

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 1 of 53



**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.

- 1- Blocker Construction Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Robert Whitmyre for Dist. 1
- 2- Groton Care and Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Doeden, Bjerke place at state
- 2- Presentation College Spring 2018 President's and Dean's List:
- 3- Apply today: Grant up to \$2,000 or Community Project
- 3- Kjellsen's 80th Birthday
- 4- Primary Election Voters Encouraged to Check Voter Information Portal
- 5- Don Kirkegaard to Depart as Secretary of Education;
- 6- S.D. Farmers Union 2018 Insuring a Brighter Tomorrow Scholarship Winners Announced
- 7- Kelsie Kruger Joins Wolves as Women's Basketball Assistant Coach
- 8- Fort Sisseton Annual Historical Festival This Weekend
- 8- Labor Day Camping Reservations in State Parks Open Soon
- 8- State Parks Host Hikes, Events on National Trails Day
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- National Weather map
- 11- Today's Weather Almanac
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 14- News from the Associated Press

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 2 of 53

## Doeden, Bjerke place at state

Jonathan Doeden placed in the 110m hurdles and 300m hurdles and Jessica Bjerke placed in the discus at the state track meet held last weekend. Doeden scored 12 points for the boys and Bjerke scored four points for the girls.

The boys 4x100m relay team of Jonathan Doeden, Lucas Hinman, Austin Jones and Thomas Cranford placed 15th in the prelims with a time of 46.22. The top eight in the prelims qualified for the finals.

Jonathan Doeden tied for the second in the prelims in the 110m hurdles with a time of 15.31. He placed second in the finals with a time of 15.10. In the 300m hurdles, Doeden finished fifth in the prelims with a time of 41.04. He ran a 41.40 in the finals to place fifth. In the long jump, Doeden had a distance of 19-5.5 to finish 20th.

In the girls long jump, Harleigh Stange finished 17th with a distance of 15-5.5 and Gia Gengerke finished 20th with a distance of 15-3.5. Stange finished ninth in the triple jump with a distance of 34-1.

Jessica Bjerke placed fifth in the discus with a throw of 112-10. Jennie Doeden finished 15th with a throw of 100-8. Bjerke finished 12th in the shot put with a throw of 33-11.25. Luke Thorson finished 17th in the discus with throw of 115-2.

## 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

## Presentation College Spring 2018

### President's and Dean's List:

Presidents list - Jamie Krueger, Groton

Deans list - Sean Schuring, Groton

Presidents list students must earn a 4.0 grade point average for the semester and Dean's list students must maintain a 3.5 or greater grade point average.

## 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**

## 80th Birthday . . .



**Joan Kjellsen**

Joan will be celebrating her 80th Birthday on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Her family requests a card shower in her honor.

Greetings may be sent to:  
Joan Kjellsen  
208 Hillview Rd  
Sisseton, SD 57262

## Apply today: Grant up to \$2,000 or Community Project

Improving the quality of life in the communities we impact is important. As project owners of the Big Stone South-Ellendale Transmission Line and local electric service providers, we want to continue empowering local stewardship efforts, promoting health and safety, and supporting local organizations.

To carry out our mission, we're offering grants of up to \$2,000 and one community project—including volunteers and supplies as needed—to qualified organizations near the BSSE project area (within 40 miles from any point of the transmission line).

### Who should apply

Organizations should have 501(c)(3) status. Exceptions to this include public and private education institutions, volunteer fire departments, and rural emergency medical services.

The deadline for applications is June 22, 2018

## Primary Election Voters Encouraged to Check Voter Information Portal

PIERRE, SD – Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is encouraging South Dakotans to review the Voter Information Portal on the South Dakota Secretary of State's website before they head out to vote for the Tuesday, June 5th Primary Election.

"Being prepared before you head to your polling place is an important step in the voting process," noted Secretary Krebs. "Registered South Dakota voters can view their sample ballot and find their polling place on the Secretary of State's Voter Information Portal."

Registered voters must provide a photo identification Card (ID) when voting, including:

- South Dakota driver's license or nondriver identification card,
- passport or an identification card issued by an agency of the United States government,
- tribal identification card; or
- current student identification card issued by a high school or an accredited institution of higher education, including a university, college, or technical school, located within the State of South Dakota.

If a voter does not have a photo ID, they must be given the option to sign a personal identification affidavit and vote a regular ballot.

Voters wishing to vote absentee by mail must fill out an absentee ballot application and have their signature notarized or provide a copy of their photo identification. Voters must mail or turn this application into their County Auditor's office. The deadline to submit an absentee ballot application to the county auditor's office for the Primary Election is Monday, June 4, 2018 at 5 PM local time. Voters may also vote absentee in-person at their county auditor's office now until Monday, June 4 at 5 PM local time.

The Democrat primary election ballot is open to registered Democrats and registered Independents or those with No Party Affiliation. Republicans have a closed primary and only registered Republicans will be able to vote a Republican ballot. All registered voters in South Dakota including those registered as Libertarian, Constitution, Independents, No Party Affiliation and Other will be eligible for a ballot during the 2018 primary election due to Constitutional Amendment Y creating a Non-Political ballot statewide.

## **Don Kirkegaard to Depart as Secretary of Education; Stadick Smith to Serve as Interim Secretary**

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Secretary of Education Don Kirkegaard announced today he will leave his position as secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education in July.

Kirkegaard, who has served as secretary since December 2017, has accepted a position as superintendent of schools for the West Bend School District in West Bend, Wisconsin.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as secretary and to work with the dedicated team at the Department of Education," said Kirkegaard. "I have had the privilege to spend my entire career in South Dakota public education and I thank all the educators, students and parents I have worked with. I am also excited by the opportunity to work in the West Bend School District."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard praised Kirkegaard's service as secretary.

"Don accepted this job knowing it would be for a short time, but his service has been crucial," said the Governor. "Under Don's leadership, the Department has moved past the Common Core standards, pushed forward pilot programs to promote CTE and apprenticeships, and advanced new graduation requirements that will enhance work-based learning opportunities. I thank Don for his service."

Kirkegaard is a native of Trent. Prior to serving as secretary, he was superintendent of the Meade County School District from 2011 to 2017, and had previously held leadership roles in the Bristol and Britton school districts. Kirkegaard also served on the State Board of Education Standards from 2006 to 2017.

Mary Stadick Smith, the department's deputy secretary, will serve as interim secretary for the remainder of the Daugaard Administration, which will end in early January 2019. She previously served as interim secretary in December 2017.



## S.D. Farmers Union 2018 Insuring a Brighter Tomorrow Scholarship Winners Announced

HURON, S.D. - The South Dakota Farmers Union Foundation, in cooperation with Farmers Union Insurance Agency, announces the Insuring a Brighter Tomorrow scholarship recipients.

Each of the scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000 to put toward their post secondary education at a South Dakota college, university or technical school. Over the past 11 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$275,000 in scholarships to students attending South Dakota post-secondary schools.

The recipients were chosen from among a large pool of applicants. They were scored based on a combination of academic record, activities and awards, financial need and an essay relating to how they will "Insure a Brighter Tomorrow" in South Dakota. Farmers Union Insurance agents throughout the state fund this scholarship program administered by the Farmers Union Foundation.

"Our insurance agents are committed to building a brighter future in South Dakota," says Jason Wells, Regional Manager of Farmers Union Insurance Agency. "This is a remarkable group and they make me excited about the future of our great state. We're choosing to invest in these outstanding individuals to help them pursue their goals and aspirations."

Scholarship recipients include the following: (Click on youth's name to link to a high resolution photo)



**Jenifer  
Fjelstad**

Jenifer Fjelstad, graduate of Groton Area High School and daughter of Clint & Tara Fjelstad;

Matthew Sperry, graduate of Aberdeen Roncalli and son of Scott & Kathy Sperry;

Sage Pulse, graduate of Kimball High School and daughter of Lee & Nicole Pulse;

Anne Knoff, graduate of Yankton High School and daughter of David & Jozette Knoff;

Trew DeJong, graduate of Philip High School and son of Travis & Pamela DeJong;

Riley Calhoon, graduate of Winner High School and son of John & Jodi Calhoon;

Ellie Holmes, graduate of Brandon Valley High School and daughter of Mike & Val Holmes;

Taylor Gall, graduate of Scotland High School and daughter of Fred & Tricia Gall;

Savannah Krogman, graduate of Jones County High School and daughter of Neil Krogman & Kathy Krogman;

Kaylee Hart, graduate of Mitchell High School and daughter of Troy & Andrea Hart;

Katie McManus, graduate of Lyman High School and daughter of Don & Melinda McManus;

Eric Olson, graduate of Watertown High School and son of Jim & Julie Olson;

Brianna Mount, graduate of Webster Area High School and daughter of Randy & Stacy Mount;

Erica Koster, graduate of Armour High School and daughter of Dean & Bonnie Koster;

Saraya Bronson, graduate of Wilmot High School and daughter of Colin & Renae Bronson;

Zachary Severson, graduate of Canton High School and son of Brad & LuAnn Severson;

Dalton Howe, graduate of Redfield High School and son of Lance & Shirley Howe;

Carter Larson, graduate of Vermillion High School and son of Eric Larson & Laurie Larson;

Chastin Mohr, graduate of Parker High School and daughter of Scott & Jenia Mohr;

Sadie Vander Wal, graduate of Northwestern High School and daughter of Jeff & Beth Vander Wal;

Kylee Guindon, graduate of Plankinton High School and daughter of Rayne & Jen Guindon;

Nathan Rook, graduate of Aberdeen Central High School and son of Kevin & Brenda Rook;

Emily Oswald, graduate of Yankton High School and daughter of Jason & Sherri Oswald; and

Kaylee Becker, graduate of TF Riggs High School and daughter of David & Denette Becker.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 7 of 53

## **Kelsie Kruger Joins Wolves as Women's Basketball Assistant Coach**

Aberdeen, S.D. – Northern State University head women's basketball coach, Paula Krueger announced today the addition of Kelsie Kruger to the 2018-19 staff as the team's assistant coach. Kruger joins the Wolves after two seasons as the assistant at Utah State University.

"I have known Kelsie for many years and have always been impressed with her passion for the game of basketball," noted Krueger. "She brings a great amount of experience from coaching at both the Division I and Division II levels."

In her two seasons with the Aggies, Kruger worked specifically with the post players, and was a key component to the Utah State recruiting effort. She coached 2017 all-conference performer Shannon Duficy. Prior to her work at Utah State, Kruger spent the 2015-16 season as the women's basketball operations coordinator at South Dakota State University. The Jackrabbits won the Summit League Conference Tournament, and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"I'd like to thank Athletic Director, Josh Moon and head coach, Paula Krueger for the opportunity to join the rich tradition of Northern State women's basketball," explained Kruger. "I look forward to being able to contribute to continued success in the new era of the program."

Kruger began her career as the basketball and volleyball graduate assistant at Iowa Lakes Community College. The Lakers volleyball team advanced to the NJCAA Tournament in November of 2011 and finished fifth nationally.

"She is a solid teacher of the game with a tremendous work ethic and I am very excited to add Kelsie as my assistant coach," added Krueger. "She is not only a great addition to the basketball program, but Northern State University and the community of Aberdeen."

She returned to her alma-mater as an assistant coach in the spring of 2012 and spent one season at Adams State, before moving on to California State University, East Bay. In her two seasons with the Pioneers, Kruger coached five CCAA All-Conference players in Tori Breshers, Stephanie Lopez (2-time), Brianna Terrance, and Danielle Peacon. Stephanie Lopez was named the Daktronics All-West Region Player of the Year in 2015.

"I've known coach [Krueger] for many years - playing against her in the RMAC, working her camps and seeing her out on the recruiting trail and I look forward to contributing to continued success," Kruger continued. "Aberdeen is a special community, one that loves and supports women's basketball and I'm looking forward to being a part of Wolves Country!"

Kruger played collegiately at Adams State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Sports Administration in May of 2011. The Grizzlies advanced to the NCAA Region Tournament in 2010 and the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in 2011. In her senior campaign, Kruger was named to the RMAC All-Conference team.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 8 of 53

## Fort Sisseton Annual Historical Festival This Weekend

PIERRE, S.D. –On June 1-3, Fort Sisseton will host its 41st annual historical festival. The Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) expects a large turnout, with previous years bringing in as many as 15,000 visitors.

The three-day event allows visitors to relive history in a re-enactment of frontier life. Scenes of early settlement set the stage with muzzleloaders, riflemen and more participating in a rendezvous gathering. The rendezvous is complete with fur traders and both military and teepee encampment sites. Rendezvous traders and campers will compete in Tomahawk throws and black powder shoots.

The event features food and craft vendors throughout the weekend. The historical festival offers activities to showcase frontier life such as fiddle music, period oriented dance instruction classes, arts and craft shows and a costume ball.

The festival charges a \$5 admission fee or \$25 per night to camp onsite during the event.

For the full schedule and other information, visit: [gfp.sd.gov/historical-festival/](http://gfp.sd.gov/historical-festival/)

For camping reservations: [campsd.com](http://campsd.com) or 1.800.710.2267.

Fort Sisseton Historic State Park is located ten miles southwest of Lake City, S.D., off US Highway 10.

-GFP-

## Labor Day Camping Reservations in State Parks Open Soon

PIERRE, S.D. – This weekend, the South Dakota State Parks are opening up camping reservations for Labor Day weekend.

Reservations for a Friday, Aug. 31, arrival open on June 2 at 7 a.m. CDT. Labor Day is one of the most popular camping weekends of the year, and spots fill up quickly.

To reserve your spot, visit [campsd.com](http://campsd.com). Reservations open at 7 a.m. CDT, 90 days prior to arrival. Thereafter, reservations can be made 24 hours a day.

Camping fees are paid at the time a reservation is made, and a park entrance license is required in addition to camping fees.

Custer State Park is currently accepting reservations for all campsites. Group lodges at South Dakota state parks statewide are also accepting reservations at this time.

For more detailed information on making reservations or to view the 90-day window calendar, visit [gfp.sd.gov](http://gfp.sd.gov).

-GFP-

## State Parks Host Hikes, Events on National Trails Day

PIERRE, S.D. – Parks across the state are celebrating National Trails Day this weekend. Hikes, activities and programs are being held in parks to recognize the state's trails.

Friday, June 1 – Sunday, June 3

Ft. Sisseton Historical Festival, Fort Sisseton Historical State Park, Lake City. 4 p.m. CT. Info: 607.448.5474

Friday, June 1 – Saturday, June 2

Watercraft Exploration, Chief White Crane Recreation Area, Yankton. 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. CT. Info: 605.668.2985

Saturday, June 2

Archery for Beginners, North Point Recreation Area, Pickstown. 10 a.m. CT.

Info: 605.487.7046

Critter Hike, Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, Yankton. 10 a.m. CT. Info: 605.668.2985

National Trails Day Hike: Prairie Trail, Custer State Park, Custer. 9 a.m. MT. Info: 605.255.4515

National Trails Day Hike: Little Devil's Tower Trail, Custer State Park, Custer. 1 p.m. MT. Info: 605.255.4515

National Trails Day Hike, Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. 2 p.m. CT. Info: 605.627.5441

National Trails Day Hike: Badger Clark Trail, Custer State Park, Custer. 4 p.m. MT.

Info: 605.255.4464

Watercraft Exploration, Chief White Crane Recreation Area, Yankton. 4 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. CT. Info: 605.668.2985



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 9 of 53

## Today in Weather History

May 30, 1998: An F4 tornado moved through southeast South Dakota, killing six people and injuring another 150. The tornado crossed into McCook County at approximately 7:38 pm, CST and moved through downtown Spencer at about 7:39 pm, CST. The total cost of damage was more than \$18 million with an additional half million in crop damage.

1879: A significant outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide and exhibited multiple vortices.

1927: The Kentucky River peaks during a massive flood that killed 89 people and left thousands homeless. Torrential rains caused this unprecedented flood.

1948 - A railroad bed acting as a dam gave way during a flood along the Columbia River destroying the town of Vanport, OR. The nearly 19,000 residents escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Twenty carloads of glass were needed in Denver, CO, to replace that destroyed by a severe hail-storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the eastern U.S. Eighteen cities, from Virginia to Ohio and Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, and 98 degrees at Newark, NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, MT, was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, MT, soared to 94 degrees. A "supercell" thunderstorm in west Texas produced baseball size hail in Bailey and Lamb counties, and up to five inches of rain in less than an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day. A powerful (F-4) tornado injured three persons and caused a million dollars damage at New Providence, IA. Baseball size hail was reported at Blue Earth, MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front spawned fourteen tornadoes in northeastern Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail near Marshall, wind gusts to 77 mph at Commerce, and up to five inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southwestern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 10 of 53

Wed May 30	Thu May 31	Fri Jun 1	Sat Jun 2	Sun Jun 3	Mon Jun 4	Tue Jun 5
82°F	84°F	90°F	80°F	84°F	83°F	81°F
60°F	63°F	61°F	55°F	56°F	58°F	62°F
SSE 8 MPH Precip 40%	NNW 7 MPH	SE 18 MPH	WNW 16 MPH	SW 10 MPH	ESE 14 MPH	E 13 MPH

**TODAY**

MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>



*An active pattern continues providing opportunities for precipitation*

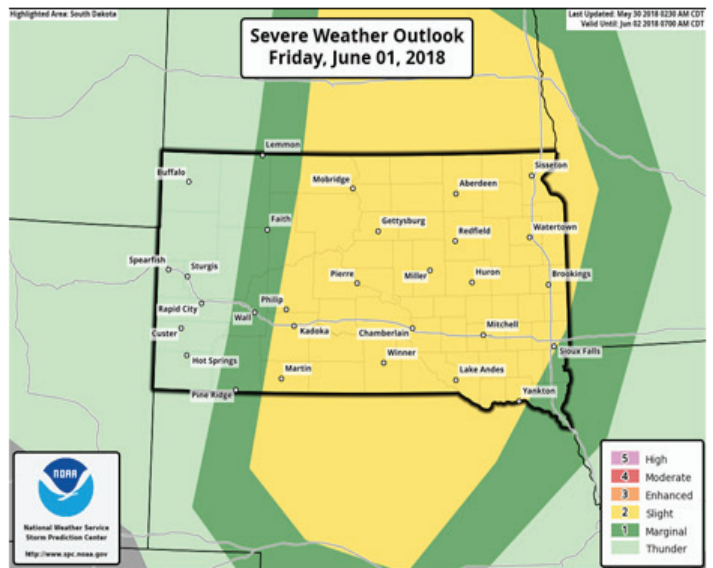
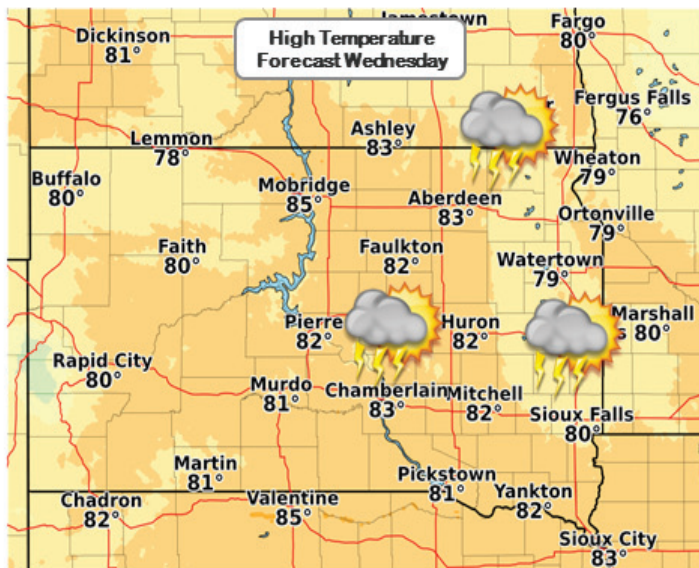
**FRIDAY**

JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>



Scattered showers and t-storms this afternoon/evening

Hot and breezy, strong to severe t-storms possible



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
 Updated: 5/30/2018 5:25 AM Central  
 Published on: 05/30/2018 at 5:36AM

An area of low pressure should spark off showers and storms mainly east of the Missouri River later today. While dry weather is expected Thursday, another system moves in on Friday and this one has the potential to produce severe weather. Stay tuned for updates and details.

# Groton Daily Independent

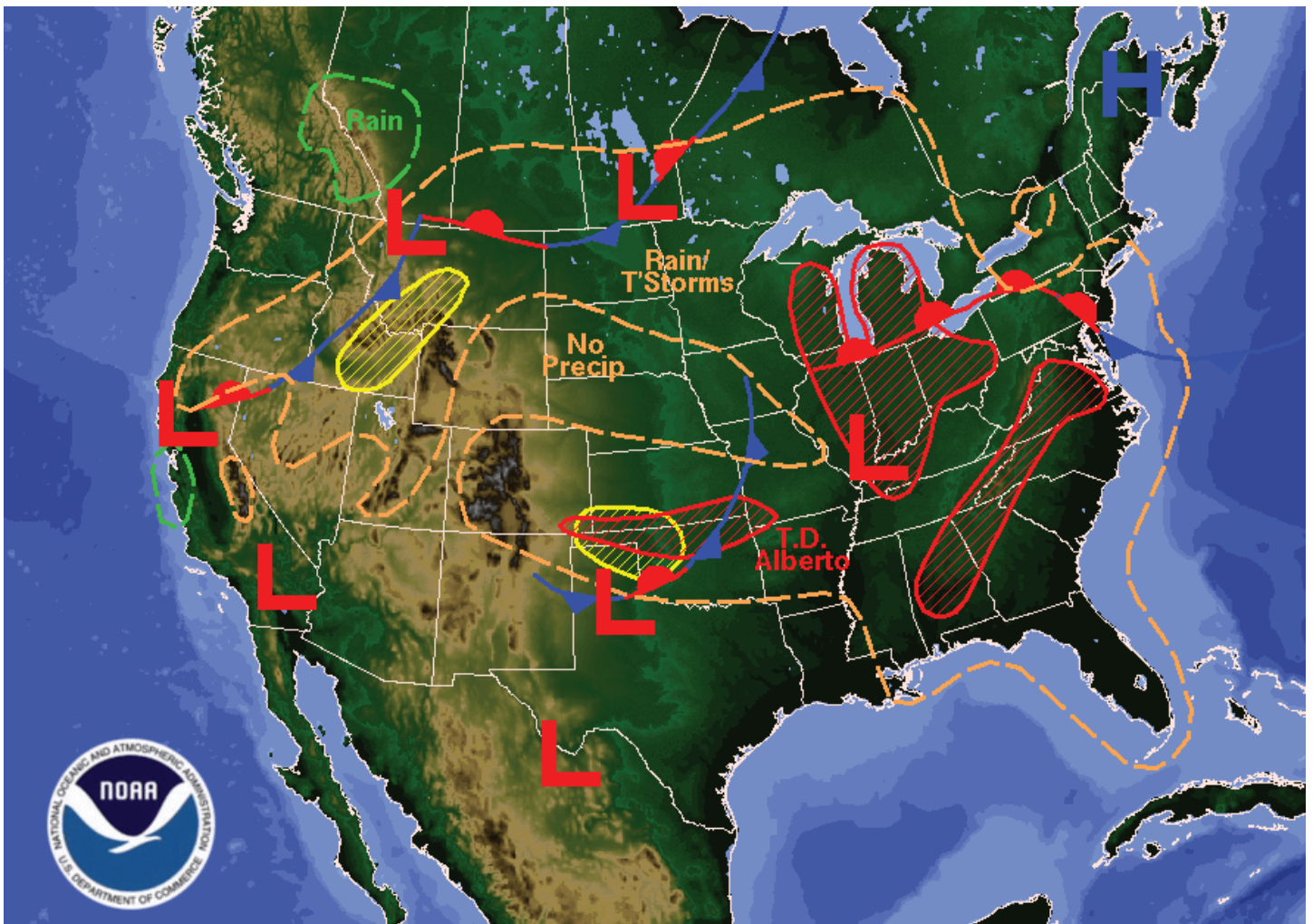
Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 11 of 53

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 87.2 F at 5:17 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 67.5 F at 6:27 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 2:50 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 110° in 1934**  
**Record Low: 27° in 1947**  
**Average High: 72°F**  
**Average Low: 49°F**  
**Average Precip in May: 3.01**  
**Precip to date in May: 1.62**  
**Average Precip to date: 7.04**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.30**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:13 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, May 30, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 12 of 53



## DOES SIZE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Have you ever heard that "bigger is better" or that "smaller is insufficient"? Some think that size makes a difference. And there may be times when both are true.

Psalm 117 provides a significant statement on size. It is the shortest chapter in the Bible. Yet it contains some of the largest themes in the Word of God.

For example, "Praise the Lord, all you nations." The Lord is not limited to any one nation or country. God did not send His Son to be the Savior of one particular group. His Word clearly states that "The Father sent the Son to be the savior of the world..." There is no Biblical basis to believe that our Lord loves some one more than every one. The word world includes every continent - from the most God-hating to the most God-honoring.

It also states that His love is not limited: "For great is His love toward us." Our God has no favorites. We may question why others are more prosperous than we are or have more of life's goods than we do, but that does not mean that they are loved more than anyone else. God gave them what He did for a particular reason and He gives us what He did for a particular reason. They, as well as the rest of us, will be accountable to Him for all of His gifts. It is never what He gives us, but how we bless God and others with His gifts.

Finally, His "faithfulness endures forever." God is not nice today and spiteful tomorrow. Who He is today He will be tomorrow and throughout eternity. His pledges and promises are predictable. His Word proves that fact.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for a love that includes all of us and Your faithfulness that will not waiver. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 117 Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

## 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



## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

#### Mega Millions

02-11-55-58-67, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 3

(two, eleven, fifty-five, fifty-eight, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: two; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$84 million

#### Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

### Ellsworth airman to go on trial in 2016 death of infant son

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. (AP) — An airman at Ellsworth Air Force Base is set to go on trial this week in the 2016 death of his infant son.

Airman 1st Class David E. MacDonald faces a general court-martial scheduled to begin Wednesday. MacDonald is facing one charge in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, for murder.

A statement from the base says the charge stems from the death of MacDonald's son on Nov. 7, 2016, but gives no details. A pretrial hearing for MacDonald was held in October. The charge was referred to a court-martial after the hearing.

MacDonald is assigned to the 28th Bomb Wing. Ellsworth says he is represented by three military attorneys who are declining comment.

If convicted, MacDonald faces a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole.

### South Dakota farmers make good progress on spring plantings

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers are making good progress on corn and soybean planting. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's weekly crop report for the state, farmers had 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday.

Corn planting was 91 percent, near last year's pace of 94 percent and the five-year average of 92 percent. Fifty percent of the corn crop had emerged, which is well behind last year's 70 percent and behind the 62 percent average.

Farmers have planted 61 percent of the soybean crop, behind last year's 70 percent but near the 65 percent average. The soybean crop is 16 percent emerged, compared with 27 percent at this time last year and the average of 26 percent.

Half of the winter wheat crop is in good condition.

### Noem, Jackley air critical ads in close GOP governor primary

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Attorney General Marty Jackley have sharpened their messages with ads criticizing each other during the final days of South Dakota's high-profile Republican governor primary.

The exchange over the airwaves comes as the two political heavyweights campaign ahead of the June 5 primary election. A Noem ad takes aim at Jackley's tough-on crime credentials, accusing him of being soft in his prosecution of a financial misconduct case involving the EB-5 investment-for-visa program.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 15 of 53

The narrator says Jackley's "tough-on-crime claims aren't so tough after all." Jackley released a spot criticizing Noem's "deceptive attack ads," saying she broke her congressional campaign promises to balance the budget, reduce debt and repeal former President Barack Obama's health care law.

The conservative blog South Dakota War College first reported on the ads. The two campaigns didn't immediately disclose to The Associated Press the amount of money they've spent to air them.

An Argus Leader and KELO-TV poll released Tuesday suggests it's a close race, with Noem and Jackley running about even among likely GOP primary voters. Forty-five percent of respondents said they would vote for Noem, 44 percent said they would cast their ballots for Jackley and 11 percent were undecided.

Florida-based Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy's telephone poll of 625 registered South Dakota Republican voters was conducted May 21-23 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Jackley's campaign said in a statement about the poll that the negative ads are an attempt to salvage Noem's declining support.

"Now we know why Congresswoman Noem launched her negative TV and radio attacks against Marty Jackley last week," Jackley campaign manager Jason Glodt said.

Noem campaign manager Justin Brasell released a statement saying Noem has farmed and ranched and served as a state lawmaker and U.S. representative.

"That's a set of experiences her opponent, a government lawyer, doesn't have," Brasell said. "Those are the distinctions we'll see in these final days of the campaign."

The mostly polite race has shown some heat near the end. Last week, Noem pressed Jackley over the timing of a state payout to a former state agent, a charge Jackley's team dismissed then as a "desperate political stunt." Noem and Jackley were set to debate Tuesday evening on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

The Republican primary winner will face Democrat Billie Sutton, a state senator and former professional rodeo cowboy, in the November general election.

## South Dakota education secretary to step down in July

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's education secretary is leaving his post this summer to take a school superintendent's job in Wisconsin.

Don Kirkegaard said Tuesday he will step down as secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education in July. Kirkegaard says he has accepted a job as superintendent of schools for the West Bend School District in West Bend, Wisconsin.

Kirkegaard has been South Dakota's secretary of education since December. He says he's had the privilege to serve his entire career in South Dakota public education.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard praised Kirkegaard, saying he accepted the job "knowing it would be for a short time, but his service has been critical."

Deputy Education Secretary Mary Stadick Smith will serve as interim secretary for the remainder of the Daugaard administration, which ends in January.

## South Dakota park officials recover stolen 'Poet's Table'

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Custer State Park officials have recovered furniture that was stolen from a popular Black Hills hiking spot known as Poet's Table.

Park officials and Custer County law enforcement on Sunday asked for the public's help in finding and apprehending those who stole the bright green table from the alcove in the rocks high above Sylvan Lake.

The spot was a secret when the table and chairs were placed there about 50 years ago, but it has since become popular among hikers, including some who have left poems and other writings.

Park officials said the stolen furniture was returned to them on Monday, but it's unclear when it will be returned to the alcove.

"Right now, there is no timeline on when they will be put back in the area, but the park's plan is to return them to their original location," Custer State Park announced in a statement.

The culprits turned themselves in to authorities on Monday.

Tara Rose Weston, an artist and hiker, said she saw two women on Saturday carrying the table on their backs while she was hiking up the trail leading off from Little Devil's Tower trail. It had been cut into two pieces. She heard the women had also stolen some of the poetry books left at the site, she said.

The Custer County Sheriff's Office said it won't identify the individuals involved in dismantling and stealing the table.

## Dakotas ag co-op progresses after merger

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A recently formed agriculture cooperative is moving forward after starting operations in the Dakotas this year.

Agtegra Cooperative purchased 85 million bushels of grain from February to April and has shipped more than 60 million bushels, the Daily Republic reported.

"We knew that the impact of merging and coming together was going to be big, and I don't think we realized just how big," said Mike Nickolas, executive vice president for grain at Agtegra. "We did see that in the first three months."

The newly formed cooperative was created by the merging of former South Dakota Wheat Growers and North Central Farmers Elevator co-ops.

Agtegra has also benefited from a small increase in prices in February, as well as good corn and soybean exports in the Pacific Northwest, said Nickolas, who is also the former CEO for North Central.

"We've entered a new era for sure," he said. "This could keep extending going forward."

Wheat Growers and North Central attempted a merger plan in 2015, but member-owners of the two former co-ops rejected it. The member-owners approved the merger in September, with 58 percent of North Central members and 63 percent of Wheat Growers supporting it. Advocates estimated that the merger will save \$12.7 million annually over the first four years.

Nickolas said there have been benefits to the merger, with a large footprint that includes 60 locations in northern and central South Dakota and southern North Dakota. Agtegra has 6,770 member-owners and about 20,000 equity holders in the company.

"Some of the efficiencies that we felt could be possible have been there," Nickolas said. "When you're transferring grain to a rail line, there's going to be some savings by being able to go to the closest site ... and moving trains to the facility that is most advantageous. It's allowed us to be more price-competitive."

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

## Keystone XL developer showers Nebraska with campaign cash

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The developer of the Keystone XL pipeline is showering Nebraska public officials with campaign cash as it fights for regulatory approval in a state that is one of the last lines of resistance for the \$8 billion project.

A political action committee for TransCanada Inc. has donated more than \$65,000 to campaigns within the last year, mostly to Republican state lawmakers, the Nebraska GOP and Gov. Pete Ricketts, according to an Associated Press review of campaign disclosure records.

Pipeline opponents say the company's contributions show it's trying to exert influence over the state's top elected officials at the expense of landowners who don't want the pipeline running through their property.

"There is no question big political donations have bought some politicians," said Jane Kleeb, president of the Bold Alliance.

Kleeb said her group has worked to recruit and support candidates who openly oppose the Keystone XL pipeline. She noted that activists have kept the project from moving forward for a decade, despite being outspent. TransCanada first proposed the pipeline in July 2008.

Within the past year, TransCanada has given \$25,000 to Ricketts' re-election campaign, \$15,000 to the

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 17 of 53

Nebraska Republican Party and \$25,500 to state lawmakers, according to filings with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

TransCanada spokesman Matthew John defended the contributions.

"We participate in an open and transparent political process and will continue to support elected officials and public policies that promote the safe and environmentally responsible development of North American energy infrastructure," he said.

John said the Keystone XL is "a safe and critical piece of energy infrastructure" that will provide economic benefit to local communities.

Most of the donations were made last year, before a state regulatory commission narrowly approved the project. The Nebraska Public Service Commission voted 3-2 in favor of the pipeline in November, but its decision is mired in a pending lawsuit before the state Supreme Court and could get returned for a new review. Oral arguments in the case aren't expected until September at the earliest.

The 1,179-mile pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries. TransCanada announced in April it was meeting with landowners and starting aerial surveillance of the proposed route. The company hopes to begin construction in early 2019.

The pipeline faces intense resistance from environmental groups, Native American tribes and some landowners along the route, who worry about its long-term impact on their groundwater and property rights. Many of the affected Nebraska landowners have accepted the company's proposal, however, and are eager to collect payments.

A federal lawsuit brought by Montana landowners and environmental groups seeks to overturn President Donald Trump's decision to grant a presidential permit for the project, which was necessary because it would cross the U.S.-Canadian border.

TransCanada's spending in Nebraska is high compared to many companies that lobby state officials, said Jack Gould, issues chairman of Common Cause Nebraska, a political watchdog group. In addition to the campaign contributions, TransCanada has previously reported spending more than \$1.2 million on lobbying in Nebraska between 2006 and mid-2017.

"I guess from their perspective, they're doing what they think they need to do to get the pipeline built," Gould said.

The Nebraska Legislature gave the project an informal boost in March 2017 when a super-majority of the state's lawmakers signed a letter calling on the Nebraska Public Service Commission to approve the route through the state. All but three were Republicans, although some Democrats support the project because of its promise to create union jobs.

The letter said the pipeline has already undergone a thorough review and would generate local property tax revenue. Four months later, many of those who signed the letter received donations ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

This year, a bill that would have imposed tougher regulations on oil pipelines was killed early in the legislative session.

Sen. Bob Krist, of Omaha, the measure's sponsor, withdrew the measure less than a week after introducing it. Krist, who has taken contributions from TransCanada in past years and is now a Democratic candidate for governor, said there was no point in pursuing the legislation after it was intentionally steered to a hostile committee.

Nebraska Republican Party Executive Director Kenny Zoeller said TransCanada made the party contributions as a sponsor for state GOP events, including recognition dinners for state senators and local volunteers. The state party has approved resolutions in the past voicing formal support for the Keystone XL, he said.

One state lawmaker who received a \$1,000 donation, state Sen. Dan Watermeier, of Syracuse, is now running for an open seat on the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

Watermeier, a Republican who supports the pipeline, said he has received contributions from the company in the past. The most recent one was made before he announced his candidacy for the commission, and Watermeier noted that other candidates have taken donations from industries the commission regulates.



"I don't think it's a big deal," he said.

In a statement, Ricketts campaign spokesman Matthew Trail said the governor "appreciates the support of each of the more than 2,700 contributors to his re-election campaign, who share his vision for a bright, prosperous future for our growing state."

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <https://bit.ly/2ICEr3D>

## Police: Speed, alcohol factors in fatal motorcycle crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say speed and alcohol were apparent factors in a fatal motorcycle crash over the weekend.

Fifty-five-year-old Mark Schoenfelder was killed when he crashed his Harley-Davidson bike early Saturday morning in Sioux Falls. Police say the victim's blood alcohol content was .18. He was not wearing a helmet.

## AP names 2 top managers in US Central region

CHICAGO (AP) — The Associated Press has named two deputies to help lead newsgathering and storytelling in the central United States, part of a move by the AP to integrate news operations across media formats in 14 states stretching from Texas to the upper Midwest.

Sarah Rafi, currently the deputy editor for the U.S. Central Region, will become deputy director of news-gathering for the region, and Delano Massey, currently the AP's news editor in Ohio, will be deputy director of storytelling. Both will be based in Chicago.

"Rafi and Massey's complementary experience and talents will pay dividends in strengthening both the cross-format reporting and the presentation of everything we cover in the region," said Tom Berman, the news director for the Central Region, in announcing the appointments Tuesday.

AP is in the process of merging the management of its text, photo, video and interactive journalism at regional desks around the world. The announcements in the Central region are a step in creating a single management team in which every format is represented, and will include multimedia journalists and an integrated editing desk that emphasizes video, photos and social media alongside text.

Rafi will work closely with the region's journalists to cover breaking news and create distinctive enterprise stories for AP members and customers. Massey's responsibilities will include managing the integrated editing desk and being the region's point person in devising creative and engaging ways to present content across formats.

Rafi has been an editor on the AP's Central Regional Desk since its inception in 2009. She was promoted to assistant editor in 2014 and deputy editor in 2016, taking on roles that include oversight of the evolving editing operation in Chicago and working with colleagues across the region and company to deliver standout cross-format journalism.

She has helped lead award-winning AP coverage of such stories as the tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Hurricane Harvey's destruction along Texas' Gulf coast.

Rafi is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. Before joining the Central Desk, she worked as a reporter and desk supervisor in Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago.

"Rafi is a respected manager and valued colleague who approaches her work with precision, empathy and fair-mindedness," Berman said. "She's a seasoned leader of journalists who asks all the right questions. And, as importantly, listens intently to all of the answers from people in the field."

Massey joined The Associated Press in 2016 as the Ohio news editor and has helped lead AP's nationwide



Race and Ethnicity reporting team.

As Ohio news editor, based in Cleveland, Massey has supervised coverage of a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University and the release and death of Otto Warmbier, who spent a year-and-a-half in North Korea.

As a leader of the Race and Ethnicity team, Massey coordinated coverage for the 60th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine, a group of students who were at the forefront of the battle to desegregate schools. Massey's work included creating an online presentation that pulled together AP's new reporting across formats and archival material.

Massey was formerly the digital director at WEWS (ABC affiliate) in Cleveland, where he oversaw the station's digital business and operations and helped lead news coverage for web and broadcast. He also has worked at WKYT (CBS affiliate) in Lexington, Kentucky, the Lexington Herald-Leader, the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal and the Belleville (Illinois) News-Democrat. He is a graduate of the University of Akron.

"The skills Massey has developed while working at newspapers, television stations and the AP will ensure we are presenting our coverage from the 14-state region with maximum impact," Berman said. "His experience leading teams in a variety of formats will be an enormous asset as the AP integrates both its newsgathering and production."

The AP's Central Region includes Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

## Missing infant found safe in Waterloo

WATERLOO, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a missing infant and a woman suspected of abducting him have been found in Waterloo.

Police Maj. Joe Liebold says the 4-month-old boy, Rashaun Graves Jr., was found safe with the 28-year-old woman Tuesday morning. The relationship between the two was not immediately released.

Police issued an Amber Alert after the baby was taken, saying the woman might be taking him to Texas.

## Opponents seek to keep drug price cap initiative off ballot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group opposing a South Dakota ballot question that would cap the price state agencies could pay for prescription drugs has filed a legal challenge seeking to keep the measure off the November ballot.

A court hearing is scheduled starting Aug. 1. South Dakotans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue has challenged the validity of thousands of signatures submitted to put Initiated Measure 26 before voters, saying supporters didn't turn in enough to appear on the ballot.

Initiative supporter Drey Samuelson tells South Dakota Public Broadcasting that backers are "confident this is just another tactic they're using to try and delay the inevitable."

The plan — adapted from an Ohio measure voters rejected in 2017 — would prohibit state agencies from paying more than the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for prescription drugs.

## Fatal crashes in South Dakota up 60 percent over last year

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — This year is shaping up to be a deadly one for drivers on South Dakota's roadways.

The Rapid City Journal reports that there have been 42 motor vehicle fatalities in the state so far in 2018, a 60 percent increase over the same period in 2017.

State officials say a lot of the fatalities have involved people not wearing seat belts. Speed and alcohol also continue to be major factors.

## Sioux Falls fire displaces apartment residents, kills pets

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An overnight fire in a Sioux Falls house used as apartments displaced the residents and killed several pets.

Authorities say the blaze in the three-story structure started about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. Everyone got out safely, and firefighters had things under control within 15 minutes.

All the residents of the apartment were able to make it out safely, but fire officials say several pets were lost in the fire. The apartment unit where the fire started was destroyed, while other units in the building had water damage.

The number of people displaced wasn't released. The Red Cross is helping them.

The cause of the fire wasn't immediately determined.

## Soggy Alberto triggers mudslides, threatens dam failure

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Mudslides triggered by the soggy remnants of Alberto forced evacuations below a dam and closed an interstate highway in the western mountains of North Carolina on Wednesday.

Forecasters warned that the leftovers of the Atlantic hurricane season's first named storm are still capable of causing treacherous flooding as heavy precipitation spreads deeper into the nation's midsection. Flash flood watches were in effect for parts of several states from Alabama through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, the Carolinas and Virginia and West Virginia.

About 2,000 people were evacuated after emergency managers said the Lake Tahoma dam in western North Carolina was in danger of "imminent failure." Heavy rain triggered landslides at the dam, and the National Weather Service said "evacuees are being asked to flee."

Just before dawn Wednesday, McDowell County Emergency Management deputy director Adrienne Jones told The Associated Press that the dam had not failed, but an engineer who had inspected the scene was concerned enough to order the evacuation until the dam could be examined in daylight.

Jones said about 200 residents were in three shelters, set up in Marion, Old Fort and Glenwood. She said five minor injuries have been reported during water rescues as creeks and streams overflowed their banks and rock slides closed roads.

The big, messy storm caused more than 25,000 power outages in Alabama on Tuesday, a day after making landfall on the Florida Panhandle. Many of the outages were caused by trees rooted in soggy soil falling across utility lines.

"We've had a lot of rain, but we got lucky. It was a constant rain but not a heavy rain," said Regina Myers, emergency management director in Walker County northwest of Birmingham.

Subtropical storm Alberto rolled ashore Monday afternoon in the Florida Panhandle before quickly weakening to a depression. By Tuesday morning, beachcombers had returned to the white sands of the Northern Gulf.

In Cuba, flooding damaged an oil refinery and caused crude oil to spill into Cienfuegos Bay as the remnants of Alberto continued to drench the island in heavy rain. State-owned TV showed authorities using barriers Tuesday to try to contain the spill from the Cienfuegos refinery in central Cuba about 150 miles (240 kilometers) southeast of Havana.

In North Carolina, a television news anchor and a photojournalist were killed Monday while covering the weather, when a tree became uprooted from rain-soaked ground and toppled onto their SUV, authorities said. WYFF-TV of Greenville, South Carolina, said news anchor Mike McCormick and photojournalist Aaron Smeltzer were killed.

"Two journalists working to keep the public informed about this storm have tragically lost their lives, and we mourn with their families, friends and colleagues," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said in a statement.

Alberto was more of a rainstorm than a wind threat, but the National Weather Service said at least one tornado had been confirmed.

The weather service said its meteorologists confirmed a weak tornado with maximum winds of 85 mph

(147 kph) hit an area around Cameron, South Carolina, on Monday afternoon. No one was hurt.

Associated Press writers Jennifer Kay in Miami Beach, Florida, Kate Brumback in Atlanta and Jeffrey S. Collins in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

## **Belgium shooting rampage was terrorist act, prosecutors say**

**By LORNE COOK and RAF CASERT, Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — The man who killed three people during a knife and shooting rampage through the Belgian city of Liege carried out an act of “terrorist murder,” prosecutors said Wednesday, as authorities tried to establish whether he acted alone.

Benjamin Herman, an inmate released on a two-day prison furlough, attacked two female police officers with a knife from behind, stabbing them repeatedly, before stealing their weapons and shooting them as they lay on the ground, officials said. Crossing the road, he fired several shots at a 22-year old man who was a passenger in a car, killing him. Herman then took at least one woman hostage at a nearby school. When police closed in, he ran out onto the sidewalk firing and police fatally shot him. Four officers were wounded.

He yelled “Allahu akbar,” the Arabic phrase for God is great, several times during Tuesday’s rampage, prosecutors said.

The attack has shaken Belgium where police and military have been working overtime to guard public buildings for two years since coordinated suicide attacks on the Brussels airport and subway system killed 32 people and injured hundreds on March 22, 2016.

Belgian federal magistrate Wenke Roggen said Wednesday that the attack was considered “terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder.” She said it’s being treated as terrorism given the way Herman acted, which she says resembled Islamic State calls via video to attack police with knives and steal their weapons, the fact that he yelled “Allahu Akbar” and was in contact with radicalized people.

An investigating magistrate specializing in terrorism has ordered autopsies on those killed at the scene and a toxicology examination of the attacker.

Prosecutors said Herman has had several run-ins with police since he was a minor. He has been sentenced on assault, drug and insubordination charges. He left prison early Monday on furlough and should have returned Tuesday evening.

Earlier, Interior Minister Jan Jambon confirmed that Herman had already killed another person the day before the attack.

Jambon also said that the woman he took hostage may have talked the shooter down and helped to avoid more deaths inside the school.

“He also committed a murder the night before,” Jambon told broadcaster RTL. Jambon confirmed that the fourth victim was a former inmate who did prison time with Herman. Herman is alleged to have killed the man on Monday evening by hitting him over the head with a blunt object.

Jambon, Prime Minister Charles Michel and King Philippe visited the woman in hospital, where she was being treated for shock.

“She was very courageous and perhaps, but this we will have to verify, she helped avoid more victims in the school,” Jambon said.

The minister said an investigation has been launched into the incident, including the circumstances surrounding his release from prison.

“It’s really an isolated case. He wasn’t part of a network, he didn’t receive instructions from anyone else, so there is no need to raise the terror threat alert level,” Jambon said, adding that investigators have no precise information that any other attacks might be likely.

Amid questions about how two officers could have been disarmed, Jambon praised the work of all involved, saying “the police did an extraordinary job.”

"They reacted well. All the systems, all the procedures worked. But if you are attacked from behind, as was the case with the two officers, you can't do anything," he said.

The police officers have been identified as Soraya Belkacemi, 44, and Lucile Garcia, 54. The passenger in the car was named as Cyril Vangriecken, 22, who was preparing to become a primary school teacher.

Belgian media reports named the man killed before Tuesday's rampage as Michael Wilmet.

In Liege, flags were flying at half-staff on public buildings and people gathered to sign a book of condolences and lay flowers in memory of the victims. The prime minister joined others at the scene in a minute's silence.

"Every morning I am scared that something like this will happen, and every day it happens closer to home," Melissa Lamny told The Associated Press after wrapping flowers around a lamppost at the scene of the killings.

Mark Carlson and Sylvain Plazy in Brussels, and Bishr Eltouni in Liege, contributed to this report.

## Ahead of summit with Kim Jong Un, Trump has lots of options

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — When President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet in Singapore next month, assuming they can stay on track long enough to make it happen, they will have two very different agendas.

Washington has set the bar for the summit extremely high — complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization. Pyongyang, meanwhile, has a pretty tall order of its own: the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, with the precondition that the "hostile policy" of the U.S. toward their country must first end.

For sure, bridging that gap will be quite a feat. Both leaders might well opt instead for a "shiny object summit," a meeting that is heavier on photo ops and TV-friendly sound bites than on long-term change.

But what if they really go for a deal?

Here are few of the possibilities they might explore:

### HANDING SOME OVER

Reports, albeit speculative and anonymously sourced, keep popping up that Kim may be willing to hand over several of his nuclear weapons as a sign of sincerity.

As far as theatrics go, this would be hard to top.

It would be a tangible, dramatic move that could happen very quickly — factors that would certainly appeal to the reality TV show side of Trump. It could even be big enough to earn him a shot at that Nobel Peace Prize he says everyone is talking about.

Outlandish as it sounds, something like this was what national security adviser John Bolton had in mind when he suggested the Libya model as a good example for North Korea to follow. After Libya unilaterally decided to give up its fledgling nuclear program in 2003, planeloads of documents, equipment and even centrifuges related to the country's nuclear and missile programs were transported by U.S. military aircraft to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

But considering the way leader Moammar Gadhafi was deposed and killed several years later, Pyongyang flipped out at Bolton's suggestion, almost dooming the summit itself. Arms control experts have also noted that, unlike Libya, the North is already a nuclear power. So the Libya model really doesn't fit.

There are other problems, too.

North Korea is believed to have several dozen nuclear weapons, so handing over a few — spectacular as that would be — wouldn't really solve anything unless a further agreement was made regarding what to do with the rest. At the same time, for the North, it would be a huge and painful concession.

Nuclear weapons are top secret for a reason. Giving even one would potentially reveal details of design



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 23 of 53

and technology that the North's military would rather keep to itself.

## CAP AND FREEZE

Kim has already promised to stop launching intercontinental ballistic missiles and conducting nuclear tests. He even made a big show of demolishing tunnels at Punggye-ri, the North's only known underground testing site.

That's a start.

But North Korea has announced similar moratoriums before, only to change its mind later. Nothing Kim has done so far is either irreversible or particularly costly. And the North hasn't said anything about launching other kinds of missiles, a big concern for U.S. ally Japan, which hosts numerous U.S. military bases.

So, short of immediate denuclearization, the logical next step is for Washington to push for a freeze on production not only of the bombs themselves, but also of missiles and the fissile material — the plutonium and highly enriched uranium — that can be used to make more bombs.

It's quite likely that even at the highest levels American officials don't know how big the North's nuclear arsenal is or where all of its bombs are located. They will need to verify that right off the bat, which won't be easy and will involve a lot of cooperation from Kim.

They will also need to work out a way to verify that the North isn't actively making more, another daunting task that will require monitors on the ground and a lot more transparency than Pyongyang is inclined to be comfortable with.

Washington can't reasonably expect all that to happen without giving something in return. So there will have to be more give-and-take, more talking, more exercises in developing mutual trust and probably a lot more problems and potential deal-breaking disputes along the way.

And that's if everything goes well. Which it never has yet.

## PHASING THEM OUT

The end game here is Trump's goal of total denuclearization, but with provisions that give North Korea time to comply.

Nuclear physicist Siegfried Hecker and Robert Carlin, two of the top experts on North Korea's nuclear program and how to negotiate with Pyongyang, teamed up with another researcher, Elliot Serbin, to produce such a plan for the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.

Their roadmap, released on Monday, lays out three phases over a total span of 10 years.

It starts essentially with cap and freeze in the first year, a roll back phase of 2-5 years after that and finally the complete elimination or setting of mutually acceptable limits on what's left.

Along with the steps Kim has already announced, the report suggests, North Korea should "frontload" its efforts to demonstrate its commitment. Pyongyang could, for example, quickly disable its plutonium-producing reactor. Washington should seek early access to its nuclear centrifuge facility at Yongbyon and demand the halt of operations at uranium chemical processing facilities.

Hecker and Carlin have a lot of credibility.

Hecker was director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1986 until 1997, has visited the North seven times and inspected its nuclear facilities first-hand. Carlin has worked as an analyst for both the State Department and CIA and is widely regarded as one of the top North Korea experts in the world.

Ultimately, no matter what detours or bumps lie ahead, they believe a phased approach is the only realistic path forward.

"Insisting on immediate CVID along a 'Libya model' to eliminate everything up front and virtually all at once is tantamount to a North Korean surrender scenario," they wrote in the report, using the acronym for "complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization."

"The suggestion of shipping the North's nuclear weapons out of the country is also naive and dangerous," they wrote.

There are no quick fixes, in other words.

---



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

## In the time it takes to tweet, Roseanne Barr loses her job

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the time it took to compose a 53-character tweet, Roseanne Barr went from a hero that ABC was banking upon to unemployed.

The network canceled its hit reboot of "Roseanne" Tuesday after Barr's racist tweet that referred to Valerie Jarrett, an adviser to former President Barack Obama, as a cross between the Muslim Brotherhood and the "Planet of the Apes." Her agent dropped her, and other services pulled "Roseanne" reruns.

The swift developments rendered President Donald Trump at least temporarily mum.

Trump, who reveled in the success of "Roseanne" after Barr's character in the show came out as a supporter of his presidency, made no mention of the firing in a campaign-style rally in Tennessee on Tuesday evening.

"We have a lot bigger things going on in the country right now, certainly, that the president is spending his time on," said White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Jarrett, a black woman who said she was "fine" after the slur, urged in an MSNBC special Tuesday about racism that the incident become a teaching moment. She said that Robert Iger, chief executive of ABC parent Walt Disney Co., called to apologize and told her before it became public that the show was being canceled.

"Tone does start at the top, and we like to look up to our president and feel as though he reflects the values of our country," Jarrett said. "But I also think that every individual citizen has a responsibility too, and it's up to all of us to push back. Our government is only going to be as good as we make it be."

Barr showed no signs of abandoning Twitter, engaging in a series of tweets late Tuesday that apologized to those who lost their jobs because of the "Roseanne" cancellation, expressing remorse she was being branded a racist, and also retweeting posts that attacked ABC and a meme that included Jarrett.

The supporters' tweets included posts that criticized ABC, "The View" co-host Joy Behar and ESPN's Keith Olbermann. She later asked supporters not to defend her.

"I did something unforgivable so do not defend me," Barr wrote. "It was 2 in the morning and I was ambien tweeting-it was memorial day too-i went 2 far & do not want it defended-it was egregious Indefensible. I made a mistake I wish I hadn't but...don't defend it please."

Barr was resoundingly condemned Tuesday, including from many who helped make her show successful.

The executive producer of "Roseanne," which came back this spring after being gone for two decades and instantly became television's second most popular comedy, said he supported ABC's decision.

"Our goal was to promote constructive discussion about the issues that divide us," said Tom Werner. "It represented the work of hundreds of talented people. I hope the good work done is not totally eclipsed by those abhorrent and offensive comments, and that Roseanne seeks the help she so clearly needs."

ABC canceled the show in a one-sentence statement from Channing Dungey, the network's entertainment president, who called it "abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values."

ABC and Disney had taken notable steps to be more inclusive in its entertainment, and Dungey is the first black to be entertainment president of a major broadcast network. But much of its progress would have been threatened if it looked the other way at Barr's tweet.

She has a history of diving into political conspiracy theories on Twitter, and that's how she ended her Memorial Day weekend. She criticized Democratic financier George Soros and tweeted that Chelsea Clinton was "Chelsea Soros Clinton," implying she was married to a nephew of Soros. Clinton herself corrected Barr online. Donald Trump Jr. retweeted two of Barr's statements about Soros, although not the remark about Jarrett.

Jarrett's name came up in response to Twitter commentary that raised her name in relation to an Obama conspiracy theory. Barr tweeted: "muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby=vj."

Three weeks earlier, "Roseanne" was the toast of ABC's annual presentation of its programming plans

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 25 of 53

to advertisers. Dungey's boss, network chief Ben Sherwood, even joked then: "If anyone came to play a drinking game based on how many times we mention 'Roseanne,' you're welcome."

"Roseanne" earned an estimated \$45 million in advertising revenue for ABC through its nine episodes that started airing in March, according to Kantar Media. The firm estimates that the 13 episodes that had been ordered for next season would have brought in as much as \$60 million, with more through repeat episodes.

One of the few network shows about a working-class family, "Roseanne" attracted 25 million viewers to its first show back in March. Many conservative commentators — and the president himself — attributed at least some of that success to the lead character's backing of Trump.

The cancellation has no clear precedent in television history, said David Bianculli, professor at Rowan University in New Jersey. The closest analogy is CBS pulling the plug on the Smothers Brothers variety show due to their anti-war views in the late 1960s and the same network not renewing "Lou Grant" at its peak, which star Ed Asner always contended was due to his outspoken political beliefs.

But "Roseanne" was different, he said.

"It's like taking off 'All in the Family' or 'I Love Lucy' or Andy Griffith at their zenith," he said.

There was also CBS' firing of Charlie Sheen from "Two and a Half Men" during his bizarre spate of behavior. Sheen, for one, saw an opportunity in Tuesday's events.

"Good riddance," he tweeted about the "Roseanne" cancellation. "Hashtag NOT Winning. The runway is now clear for OUR reboot."

AP writers Mark Kennedy, Jocelyn Noveck and Leanne Italie in New York and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Both sides preparing as if US-North Korea summit is a go

By CATHERINE LUCEY, ZEKE MILLER and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rapid-fire diplomacy played out on two continents in advance of an "expected" summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, the strengthening resolve coming after a series of high-risk, high-reward gambits by the two leaders.

Officials wouldn't say that the June 12 Singapore summit was back on, but preparations on both sides of the Pacific proceeded as if it were. Two weeks of hard-nosed negotiating, including a communications blackout by the North and a public cancellation by the U.S., appeared to be paying off as the two sides engaged in their most substantive talks to date about the meeting.

Trump tweeted Tuesday that he had a "great team" working on the summit, confirming that top North Korean official Kim Yong Chol was headed to New York for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In addition, teams of U.S. officials have arrived at the Korean Demilitarized Zone and in Singapore to prepare for the meeting.

"Solid response to my letter, thank you!" tweeted Trump. He announced he had decided to "terminate" the summit last week in an open letter to Kim that stressed American military might, but also left the door cracked for future communication. White House officials characterized the letter as a negotiating tactic, designed to bring the North back to the table after a provocative statement, skipped planning talks and ignored phone calls.

But aides almost immediately suggested the meeting could still get back on track. And after a suitably conciliatory statement from North Korea, Trump said the same.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that since the letter, "the North Koreans have been engaging" with the U.S.

Trump views the meeting as a legacy-defining opportunity to make the nuclear deal that has evaded others, but he pledged to walk away from the meeting if he believed the North wasn't serious about discussing dismantling its nuclear program.

U.S. officials cast the on-again, off-again drama as in keeping with Trump's deal-making style, and re-

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 26 of 53

flective of the technically still-warring leaders testing each other. In his book "The Art of the Deal," Trump wrote: "The worst thing you can possibly do in a deal is seem desperate to make it. That makes the other guy smell blood, and then you're dead. The best thing you can do is deal from strength, and leverage is the biggest strength you can have."

After the North's combative statements, there was debate inside the Trump administration about whether it marked a real turn to belligerence or a feint to see how far Kim Jong Un could push the U.S. in the lead-up to the talks. Trump had mused that Kim's "attitude" had changed after the North Korean's surprise visit to China two weeks ago, suggesting China was pushing Kim away from the table. Trump's letter, the aides said, was designed to pressure the North on the international stage for appearing to have cold feet.

White House officials maintain that Trump was hopeful the North was merely negotiating but that he was prepared for the letter to mark the end of the two-month flirtation. Instead, the officials said, it brought both sides to the table with increasing seriousness, as they work through myriad logistical and policy decisions to keep June 12 a viable option for the summit.

The flurry of diplomatic activity intensified with Kim Yong Chol's appearance at the Beijing airport Wednesday. South Korea-based Yonhap News cited diplomatic sources as saying Kim was on an Air China flight that departed in the afternoon, and U.S. officials familiar with planning have said he was scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday.

Kim is a former military intelligence chief and now a vice chairman of the North Korean ruling party's central committee. He will be the highest-level North Korean official to travel to the United States since 2000, when late National Defense Commission First Vice Chairman Jo Myong Rok visited Washington, South Korea's Unification Ministry said.

Pompeo has traveled to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, twice in recent weeks for meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and has said there is a "shared understanding" between the two sides about what they hope to achieve.

Meanwhile, a team of American diplomats is holding preparatory discussions with North Korean officials at the DMZ. The group first met with its counterparts Sunday, and was seen leaving a Seoul hotel on Tuesday, but it was unclear whether they went to Panmunjom, a village that straddles the border inside the DMZ. The U.S. officials are led by Sung Kim, the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, who formerly was the U.S. ambassador to Seoul and a top negotiator with North Korea in past nuclear talks. It includes senior officials with the National Security Council and the Pentagon.

The White House emphasized that it has remained in close contact with South Korean and Japanese officials as preparations for the talks continue. Sanders said Trump will host Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan on June 7 to coordinate their thinking ahead of the summit. Trump hosted South Korean President Moon Jae-in last week.

Moon, who has lobbied hard for nuclear negotiations between Trump and Kim Jong Un, held a surprise meeting with the North Korean leader Saturday in an effort to keep the summit alive.

South Korean media also reported that a North Korean delegation arrived in Singapore on Monday night, where other U.S. officials, led by White House deputy chief of staff Joe Hagin, are preparing for the summit.

---

Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

## False accusations about immigration fly between opponents

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic critics traded outraged, sometimes plainly false accusations about immigration as the debate over "lost" children and the practice of separating families caught crossing the border illegally reached a new boiling point.

The White House on Tuesday wrongly blamed Democrats for forcing Trump's administration to separate children from parents. Liberal activists and others, including some from media outlets, tried to highlight

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 27 of 53

the issue by tweeting photos of young people in steel cages that actually were taken during the Obama administration. Others seized on reports the government had "lost" more than 1,000 children, though that wasn't quite the case.

It all comes just in time for the midterm elections as Republicans and Democrats try to rally core voters by pointing fingers at one another. Trump won the presidency promising to build a wall along the southern border and end illegal immigration, and the White House believes stressing the same issues will drive voters to the polls and help the GOP hang on to their majorities in the Senate and House.

The White House is "really beating the immigration drum in the lead-up to the midterm elections as a rallying cry and as a way of mobilizing voter support for Trump and the candidates that he chooses," said Doris Meissner, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute and former commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service during the Clinton administration. "It does seem to provoke a ratcheting up across the board."

Indeed, the situation grew so hostile over the holiday weekend that the president's elder daughter, White House adviser Ivanka Trump, came under fire for tweeting a photo of herself and her youngest son in their pajamas Sunday morning.

"Focus on what is before you, on what you can control and ignore the trolls!" she later wrote.

During a White House conference call Tuesday, senior adviser Stephen Miller contended "the current immigration and border crisis" is "the exclusive product of loopholes in federal immigration law that Democrats refuse to close."

That was after Trump lit up social media over the weekend by falsely claiming there was a "horrible law" that separates children from their parents after they cross the border illegally. He had said previously that "we have to break up families" at the border because "the Democrats gave us that law."

But there's no law mandating that parents must be separated from their children, and it's not a policy Democrats have pushed or can change alone as the minority in Congress. The tactic's increased use is being driven by Trump's administration, which recently announced a new "zero-tolerance policy" in which it will press criminal charges against all people crossing the border illegally, even if they have few or no previous offenses. More children are expected to be separated from their parents as a result.

A Customs and Border Protection official told lawmakers last week that 658 children had been separated from their parents at the border from May 6 to May 19 as the parents face charges. That's in addition to hundreds more who were estimated to have been removed from their parents since October.

The practice has drawn condemnation from Trump critics, who have long accused him of supporting inhumane policies in his efforts to crack down on illegal immigration.

"He actually called the practice horrible. If he thinks it's so horrible then he ought to just end it and not make the children a negotiating tool," said Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project.

"It's never a good idea to separate small children from their parents," said Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla. "I cannot defend that, nor do I wish to."

Curbelo is a leader of GOP lawmakers trying to force House immigration votes next month over leaders' objections.

Trump foes made their own missteps in the debate.

Over the weekend, some critics of the policy tweeted photos of young-looking immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in steel cages and blamed the Trump administration for separating immigrant children from their parents. The problem: The photos were taken by The Associated Press in 2014, when Barack Obama was in office, and the photo captions reference children who crossed the border as unaccompanied minors.

How or why the story resurfaced on social media four years after it was published was unclear. But Trump seized on the error.

"Democrats mistakenly tweet 2014 pictures from Obama's term showing children from the Border in steel cages. They thought it was recent pictures in order to make us look bad, but backfires," Trump tweeted Tuesday. "Dems must agree to Wall and new Border Protection for good of country ... Bipartisan Bill!"

It's unclear what "Bipartisan Bill!" Trump might have been referring to.



Congress is heading toward an immigration showdown in the House as Republican moderates force a June vote on legislation to protect young "Dreamer" immigrants and beef up border security.

GOP leaders are trying to stop the bill, which has robust support from Democrats and some Republicans. They're worried any legislation that smacks of "amnesty" for immigrants in the U.S. illegally would dampen conservative enthusiasm ahead of the midterms.

Instead, House Speaker Paul Ryan and his leadership team are trying to put together an alternative approach that most Republicans would support. But finding common ground remains difficult. Trump so far has not engaged in the Capitol Hill debate, even as he repeatedly insists Congress must act.

Also making the rounds on social media over the holiday weekend: Allegations that children placed in custody have been "lost" by federal authorities, which officials say isn't the case.

The allegation, which sparked #WhereAreOurChildren on Twitter, grew out of testimony in April by a federal official that the government had lost track of nearly 1,500 unaccompanied minor children it placed with adult sponsors in the U.S.

An official from the Health and Human Services Department told a congressional hearing last month that his department placed follow-up phone calls from October to December to U.S. households that were sponsoring minors who crossed the border without their parents. They reached 86 percent of the children or sponsors, but the department could not verify the whereabouts of 1,475. In some cases, sponsors simply didn't respond to the follow-up phone call, not surprising because many are themselves in the U.S. illegally and reluctant to speak to authorities.

"If you call a friend and they don't answer the phone, you don't assume that they've been kidnapped," HHS' Steven Wagner said.

Officials said Tuesday they are planning more thorough screening of both minors and their sponsors, including a fingerprint background check of every sponsor.

---

Associated Press writers Anne Flaherty and Lisa Mascaro in Washington, Elliot Spagat in San Diego, and Alan Fram in Homestead, Florida, contributed to this report.

---

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>.

## After pair of 1-in-1000 year floods, a town seeks safeguards

By DAVID McFADDEN and COURTNEY COLUMBUS, Associated Press

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. (AP) — The deadly flash flood that devastated a Maryland town's historic center in July 2016 was dubbed a 1-in-1000 year event. Less than two years later, an even more treacherous flood ravaged the town, gutting shops and killing a visitor.

Exasperated locals, just starting the strenuous task of picking up the pieces from Sunday's disaster, are calling for authorities to energetically focus on finding a permanent stormwater solution for Ellicott City's downtown district, situated in a ravine some 13 miles (20 kilometers) west of Baltimore.

"Who would have thought this was going to happen in two years? But it happened again. And maybe we're never going to see Old Ellicott City again," said resident Sahil Saini, standing outside a community center doubling as a shelter.

Flooding is hardly new for historic Ellicott City, a onetime home to mill workers that transformed into a tourist hub known for its restaurants, antique shops and nightlife. There was a devastating flood in 1868 that killed at least 43 people. Locals who can remember still talk about the one that deluged the town in 1972.

But the recent destructive floods are different, many locals say. They note that the old town's vulnerabilities have increased as housing developments were built in hills above, removing critical protections against flooding and increasing the amount of impervious surfaces.

"The unbridled development is a scandal," said Steve McKenna, who lives within walking distance of the freshly ravaged Main Street. "It's one thing when water gradually rises when it rains. It's another thing



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 29 of 53

when a million gallons of runoff comes racing down the hill.”

During the most torrential rains, the Tiber and Hudson tributaries of the Patapsco River roar together, bursting over culverts twisting through the heart of downtown, fueled by stormwater runoff. Even some people living in the townhouse complexes at the top of the hill know there’s something wrong.

“These hills just feed the downtown with water. By design, it’s a mess. It seems like there’s nowhere else for the water to go,” said Guan Yang, an electrical engineer who moved to a relatively new townhouse development above Ellicott City’s downtown two years ago.

After 2016’s flash flood, Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman had the county’s planning department to draft a master plan to prevent future disasters. This week, officials told reporters that only 30 percent of a flood mitigation project started after the 2016 disaster had been finished.

Kittleman told The Associated Press that two stormwater retention ponds were being worked on, with plans to install pipes to divert water flow.

“Unfortunately, it takes time to have those larger projects get done. And so we were in the process of working on those, but no one could even think that something like this could happen in such a short time,” he said.

Some locals are understanding, saying there’s only so much that actually could be done 22 months between extreme weather events.

“Of course, we would all like to have seen some infrastructure in place. However, we also understand there’s a process and he (Kittleman) was doing the best he can,” resident Randolph Hoenes told reporters during an organized media tour of Main Street.

But Judah Cohen, a climatologist who is seasonal forecasting chief at Atmospheric Environmental Research in Lexington, Massachusetts, said what happened Sunday in Ellicott City appears consistent with climate change expectations. “Extreme heavy precipitation events are increasing in the Northeast U.S.,” he said by phone.

Cohen indicated that rainfall rates explained as a 1-in-100 year event or a 1-in-1000 year event using historical data can be quite misleading as the impacts of climate change skew the distribution.

“The whole distribution has shifted. So what used to be a 100-year event becomes, say, a 10-year event. They will come more frequently so you’re experiencing these extreme events multiple times in one lifetime,” Cohen said.

A federal climate extremes index shows that extreme weather events — including flood-triggering downpours and punishing droughts — have indeed increased in the U.S.

The National Weather Service said some 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain fell in Ellicott City by Sunday night, when torrents raged through the town. In the July 2016 flood, over 6 inches (15 centimeters) fell, much of it in 90 minutes or less.

With floodwaters receded, Main Street business owners like Nicholas Johnson are now weighing whether it makes sense investing in rebuilding. If they stay to fight for another comeback, they say they’ll be watching authorities closely to ensure floodwater mitigation is the No. 1 priority.

“We would need some measure of assurance that this wasn’t going to happen again,” Johnson said by a Main Street building where the entire first-floor storefront was ripped out. “One of the reasons we came back (after 2016’s flooding) was because it was dubbed a 1,000-year flood. Well, here we are 22 months later and there’s another 1,000-year flood that’s more devastating.”

---

Follow McFadden on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dmcfadd>

## Top North Korean official heads to US for pre-summit talks

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN and HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A top North Korean official headed to New York on Wednesday for talks aimed at salvaging a summit between Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump on the future of Kim’s nuclear program, in the North’s highest-level mission to the United States in 18 years.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 30 of 53

Associated Press reporters saw Kim Yong Chol at Beijing's airport just after noon. South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited diplomatic sources as saying that Kim was on an Air China flight to New York that departed later Wednesday afternoon.

Yonhap said Kim, who had arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, was traveling with five other North Korean officials.

Kim, one of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's most trusted aides, is a former military intelligence chief and now a vice chairman of the ruling party's central committee.

North Korea's mission to the United Nations in New York is its sole diplomatic presence in the United States. That suggests Kim might have chosen to first go to New York because it would make it easier for him to communicate with officials in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. North Korea and the United States are still technically at war and have no diplomatic ties because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Trump confirmed Tuesday that Kim was to hold talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. But it wasn't immediately known what else he would do in the United States. South Korean media speculated that he was carrying a personal letter from Kim Jong Un and may push to travel to Washington to meet with Trump.

Pompeo has traveled to Pyongyang twice in recent weeks for meetings with Kim Jong Un, and has said there is a "shared understanding" between the two sides about what they hope to achieve in talks. South Korean media speculated that Pompeo could make a third trip to Pyongyang after Kim Yong Chol's U.S. trip.

Trump and Kim Jong Un were set to hold their summit June 12 in Singapore, but Trump announced last week that he was pulling out of the meeting. Since then, he has suggested the summit could be back on, and Kim Yong Chol's trip to the U.S. seems to imply that preparations for a meeting could be in the final stages.

Kim Yong Chol's trip comes amid two sets of other pre-summit talks between Washington and Pyongyang.

A team of U.S. officials led by former U.S. nuclear negotiator Sung Kim began talks with North Korean officials at the Korean border village of Panmunjom on Sunday to set the agenda for the summit.

A North Korean delegation led by another of Kim Jong Un's trusted aides, Kim Chang Son, flew to Singapore on Monday night for talks with U.S. officials to discuss logistical issues for the summit. Details of those talks hadn't emerged yet.

North Korea's flurry of diplomatic activity following a torrid run in nuclear weapons and missile tests in 2017 suggests that Kim Jong Un is eager for sanctions relief to build his economy and the international legitimacy the summit with Trump would provide. But there are lingering doubts on whether Kim will ever fully relinquish his nuclear arsenal, which he may see as his only guarantee of survival in a region surrounded by enemies.

While there have been a few instances in which countries were persuaded to abandon their nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief and compensation, none of the cases are directly applicable to North Korea, which has advanced its nukes further and with greater zeal than any of the others. The North's arsenal now includes purported thermonuclear warheads and developmental long-range missiles potentially capable of reaching mainland U.S. cities.

But South Korea, which has lobbied hard for the talks between Trump and Kim, has insisted that Kim can be persuaded to abandon his nuclear facilities, materials and bombs in a verifiable and irreversible way if offered credible security and economic guarantees.

China, North Korea's longtime ally and chief trading partner, has sought to position itself as a key intermediary in talks over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Beijing backs the North's proposal for a phased and synchronized denuclearization process, while the United States insists on a comprehensive one-shot deal in which North Korea eliminates its nukes first and receives rewards later.

Russia said Wednesday that its foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, will travel to North Korea for talks on Thursday.

Kim Yong Chol would be the highest-level North Korean official to travel to the United States since 2000, when Vice Marshal Jo Myong Rok visited Washington and met President Bill Clinton amid warming ties between the wartime foes. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made a historic reciprocal visit to

Pyongyang later in 2000 in a bid to arrange a North Korea visit by Clinton. Ties turned sour again after President George W. Bush took office in early 2001 with a tough policy on the North.

Kim Yong Chol's official title is a vice chairman of the central committee of the ruling Workers' Party. Previously, he was a four-star army general and a military intelligence chief who is thought to have been behind two deadly attacks in 2010 that killed 50 South Koreans and an alleged 2014 cyberattack on Sony Pictures. Both Seoul and Washington imposed sanctions on him in recent years.

Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea.

## **Jury: David Copperfield not liable for tourist's injuries**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Illusionist David Copperfield was found negligent but not financially responsible for a British tourist's injuries during a signature vanishing act that used participants from the audience of a Las Vegas Strip show in 2013, a jury said Tuesday.

Gavin Cox and his wife, Minh-Hahn Cox, alleged negligence by the multimillionaire magician, the MGM Grand hotel, two Copperfield business entities and a construction firm that was renovating the hotel.

In a complex verdict reached after several weeks of testimony but only about two hours of deliberation, the state civil court jury found negligence by Copperfield, the hotel and Copperfield's company, Backstage Disappearing Inc.

But jurors found no liability for each of those named in the lawsuit, and instead found Cox 100 percent responsible for his own injuries. The verdict means the Coxes cannot seek monetary damages, court spokeswoman Mary Ann Price said.

Gavin Cox testified that he suffered brain and other injuries in a fall while stagehands urged him and others to run during an illusion that appeared to make as many as 13 audience volunteers disappear on-stage and reappear moments later, waving flashlights in the back of the theater.

His lawyer, Benedict Morelli, told jurors during closing arguments that the trick was inherently dangerous, and that Copperfield should be held partially liable for Cox's injuries. Four years ago, attorneys estimated that Cox had that racked up more than \$400,000 in medical costs.

Copperfield's lawyers lost a bid to close the courtroom to the public to prevent disclosure of secrets about the illusion. At least 55,000 audience volunteers had taken part in the trick over 17 years, according to Copperfield and show executive producer Chris Kenner.

Jurors learned that in about 60 to 90 seconds, stagehands with flashlights ushered the randomly chosen participants past dark curtains, down passageways, around corners, outdoors, indoors and through an MGM Grand resort kitchen to re-enter the theater for the show's finale, according to testimony.

"I was having a good time up until the time I was injured," Cox testified.

He recalled stagehands shouting "Run! Run! Run!" through an outdoor alleyway that his lawyers say was coated with construction dust.

Cox, 57, a former chef from Kent, England, said he fell hard on his right side and didn't remember getting up to finish the illusion in November 2013.

Afterward, Cox said he received medical treatment from paramedics and at a hospital for shoulder and other injuries. Two day later, he and his wife and a lawyer returned to the theater at the MGM Grand and filed an accident report.

Copperfield testified that until Cox sued in August 2014, he never knew of anyone getting hurt during nearly 20 years performing the illusion on tour and in Las Vegas. He said he stopped performing it in 2015.

The magician said he didn't see construction dust on the ground when he passed through the same outdoor alley alone as part of another illusion about 10 minutes earlier.

Cox's lawyers brought in three women who testified that they also were injured during the illusion over the years, including a Michigan schoolteacher who said she fell but finished with a bloody knee during a Copperfield performance about five months before Cox's fall.

## Gaza's Hamas rulers say cease-fire reached with Israel

By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza's Hamas rulers said Wednesday they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the sides since a 2014 war.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said Egyptian mediators intervened "after the resistance succeeded in warding off the aggression." He said militant groups in Gaza will commit to the cease-fire as long as Israel does.

Israeli Cabinet minister Arie Deri told Israel's Army Radio that he expected calm to be restored.

"If it will be quiet, we will respond with quiet. We've given Hamas a chance to prove that we can return to routine ... If they release the reins there will be a very painful strike," he said. "There is a good chance that the routine will be restored after the blow the army unleashed on them."

The Israeli military struck dozens of militant sites in Gaza overnight as rocket fire continued toward southern Israeli communities into early Wednesday morning, setting off air raid sirens in the area throughout the night.

The military said it hit drone storage facilities, military compounds, and rocket and munition workshops across the Gaza Strip. The overnight Hamas rocket fire reached the city of Netivot for the first time since the 2014 war. A home was struck, but no one was wounded.

With neither side interested in a full-blown conflict, a tense calm appeared to be holding Wednesday as Israeli children went to school in the morning.

The border area has been tense in recent weeks as Palestinians have held mass protests aimed at lifting an Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas seized power in 2007.

Israeli fire has killed more than 110 Palestinians, most of them during the Hamas-led protests, which climaxed on May 14.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007.

The last war, in 2014, was especially devastating, with over 2,000 Palestinians killed, including hundreds of civilians, and widespread damage inflicted on Gaza's infrastructure in 50 days of fighting. Seventy-two people were killed on the Israeli side.

A crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade, imposed when Hamas took power, has meanwhile brought the local economy to a standstill.

Hamas initially billed the weekly border protests as a call to break through the fence and return to homes that were lost 70 years ago during the war surrounding Israel's establishment. But the protests appear to be fueled primarily by a desire to ease the blockade. Gaza's unemployment rate is edging toward 50 percent, and the territory suffers from chronic power outages.

After Gaza militants fired some 30 mortar shells early Tuesday, Israel responded fiercely, threatening to set off another round of confrontations.

The Israeli military said most of the projectiles fired Tuesday were intercepted, but three soldiers were wounded. One mortar shell landed in a kindergarten shortly before it opened, wounding one person.

Brig. Gen. Ronen Manelis, the chief military spokesman, threatened tougher action and said it was up to Hamas to prevent the situation from escalating.

## Warriors await word on top defender Iguodala as LeBron looms

By JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Klay Thompson sat on the floor in the middle of his teammates and pointed to his "2018 NBA FINALS" hat during a locker-room photo.

An important face was missing from the moment: Andre Iguodala.

In a postseason defined by uncertainty for the defending champions, Golden State could be without one of its top defenders as the Warriors chase a repeat title — taking on LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in a fourth straight NBA Finals matchup.



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 33 of 53

Iguodala's status for Game 1 on Thursday night is a question as he recovers from a bone bruise in his left knee, which caused him to miss the final four games of the Western Conference finals against Houston. Cleveland's Kevin Love is in concussion protocol, so he might not be ready, either.

Coach Steve Kerr has said Iguodala, the 2015 Finals MVP, will return when he can run without pain. The Warriors sure could use his presence against King James, who is making an eighth straight Finals appearance.

"We're still without Andre, which is a big blow for us," Kerr said before Monday's Game 7 at Houston. "In a different way. He's not a scorer for us as Chris (Paul) is for Houston, but a huge component. So you go through the playoffs and things happen, and you've got to be able to bounce back no matter what and keep going."

Last month, Kerr became concerned his team's defense wouldn't return to its top form after Golden State struggled late in the regular season and even endured a particularly poor stretch in which the Warriors dropped seven of 10 games.

Yet here they are in a familiar spring spot as June approaches.

Once the buzzer sounded and the 101-92 Game 7 win over Houston was official, the Warriors could exhale. It hasn't been pretty for much of these playoffs, a far cry from that remarkable, record-breaking 16-1 romp through last year's postseason.

There is clearly some relief to be back where this All-Star group expected to be all along.

Stephen Curry kept the game ball tucked under his left arm long after Monday's game, toddler daughter Ryan held in his right arm.

Kevin Durant hugged general manager Bob Myers, while always-animated Nick Young beamed wearing his Finals hat and "Champions of the West" T-shirt, then enjoyed hoisting the shiny trophy.

Draymond Green smooched his 1-year-old son, Draymond Jr.

Back home, fireworks went off in the East Bay as everyone anticipates another battle with King James.

"There's a lot of just built-up anxiety, I guess, about this moment. When you walk off the court with a win and get this fancy hat, it's a good feeling," Curry said. "We had to work for it, and you've got to appreciate the moment. Somebody asked, 'It's four years in a row getting to The Finals, do you appreciate it?' Yes, because it's really hard. So all the smiles and embraces you have with your teammates, your coaches, it's well deserved."

Golden State struggled to hit shots for stretches. The stars went through funks and the Warriors had to play catch up time and again — including from double-digit deficits in the final two games to beat James Harden and the 65-win Rockets on their home court after settling for the second seed in the West.

James has willed his Cavs this far, saying, "I don't know how I can compare it to other seasons because I can only think about this one in the present."

"Definitely a different team but we know everything goes and stops with LeBron James with them," Green said.

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

## More women than ever run for Senate, but hurdles remain

By **THOMAS BEAUMONT** and **MELISSA DANIELS**, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Women running for office are due to hit another threshold with a record number of candidates for the U.S. Senate, but actually winning those seats and changing the face of the chamber are a different matter.

Many of the women jumping into Senate races face uphill campaigns. Two female senators, both Democrats, could lose their re-election bids, possibly leaving the Senate more male-dominated than before.

In Wisconsin on Wednesday, Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Republican state Sen. Leah Vukmir are expected to file for the state's Senate race. That would bring to 42 the number of women in the two

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 34 of 53

major parties — the most ever — qualified to run for 19 seats in the Senate, according to an Associated Press analysis of data collected by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University and candidate qualifying information released by states. Today, 23 women are senators.

“It’s not going to be a huge gain,” said Dianne Bystrom, director of the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University. “But it is a body more open to incremental changes.”

A potent force behind the surge in female participation is the highly charged #MeToo movement, ignited by widespread allegations of sexual misconduct by men in entertainment, politics, journalism and other sectors. Mixed in is criticism of President Donald Trump’s policies and his alleged conduct toward women.

“All of these sparks are working in different ways, and one of the giant sparks has been the #MeToo movement,” said former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Boxer was among four women elected in 1992, which tripled their Senate ranks in part, she says, over a backlash by female voters against the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who had been accused of sexual harassment.

As impressive as the numbers appear for a chamber that has only seated 52 female members in its history, more women will lose their races, too, thanks in part to primaries featuring multiple female candidates. In 2016, 40 women ran for the Senate.

In Arizona, odds are a woman will succeed retiring Republican Sen. Jeff Flake. Six women are running in the August primaries, setting up a likely all-female matchup.

Arizona Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, who filed her candidate petitions Tuesday, demurred when asked about the role gender plays in her candidacy. “For me, my public service has never been about my gender or really any other characteristic,” Sinema told The Associated Press.

In a recent ad Sinema credits her single mother for shepherding her family through tough times, echoing themes of family security, a priority for some female voters.

Wisconsin’s Baldwin could face Vukmir, who faces a competitive August primary.

The biggest hurdle for women running for the Senate is the map. Of the 13 Democratic women seeking re-election, four are in states Trump carried in 2016 and where he is expected to weigh in heavily.

Seen as most vulnerable are first-term Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, a state Trump carried by almost 36 percentage points, and second-term Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, where Trump won by more than 18 percentage points.

At the same time, women stand a chance of picking up a seat in Nevada, where Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen is challenging Republican Sen. Dean Heller.

Likewise, in Tennessee, Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn, a Trump devotee whom the president raised money for Tuesday night in Nashville, faces Democratic former Gov. Phil Bredesen for the seat being vacated by the retiring Republican Sen. Bob Corker.

Limited opportunities for women to make gains are nothing new. But the 1992 election helped usher in changes championed by Senate women, including the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Violence Against Women Act.

For women approaching 2018, it’s not just about increasing their numbers, said Kelly Dittmar of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers.

“It’s not just about advancing. We need to hold the line,” she said. “We need to prevent a backslide on these policies.”

Beaumont reported from Des Moines, Iowa. Christina Almeida Cassidy contributed from Atlanta.

## Boosting GOP, Trump accuses Pelosi of being an ‘MS-13 lover’

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday accused House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of being an “MS-13 lover” and dismissed a Democratic Senate candidate as a “tool” of Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a line of attack likely to become familiar as he boosts Republican congressional

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 35 of 53

candidates ahead of midterm elections.

Trump's visit to Nashville, Tennessee, promoted the Senate candidacy of Rep. Marsha Blackburn, who was expected to face former Gov. Phil Bredesen in the race to replace retiring Republican Sen. Bob Corker. Besides headlining a private fundraiser for Blackburn, he used a public rally to urge supporters not to become "complacent" this fall while Democrats were "sticking together" to block his agenda.

"We need Marsha in the Senate to continue the amazing progress and work that we've done over the last year and a half," Trump said during the rally. "To keep on winning, you have to vote Republican in November."

The Tennessee campaign is among several races expected to determine control of the Senate, where Republicans are defending a narrow two-seat majority. The president criticized Bredesen for being backed by national Democrats.

"He's a tool of Chuck Schumer and of course the MS-13 lover Nancy Pelosi," Trump said. Earlier this month, the House Democratic leader criticized Trump's rhetoric and policies on immigrants after he called members of the international gang "animals."

Trump added that Bredesen had donated to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2016, saying, "Phil Bredesen supported her and he supported her ideas."

Trump plans a series of political rallies and events to brand Democrats as obstructionists. He said his supporters can't sit back and relax this fall after working to elect him in 2016. "That's the worst thing that can happen," he said.

"In November, we will reverse a trend," Trump added, alluding to recent precedent in which the party holding the White House tends to lose congressional seats.

He said of Democrats, "They're bad at everything but they're good at sticking together," and appealed for GOP unity come November.

The president held a similar rally in Indiana earlier this month, appearing with Republican businessman Mike Braun and ripping Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly as a "swamp person" who refused to aid the GOP agenda. Trump will also raise money for GOP candidates in Texas on Thursday.

Trump is using the campaign appearances to mobilize his core backers by highlighting his accomplishments in office, like improving economic indicators and moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and resurrecting some of his go-to lines from the 2016 campaign.

"I don't want to cause a problem, but in the end, Mexico's gonna pay for the wall," Trump said of his signature campaign promise.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto quickly replied to Trump, writing Tuesday on his Twitter account — in English, which Pena Nieto seldom does — "NO. Mexico will NEVER pay for a wall. Not now, not ever. Sincerely, Mexico (all of us)."

Earlier Tuesday, Trump raised the prospect of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe affecting the November elections and blamed Democrats for "Collusion." On Twitter, he said the "13 Angry Democrats" on Mueller's team "will be MEDDLING with the mid-term elections, especially now that Republicans (stay tough!) are taking the lead in Polls." Mueller is a Republican.

Trump has also used his Twitter page to boost California Republican gubernatorial candidate John Cox, hoping to strengthen the party's chances of securing a spot on the ballot in November. He has also set his sights on Montana, where Democratic Sen. Jon Tester is seeking re-election in a state Trump carried in a landslide. Both states have primaries June 5.

Tennessee has a history of electing centrist senators and the race could be complicated by Corker's up-and-down relationship with Trump. Corker once said Trump had turned the White House into an "adult day care center" and the president tweeted that Corker "couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee."

Yet Corker was in the Oval Office on Saturday, receiving praise from the president for his help in securing the release of an American imprisoned in Venezuela. The breakthrough happened after Corker held a surprise meeting in Caracas with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Corker also greeted Trump at the Nashville airport Tuesday, joined by Blackburn and Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., among other dignitaries.

Corker has called Bredesen a friend and said he won't actively campaign against him.

Trump offered an early endorsement of Blackburn in April, tweeting that she is "a wonderful woman who has always been there when we have needed her. Great on the Military, Border Security and Crime."

Blackburn, who served on Trump's transition team, has embraced the president and called herself a "hardcore, card-carrying Tennessee conservative."

Bredesen, who is attempting to become the first Democrat to win a Senate campaign in Tennessee since Al Gore in 1990, has aired TV ads in which he says that he's "not running against Donald Trump" and that he learned long ago to "separate the message from the messenger."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC> and Superville at <https://twitter.com/dsupervilleAP>

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

## ABC cancels 'Roseanne' following star's racist tweet

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC canceled its hit reboot of "Roseanne" on Tuesday following star Roseanne Barr's racist tweet that referred to former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett as a product of the Muslim Brotherhood and the "Planet of the Apes."

ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey said the comment "is abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values." Barr apologized and deleted her Monday-night tweet, calling it a "bad joke," but the damage had already been done.

Late Tuesday, Barr tweeted a second apology to the writers and co-stars of the show and urging people not to feel sorry for her. She also highlighted supporters' tweets that criticized ABC and two of its personalities, Joy Behar and Keith Olbermann.

She also retweeted a meme that juxtaposed shots of President Donald Trump next to orangutans, and an image of Jarrett next to a picture of a "Planet of the Apes" actress.

The defiant tweetstorm capped a day that saw Barr resoundingly criticized by fellow actors, cast mates and others, and abandoned by several companies, including her talent agency, ICM Partners.

The revival of the comedy was a surprise smash for ABC, owned by the Walt Disney Co., and was counted on to lead the network's fortunes next season. Its first new episode in March was seen by more than 25 million people, with delayed viewing counted in, numbers that are increasingly rare in network television. ABC expected advertisers to pay millions of dollars for the chance to be seen during commercial breaks on television's most popular comedy after "The Big Bang Theory."

And it was all killed in a 53-character tweet.

One of the few network shows about a working-class family, "Roseanne" attracted considerable attention upon its return when Barr's character supported Trump. That made the show popular with conservative viewers, and Trump himself suggested the character's backing had a lot to do with the show's success.

Barr herself has a history of diving into political conspiracy theories on her Twitter feed, and she ended her Memorial Day weekend with a series of statements. She criticized Democratic financier George Soros and tweeted that Chelsea Clinton was "Chelsea Soros Clinton," implying she was married to a nephew of Soros. Clinton herself corrected Barr online. Donald Trump Jr. retweeted two of Barr's statements about Soros, although not the remark about Jarrett.

Jarrett, who is black, was brought up in response to Twitter commentary that raised her name in relation to an Obama conspiracy theory. Barr tweeted: "muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby=vj."

She later tweeted an apology to Jarrett. "Forgive me," she wrote. "My joke was in bad taste."

Jarrett, who appeared at the taping of an MSNBC show about racism on Tuesday, said she hoped the



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 37 of 53

incident could be turned into a teaching moment.

"I'm fine," she said. "I'm worried about the people out there who don't have a circle of friends and followers who come right to their defense."

Barr was quickly condemned. Comic Wanda Sykes, a "Roseanne" writer, tweeted that she wouldn't be returning to the show. Sara Gilbert, a co-star, also tweeted that the remark was abhorrent.

It was a quick decision at ABC for Dungey, who is the first African-American to serve as programming chief for one of the major broadcast networks, and her boss, network president Ben Sherwood. Disney chief executive Robert Iger tweeted his approval: "There was only one thing to do here, and that was the right thing."

Three weeks earlier, "Roseanne" was the toast of ABC's annual presentation of its programming plans to advertisers. Sherwood even joked then: "If anyone came to play a drinking game based on how many times we mention 'Roseanne,' you're welcome."

"Roseanne" earned an estimated \$45 million in advertising revenue for ABC through its nine episodes that started airing in March, according to Kantar Media. The firm estimates that the 13 episodes that had been ordered for next season would have brought in as much as \$60 million, with more through repeat episodes.

Hulu and the Laff comedy channel said Tuesday they were pulling re-runs of "Roseanne" from their schedules.

The cancellation has no clear precedent in television history, said David Bianculli, professor at Rowan University in New Jersey. The closest analogy is CBS pulling the plug on the Smothers Brothers variety show due to their anti-war views in the late 1960s and the same network not renewing "Lou Grant" at its peak, which star Ed Asner always contended was due to his outspoken political beliefs.

"Roseanne Barr's comments were appalling and reminiscent of horrific time in our history when racism was not only acceptable but promoted by Hollywood," said Derrick Johnson, NAACP president and CEO. "We applaud ABC for taking a stand against racism by canceling 'Roseanne.' We commend the network and ... Dungey for placing the values of diversity, inclusion and respect for humanity above ratings."

Barr got what she deserved, said Shonda Rhimes, creator of hit ABC shows like "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal."

"As I tell my 4-year-old, one makes a choice with one's actions," Rhimes tweeted. "Roseanne made a choice. A racist one. ABC made a choice. A human one."

ICM dropped Barr within hours of the cancellation, saying in a statement that the agency was "greatly distressed by the disgraceful and unacceptable" tweet. Bruce Helford, executive producer of "Roseanne," said he was "personally horrified and saddened by the comments and in no way do they reflect the values of the people who worked so hard to make this the iconic show that it is."

AP writers Mark Kennedy, Jocelyn Noveck and Leanne Italie in New York and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Italian turmoil hits global markets, sending stocks plunging

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

Stocks fell in Asia on Wednesday after turbulent sessions in the U.S. and Europe as Italy's political predicament stoked fears of instability in the euro bloc.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index dropped 1.5 percent to 22,013.86. South Korea's Kospi dropped 1.8 percent to 2,412.06. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong slipped 1.2 percent to 30,101.98 and the Shanghai Composite index fell 2 percent to 3,058.12. Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.6 percent to 5,979.50. Shares fell in Southeast Asia and Taiwan.

WALL STREET: Prices for U.S. government bonds surged as investors shifted money from stocks into lower-risk investments. Bond yields dropped, and with them, interest rates on mortgages and other kinds of loans, hitting bank stocks on expectations lenders would earn thinner profits. The S&P 500 index 1.2

percent to 2,689.86. The Dow Jones industrial average turned negative for the year, losing 1.6 percent to 24,361.45. The Russell 2000 index fell far less than the Dow, giving up 0.2 percent to 1,623.65. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.5 percent to 7,396.59. In Europe, the German DAX lost 1.5 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 and the French CAC 40 both sank 1.3 percent.

ITALY: Investors dumped Italian government bonds, driving borrowing costs sharply higher for that country and rekindling fears of more financial strain for Europe's third-largest economy. The political upheaval will likely lead to new elections, and investors are interpreting the new vote as a referendum and that Italy could move closer to abandoning the euro if populist parties win the election. That could have major implications for the European financial system and its economy.

ANALYST'S VIEWPOINT: "Worries over geopolitics look set to hit Asia after sweeping through Europe and also the U.S. at the start of the week. That being said, a heavy data calendar from Wednesday could shift some attention back to economic growth and monetary policy," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

CURRENCIES: New jitters about the stability of the euro sent the currency's value against the dollar to its lowest level in almost a year. The dollar fell to 108.60 yen from 109.77 yen. The euro sank to \$1.1529, its lowest since July, from \$1.1537.

TREASURIES: U.S. government bond prices jumped as investors moved money into lower-risk assets. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.78 percent, its lowest since early April, from 2.93 percent. By mid-day Asia time it was at 2.83 percent.

ENERGY: U.S. crude oil fell 27 cents to \$66.46 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dropped 1.7 percent to \$66.73 a barrel in New York. Oil prices have slumped in the last week following reports that OPEC countries and Russia could start pumping more oil soon. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 49 cents to \$75.00 a barrel in London.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay in New York contributed to this report. He can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP>. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

## **Inmate on leave kills 3 in Belgium, setting off terror probe**

**By RAF CASERT, LORNE COOK and SYLVAIN PLAZY, Associated Press**

LIEGE, Belgium (AP) — A knife-wielding prison inmate on a 48-hour leave stabbed two police officers Tuesday in the Belgian city of Liege, seized their service weapons and shot them and a bystander to death before being mowed down by a group of officers, setting off a major terror investigation into the country's most savage assault since 2016 suicide attacks.

Prime Minister Charles Michel acknowledged the assailant, who had a lengthy criminal record that included theft, assault and drug offenses, had appeared in three reports on radicalism but was still allowed to take a leave from prison.

"Is our system working when we see that these kind of people are running free?" asked vice premier Alexander De Croo, echoing the thoughts of many in a nation where armed police and gun-toting soldiers still patrol the streets in the wake of the March 2016 attacks that left 32 people dead at the Brussels airport and subway system.

Tuesday's attack happened outside a cafe in the eastern city of Liege when the assailant crept up on the two female officers from behind and stabbed them repeatedly.

"He then took their weapons. He used the weapons on the officers, who died," the Liege prosecutor's spokesman, Philippe Dulieu, told reporters.

Dulieu said the attacker then shot and killed a 22-year-old teacher in a vehicle that was leaving a parking lot outside a nearby high school. He then took two women hostage inside the school before confronting police massed outside.

"He came out firing at police, wounding a number of them, notably in the legs. He was shot dead," the spokesman said, adding that the hostages escaped unharmed.

Justice Minister Koen Geens described the assailant as a repeat offender who had been incarcerated

since 2003 and was due for release in two years.

Police Chief Christian Beaupere said "the goal of the attacker was to target the police." He identified the slain officers as 45-year-old Lucile Garcia and 53-year-old Soraya Belkacemi. He said Belkacemi was the mother of 13-year-old twin daughters who earlier lost their father, also a police officer. Four other officers were wounded in the attack, one seriously with a severed femoral artery.

Belgian media identified the suspect as Benjamin Herman, a Belgian national born in 1982, though in keeping with standard procedure authorities declined to confirm his identity.

Interior Minister Jan Jambon said authorities were also investigating the suspected killing on Monday of an old acquaintance of the assailant and said there could be a link. "It is a serious hypothesis," he told the VRT network.

Asked about a video from close to the scene in which someone appeared to be shouting "Allahu Akbar!" in the din, Jambon said: "My reaction is that in many terror acts, it is the last thing they shout." But, he added, it is up to federal investigators to determine if Tuesday's attack was terrorism.

"The investigation judge must find out if we talk about terror. Because terror also has to do with someone who gives the order, ISIS or someone else, if others are involved. We need to look at all these elements," Jambon said.

Michel said the suspect in Tuesday's attack was indirectly mentioned in state security reports on radicalization. But, the prime minister added, the reference was "in notes that did not primarily target him, but others or other situations," and he was not on a list of suspects maintained by the main OCAD anti-terror assessment group.

Asked about reports that the assailant was radicalized in prison, Geens, the justice minister, said it "was not a clear-cut case."

"He certainly was not someone who could clearly be qualified as radicalized. Otherwise he would have been known as such by all services," Geens said.

But a senior official at the federal prosecutor's office told The Associated Press that "there are indications it could be a terror attack." He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Nevertheless, Belgium's crisis center said the country's terror threat alert would not be raised and remained at level 2 out of 4. It briefly stood at a maximum 4 shortly after the 2016 attacks.

Belgium's King Philippe, Michel and the country's justice and interior ministers traveled to Liege to confer with local officials.

"I want to offer my government's support for the victims, for the victims' families," Michel said.

It's not the first time Liege has been hit by a violent attack. In December 2011, a man with a history of weapons and drug offenses hurled hand grenades into a square filled with Christmas shoppers then opened fire on those who tried to escape. Five people were killed, including the assailant.

---

Cook and Casert reported from Brussels.

## Missouri governor resigns amid widening investigations

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, a sometimes brash political outsider whose unconventional resume as a Rhodes scholar and Navy SEAL officer made him a rising star in the Republican Party, resigned Tuesday amid a widening investigation that arose from an affair with his former hairdresser.

The 44-year-old governor spent nearly six months fighting to stay in office after the affair became public in January in a television news report that aired immediately following his State of the State address. The probes into his conduct by prosecutors and lawmakers began with allegations stemming from the affair and expanded to include questions about whether he violated campaign-finance laws.

Greitens said his resignation would take effect Friday.

"This ordeal has been designed to cause an incredible amount of strain on my family — millions of dol-

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 40 of 53

lars of mounting legal bills, endless personal attacks designed to cause maximum damage to family and friends," he said in a brief statement from his Jefferson City office, his voice breaking at times.

He said he could not "allow those forces to continue to cause pain and difficulty to the people that I love."

Lawmakers pressuring Greitens to step down included many Republicans, who feared that his troubles could jeopardize the GOP's chances of defeating incumbent Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill in a race considered essential to the party's hopes of keeping control of the Senate.

The local St. Louis prosecutor's office said it had reached a "fair and just resolution" on criminal charges against Greitens now that he's leaving office. But the prosecutor said details would not be made public until Wednesday.

A St. Louis grand jury indicted Greitens on Feb. 22 on one felony count of invasion of privacy for allegedly taking and transmitting a photo of the woman without her consent at his home in 2015, before he was elected governor. The charge was dismissed during jury selection, but a special prosecutor from Kansas City is considering whether to refile charges and said Tuesday that her investigation is ongoing.

In April, the St. Louis prosecutor, Kim Gardner, charged Greitens with another felony, alleging that he improperly used the donor list for a charity that he had founded to raise money for his 2016 campaign.

Then less than two weeks ago, the Missouri Legislature began meeting in special session to consider whether to pursue impeachment proceedings to try to oust Greitens from office. A special House investigative committee had subpoenaed Greitens to testify next Monday.

Two people with close ties to Republican officials in Washington and Missouri told The Associated Press there was no coordinated effort to push Greitens out.

The governor's brashness had alienated some GOP legislators even before his affair became public. Senate Leadership Fund President Steven Law said the resignation could help unify Missouri Republicans and free up money.

In January, the woman's ex-husband released a secretly recorded conversation from 2015 in which she described the affair, which happened shortly after Greitens created an exploratory committee to run for office. The woman later told the House committee that Greitens restrained, slapped, shoved and threatened her during a series of sexual encounters that at times left her crying and afraid.

Greitens said the allegations amounted to a "political witch hunt" and vowed to stay in office. But a report from the House committee created a firestorm, with both Republicans and Democrats calling for his resignation.

Even while resigning, Greitens remained defiant.

"I am not perfect. But I have not broken any laws or committed any offense worthy of this treatment," he said. "I will let the fairness of this process be judged by history."

His departure will elevate fellow Republican Lt. Gov. Mike Parson — a former state lawmaker and sheriff — to the governor's office.

Parson, who will serve the remainder of Greitens' term through January 2020, pledged to carry out his new duties "with honor and integrity." He said Greitens' resignation "will allow our state to heal and move forward from what has been a difficult time."

The Greitens administration was thrown into chaos the night of Jan. 10, when a St. Louis TV station aired a report about Greitens allegedly taking the compromising photo and threatening to blackmail the woman if she ever spoke of their encounter.

The governor admitted to having an affair but denied any criminal wrongdoing. He said the criminal case was politically motivated and called Gardner, a Democrat, a "reckless liberal prosecutor."

The House authorized the legislative investigation a week after the indictment.

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley also launched an inquiry into a veterans' charity Greitens founded. Federal law bars 501(c)(3) charities such as The Mission Continues from intervening in political campaigns on behalf of candidates.

The Associated Press first reported in October 2016 that Greitens' campaign had obtained a list of individuals, corporations and other nonprofits that had given at least \$1,000 to The Mission Continues. The AP



reported that Greitens raised about \$2 million from those who had previously given significant amounts to the charity.

Hawley, a Republican running for U.S. Senate, turned evidence over to Gardner, saying April 17 that he believed Greitens had broken the law. Her office charged him with tampering with computer data for allegedly disclosing the donor list without the charity's permission.

A May 2 report from the House investigative committee indicated that Greitens himself received the donor list and later directed aides to work off it to raise money for his gubernatorial campaign. Former campaign aide Danny Laub testified that he was duped into taking the fall when the campaign tried to explain how it had gotten the list.

Earlier Tuesday, the House panel had heard a second round of testimony from Greitens campaign aide Michael Hafner, who said Greitens had instructed him to use the charity donor list for political fundraising.

The invasion-of-privacy indictment alleged that on March 21, 2015, Greitens photographed the woman and transmitted the photo "in a manner that allowed access to that image via a computer."

During her testimony to the House committee, the woman said Greitens invited her to his home and offered to show her "how to do a proper pull-up." The woman said she initially thought "this is going to be some sort of sexy workout."

But once in his basement, Greitens taped her hands to pull-up rings, blindfolded her, and started kissing and disrobing her without her consent, according to her testimony.

Then she saw a flash and heard a click, like a cellphone camera, she said. The woman testified that Greitens told her: "Don't even mention my name to anybody at all, because if you do, I'm going to take these pictures, and I'm going to put them everywhere I can. They are going to be everywhere, and then everyone will know what a little whore you are."

Greitens, a married father of two young boys, repeatedly denied blackmailing the woman. He declined to say whether he took a photo, and prosecutors acknowledged in court that they had not found a photo.

The governor, who also served as a White House fellow and wrote a best-selling book, won an expensive Republican primary in 2016, then defeated Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster in the general election to give Republicans control of the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years. Some considered him a potential future presidential contender.

---

Associated Press writers Summer Ballentine and Blake Nelson in Jefferson City, Jim Salter in St. Louis, John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas, Lisa Mascaro in Washington and Steve Peoples in New York City contributed to this report.

---

Follow David A. Lieb on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DavidALieb> .

## Starbucks closes stores, asks workers to talk about race

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Starbucks, mocked three years ago for suggesting employees discuss racial issues with customers, asked workers Tuesday to talk about race with each other.

It was part of the coffee chain's anti-bias training, created after the arrest of two black men in a Philadelphia Starbucks six weeks ago. The chain apologized but also took the dramatic step of closing its stores early for the sessions. But still to be seen is whether the training, developed with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and other groups, will prevent another embarrassing incident.

"This is not science, this is human behavior," said Starbucks Chairman Howard Schultz. He called it the first step of many.

The training was personal, asking workers to break into small groups to talk about their experiences with race. According to training materials provided by the company, they were also asked to pair up with a co-worker and list the ways they "are different from each other." A guidebook reminds people to "listen respectfully" and tells them to stop any conversations that get derailed.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 42 of 53

"I found out things about people that I've worked with a lot that I didn't know," said Carla Ruffin, a New York regional director at Starbucks, who took the training earlier Tuesday and was made available by the company to comment on it.

Ruffin, who is black, said everyone in her group said they first experienced bias in middle school. "I just thought that was pretty impactful, that people from such diverse backgrounds, different ages, that it was all in middle school."

She said the training and discussion was needed: "We're never as human beings going to be perfect."

Starbucks declined to specify how much the training cost the company, though Schultz said it was "quite expensive" and called it "an investment in our people and the long-term cultural values of Starbucks."

The chain also lost sales from closing early, but the late-in-the-day training sessions meant no disruption to the busier morning hours.

At the company's Pike Place Market location in Seattle, commonly referred to as the original Starbucks, the store stopped letting people in at 1 p.m.

Trina Mathis, who was visiting from Tampa, Florida, was frustrated that she couldn't get in to take a photo but said the shutdown was necessary because what happened in Philadelphia was wrong.

"If they haven't trained their employees to handle situations like that, they need to shut it down and try to do all they can to make sure their employees don't make that same mistake again," said Mathis, who is black.

Others visiting the store questioned whether the training would make a difference or suggested it was overkill.

Anna Teets, who lives in Washington state, said the problem has been fixed and the company has dealt with the situation. "It's been addressed," she said.

The training was not mandatory, but Starbucks said it expected almost all of the 175,000 employees at 8,000 stores to participate and said they would be paid for the full four hours. Executives took the same training last week in Seattle.

Training in unconscious, or implicit, bias is used by many corporations, police departments and other organizations. It is typically designed to get people to open up about prejudices and stereotypes — for example, the tendency among some white people to see black people as potential criminals.

Starbucks said it would make its training materials available to other companies. Many retailers, including Walmart and Target, said they already offer some racial bias training. Nordstrom has said it plans to enhance its training after three black teenagers in Missouri were falsely accused by employees of shoplifting.

In the Philadelphia incident, Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson were asked to leave after one was denied access to the restroom. They were arrested by police minutes after they sat down to await a business meeting.

Video of the arrests were posted on social media, triggering protests, boycott threats and debate over racial profiling, or what's been dubbed "retail racism." It proved a major embarrassment for Starbucks, which has long cast itself as a company with a social conscience. That included the earlier, widely ridiculed attempt to start a national conversation on race relations by asking its employees to write "Race Together" on coffee cups.

Starbucks said the Philadelphia arrests never should have occurred. Some black coffee shop owners in the city suggested black customers instead make a habit of patronizing their businesses. Amalgam Comics and Coffeehouse owner Ariell Johnson said she has called the police just once in the two years she has been open. She said that should happen only when there is a provocation or danger.

Nelson and Robinson settled with Starbucks for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education. They also reached a deal with the city of Philadelphia for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to establish a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

The two men visited the company's Seattle headquarters on Friday, Schultz said, to "see what Starbucks does every day." He added that Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson has agreed to mentor them. "I suspect this won't be the last time they come," Schultz said.

Calvin Lai, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, said diversity training can have mixed effects.

"In some cases it can even backfire and lead people who are kind of already reactive to these issues to become even more polarized," Lai said.

One afternoon wouldn't really be "moving the needle on the biases," he said, especially since Starbucks has so many employees and they may not stay very long.

Starbucks said the instruction will become part of how it trains all new workers. Stores will keep iPads given out for Tuesday's meetings and new videos will be added every month for additional training.

Starbucks said it also plans to hold training at its stores in other countries.

Associated Press reporters Terry Tang in Phoenix, Phuong Le and Elaine Thompson in Seattle, Lynne Sladky in Miami, Mark Gillespie in Cleveland and Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

## Trump, critics trade angry immigration charges, falsehoods

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Democratic critics traded outraged, sometimes plainly false accusations about immigration Tuesday as the debate over "lost" children and the practice of separating families caught crossing the border illegally reached a new boiling point.

False charges flew on both sides. The White House wrongly blamed Democrats for forcing his administration to separate children from parents. Liberal activists and others, including some from media outlets, tried to highlight the issue by tweeting photos of young people in steel cages that actually were taken during the Obama administration. Others seized on reports the government had "lost" more than 1,000 children, though that wasn't quite the case.

It all comes just in time for the midterm elections as Republicans and Democrats try to rally core voters by pointing fingers at one another. Trump won the presidency promising to build a wall along the southern border and end illegal immigration, and the White House believes stressing the same issues will drive voters to the polls and help the GOP hang on to their majorities in the Senate and House.

The White House is "really beating the immigration drum in the lead-up to the midterm elections as a rallying cry and as a way of mobilizing voter support for Trump and the candidates that he chooses," said Doris Meissner, a senior fellow at the non-partisan Migration Policy Institute and former commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service during the Clinton administration. "It does seem to provoke a ratcheting up across the board."

Indeed, the situation grew so hostile over the holiday weekend that the president's eldest daughter, White House adviser Ivanka Trump, came under fire for tweeting a photo of herself and her youngest son in their pajamas Sunday morning.

"Focus on what is before you, on what you can control and ignore the trolls!" she later wrote.

During a White House conference call on Tuesday, senior adviser Stephen Miller contended the "the current immigration and border crisis" is "the exclusive product of loopholes in federal immigration law that Democrats refuse to close."

That was after Trump lit up social media over the weekend by falsely claiming there was a "horrible law" that separates children from their parents after they cross the border illegally. He had said previously that "we have to break up families" at the border because "the Democrats gave us that law."

But there's no law mandating that parents must be separated from their children, and it's not a policy Democrats have pushed or can change alone as the minority in Congress. The tactic's increased use is being driven by Trump's own administration, which recently announced a new "zero-tolerance policy" in which it will press criminal charges against all people crossing the border illegally, even if they have few or no previous offenses. More children are expected to be separated from their parents as a result.

A Customs and Border Protection official told lawmakers last week that 658 children had been separated

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 44 of 53

from their parents at the border from May 6 to May 19 as the parents face charges. That's in addition to hundreds more who were estimated to have been removed from their parents since October.

The practice has drawn condemnation from Trump critics, who have long accused him of supporting inhumane policies in his efforts to crack down on illegal immigration.

"He actually called the practice horrible. If he thinks it's so horrible then he ought to just end it and not make the children a negotiating tool," said Lee Gelernt, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project.

Michelle Brane, director of the Migrant Rights and Justice program at the Women's Refugee Commission, said in a statement: "Family separation is NOT required by any law, this is a Trump administration policy clearly designed to punish parents, who are just trying to get their children to safety."

But Trump foes made their own missteps.

Over the weekend, some critics of the policy tweeted photos of young-looking immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in steel cages and blamed the Trump administration for separating immigrant children from their parents. The problem: The photos were taken by The Associated Press in 2014, when Barack Obama was in office, and the photo captions reference children who crossed the border as unaccompanied minors.

How or why the story resurfaced on social media four years after it was published was unclear. But Trump seized on the error.

"Democrats mistakenly tweet 2014 pictures from Obama's term showing children from the Border in steel cages. They thought it was recent pictures in order to make us look bad, but backfires," Trump tweeted Tuesday. "Dems must agree to Wall and new Border Protection for good of country ... Bipartisan Bill!"

It's unclear what "Bipartisan Bill!" Trump might have been referring to.

Congress is heading toward an immigration showdown in the House, as Republican moderates force a June vote on legislation to protect young "Dreamer" immigrants and beef up border security.

GOP leaders are trying to stop the bill, which has robust support from Democrats and some Republicans. They're worried any legislation that smacks of "amnesty" for immigrants in the U.S. illegally would dampen conservative enthusiasm ahead of the midterms.

Instead, House Speaker Paul Ryan and his leadership team are trying to put together an alternative approach that most Republicans would support. But finding common ground remains difficult. Trump so far has not engaged in the Capitol Hill debate, even as he repeatedly insists Congress must act.

Also making the rounds on social media over the holiday weekend: Allegations that children placed in custody have been "lost" by federal authorities, which officials say isn't the case.

The allegation, which sparked the hashtag "WhereAreOurChildren," grew out of testimony in April by a federal official that the government had lost track of nearly 1,500 unaccompanied minor children it placed with adult sponsors in the U.S.

An official from the Health and Human Services Department told a congressional hearing last month that his department placed follow-up phone calls from October to December to U.S. households that were sponsoring minors who crossed the border without their parents. They reached 86 percent of the children or sponsors, but the department could not verify the whereabouts of 1,475. In some cases, sponsors simply didn't respond to the follow-up phone call, not surprising because many are themselves in the U.S. illegally and reluctant to speak to authorities.

"If you call a friend and they don't answer the phone, you don't assume that they've been kidnapped," Health and Human Services' Steven Wagner said.

Officials also Tuesday they are planning more thorough screening of both minor children and their sponsors, including a fingerprint background check of every sponsor.

---

Associated Press writers Anne Flaherty and Lisa Mascaro in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

---

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>.



## Fed looks to ease rule that limits risky bank trading

By **MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is preparing to ease a rule aimed at defusing the kind of risk-taking on Wall Street that played a role in triggering the 2008 financial meltdown.

The Volcker Rule, crafted by regulators 4 1/2 years ago, changed the way the biggest U.S. banks do business. It prohibits them from using the deposits of customers to fund risky trades. It's a key plank of the landmark Dodd-Frank financial regulation law intended to reduce the likelihood of another crisis and taxpayer-funded bank bailout.

President Donald Trump has blamed Dodd-Frank for constraining economic growth. When the Fed meets Wednesday, it will propose changes to the Volcker Rule.

The rule is named for Paul Volcker, a Fed chairman in the 1980s who was an adviser to President Barack Obama during the financial crisis. Volcker urged a ban on deposit-funded, high-risk trading by big banks, believing that it would be an effective in averting future economic crises.

There has already been a volley of modifications that unwind the stricter regulations put into place during the Great Recession:

—Last week, Congress approved legislation rolling back the Dodd-Frank law, giving Trump a key win on a campaign promise as he quickly signed it into law. The Republican-led legislation, passed with help from some opposition votes, was aimed at especially helping small and medium-sized banks, including community banks and credit unions. It eases oversight and capital requirements (and Volcker Rule compliance) for about two dozen banks falling below new capital thresholds, including BB&T Corp., SunTrust Banks, Fifth Third Bancorp and American Express.

—After Trump installed him in November as acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Mick Mulvaney has shaped the watchdog agency established by the Dodd-Frank law and urged a curb on its powers. He has dropped a lawsuit against a payday lender, targeted agency enforcement powers in anti-discrimination cases and threatened a consumer complaint database. No banks or other financial institutions have been fined or sued since he took over.

The scope of the Fed's proposed revisions to the Volcker Rule is still unclear. The burden could shift from the banks to the regulators to prove that specific types of transactions violate the ban.

The Volcker Rule banned high-risk activity known as proprietary trading. The practice had become a huge money-making machine for Wall Street mega-banks like Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley. Proprietary trading allowed big banks to tap depositors' money in federally-insured bank accounts — essentially borrowing against that money and using it for investments.

"Weakening the Volcker Rule means allowing banks to play with other people's money again. That was the casino economy before the crisis," says Ed Mierzwinski, a senior director at the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, a consumer advocacy organization

In the years since the rule took effect, banks have been required to trade mainly on behalf of their clients.

"The proprietary trading desks are gone (from the banks) and they're probably not going to come back," says Oliver Ireland, an attorney specializing in banking law at Morrison & Foerster. Ireland was an associate general counsel at the Fed.

Still, big Wall Street banks have pushed against the Volcker Rule.

It can be difficult to identify proprietary trading compared with other key bank activities such as market-making, which is exempt from the ban on proprietary trading. When big banks engage in market-making, they use their own money to take the opposite side of a customer's trade: They buy or sell an investment to help execute the trade.

The Fed is an independent regulator that asserts its separation from political pressure and the White House. Trump, of course, has had the opportunity to put his stamp on the central bank by filling positions on the seven-member Fed board.

The new Fed chairman since February, Jerome Powell, who was a board member under ex-Fed chair Janet Yellen, was an investment banker before he joined the central bank. After Trump named him Fed

chief, Powell told Congress that he believes the rules put into place after the 2008 crisis could be improved, though he doesn't completely support the administration's ambition of aggressively rolling back regulations.

Another Trump appointee on the Fed board, investment banker Randal Quarles, is the Fed's top overseer of Wall Street and the leader in seeking to ease financial regulation. He has said the package of rules under Dodd-Frank should be overhauled but not scrapped. The third sitting Fed governor is Lael Brainard, a former Treasury Department official appointed by Obama in 2014.

Trump has named three others to fill vacancies on the board: two economics professors and the Kansas banking commissioner. They await Senate confirmation.

## Need an entry-level job at a store? It can be harder now

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Asia Thomas knew she was at a disadvantage. It had been 16 years since she quit a job at McDonald's to raise her kids. When she left, restaurants didn't have kiosks to take orders, people didn't use smartphones to pay, and job seekers did applications on paper.

"Things have changed," said Thomas, who lives in Baltimore. "And there were a lot of things I forgot."

Getting a job at a store or fast-food restaurant — often a way into the economy for an unskilled worker — used to be as simple as walking up and down the mall and applying. Now, with store chains closing and laying off thousands of workers, that path is more complicated. The stores that remain financially healthy are actually raising wages in a tight labor market. But they're seeking a new type of worker — one who has a lot more skills up front.

Thomas, 44, was able to get a job at wholesale club B.J.'s for \$12 an hour — but that was only after signing up for computer lessons and taking a class in retail basics like how to track inventory and handle issues like returns. That led her to another opportunity at a casino.

Across all entry-level retail jobs, the number of skills being demanded rose from 2010 to 2016, according to an analysis done for The Associated Press by Burning Glass Technologies, which scours 25 million job postings.

Burning Glass found a greater emphasis on customer service and communications skills for cashier, stock clerk and sales floor support jobs. And for many other entry-level jobs, employers want even more skills, like the ability to use customer relations software like Salesforce. Even forklift operators are being asked to be proficient in inventory management software.

This has major consequences for workers without college degrees or vocational training trying to get an economic foothold. A decade ago, workers, especially young ones, could start as cashiers and move up to become store managers or even higher. But now, it's harder to even get in the door.

"The bottom may be coming out of the career ladder," said Burning Glass CEO Matt Sigelman.

Experts say those who might otherwise have started out at working at a store may head instead to cleaning, dishwashing or health aide jobs. The number of jobs in those fields is expected to grow far more than in retail. While these jobs may pay about the same as retail, they can be more demanding physically and provide less opportunity to move up.

"This phenomenon is creating more pressure on incomes at the lower end of the middle class and will push people down closer to and even below the poverty line," said Fred Crawford, senior vice chairman of consulting firm AlixPartners. "It will exacerbate the growing gap between the haves and have-nots."

These changes are being driven by companies' use of large amounts of data not available a generation ago. Supermarkets, for instance, use loyalty programs to better track customers' shopping habits. Clothing chains are now quickly reacting to the latest fashion trends, adjusting the merchandise on store shelves within days. That means front-line workers must do more.

Take cashiers. Employers asked for five skills in 2016, up from three in 2010. The job often requires running sophisticated registers that track loyalty cards, digital coupons and real-time inventory.

"We are looking for workers who are not only friendly and passionate but people who are tech-savvy," said Marisa Velez, store director of DSW Designer Warehouse in New York's Union Square.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 47 of 53

That's a shift from just five years ago, when the technology a sales clerk at the serve-yourself shoes and accessories chain would use would involve a calculator or calling another store to check if they have an item.

At DSW, Phoebe Li swiftly navigates the aisles stacked with boxes of shoes, seeing if customers need help while she scans an iPad to check on online inventory. The tablets DSW uses will soon be able to ring up a sale as well. "If I see someone bending down looking for a size, I ask them, "How is everything?" said Li, 24, who has worked at DSW part-time since February.

"Customers are coming in with limited time," Velez said. "They're rushing. They want what they are looking for. We're able to expedite that through the app, through the iPad and making sure we are respecting their time while still capturing the sale."

Online home goods retailer Wayfair is increasingly looking for customer service and warehouse workers with problem-solving skills. Its employees help customers design a room, or they figure out how to pack a truck without damaging fragile items. So it's now recruiting gamers at places like Comic Con for those roles, said Liz Graham, who oversees customer service and sales.

Nearly a third of all first jobs in the U.S. are in retail. But 62 percent of service-sector workers, which includes jobs like cashiers and store sales assistants, have limited literacy skills and 74 percent have limited math abilities, according to the National Skills Coalition, funded by Walmart Inc.'s charitable arm.

Chains like Target and Walmart are increasing training on the job. And the nonprofit arm of the industry's trade and lobbying group, the National Retail Federation, launched a training and credential program for entry-level workers last year, joining with nonprofit groups like Goodwill to teach classes. But that may not be enough to fill the skill gap. There were more than 700,000 current job openings in retail in March, according to government data.

The retail industry "relied on a largely unskilled entry labor force. Now, it's leaning more toward skilled people and competing with other sectors" like technology, said economist Frank Badillo, founder and director of research at MacroSavvy.

The training programs are making difference. Nadine Vixama would have never had a shot without them. Vixama, 42, emigrated from Haiti eight years ago and worked in a money payment business and then at a dry cleaners. But she wanted something that was more about customer service.

She did snag a job at Whole Foods in Cambridge, Massachusetts, first as a bagger and now as a cashier, making a little more than \$11 an hour. But that was after taking English classes and the store basics program developed by the NRF.

"I've learned to treat customers in a better way ... how to keep pace with them," Vixama said. At another class offered by a workplace group, she learned about spreadsheet programs like Excel and studied basic accounting.

Vixama just finished the second class, and shadowed a manager at CVS as part of that training. She's considering an entry-level job at a drugstore and mulling her options.

"I don't want to stay like this," she said. "I want to have better growth opportunities."

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## Hyundai investing \$388M to update Alabama plant, build other

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Hyundai plans to invest more than \$350 million to build a plant in Alabama and also update an existing one there, officials said Tuesday.

The automotive manufacturer with headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, said it plans to invest \$388 million to construct the 260,000-square-foot (24,000-square-meter) engine head manufacturing plant, as well as enhance its assembly plant in Montgomery, news outlets reported.

The investment is the company's biggest in the plant since it opened in 2005, and the new facility is scheduled to be operational by mid-2019.

The plant will create 50 new jobs with an average annual salary of \$52,000, Gov. Kay Ivey said. The

company has already started fielding applications for the workers, who will begin in March.

Some new positions will be taken by current employees and their jobs will be filled with new workers, plant spokesman Robert Burns said.

The company is investing in new manufacturing technologies at the plant, Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama President and CEO Dong Ryeol Choi said. The money will support operations for making new models of Sonata and Elantra sedans.

Hyundai announced in March that its redesigned Santa Fe SUV would be assembled entirely in Montgomery. Full production starts Friday.

Chris Susock, the plant's vice president of production operations, had said the company expects the new Santa Fe to reverse a trend that had the plant decrease its overall production. For several years, the plant made only Sonata and Elantra sedans.

The plant has nearly 3,000 full-time employees.

## Trump renews China tariff threat, complicating talks

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has renewed its threat to place 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese goods in retaliation for what it says are China's unfair trade practices.

The White House also said Tuesday that it would place new restrictions on Chinese investment into the United States and limit U.S. exports of high-tech goods to China.

The threats come just over a week after trade tensions between the world's two largest economies had seemingly eased. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said May 20 that the trade conflict was "on hold." Mnuchin's comments followed a commitment by China to significantly increase its purchases of U.S. farm goods and energy products, such as natural gas.

Commerce Department Secretary Wilbur Ross is scheduled to visit China on Saturday to negotiate the details of that agreement. Some trade experts said the tariff announcement is likely intended to strengthen Ross's hand.

Other analysts, however, say the newly confrontational stance may be intended to appease congressional critics of a deal the Trump administration made Friday that allowed Chinese telecom giant ZTE Corp. to stay in business. The tariff threat is unlikely to derail ongoing talks, they said.

"This is really about Congress," said Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. "I don't think it blows up a deal with the Chinese."

China's Ministry of Commerce responded in a mild fashion Tuesday. The Ministry said the White House's announcement "is contrary to the consensus the two sides have previously reached," according to China's official news agency, Xinhua. The statement did not reiterate China's own previous threats to impose \$50 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods.

Members of both parties in the House and Senate slammed the agreement the Trump administration reached with ZTE Friday, in which the Chinese firm agreed to remove its management team, hire American compliance officers, and pay a fine. The fine would be on top of a \$1 billion penalty ZTE has already paid for selling high-tech equipment to North Korea and Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

In return, the Commerce Department lifted a seven-year ban on ZTE's purchase of U.S. components that it had just imposed earlier in May. China had complained strongly that the ban would put ZTE out of business, costing 70,000 jobs. Trump tweeted last month that the ban threatened too many Chinese jobs and he wanted to get the company "back in business, fast."

GOP and Democratic Senators attacked the deal as insufficient punishment for a company that defied U.S. sanctions policy.

The White House said Tuesday that it will focus the tariffs on cutting-edge technologies, including those that China has said it wants to dominate as part of its "Made in China 2025" program. Under that program, China aims to take a leading role in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and electric cars.

The list of imports subject to the duties will be announced by June 15, the White House said, and the



tariffs will be imposed "shortly thereafter." The list will be based on a previous compilation of 1,300 goods released in April that will be narrowed based on public comments the administration has received. The list includes computer equipment, aerospace parts, medical devices, and industrial machinery.

The tariff threat could still disrupt Ross's China talks.

"If Beijing was under the impression that Trump's \$50 billion of tariffs were actually on hold, they may find this confusing," Chad Bown, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said. "It could very well complicate Wilbur Ross's visit."

Trump 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. The White House, and many American companies, say that China forces U.S. firms to turn over technology as part of joint ventures with Chinese companies to gain access to its market. China also subsidizes many favored industries.

Trump has frequently focused on the trade deficit, urging China to boost its imports and lower the gap by \$200 billion, while China has refused to agree to any dollar amounts.

Many experts and U.S. companies, however, warn that China's efforts to protect its high-tech industries and capture U.S. technology represent the larger threat.

The Trump administration said Tuesday that it plans to shorten the length of validity of some visas issued to Chinese citizens as part of a push to counter alleged theft of U.S. intellectual property by Beijing. The State Department said that under the new policy, U.S. consular officers may limit how long visas are valid, rather than the usual practice of issuing them for the maximum possible length.

Scott Kennedy, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that many foreign leaders are learning to not overreact to Trump's threats, which are frequently seen as just part of negotiating strategy. That's good for global stability, he added.

"But that means the United States' credibility is incredibly low," he said. "I don't think you can keep doing about-faces, and have everyone pretend the threat is as ominous as it was before."

AP Writers Jill Colvin and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

## **Bayer selling \$9B in ag business ahead of Monsanto merger**

**By MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — German pharmaceutical giant Bayer AG has agreed to the U.S. government's demand that it sell about \$9 billion in agriculture businesses as the condition for acquiring Monsanto Co., a U.S. seed and weed-killer maker.

Antitrust regulators at the Justice Department say it's the biggest divestiture ever required for a merger. The regulators say they directed Bayer to divest assets such as vegetable oils, seeds and seed treatments to ensure fair competition and prevent price spikes after the massive agriculture business deal goes through. The assets will be sold to BASF, a German chemical company.

"As a result, American farmers and consumers will continue to benefit from competition in this industry," the Justice Department said in a statement.

Without the sale of Bayer assets, the merger of two of the world's largest agricultural companies "would likely result in higher prices, lower quality and fewer choices across a wide array of seed and crop-protection products," the statement said. "The merger also threatened to stifle the innovation in agricultural technologies that has delivered significant benefits to American farmers and consumers."

Bayer's \$57 billion proposed takeover of Monsanto has been watched by competitors and environmental groups, which are fearful that the number of players in the business of selling seeds and pesticides will shrink further and give a single company a stranglehold on the food chain.

Monsanto, based in St. Louis, is one of the world's biggest seed companies. The merger would make Bayer the largest supplier in the world of pesticides and seeds for farmers.

"This merger is going to have a devastating effect on African American farmers and other small farmers," John Boyd, founder and president of the National Black Farmers Association, said in a telephone interview.

"It means higher prices for small farmers, and more black farmers will end up going out of business due to these higher seed prices."

The divestiture proposal will be filed in federal court and opened to public comment for 60 days.

In March, the European Union approved the merger on condition that Bayer sell \$7.4 billion in assets to BASF to eliminate overlaps in seed and pesticide markets. The U.S. Justice Department said after the European action that it continued to have concerns over the proposed deal, especially its potential impact on American farmers and consumers, which could differ from its effects in Europe. Genetically modified seeds, for example, are used widely in the U.S. but mostly banned in Europe.

Under the new U.S. agreement, Bayer must divest:

- Businesses that compete with Monsanto, including its cotton, canola, soybean and vegetable seed businesses, and its Liberty herbicide business, a key rival of Monsanto's well-known Roundup herbicide.

- Certain intellectual property and research capabilities for developing new products.

- Assets needed to ensure that BASF has the same incentives to innovate that Bayer would have as an independent competitor, including Bayer's early stage "digital agriculture" business.

The merger also has won approval from China, Brazil and Australia.

Bayer said it has now secured nearly all the needed government clearances for closing the deal.

"Receipt of the (Justice Department's) approval brings us close to our goal of creating a leading company in agriculture," Bayer CEO Werner Baumann said in a statement. "We want to help farmers across the world grow more nutritious food in a more sustainable way."

Some antitrust experts had warned that the merger would eliminate direct competition between two of the biggest players in the seed industry, giving the new company lopsided control over U.S. cotton acreage, and commercial seed development for canola, soybean and corn.

Two big mergers last year already have reshaped the global seed and pesticide market: Dow Chemical's combination with DuPont last year, and China National Chemical Corp.'s acquisition of Syngenta, a Swiss seed and pesticide maker.

## **New swamp: Ex-Perry adviser lobbies for energy firm bailout**

**By MATTHEW DALY and RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — At a West Virginia rally on tax cuts, President Donald Trump veered off on a subject that likely puzzled most of his audience.

"Nine of your people just came up to me outside. 'Could you talk about 202?'" he said. "We'll be looking at that 202. You know what a 202 is? We're trying."

One person who undoubtedly knew what Trump was talking about last month was Jeff Miller, an energy lobbyist with whom the president had dined the night before. Miller had been hired by FirstEnergy Solutions, a bankrupt power company that relies on coal and nuclear energy to produce electricity. His assignment: push the Trump administration to use a so-called 202 order — named for a provision of the Federal Power Act — to secure a bailout worth billions of dollars.

Although Trump didn't agree to the plan — he still hasn't — for Miller, a president's public declaration of interest amounted to a job well done.

How a single lobbyist helped carry a long-shot idea from obscurity to the presidential stage is a twisty journey through the new swamp of Trump's Washington. Rather than clearing out the lobbyists and campaign donors that spend big money to sway politicians, Trump and his advisers paved the way for a new cast of powerbrokers who have quickly embraced familiar ways to wield influence.

Miller is among them. A well-connected GOP fundraiser, he has served as an adviser to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, also a close friend. He ran Perry's unsuccessful presidential campaign in 2016. And when Trump tapped Perry to lead the Energy Department, Miller shepherded his friend through confirmation, sitting behind him, next to the nominee's wife, at the Senate hearing.

When Perry came to Washington, Miller did, too. He launched his firm, Miller Strategies, early last year and began lobbying his friend and other Washington officials.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 51 of 53

Besides Perry, Miller is close to other Trump-era power players. He is among House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's best friends, their relationship dating back decades to Miller's days in California. In more recent years, Miller developed a friendship with Vice President Mike Pence adviser Marty Obst.

"He's very influential in Washington, a leading fundraiser," Obst said of Miller.

Now, after 14 months in business, the 43-year-old Miller has collected more than \$3.2 million from a roster of clients that includes several of the nation's largest energy companies, among them Southern Co., a nuclear power plant operator headquartered in Atlanta, and Texas-based Valero Energy, according to federal filings.

Miller also has continued to raise money for GOP politicians. He contributed nearly \$37,000 of his own over the past year to Republicans, including Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Greg Pence of Indiana, who's seeking the congressional seat once held by his younger brother, the vice president, according to federal campaign records.

He is an active supporter of America First Action, a pro-Trump super PAC that raised \$4.7 million in the first three months of 2018. That work earned him a spot at dinner with Trump, McCarthy and other GOP donors in the upscale City Center complex blocks from the White House.

"What happened to draining the political swamp?" asks Dick Munson with the Environmental Defense Fund, who said he sees FirstEnergy and other coal operators "grasping" for bailouts to solve problems of their own making. "It seems when you don't have solid arguments, you hire well-paid lobbyists and make huge political contributions."

Miller declined to comment for this story.

Brian Walsh, president of America First Action, said Miller raises money for the group on a volunteer basis. Miller, who lives in Texas, spent years outside of Washington independently developing an "amazing" network of connections, Walsh said. He described Miller as a "straight shooter" and rejected the notion that he is cashing in on Trump's election and Perry's ascension to energy chief.

"He doesn't play games with people," Walsh said of Miller.

But Tim Judson, executive director of Nuclear Information and Resource Service, an activist group, called Miller's involvement in the bailout request the ultimate "Washington swamp" situation.

"We have a special-interest appeal by FirstEnergy, a top lobbyist dining with the president, and that same lobbyist is raising money for a pro-Trump super PAC and asking for 'emergency action' from someone whose presidential campaign he ran," Judson said.

Miller registered as a lobbyist in Washington in February 2017, just after Trump took office. He was hired by FirstEnergy in July 2017. Lobbying disclosure records show he was paid to target the highest levels of American government: the White House — including the offices of Trump and Pence — and Perry's Energy Department. Miller has earned \$330,000 from FirstEnergy since last year, making him one of the company's highest-paid outside lobbyists.

The coal industry's top priority at the time was seizing on a key Trump campaign promise — to bring back coal jobs — and ask for unprecedented federal assistance.

Ohio-based Murray Energy Corp., the nation's largest privately owned coal-mining company, and its largest customer, FirstEnergy, pushed the Energy Department for an emergency order, a measure typically reserved for war or natural disasters. Among other measures, the intervention would have exempted power plants from obeying a host of environmental laws and spent billions to keep coal-fired plants open, an unprecedented federal intervention in the nation's energy markets.

CEO Robert Murray and Charles Jones, CEO of FirstEnergy's parent company, met with Trump in West Virginia to discuss the request, informing the president that the power company was on the verge of bankruptcy.

Despite the high-powered lobbying, Perry rejected the request in August, saying the emergency order wasn't the right mechanism. He offered another option, asking federal energy regulators to approve a plan that would reward nuclear and coal-fired power plants for adding reliability to the nation's power grid. But the independent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rejected the plan in January, saying there's

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 52 of 53

no evidence that past or planned retirements of coal-fired power plants pose a threat to grid reliability. Soon after, FirstEnergy began pushing anew for the 202. Miller has visited the Energy Department at least twice since June, including on the day Trump delivered a speech on his energy agenda at the agency's Washington headquarters.

The company argues the emergency order is needed to prevent premature retirement of coal and nuclear plants that "cannot operate profitably under current market conditions." The proposal would allocate money to subsidize the company and other coal operators — an outcome the company says would avert thousands of layoffs and help ensure reliability of the electric grid up and down the East Coast.

The Ohio-based company filed for bankruptcy in late March, days after announcing it would shut down three nuclear plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania within three years. The company also plans to close a West Virginia coal-fired plant, one of a series of closings as the coal and nuclear industries struggle to compete with electricity plants that burn cheaper natural gas.

FirstEnergy's bid for the emergency request is widely opposed by business and environmental groups as an unfair tipping of the scales in favor of faltering energy sources.

An independent wholesaler that oversees the power grid in 13 states and the District of Columbia has said the Eastern grid is in no immediate danger. FirstEnergy can shut down its three nuclear power plants within three years without destabilizing the power grid, according to a report last month from the wholesaler, PJM Interconnection.

Still, the push for a bailout continues.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., recently suggested that Perry consider using a Korean War-era defense law to prevent the retirement of ailing coal and nuclear units. The Defense Production Act of 1950 is intended to prioritize industries deemed vital to national security. President Harry Truman used the law to cap wages and impose price controls on the steel industry.

FirstEnergy said it supports the premise, although it says it has not specifically urged Perry to use the defense law.

Perry said the administration is looking at the defense law "very closely," one of several options being considered.

---

Associated Press writer Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

---

Follow Matthew Daly: <http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC> and Richard Lardner: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 30, the 150th day of 2018. There are 215 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 30, 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

On this date:

In 1381, the Peasants' Revolt against economic injustice erupted in England during the reign of King Richard II; the king and his men, initially caught off-guard, were able to crush the rebellion several weeks later.

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1536, England's King Henry VIII married his third wife, Jane Seymour, 11 days after the king's second wife, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded for treason and adultery.

In 1883, 12 people were trampled to death in a stampede sparked by a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing.



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 320 ~ 53 of 53

In 1911, the first Indy 500 took place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner was Ray Harroun, who drove a Marmon Wasp for more than 6 1/2 hours at an average speed of 74.6 mph and collected a prize of \$10,000.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1943, during World War II, American troops secured the Aleutian island of Attu from Japanese forces.

In 1968, the Beatles began recording their "White Album" at EMI Recording Studios in London, starting with the original version of "Revolution 1."

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1982, Spain became NATO's 16th member.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson were granted an uncontested decree ending their 10-year marriage.

Ten years ago: A construction crane snapped and smashed into an apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, killing two workers in New York City's second such tragedy in 2 1/2 months. Diplomats from 111 nations meeting in Dublin, Ireland, formally adopted a landmark treaty banning cluster bombs. (The United States and other leading cluster bomb makers — Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan — boycotted the talks.) Lorenzo Odone (oh-DOH'-nay), whose parents' battle to save him from the rare nerve disease ALD inspired "Lorenzo's Oil," died in Fairfax, Virginia, a day after his 30th birthday.

Five years ago: Syria's President Bashar Assad said in an interview with Lebanese television that he was "confident of victory" in his country's civil war, and he warned Damascus would retaliate for any future Israeli airstrike on his territory. Arvind Mahankali (AHR'-vihnd MAH'-hahn-KAHL'-ee), a 13-year-old from Bayside Hills, New York, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling "knaidel," a small mass of leavened dough, to win the 86th version of the competition.

One year ago: The Pentagon scored an important success in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor. Michael Dubke (DUHB'-kee), a top communications aide to President Donald Trump, announced his resignation. Kathy Griffin appeared in a brief video holding what looked like President Trump's bloody, severed head; the comic ended up apologizing, saying she had gone way too far.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ruta Lee is 83. Actor Keir Dullea is 82. Actor Michael J. Pollard is 79. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers is 75. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 74. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 67. Actor Colm Meaney is 65. Actor Ted McGinley is 60. Actor Ralph Carter is 57. Actress Tonya Pinkins is 56. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 54. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 54. Actor Mark Sheppard is 54. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 53. Actor John Ross Bowie is 47. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 47. Actress Idina Menzel is 47. Actor Trey Parker is 46. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 43. Rapper Remy Ma is 38. Actor Blake Bashoff is 37. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 36. Actor Jake Short is 21. Actor Sean Giambrone is 19. Actor Jared Gilmore is 18.

Thought for Today: "There is a Law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish." — Alfred Adler, Austrian psychoanalyst (1870-1937).