks losing mandatory confidence votes in each chamber of Parliament. The 5-Stars and the League together command just over half the lawmakers' seats. "This means that Italy will be left with no effective government backed by a clear political majority in Parliament until the end of the year," said Piccoli, co-president of Teneo Intelligence.

"The main risk is that the stand-off will further embolden the 5-Star Movement, and, especially, the League. The two populist parties will blame the 'establishment' for denying them the right to govern," Piccoli said.

Mattarella had previously warned that if a political government failed to take shape, he would be forced to appoint a non-political premier to guide the country to fresh elections before year's end.

On Sunday night, he said he would "dutifully" consider requests by political parties for early elections.

Salvini had virtually given an ultimatum to Mattarella over his pick for economy minister, Paolo Savona. Mattarella told reporters he had approved all of the coalition's Cabinet candidates except that of Savona.

"The designation of the economy minister always constitutes an immediate message of trust or alarm" for financial markets, Mattarella said, adding that he insisted on someone who was not "supporting a position expressed more than once that could probably, or in fact inevitably, provoke Italy's exit from the euro."

Last week, the spread of points between Italy's bonds and benchmark German bonds grew alarmingly, and Milan's stock market suffered losses as investors were spooked about the intentions of the populists.

"The losses in the stock market, day after day, burn resources and the savings of our companies and of those who invest in them," Mattarella said. "And they portend concrete risks for the savings of our fellow citizens and for Italian families."

Savona, who served as industry minister in a government in the 1990s, has questioned whether Italy at some point should ditch the euro as its official currency.

Outgoing Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan contended that the real problem wasn't Savona, but the "clearly unsustainable" platform of a populist government "that doesn't rule out a Plan B: that is, in the face of European pressures, one must leave Europe."

With the prospect of elections possibly looming in a few weeks or months, Salvini might see a boost in what already has been steadily growing popularity, said political analyst Maurizio Molinari, who is La Stampa newspaper's editor-in-chief.

Salvini was "much stronger" in opposing Mattarella, posturing that could expand his sovereignty-leaning

base, Molinari said. The League has triumphed in several recent regional elections since March 4.

Colleen Barry contributed from Milan.

Frances D'Emilio is on Twitter at www.twitter.com/fdemilio

'Solo' sputters in takeoff with \$83.3M at box office

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the largest disturbance yet in Disney's otherwise lucrative reign over "Star Wars," the Han Solo spinoff "Solo: A Star Wars Story" opened well below expectations with a franchise-low \$83.3 million in ticket sales over the three-day weekend in North American theaters.

Disney estimated Sunday that "Solo" will gross \$101 million over the four-day Memorial Day weekend, a figure below even the opening weekends of the much-derided "Star Wars" prequels. Last week, forecasts ran as high as \$150 million for the four-day haul of "Solo."

Overseas ticket sales were even worse. "Solo," starring Alden Ehrenreich in the role made iconic by Harrison Ford, grossed \$65 million internationally in its opening weekend, including a paltry \$10.1 million in China.

"Of course we would have hoped for this to be a bit bigger," said Dave Hollis, Disney's distribution chief. "We're encouraged by the response that people have had to the film. It got a good CinemaScore (A-minus). The exits are very encouraging."

"Solo" came in with a Millennium Falcon's worth of baggage following the mid-production firing of directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, who were replaced by Ron Howard. With the rejiggered production, the budget soared well past \$250 million.

But the cause of the spinoff's disappointing performance may have had as much to do with "Star Wars" fatigue ("The Last Jedi" exited theaters just last month) and the stiffer competition of a summer holiday weekend. While no major releases dared to open against "Solo," Fox's "Deadpool 2" moved its release date up a week ahead of "Solo."

The gambit may have hurt both releases. After debuting with \$125 million last weekend, the R-rated Ryan Reynolds sequel dropped 66 percent to second place with \$42.7 million and an estimated \$53.5 million four-day haul.

"Solo" notched the biggest Memorial Day weekend opening in several years, but it also came on the heels of a pair of a summer-sized blockbusters — "Deadpool 2" and Disney's own "Avengers Infinity War" — making for an unusually crowded May. "Infinity War" added \$16.5 million in its fifth weekend to bring its domestic total to \$621.7 million and its global sales to \$1.9 billion — both among the highest of all-time.

"It is a business that is built on momentum but also one where people probably are only able to get to theaters a certain number of weeks in a row," said Hollis.

But there were also questions beyond the effect the calendar had on "Solo." While reviews were generally positive (71 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes), there was little about "Solo" that made the movie a must-see event.

Fans were skeptical of Ehrenreich and uncertain about the dismissal of Lord and Miller (the popular filmmaking duo behind "21 Jump Street" and "The Lego Movie"). Unlike any "Star Wars" release before, "Solo" was deemed — gasp — skippable.

As it arrived in theaters, Disney might have been wishing it had instead made a Lando Calrissian spinoff with the red-hot Donald Glover, the star of TV's "Atlanta." In the days ahead of release, Lucasfilm President Kathleen Kennedy said a Lando movie is a possibility.

While the original "Star Wars" films helped define the summer moviegoing experience, Disney released their previous three "Star Wars" films in December. What most hurt "Solo" was the "fatigue factor" of a May "Star Wars" film following a December one, said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore.

"It's the compressed timeframe between the two 'Star Wars' films and the highly competitive nature of this marketplace. It is summer, after all," said Dergarabedian. "The good news is that the next film isn't

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 36 of 38

until December 2019. That's plenty of breathing space. I think part of the allure of the 'Star Wars' brand in the past has been the long wait."

That time might also be valuable for Lucasfilm and Disney to find a way to counter the diminishing returns of its multi-billion-dollar franchise. To help propel "Solo" internationally, Disney brought the film to Cannes Film Festival, flooding the French film festival's red carpet with Storm Troopers.

"The Last Jedi" also flopped in China (it was pulled from theaters after a week), and Rian Johnson's movie — even though it grossed \$1.3 billion worldwide — showed relatively weak legs at the box office, while proving divisive among "Star Wars" die-hards.

The magic around a "Star Wars" film may be fading. To right the ship on Episode 9, Lucasfilm has turned to an old friend: "The Force Awakens" director J.J. Abrams. He, too, is replacing a fired director after Colin Trevorrow departed last fall.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

1. "Solo: A Star Wars Story," \$83.3 million (\$65 million international).
2. "Deadpool 2," \$42.7 million (\$57 million international).
3. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$16.5 million (\$32.5 million international).
4. "Book Club," \$9.5 million.
5. "Life of the Party," \$5.1 million.
6. "Breaking In," \$4.1 million.
7. "Show Dogs," \$3.1 million.
8. "Overboard," \$3 million (\$2.3 million international).
9. "A Quiet Place," \$2.2 million (\$4.7 million international).
10. "RBG," \$1.2 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Solo: A Star Wars Story," \$65 million.
2. "Deadpool 2," \$57 million.
3. "Avengers: Infinity War," \$32.5 million.
4. "How Long Will I Love U," \$24.3 million.
5. "Believer," \$10.4 million.
6. "A Quiet Place," \$4.7 million.
7. "Blumhouse's Truth Or Dare," \$3.3 million.
8. "Perfetti Sconosciuti," \$2.8 million.
9. "Peter Rabbit," \$2.4 million.
10. "Overboard," \$2.3 million.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 28, the 148th day of 2018. There are 217 days left in the year. This is the Memorial Day observance.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 28, 1918, American troops fought their first major battle during World War I as they launched an offensive against the German-held French village of Cantigny (kahn-tee-NYEE'); the Americans succeeded in capturing the village.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 37 of 38

On this date:

In 1533, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

In 1892, the Sierra Club was organized in San Francisco.

In 1912, the Senate Commerce Committee issued its report on the Titanic disaster that cited a "state of absolute unpreparedness," improperly tested safety equipment and an "indifference to danger" as some of the causes of an "unnecessary tragedy."

In 1929, the first all-color talking picture, "On with the Show!" produced by Warner Bros., opened in New York.

In 1934, the Dionne quintuplets — Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Marie and Yvonne — were born to Elzire Dionne at the family farm in Ontario, Canada.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling that vehicular traffic could begin crossing the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California. Neville Chamberlain became prime minister of Britain. In Nazi Germany, Volkswagen was founded by the German Labour Front.

In 1940, during World War II, the Belgian army surrendered to invading German forces.

In 1957, National League owners gave permission for the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants to move to Los Angeles and San Francisco.

In 1968, "Creedence Clearwater Revival," the band's debut album, was released by Fantasy Records.

In 1977, 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Kentucky.

In 1987, to the embarrassment of Soviet officials, Mathias Rust (mah-TEE'-uhs rust), a young West German pilot, landed a private plane in Moscow's Red Square without authorization. (Rust was freed by the Soviets the following year.)

In 1998, comic actor Phil Hartman, 49, of "Saturday Night Live" and "NewsRadio" fame was shot to death at his home in Encino, California, by his wife, Brynn, who then killed herself.

Ten years ago: The White House reacted angrily to a highly critical memoir by President George W. Bush's former press secretary, Scott McClellan, who wrote that Bush had relied on an aggressive "political propaganda campaign" instead of the truth to sell the Iraq war. Nepal's lawmakers abolished the monarchy and declared the country a republic, ending 239 years of royal rule.

Five years ago: Calling it perhaps the biggest money-laundering scheme in U.S. history, federal prosecutors charged seven people with running what amounted to an online, underworld bank, saying that Liberty Reserve handled \$6 billion for drug dealers, child pornographers, identity thieves and other criminals around the globe.

One year ago: A series of shootings in rural Mississippi claimed the lives of eight people at three separate homes; a suspect faces one count of capital murder in the death of Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy William Durr and seven counts of first-degree murder. The Cannes Film Festival awarded its coveted Palme d'Or award to Ruben Ostlund's Swedish comedy "The Square." Takuma Sato won the Indianapolis 500 to give owner Michael Andretti a second consecutive victory. Angelique Kerber became the first women's No. 1 seed to be defeated in the French Open's first round in the Open era, losing 6-2, 6-2 to 40th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova of Russia.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Carroll Baker is 87. Producer-director Irwin Winkler is 87. Actor John Karlen is 85. Basketball Hall of Famer Jerry West is 80. Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is 74. Singer Gladys Knight is 74. Actress-director Sondra Locke is 74. Singer Billy Vera is 74. Singer John Fogerty (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 73. Country musician Jerry Douglas (Alison Krauss and Union Station) is 62. Actor Louis Mustillo is 60. U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., is 58. Actor Brandon Cruz (TV: "The Courtship of Eddie's Father") is 56. Country singer Phil Vassar is 54. Actress Christa Miller is 54. Singer-musician Chris Ballew (Presidents of the USA) is 53. Rapper Chubb Rock is 50. Singer Kylie Minogue (KY'-lee mihn-OHG') is 50. Actor Justin Kirk is 49. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is 47. Olympic gold medal figure skater Ekaterina Gordeeva is 47. Television personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck is 41. Actor Jake Johnson is 40. Actor Jesse

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, May 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 318 ~ 38 of 38

Bradford is 39. Actress Monica Keena is 39. Actress Alexa Davalos is 36. Actress Megalyn Echikunwoke (eh-cheek-uh-WALK'-ay) is 36. Pop singer Colbie Caillat (kal-LAY') is 33. Actress Carey Mulligan is 33. Actor Joseph Cross is 32.

Thought for Today: "Time does not become sacred to us until we have lived it, until it has passed over us and taken with it a part of ourselves." — John Burroughs, American author and naturalist (1837-1921).