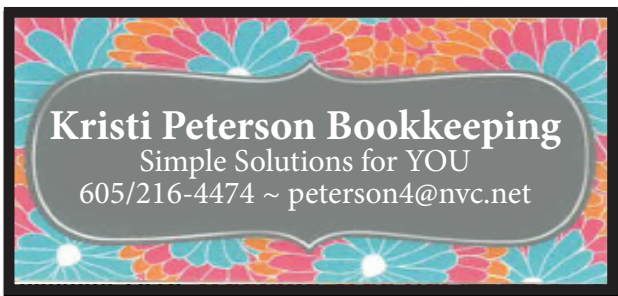


Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 1 of 33



- 1- Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 1- Lewandowski Bridal Shower
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- 50th Anniversary of Wednesday Morning Coffee Group
- 2- Robert Whitmyer Dist. 1 Ad
- 3- Groton Care and Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 3- Hecla Rummage Sales ad
- 3- Kjellsen's 80th Birthday
- 3- Flags half mast tomorrow
- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- National Weather map
- 6- Today's Weather Almanac
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 9- News from the Associated Press



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.

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



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

50th Anniversary of Wednesday Morning Coffee Group

Groton's Wednesday Morning Coffee Group recently celebrated its 50th year together. The ladies take turns hosting the group year round. Usually they get together in each other's homes but do meet at local restaurants or the golf course club house.

Back Row (L to R): Mary Anne Clark, Rose Waage, Carol Dohman, Beverly McGannon, Virginia Abeln, and Jean Olson

Front Row (L to R): Marie Sternhagen, Dodie Neumann, Jan Schelle, and Shirley Larson. (Photo

by Dorene Nelson)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 3 of 33

Gov. Daugaard Requests Flags At Half-Staff To Honor Rep. Jim Schaefer

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has requested that all flags in the state be flown at half-staff from 8 a.m. until sunset on Saturday, June 2, to honor the life of state Rep. Jim Schaefer, of Kennebec, on the day of his funeral.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 1, at 5 p.m. CDT at Zion Lutheran Church in Presho. The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Chamberlain's Zion Lutheran Church.

Hecla Rummage Sales

HECLA CITY-WIDE Rummage sale, Saturday, June 2, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Maps available at locate businesses and City of Hecla Facebook Page.

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

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

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



1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 4 of 33

Today in Weather History

June 1, 1990: A small F0 tornado blew over two mobile homes on the north side of Groton. Numerous trees were either blown down or lost limbs. Also, high winds of 65 mph occurred 5 miles south and 1 mile east of Mellette.

June 1, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills and dropped large hail and heavy rain over eastern Custer and Shannon Counties. Softball sized hail was reported south of Hermosa.

June 1, 2011: High water levels coming into June along with above average June rainfall kept water levels up on Blue Dog, Bitter, Rush, and Waubay Lakes in Day County throughout the month. The high lake levels continued to cause extensive road and property damage. Many families remained away from their homes and cabins. Also, hundreds of acres of farmland remained flooded along with many roads. Road and property damage would be in the several millions of dollars. The high lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months. In Hamlin County, Lake Poinsett, including several other lakes, continued to flood and damage several homes along with several county and township roads. High lake levels and flooding would continue for the next several months.

1903: During the early afternoon, one of the most destructive tornadoes in the history of Georgia up to this time, struck the outskirts of Gainesville. The track of the storm was about four miles in length and varied between 100 to 200 feet in width. The tornado touched down about one mile southwest of Gainesville, striking a large cotton mill at 12:45 pm, Eastern Time, just 10 minutes after 750 employees filed into the great structure from dinner. On the top floor of the mill were employed 250 children, and it was here that the greatest loss of life occurred.


1919: Snowfall of almost a half-inch fell at Denver, Colorado. This storm produced their greatest 24-hour snowfall recorded in June. Two temperature records were set: The low temperature of 32 degrees was a record low for the date, and the high of only 40 degrees was a record low maximum. Cheyenne, Wyoming recorded 1.6 inches of snow, which is one of only six times that at least one inch of snow has fallen at Cheyenne in June.

1934: June started off on a warm note as high temperatures surpassed the century mark across parts of the Midwest. Several locations tied or set a record high temperatures for June including: Rockford, IL: 106°, Mather, WI: 105°, Hatfield, WI: 103°, Mondovi, WI: 102°, Chicago, IL: 102° and Grand Rapids, MI tied their June record high with 102°.

1999: A tornado with an intermittent damage path destroyed 200 homes, businesses, and other buildings in the southern portion of St. James, Missouri. Of these, 33 homes were destroyed along with the St. James Golf Course clubhouse and two Missouri Department of Transportation buildings. The tornado then moved east, south of the downtown St. James area and intensified. F2 to F3 damage occurred with a 200 to 300-yard damage path. Several homes and farm buildings were severely damaged or destroyed. Further north, severe thunderstorms produced many tornadoes around central Illinois. The most intense tornado touched down in Montgomery County south of Farmersville and moved into southwest Christian County. One person was killed when a semi-trailer overturned at a rest area on I-55. Across eastern parts of the state, high winds up to 70 mph caused damage to trees, power lines, and some buildings. The Mattoon area also reported flooding from these storms, producing \$3 million dollars in damage.

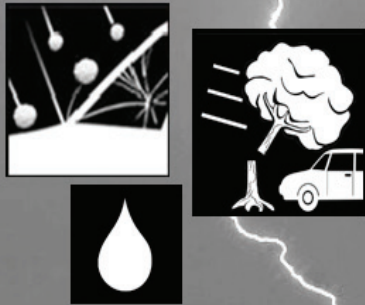
Broton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 5 of 33

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Severe Thunderstorms and Breezy	Breezy. Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear and Breezy then Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 94 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 83 °F

Severe Weather Possible Today

Threat Potential



Large hail of 2"+ in diameter and damaging winds are possible, along with heavy rainfall.

Marginal

Isolated Severe Storms Possible

Slight

Scattered Severe Storms Possible

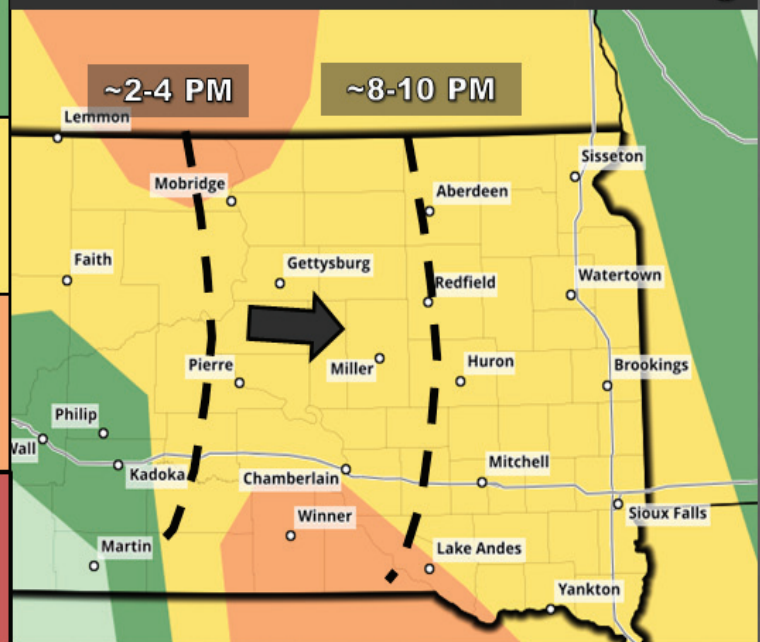
Enhanced

Numerous Severe Storms Possible

Moderate

Widespread Severe Storms Possible

Severe T-storm Outlook + Timing



Forecast Notes: A favorable environment for severe weather will be in place today. Storms may develop quickly this afternoon across Central South Dakota, and then move east through the evening.



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 6/1/2018 4:47 AM Central

A very warm and windy Friday is expected, as an area of low pressure moves in from the west. A strong cold front may spark strong to severe thunderstorms by this afternoon across Central SD, and activity is forecast to move east through the evening. Large hail and damaging winds are possible for all in the orange and yellow shading on the map - have a way to receive warning information especially if in vulnerable locations. On Saturday, much cooler and drier air moves in - highs in the 70s. Wind gusts from the northwest may exceed 40 mph.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 6 of 33

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 86.6 F at 5:22 PM

Low Outside Temp: 56.6 F at 6:02 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 10:23 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1933

Record Low: 34° in 1946

Average High: 73°F

Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in June: 0.11

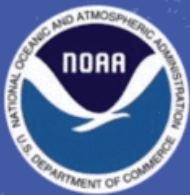
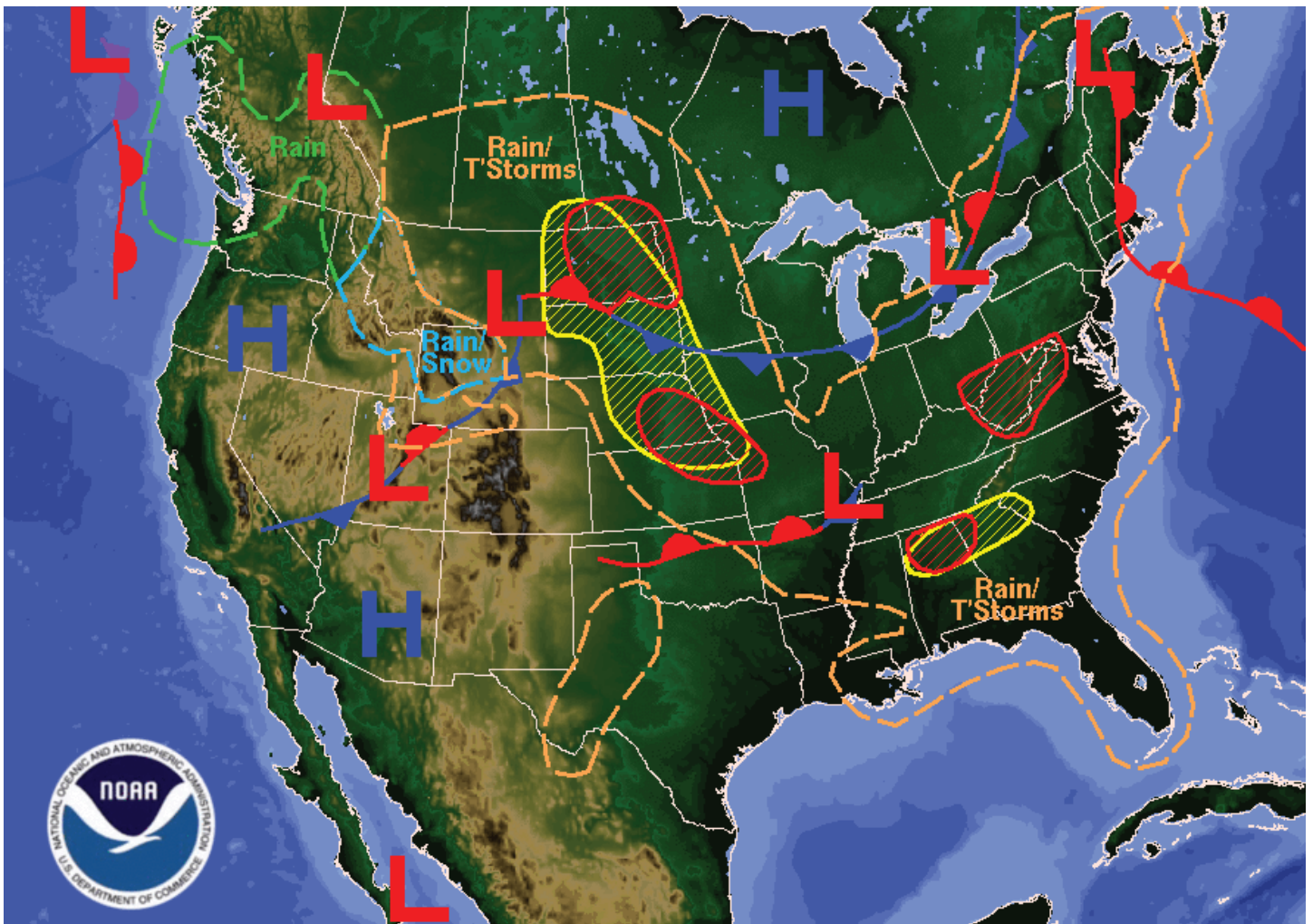
Precip to date in June: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.25

Precip Year to Date: 4.30

Sunset Tonight: 9:15 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jun 01, 2018, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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



IS THE RIGHT PERSON ON YOUR SIDE?

The Civil War was a dark period in the history of the United States. President Abraham Lincoln had little time for anything else in his life. The demands on him were overwhelming and he went for days without enjoying his family.

On one occasion while meeting with Secretary of State William Seward in the Cabinet room, his son burst through the doors in tears and said, "I want my father!"

The secretary could have said, "Your father is too busy for you. Let me get you a teacher who can help you with your problems." Or, he could have said, "Let me get you an attorney who will represent you wisely and get you out of any problem you might have."

The child knew who he wanted and it was not the Secretary of State or some other highly qualified person. He wanted his father. No one else could fill that need.

And that is essentially what the Psalmist said when he cried, "In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and He answered by setting me free." God was his first responder.

Sometimes it is easy to turn to the person who we consider to be our closest friend when we face a difficult time in our lives. Or we may look for a person who is known for his brilliance or knowledge or wisdom or status to rescue us from any number of problems that are beyond our capabilities. That may not be wise.

When we face the uncertainties of life, the first person we need to call on for guidance is our God. We must go to him as a child to a father knowing He is waiting to help.

Prayer: Lord, we know that no one cares for us as much as You do. May we look to You first when we are in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 118:6 The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 8 of 33

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

Hunting won't be expanded on South Dakota wildlife refuge

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The federal Interior Department is not moving forward with a proposal to expand waterfowl hunting at Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern South Dakota.

The agency cites overwhelming opposition from the public for its decision, saying the refuge northeast of Aberdeen is widely valued as a sanctuary for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Hunting is allowed on certain areas of the refuge as a management tool, with specific rules and regulations. Retired South Dakota conservation officer Bill Antonides tells the American News that expanding hunting would have pushed birds out of the refuge earlier than normal. He says the decision not to expand hunting is good for both hunters and bird lovers.

Sand Lake was established in 1935 with an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Agropur expansion raising water quality concerns

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A cheese maker's plans to expanding its operations in eastern South Dakota is running into some opposition because of its request to dump millions of gallons of waste water per day into the Big Sioux River.

Wisconsin-based Agropur needs a permit from South Dakota environmental officials to discharge into the river. Agropur is expanding its facility in Lake Norden and upgrading its waste water treatment plant. Plans still call for discharging up to two million gallons of waste water a day into the nearby Big Sioux River watershed.

The Argus Leader reports environmentalists and officials with several water systems in the region say the move could put drinking water supplies downstream at risk. They're concerned with the nitrate levels that will go with the waste water when it's put back into the river.

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

Survey report suggests Midwest economy still steaming ahead

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A report says a business conditions index for nine Midwest and Plains states has jumped to its highest level in 14 years.

The report released Friday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index hit 67.3 last month, compared with 64.5 in April. The March figure was 62.1.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says the economy's strength will be tested by trade skirmishes and other factors that could slow growth.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

New Mexico man sent to federal prison for pipeline protest

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A New Mexico man who took part in the Dakota Access oil pipeline protests in North Dakota has been sentenced to serve three years in federal prison.

Authorities say 45-year-old Michael Giron was part of a group that put barricades on a state highway south of Mandan, North Dakota, and set them on fire, then clashed with law officers. The incident happened Oct. 27, 2016.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 10 of 33

Giron, who also goes by the name Little Feather, pleaded guilty to civil disorder in February in a plea agreement with prosecutors, who dismissed a more serious charge. He is the first of seven protesters charged with federal crimes to be sentenced.

He received credit for a little more than a year he's already served behind bars.

South Dakota Republican governor primary sours in final days

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley and his supporters on Thursday denounced negative advertising from Rep. Kristi Noem in the high-profile Republican governor primary, but Noem's campaign says "facts are facts."

After a press conference surrounded by supporters, Jackley said South Dakota residents want a positive campaign. The competitive primary has soured near the end, with both candidates airing negative ads in the final days before the June 5 election.

New ads from Noem criticize Jackley for his handling of a case involving a former state agent who received a \$1.5 million state settlement after she won a discrimination and retaliation lawsuit. Noem campaign manager Justin Brasell said in a statement that "facts are facts. They aren't positive or negative."

But Jackley campaign treasurer Russell Janklow called the ads "shameful." Jackley has 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.

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. The candidates were set to debate Thursday evening at an event sponsored by the Argus Leader, KSFY-TV and the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

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

Lakota language immersion expanding in Rapid City

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The children speak in Lakota. Their teacher, Savannah Greseth, walks the aisles of seated second graders, counting to 15 with them. "Wanji, núnpa, yámni." Only when she prepares a short video does a child speak up in English.

"Can I turn off the lights?" asked a student.

"Huh," or "yes," Greseth responded. The student scampers up to hit the lights, and the video starts. Children softly pat hands on the carpet and sing along with the teacher on the screen, who sings T?awápaha Olówa? or the "Lakota Flag Song."

"T?u?kásilayapi, t?awápaha ki?há?."

So opens the Lakota immersion class at General Beadle Elementary School in Rapid City, the Rapid City Journal reported. The class is a year old. Next year, Greseth will move to full-time with her own classroom. But there's nothing new about speaking and singing in Lakota.

"This language predates Rapid City," Greseth said.

Around a poster of Charlie Brown pasted on the hallway space of the converted classroom, flags of the nine Sioux nations in South Dakota line the wall. Sometimes the kids point up to tell Greseth which tribe their family comes from. The class comprises Native American and non-Native students.

"They get a sense of pride that they get to share their background knowledge," said Greseth. "Some kids have said 'Lakota' is their favorite class."

Most don't come from Lakota-speaking homes.

"Some will come in knowing a word or two."

After the movie, the white boards come out, and Greseth sounds out letters.

"Yah-Yameni," Greseth said.

The children scribble "Ys" on the boards and hold them up for approval.

Next, the children move to BINGO or WAGMU. It's a game Greseth invented.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 11 of 33

"It just has the right amount of letters and," she claps her hands, indicating syllabic stress, "bin-GO and wag-MU."

"Same amount of squares. Nothing too special."

Students can enroll in Lakota language at many colleges from the University of South Dakota to Sitting Bull College. On Pine Ridge, students learn Lakota, too. The Lakota classes offered in public schools in Rapid City include an elective at North Middle School and a language class at Central High School. But when Sarah Pierce took over last summer as the city's director for Title VI, which funds education programs for Native American students, she wanted to implement language programming more regularly at the elementary level.

"I knew all about her expertise in this and asked if she'd be willing," Pierce said.

Both Pierce and Greseth are enrolled Oglala Lakota. Pierce grew up near Rockyford and took Lakota at Red Cloud Indian School (where she met Greseth), but she envies the instruction students at General Beadle receive from Greseth.

"They're learning the foundation of the language," Pierce whispers, while the student sound out letters with their teacher, who uses non-verbal cues such as opening her eyes wide when a student's answer surprises her.

Greseth loves language. She received degrees at Sisseton Wahpeton College and Black Hills State University and a Lakota Language certificate from Oglala Lakota College. At Central High School in Rapid, she also took French and Spanish. But her study of Lakota — she's learned from teachers and elders at language programs from Pine Ridge to Standing Rock — began at age 6.

"My unci, or my grandma, she speaks some (Lakota), but she went to the boarding school so not a whole lot," Greseth said.

Boarding schools, as part of assimilation, forbade and punished children speaking in their native language. Today, Lakota is considered "critically endangered." The Lakota Language Consortium in 2016 reported that 2,000 first-language speakers were alive, down two-thirds from a decade earlier.

But at General Beadle, and many schools, efforts are underway to preserve the language. It's more than just learning the diacritics and glottal stops (which creates a popping sound), but values.

"We learn the values of wówachi?t?a?ka, or respect, and wócha?tet'i?ze, or courage, and what that looks like from a Lakota lens."

Seventy percent of General Beadle Elementary's students are Native American, many Lakota. But learning Lakota is not only culture-building, it's also good training. Studies suggest bilingual students have more brain activity, can more easily make friends, and land better jobs.

"Lakota is a world language," Greseth said. "And it should be valued as such."

Lakota has no official orthography, so Greseth uses what she calls "user-friendly" spellings from the Lakota Language Consortium. Materials come packaged with games on the iPad, flash cards, and laminated posters of animals with names highlighted.

This summer, preparing to teach Lakota full-time in the fall (she currently spends half her day in the Jobs for Graduates program at North Middle School), Greseth plans to deepen her curriculum with traditional Lakota stories. She said her own children are even learning, slowly.

"Wasté! Wagmuluha!" she said, congratulating a student whose WAGMU card filled up.

The other students sit four to a table and reverently wait the next sound.

"Gnus'ka," Greseth said.

"That's grasshopper," Pierce said.

Students who have the "g" sound quickly place markers over the letter.

At the end of class, high school seniors arrive in their graduation gowns to high-five students for the annual graduation walk, trotting past the sign Greseth had posted on the wall of her makeshift classroom: "Tanyán Yahípi."

"It means 'welcome,'" Greseth said. "Literally it said, 'It's good that you're all here.'"

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 12 of 33

Spencer still recovering 20 years after tornado

SPENCER, S.D. (AP) — A small southeastern community in South Dakota is still recovering two decades after one of the most destructive tornados in the state's history ripped through the city.

The May 30, 1998 tornado that killed six people in Spencer was the second-deadliest in the state.

Betty Schoon took cover from the storm's estimated 225 mph (362 kph) winds with her husband in her mother's basement, the Daily Republic reported . She said her family was lucky to survive after the tornado collapsed the furnace and the steps out of the basement.

Five churches and the town's water tower were completely destroyed, Schoon said. The only bank was also leveled.

Spencer had a population of about 315 people at the time. Only about 40 homes on the northern edge of town were spared from the destruction.

The town's population fell by half a year after the tornado. Spencer now has 155 residents.

Resident Chuck Feiner said he knew many residents wouldn't return.

"I said after it happened that (the town) was not going to be anything but a bedroom community," he said.

Feiner said many of the older residents needed to be closer to health care facilities in larger cities.

Twenty years later, open spaces of green grass remain scattered across Spencer where families once lived before their homes were torn down. But the town lives on with a new water tower, bank and one of the five churches.

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

Sioux Falls district to consider \$190M bond referendum

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls could see three new schools sometime within the next decade if the school board accepts a task force's \$190 million bond referendum proposal.

The task force has been meeting over the past several months to craft recommendations for district facility issues and overcrowded classrooms, the Argus Leader reported . The task force's proposal calls for an estimated \$82 million high school, \$43 million middle school and \$17 million elementary campus by 2024.

The Sioux Falls school district hasn't passed a bond in more than 20 years. The proposed bond package would cost the average taxpayer less than \$24 a year, Business Manager Todd Vik said.

The bonds will be financed over 25 years at 4 percent interest.

The task force recommends immediately building the new high school and opening the facility by 2022. The district could be 1,100 seats short at the high school level by 2025, the group said.

Enrollment has already increased by 20 percent within the last decade, and it's expected to rise another 10 percent within the next 10 years, task force members said.

The \$190 million bond package also accounts for expanding Horace Mann Elementary by six classrooms, security projects, inflation costs and rebuilding Cleveland Elementary's gym.

A bond election could be held in September if the board approves the proposal in June.

The task force will submit the final report to the school board on June 11. Residents can submit input through an anonymous survey between June 11 and June 24.

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

Man who barricaded himself inside apartment found dead

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say a man who barricaded himself inside an apartment building has been found dead.

The Rapid City Journal reports that one of the man's neighbors called police about 8 a.m. Thursday to report that the man was making threats to hurt others and himself. The incident prompted police to evacuate homes in the area.

Police discovered the body when they entered the apartment shortly before 1 p.m. to deliver a phone

for communications with a negotiator.
No further details were released.

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

Marsy's Law running ads, grassroots campaign before primary

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The campaign for a constitutional fix to the "Marsy's Law" victims' bill of rights in South Dakota is running radio and television ads featuring public officials urging voters to support the changes at the ballot.

Marsy's Law for South Dakota spokeswoman Sarah Shriver said in a statement the spots from the "significant" TV ad buy started airing last week and will run through the June 5 election. They feature Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom, House Speaker Mark Mickelson and domestic violence survivor Jacquelyn Galles.

Officials say Marsy's Law has caused unintended consequences since it passed in 2016. At least three large counties hired new people to work with victims, privacy provisions in the amendment have curtailed the information that some law enforcement agencies release to the public to help solve crimes and prosecutors' offices must now track down and notify a broader swath of victims about their cases.

It's named after Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, a California college student who was stalked and killed in 1983 by an ex-boyfriend. In South Dakota, Mickelson initially proposed getting rid of the amendment but instead reached a deal with the Marsy's Law campaign during this year's legislative session.

The proposed changes in Constitutional Amendment Y would require victims to opt in to many of their rights and specifically allow authorities to share information with the public to help solve crimes.

Shriver said in a Thursday email the campaign's grass-roots team has been focused on voter outreach and education. The California businessman that bankrolled Marsy's Law in 2016 has donated \$450,000 to fund the new campaign, and there's no organized opposition.

"Our advocates and volunteers have been very vocal in our communities," Shriver said. "It's been our mission to inform constituents about Amendment Y and victims' rights."

An Argus Leader and KELO-TV poll released Thursday found more likely Republican voters support the amendment than oppose it, but support still fell short of a majority with nearly a quarter of respondents undecided. The poll didn't survey non-Republicans, who will also be able to vote on the measure.

However, only Republicans have statewide primary races, making it likely they will dominate voting on the ballot measure. Forty-seven percent of poll respondents said they would vote for the amendment, 29 percent said they would vote against it and 24 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.

South Dakota candidate calls for ending tribal reservations

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Republican congressional candidate Neal Tapio is calling for an end to the Native American reservation system.

The first-term state senator from Watertown is proposing a breakup of the reservation system and instead creating block grants of federal benefits for tribal members. He says the current system has "destroyed the futures of four generations of Indian children."

There are nine tribal nations in South Dakota. State Secretary of Tribal Relations Steve Emery, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, tells the Argus Leader that tribal members and governments in South Dakota would be "very opposed" to Tapio's plan.

Tapio, former Public Utilities Commissioner Dusty Johnson and Secretary of State Shantel Krebs are vying for their party's nomination in the June 5 U.S. House primary.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 14 of 33

Upper Midwest counties get drought disaster declaration

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has designated 21 counties in North Dakota as disasters, as drought continues in the state.

The secretarial declaration means farmers and ranchers can apply for certain types of aid including emergency loans. So can producers in neighboring counties.

That means producers in 32 of North Dakota's 53 counties can apply, along with those in five counties in Montana and four in South Dakota.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows about half of North Dakota remains mired in some form of drought.

Man gets 60 years for fatally stabbing friend in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty to stabbing his friend to death in Sioux Falls last year has been sentenced to serve 60 years in prison.

Twenty-six-year-old Brady Holter pleaded guilty in February to first-degree manslaughter in the March 2017 stabbing death of 27-year-old Alexander Rodriguez. Authorities said Holter was using LSD at the time. He will be eligible for parole in about 30 years.

Dallas duel: Wild card turns tables at National Spelling Bee

By BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — The end of the biggest Scripps National Spelling Bee in history came abruptly, and it wasn't the conclusion that many expected. Naysa Modi, a poised and charismatic four-time participant whose long spelling career seemed to be building toward triumph, sat next to a newcomer whom she had already beaten this year — at the county level.

But 12-year-old Naysa blinked immediately, mixing up the single and double "s" in the German-derived word "Bewusstseinslage" — a state of consciousness or a feeling devoid of sensory components — and 14-year-old Karthik Nemmani seized an opportunity that he wouldn't have had before this year.

"I didn't really think I'd be able to do it," the soft-spoken winner said. "I had confidence that I could do it, but I honestly didn't realistically think it could happen."

Karthik's victory Thursday night put the spotlight back onto the story of this bee week — the new wild-card program that Scripps launched to give a chance to spellers like him, who have to compete against some of the nation's best spellers at the local level. The field was expanded to 515 spellers to accommodate the wild cards — there had never been more than 300 competitors previously — and four of the 16 prime-time finalists got in through the new program, known as "RSVBee."

When only three spellers remained, all were from the Dallas area, which has long been a hotbed of spelling talent.

Karthik is from McKinney, Texas — his family moved there specifically so he could go to a school that takes part in the Scripps program. Naysa is from Frisco, less than 15 miles to the west. And third-place finisher Abhijay Kodali lives in Flower Mound, another 40 miles west.

Naysa knocked off Abhijay in the Dallas regional bee after topping Karthik in their county bee. The region is one of a few that sponsors two spellers for a trip to nationals. The wild cards had to pay their own way — a \$750 entry fee, plus the costs of travel to Washington and lodging.

"I don't care," said Karthik's father, Krishna Nemmani. "I know his caliber."

Like many top spellers, Karthik was a precocious preschooler — he arranged block letters to spell "horse" at age 3 and won his first spelling bee at 4½, his dad said.

His winning word was "koinonia," which means Christian fellowship or communion. He knew that one. He also knew the word Naysa missed. But he didn't pretend to be infallible, saying there were about eight or nine words in the prime-time finals he didn't know — a rare admission for a champion.

"She's a really, really good speller. She deserved the trophy as much as I did," Karthik said of Naysa. "I got lucky."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 15 of 33

Karthik is the 14th consecutive Indian-American champion, and 19 of the past 23 winners have had Indian heritage. He takes home more than \$42,000 in cash and prizes.

His win was also a triumph for the burgeoning industry of spelling coaches — high-schoolers who've aged out of competition but share their wisdom with younger competitors, for a steep fee. He thanked his coach, 16-year-old Grace Walters, who had her own star-crossed history of never quite getting to the Scripps stage.

Karthik also used study materials compiled by two well-regarded former Scripps spellers and fellow Texans, Shobha Dasari and her younger brother, Shourav, who finished fourth last year and won nearly every other bee he competed in. Six of the 16 top finishers, including Naysa, studied the Dasaris' hand-picked lists of more than 100,000 words.

"It definitely makes us feel great," 17-year-old Shobha said.

Naysa, who does taekwondo and performs stand-up comedy, will have to regroup after a bitter defeat and try again next year. She'll be in eighth grade, which is the final school year that spellers are eligible. She first competed in the bee as a cherubic 9-year-old.

After her defeat, she was swarmed by dozens of current and former spellers who wished her well, smiling throughout.

"She was just as graceful as she could be," bee program manager Corrie Loeffler said.

Her close friend, Jashun Paluru of West Lafayette, Indiana, finished fourth, spelling with flair and spending most of his time in between words chatting animatedly with Naysa.

Karthik, for his part, took no pleasure in vanquishing a familiar foe.

"I wouldn't say it was revenge," he said. "We weren't against each other. We were against the dictionary."

Follow Ben Nuckols on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/APBenNuckols>

US sanctions have a weak spot: tiny allies like Latvia

By CARLO PIOVANO, Associated Press

RIGA, Latvia (AP) — When the U.S. hit North Korea with sanctions last year, Pyongyang's state-owned banks found a quiet backchannel to keep money flowing to the country's ballistic missile programs, the U.S. says: the tiny European country of Latvia.

One of the biggest banks in Latvia — a member country of the European Union and NATO — built a business from processing illegal money transfers, enabling North Korea to continue to procure missiles, the U.S. government says.

Latvia has come into focus as a potential weak link in the West's banking system as the U.S. and EU increasingly rely on financial sanctions as a weapon in their diplomatic spats — with North Korea, but also Russia and Syria, among others. After a slew of accusations of high-level corruption, Latvia is now trying to appease its U.S. and European allies and drastically reform its financial sector.

Latvian Prime Minister Maris Kucinskis told The Associated Press in a recent interview that his country "cannot afford to have any uncontrolled money flows from the countries which have to be constantly monitored in order to avoid meddling or influence."

Kucinskis and his government have come under intense pressure to take action since the U.S. Treasury published a scathing report in February on one of Latvia's biggest banks, ABLV. The report accused the bank of proactively trying to circumvent financial rules to launder money and skirt sanctions, and said it bribes Latvian officials to be able to do so.

The bank denied the accusations, but the report caused a run on the bank and it collapsed a week later.

That same week, Latvian authorities said their central bank chief, Ilmars Rimsevics, was suspected of taking bribes. Security services also are investigating him after an AP report containing allegations that he asked a Latvian bank to launder money from Russia.

Latvia has strong business ties to Russia and other former Soviet states, and a third of its population is ethnically Russian. It has a long history as a banking center and, since the 1990s, has sought to become

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 16 of 33

a "Switzerland on the Baltic" by offering financial services to foreign individuals and companies, often shell companies whose true ownership is kept secret in tax havens like the Cayman Islands or Panama.

That made it a convenient conduit for money to get into the EU. Once inside the bloc, money is legally free to move to any of its 28 countries without further checks and can be used to buy mansions on the French Riviera or luxury watches in Milan. Much of it ends up in Britain, where the government is considering ways to tighten such flows to put pressure on oligarchs with ties to President Vladimir Putin, especially after the poisoning of a former Russian spy in England.

Several small EU countries, like Cyprus and Malta, have likewise been accused of being used for money-laundering. The size of the problem in Latvia has been laid bare by numerous reports over years. U.S. and European authorities say it was involved in the so-called Magnitsky scandal, in which \$230 million in Russian taxpayers' money was siphoned off. In 2014, leaked documents detailed how \$20 billion was sent from Russia, largely through Latvia, over a four-year period. The so-called Panama Papers showed many of Latvia's banks did business with shell companies owned by Putin associates.

Latvia promised repeatedly to clean up as it prepared to join the EU's shared euro currency in 2014 and the OECD, a club of developed economies, in 2016. Those efforts apparently proved insufficient and the country is now taking more drastic measures.

Latvia says it will ban its banks from doing business with shell companies, which can be used to mask wrongdoers' identities. In the case of ABLV, the U.S. says North Korea was using shell companies that the bank should have known were fronts.

Banks note that shell companies can be used for legitimate business purposes, such as to facilitate a multinational's payments across borders in different currencies. The onus is on banks to know who benefits from a shell company they provide services for, though banks usually are fined only when proven to have systematically circumvented the law.

In April, the Latvian parliament approved a ban on almost all shell companies, and the country aims to reduce the amount of foreign deposits its banks hold from about 40 percent of the total to 5 percent by the end of the year.

"We have to have a new approach to the way our financial system works," Kucinskis told the AP.

In 2015, Latvian banks held deposits from people outside the country worth over 12 billion euros, the equivalent of almost half the entire economy. By the end of 2017, those deposits had fallen by a third to 8 billion euros and are likely to have dropped further since then because of ABLV's collapse. About half of those deposits are owned by 26,000 shell companies, the Latvian regulator estimates. And the figures do not capture money that merely travels through Latvian banks, without staying in them.

Industry experts are cautious about the probability of Latvia successfully reforming its banking sector.

Eriks Selga, a Latvia-based researcher with Philadelphia's Foreign Policy Research Institute, says the efforts are by far the most extreme reform of Latvia's banking industry to date, effectively ending its decades-old role as a regional financial hub in a matter of months.

"Our track record is that these reforms don't work," Selga said. "We have some of the highest quality anti-money-laundering laws in Europe, if not the world. But the enforcement is just not there."

Latvian authorities investigate only about 1 percent of reports of suspicious financial transactions, compared with an EU average of 10 percent, according to local regulators and security agency Europol.

The skepticism was shared by the owner and chairman of the Latvian bank Norvik, which holds many accounts by non-Latvians. Grigory Guselnikov labeled banning shell companies as akin to locking a car in a garage to prove you are a safe driver.

He, too, noted that Latvia's problem has been that its laws are not properly enforced, particularly by authorities like Rimsevics, who Guselnikov said actively flouts the rules to profit personally.

The kind of money-laundering that happened in Latvia in recent years is "not possible without regulator involvement," he said.

Rimsevics has become the poster child for Latvia's banking troubles. He has been at the top of the central bank for 25 years, almost since Latvia's independence from the Soviet Union, and oversaw the country's growth as a banking hub.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 17 of 33

Guselnikov said Rimsevics regularly asked for bribes and demanded he launder \$100 million from Russia, allegations Rimsevics rejects.

Meanwhile, a photo obtained by the AP shows Rimsevics on vacation in 2010 in the company of the head of a Russian military company now sanctioned by the U.S., as well as a Latvian businessman, Jurijs Simonenkovs, who owned a bank that was sanctioned by the U.S. for money-laundering in 2005.

Rimsevics contended that he knows none of the people in the photos, but Latvian secret services are investigating his links to Russia.

Rimsevics has been banned from doing his job or going to his office, but has refused to resign. He can be removed only if he is charged with a crime, since his position is politically independent from the government.

The stakes are particularly high as Rimsevics is on the top policymaking board of the powerful European Central Bank, which has asked the European Court of Justice to rule whether he should be allowed to work or be replaced.

Kucinskis has called on Rimsevics to resign and says he will be indicted within months.

Another complicating factor in Latvia's bid to clean up its image is that the official in charge of detailing to the U.S. how Latvia is fighting financial crime has a history of working for banks that engaged in money-laundering.

Arnis Lagzdins worked for Latvia's Parex bank before its collapse in 2008 and for Lithuania's Ukio bank before its demise in 2013. In both cases, he was the compliance officer, in charge of ensuring the banks did not run afoul of money-laundering rules.

After Parex's failure, an audit found the bank had been giving huge loans to politically connected Russians without collateral. Ukio was mentioned in the leaked Panama Papers documents as being used by Russian cellist Sergei Roldugin, the godfather to one of Putin's daughters and a longtime friend. After that bank collapsed, its main shareholder, Vladimir Romanov, was suspected of embezzlement and fled to Russia, where he was granted asylum in 2014.

A little over a year later, Latvia's financial regulator tapped Lagzdins to be its envoy to Washington. Both the regulator and Lagzdins, who has not been accused of any wrongdoing, declined repeated requests for comment.

The U.S. Treasury and the OECD will send officials to Latvia this year to evaluate its ability to fight money-laundering. But the risk is that while Latvia cleans up, the activity might shift elsewhere. Before the focus was on Latvia, experts highlighted Cyprus as a haven for the flow of dirty money, particularly from Russia, before a banking crisis in 2013 forced Cyprus to overhaul its own system.

Money-laundering is cited as a growing problem in other EU states as well, such as Malta, another tiny country with a big industry providing financial services to foreigners.

Though Malta does not have historic ties to Russia, it awards citizenship to foreigners willing to invest 650,000 euros (\$750,000) and Russian and Arab names featured heavily on the list of its new citizens last year. In October, a journalist investigating money-laundering in Malta was assassinated in a car bombing.

"Money-laundering is going to drift somewhere else," Selga said. "From what I understand, it's happening already to a large part."

Senior North Korean official chastises South Korean reporter

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Bitter rivals North and South Korea are on talking terms again, but their surprising cordiality still has moments of awkwardness, such when a senior North Korean official scolded a South Korean reporter over a question he didn't like.

In a brief exchange that displayed the fundamental differences between the countries, North Korean official Ri Son Gwon reacted with irritation Friday when a South Korean reporter asked him whether North Korea's grievances against the South had been resolved as he arrived for talks on easing tensions at the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 18 of 33

border village of Panmunjom.

Ri, chairman of the North Korean agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs, seemed stunned by the question. After a moment of silence, Ri, who in the past has been described by South Korean counterparts as hot-tempered, ripped into the reporter.

"Journalists can ask questions from different angles. But don't you think that the questions should change, to meet the demand of changing times?" Ri said. "You obviously know which side caused the situation to become serious. Then why are you asking me whether the (problems) have been resolved?"

Ri said he would consider similar questions as "discourteous" in the future. He called for questions that would "promote reconciliation and cooperation."

Ri is hardly the first North Korean official to chastise South Korean reporters over questions they found uncomfortable. But officials have been unusually cordial in recent months as North Korea reaches out to South Korea and the United States to reduce tensions.

While South Korean reporters have a reputation for aggressiveness, the question to Ri at Panmunjom was fairly predictable.

North Korea had called off the high-level talks last month over what it saw as bad faith from the southern side. A surprise summit last week between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in put the meeting back on for Friday.

The senior officials from the two sides agreed to establish a liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and hold military and Red Cross talks later this month on reducing tensions and resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Kim and Moon held their first summit at Panmunjom on April 27 and issued vague aspirations for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and permanent peace. But relations chilled when North Korea canceled the high-level meeting and threatened to walk away from a planned summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump because of the South's participation in military exercises with the United States and comments from U.S. officials. Trump canceled the summit, then said it may still take place, shortly before Kim and Moon met again on May 26.

Diplomacy is also accelerating between the U.S. and North Korea to prepare for a summit, which may take place June 12 in Singapore. But Ri, still seething over the grievances question, wasn't willing to talk about the potential meeting with reporters.

"Go fly to Singapore to ask that question," he told the South Korean reporter. "This is Panmunjom."

Ri was in a better mood in the meeting room with South Korean officials, lightheartedly mentioning his earlier interaction with the reporter and even proposing that the meeting be opened to the media.

"Reporters are the spokesmen of justice and truth," Ri said. "If they get to be with us through the whole meeting, they will think, 'Wow, the North-South high-level talks are producing a good outcome' and will vividly report what happens."

South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon persuaded Ri to keep the discussions behind closed-doors for the sake of efficiency.

There have been plenty of awkward exchanges between North Korean officials and South Korean journalists during tenuous times. In 2008, senior North Korean diplomat Hyun Hak Bong angrily wagged a finger at South Korean reporters who asked about speculation over health problems for then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the late father of the current leader, fuming about "nonsense" spread by "bad people who don't wish our republic well."

The interactions have been noticeably different in recent months. In April, senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol, who is currently in the United States and plans to meet Trump, surprised visiting South Korean reporters by apologizing for media coverage problems during a joint cultural event in Pyongyang.

But Kim Yong Chol also displayed a dark sense of humor, introducing himself by saying, "Hello, I am the man you blame for the sinking of the Cheonan."

South Korea has accused Kim, a former military intelligence chief, of being behind the sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan and the shelling of a border island which together killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

US allies to fight Trump's tariffs plan, warn of trade war

By KEN THOMAS and PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Countries around the world fought back Friday against President Donald Trump's decision to slap tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, announcing retaliatory countermeasures and warning that the U.S. plan will hurt U.S. consumers.

French President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement Friday that he told Trump in a phone call that the new U.S. tariffs on European, Mexican and Canadian goods are illegal and a "mistake." Macron pledged the riposte would be "firm" and "proportionate" and in line with World Trade Organization rules.

Germany's Volkswagen, Europe's largest automaker, warned that the decision could start a trade war that no side would win. The European Union and China said they will deepen ties on trade and investment as a result.

"This is stupid. It's counterproductive," former British trade minister Francis Maude told the BBC.

"Any government that embarks on a protectionist path inflicts the most damage on itself," he added.

Macron warned that "economic nationalism leads to war. This is exactly what happened in the 1930s."

Trump's move makes good on a his campaign promise to crack down on trading partners that he claims exploit poorly negotiated trade agreements to run up big trade surpluses with the United States. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross says the tariffs — 25 percent on imported steel, 10 percent on aluminum from Canada, Mexico and the European Union — take effect Friday.

The import duties threaten to drive up prices for American consumers and companies and are likely to heighten uncertainty for businesses and investors around the globe. Stock prices slumped amid fears of a trade war, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling nearly 252 points, or 1 percent, to 24,415.84.

Mexico complained that the tariffs will "distort international trade" and said it will penalize U.S. imports including pork, apples, grapes, cheeses and flat steel.

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Thursday that the tariffs were "totally unacceptable." Canada announced plans to slap tariffs on \$12.8 billion worth of U.S. products, ranging from steel to yogurt and toilet paper.

"Canada is a secure supplier of aluminum and steel to the U.S. defense industry, putting aluminum in American planes and steel in American tanks," Trudeau said. "That Canada could be considered a national security threat to the United States is inconceivable."

Trump had originally imposed the tariffs in March, saying a reliance on imported metals threatened national security. But he exempted Canada, Mexico and the European Union to buy time for negotiations — a reprieve that expired at midnight Thursday.

Other countries, including Japan, America's closest ally in Asia, are already paying the tariffs.

"This is protectionism, pure and simple," said Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission.

The EU earlier threatened to counterpunch by targeting U.S. products, including Kentucky bourbon, blue jeans and motorcycles. David O'Sullivan, the EU's ambassador in Washington, said the retaliation will probably be announced in late June.

Trump had campaigned for president on a promise to crack down on trading partners that he said exploited poorly negotiated trade agreements to run up big trade surpluses with the U.S.

The U.S. tariffs coincide with — and could complicate — the Trump administration's separate fight over Beijing's strong-arm tactics to overtake U.S. technological supremacy. Ross is leaving Friday for Beijing for talks aimed at preventing a trade war with China.

The world's two biggest economies have threatened to impose tariffs on up to \$200 billion worth of each other's products.

The steel and aluminum tariffs could also complicate the administration's efforts to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, a pact that Trump has condemned as a job-killing "disaster."

The White House released a statement from Trump Thursday night saying of NAFTA, "Earlier today, this message was conveyed to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada: The United State (sic) will agree to a

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 20 of 33

fair deal, or there will be no deal at all.”

Trump had offered the two U.S. neighbors a permanent exemption from the steel and aluminum tariffs if they agreed to U.S. demands on NAFTA. But the NAFTA talks stalled.

Ross said there was “no longer a very precise date when they may be concluded,” and that as a result, Canada and Mexico were added to the list of countries hit with tariffs.

Likewise, the Trump trade team sought to use the tariff threat to pressure Europe into reducing barriers to U.S. products. But the two sides could not reach an agreement.

The import duties will give a boost to American makers of steel and aluminum by making foreign metals more expensive. But companies in the U.S. that use imported steel will face higher costs.

And the tariffs will allow domestic steel and aluminum producers to raise prices, squeezing companies — from automakers to can producers — that buy those metals.

House Speaker Paul Ryan and several leading Republicans in Congress were critical of the administration’s tariff action. Ryan said there are better ways to help American workers and consumers and that he plans to work with Trump on “those better options.”

Panda takes excursion into town in southwestern China

BEIJING (AP) — A highly social giant panda out for a stroll surprised and delighted residents of a town in the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan.

The panda was first spotted wandering among houses in Wenchuan county on Thursday, seemingly in search of food. She strolled beside a vegetable garden, trotted across a dirt road and climbed a tree, seemingly unfazed by the attention she drew from a large group of onlookers.

Researchers at the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda confirmed that the panda was Zhenzhen, an 11-year-old female raised in captivity and recently released into the wild as part of a special breeding project.

After allowing her several hours to explore, researchers returned Zhenzhen to the Wolong Shenshuping Panda Base by mid-afternoon.

“When she’s in an amorous mood, we let her out of the enclosure, hoping that she will mate with wild pandas,” Wu Daifu, director of the Hetaoping panda training base, said in a telephone interview with China Central Television.

Zhenzhen was set free in the Tiantaishan Area of the Wolong National Nature Reserve on March 5. Freed pandas sometimes wander into settlements near the reserve, Wu said.

Back at the panda base, Zhenzhen will be looked after by staff members optimistic that she may already be pregnant.

“We are not exactly sure whether Zhenzhen had mated with wild pandas, so we just assume she already did and we will take great care of her, hoping she will surprise us,” Wu said.

China’s captive breeding program is credited with bringing giant pandas back from the brink of extinction.

The rare animals are China’s unofficial national mascot and live mainly in Sichuan’s bamboo-covered mountains.

More than 1,800 are estimated to exist in the wild, where they are threatened chiefly with habitat loss, and around 420 others live in captivity in zoos and reserves, the majority within China.

Rival Koreas agree to military, Red Cross talks for peace

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North and South Korea agreed Friday to hold military and Red Cross talks later this month on reducing tensions and resuming reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

The rivals also agreed at a meeting of senior officials at the border village of Panmunjom to establish a liaison office at the North Korean border town of Kaesong and hold sports talks on fielding combined

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 21 of 33

teams for some sports at the Asian Games in August, as they continue to take steps toward reconciliation. South Korea says building trust with North Korea is crucial amid a U.S.-led diplomatic push to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

The high-level meeting between the Koreas followed talks in New York between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and senior North Korean envoy Kim Yong Chol on a possible summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. American delegations are also meeting with North Koreans at Panmunjom and in Singapore as part of efforts to plan the summit, which may take place June 12 in Singapore.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said the Koreas agreed to set up the liaison office at a factory park in Kaesong that had been jointly operated by the countries until the South shut it down in February 2016 after a North Korean nuclear test. The Koreas agreed to hold the military talks at Panmunjom on June 14 and the Red Cross talks on June 22 at the North's Diamond Mountain resort.

The talks between sports officials were set for June 18 at Panmunjom, the ministry said.

"If we continue to engage with each other like we did today, there will be no problem that can't be solved between the South and North," South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said after the meeting.

Panmunjom has also been the site of pre-summit negotiations between American and North Korean officials. The American delegation is led by Sung Kim, the U.S. ambassador to Manila, who said on Friday that a summit between Washington and Pyongyang would provide an opportunity to "lead our two countries into new era of security, prosperity and peace."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who met with Kim Jong Un twice in the past two months, has said progress in inter-Korean reconciliation will be a crucial part of international efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea because the North won't give up its nuclear program unless it feels its security is assured.

Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North Korean agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs, told Cho at the start of the meeting that the rivals should work on building "trust and consideration for each other" to carry out the agreements forged at the recent inter-Korean summits.

When Moon and Kim met for their first summit at Panmunjom in April 27, they spoke of vague aspirations for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and permanent peace, which Seoul has tried to sell as a meaningful breakthrough that increases the chances of successful nuclear negotiations between Trump and Kim.

But relations chilled when North Korea canceled an inter-Korean meeting and threatened to walk away from the summit with Trump because of the South's participation in regular military exercises with the United States and comments from U.S. officials. Trump canceled the summit, then said it may still take place, shortly before Kim and Moon met again and agreed to resume high-level talks between their countries.

Talking to South Korean reporters ahead of Friday's meeting, Ri seemed irritated when asked whether North Korea sees its grievances as resolved, saying reporters must ask questions that "meet the demand of changing times." When asked about the potential Trump-Kim meeting, Ri replied: "Go fly to Singapore to ask that question. This is Panmunjom."

After embassy move, Trump weighs Jerusalem consulate changes

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is considering giving U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman more authority over the U.S. outpost that handles Palestinian affairs, five U.S. officials said, a shift that could further dampen Palestinian hopes for an independent state.

Any move to downgrade the autonomy of the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem — responsible for relations with the Palestinians — could have potent symbolic resonance, suggesting American recognition of Israeli control over east Jerusalem and the West Bank. And while the change might be technical and bureaucratic, it could have potentially significant policy implications.

As president, Trump has departed from traditional U.S. insistence on a "two-state solution" for the Mideast conflict by leaving open the possibility of just one state. As his administration prepares to unveil

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 22 of 33

a long-awaited peace plan, the Palestinians have all but cut off contact, enraged by Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

The deliberations come as Friedman, who has pushed for changes to the consulate since he arrived in Israel last year, faces growing indignation in the U.S. over partisan comments and other actions in which he has publicly sided with Israel over its critics. On Thursday, a top Democratic lawmaker even suggested Friedman should be recalled after he waded into domestic U.S. politics on Israel's behalf, telling an Israeli newspaper that Democrats have failed to support Israel as much as Republicans.

For decades, the Jerusalem consulate has operated differently than almost every other consulate around the world. Rather than reporting to the U.S. Embassy in Israel, it has reported directly to the State Department in Washington, giving the Palestinians an unfiltered channel to engage with the U.S. government.

That arrangement was relatively clear-cut before Trump moved the embassy. Until Trump's decision in December to move it from Tel Aviv, the United States did not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The Jerusalem consulate provided services to Americans in Jerusalem and also served as the de facto U.S. embassy to the Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem for the capital of a future independent state.

But since Trump earlier this month moved the embassy to Jerusalem, the situation has become more complicated. Now the U.S. maintains an embassy in one part of the city and a separate consulate less than a mile away, potentially creating confusion about who has ultimate authority if, for example, an American citizen needs help and turns to the U.S. government.

No final decision has been made about what changes to make to the consulate's chain of command, a decision complicated by the consulate's unique circumstances. But the embassy, run by Friedman, is expected to end up with ultimate authority over the consulate, officials said. They weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and requested anonymity.

Dan Shapiro, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel, said such a move would be perceived as undermining Palestinians' claims to sovereignty and statehood aspirations, because it would suggest that Washington considers the Palestinian Authority to be under Israel's jurisdiction. Otherwise, Shapiro said, why would it expect the Palestinians to talk to the U.S. through its mission to Israel?

"They don't want to deal with the U.S. embassy to Israel as their channel," said Shapiro, now a scholar at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies. "They want their voice to be heard directly in Washington."

Typically, the head of a consulate, known as a consul general, reports to the ambassador, who has "chief of mission authority" over all U.S. posts in the country. In contrast, the consul general running the Jerusalem consulate has historically had his or her own chief of mission authority. The closest comparable case to the Jerusalem situation is the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, which also has its own chief of mission who does not report to the U.S. ambassador in Beijing.

Friedman has advocated for having the embassy in Jerusalem subsume the consulate, officials said, although the State Department has ruled out that possibility. Other possibilities include allowing the consulate to retain some day-to-day authorities while letting the embassy set the direction for major policy decisions.

Staunchly pro-Israel and with close ties to the West Bank settler movement, Friedman is broadly seen by Palestinian leadership as lacking good faith in U.S. efforts to mediate a fair resolution to the Mideast conflict. But on the consulate issue, he has an ally in the White House in the form of national security adviser John Bolton, the officials said.

It wasn't clear precisely when the changes would be made, although one official said the administration is waiting until current Consul General Donald Blome leaves Jerusalem over the summer, possibly in July.

Regardless of any changes, the Jerusalem consulate will remain the primary U.S. point of contact for the Palestinian Authority and for Palestinians, including those in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip seeking visas or other U.S. consular services.

"Consulate General Jerusalem continues to operate as an independent mission with an unchanged mandate from its historic Agron Road location," the State Department said in a statement.

Such changes would likely be carried out by Trump issuing new "letters of instruction," which delegate authorities to ambassadors and chiefs of mission, to Friedman and whoever heads the Jerusalem consulate, the official said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 23 of 33

Separately, the Trump administration is also facing calls in Congress for the U.S. to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Although Israel annexed the Golan in 1981, the U.S. and others consider it to be disputed territory with its status subject to an eventual peace deal between Israel and Syria.

In recent months, however, Iran's increasing involvement in Syria and growing presence in southern Syria near the Golan Heights have drawn alarm in Israel and elsewhere, leading some U.S. law- and policy-makers to believe that the Washington should end its official neutrality in a show of support for Israeli security in the face of a threat from Iran and its proxies.

Ideas under discussion range from flat-out recognition that the Golan is part of Israel to lifting restrictions on U.S. investment incentives for projects or more symbolic steps like including the area on official maps as part of Israel.

North Koreans to meet Trump; deliver letter from leader

By **MATTHEW LEE and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — A top aide to Kim Jong Un will make a rare visit to Washington Friday to hand a letter from the North Korean leader to President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said after reporting "good progress" in talks between the two sides to revive an on-again, off-again nuclear summit.

"I am confident we are moving in the right direction," Pompeo told reporters at a news conference in New York after meeting Thursday with former North Korean military intelligence chief Kim Yong Chol. "Our two countries face a pivotal moment in our relationship, and it would be nothing short of tragic to let this opportunity go to waste."

He would not say that the summit is a definite go for Singapore on June 12 and could not say if that decision would be made after Trump reads Kim Jong Un's letter. However, his comments were the most positive from any U.S. official since Trump abruptly canceled the meeting last week after belligerent statements from the North.

The two countries, eying the first summit between the U.S. and the North after six decades of hostility, have also been holding negotiations in Singapore and the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas.

Early Thursday, Trump told reporters "we are doing very well" with North Korea. He added there may even need to be a second or third summit meeting to reach a deal on North Korean denuclearization but still hedged, saying "maybe we'll have none."

Kim Yong Chol is the highest-ranking North Korean official to visit the U.S. in 18 years, and his trip to the White House will be a highly symbolic sign of easing tensions after fears of war escalated amid North Korean nuclear and missile tests last year.

Pompeo, the former CIA chief who has traveled to North Korea and met with Kim Jong Un twice in the past two months, said he believed the country's leaders are "contemplating a path forward where they can make a strategic shift, one that their country has not been prepared to make before."

He tweeted from New York: "Good progress today during our meetings" with Kim and his team. Yet he also said at his news conference that difficult work remains including hurdles that may appear to be insurmountable as negotiations progress on the U.S. demand for North Korea's complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

"We will push forward to test the proposition that we can achieve that outcome," he said.

Pompeo spoke after meeting with Kim Yong Chol for a little more than two hours at the residence of the deputy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The talks had been expected to be held in two sessions, one in the morning and one in the early afternoon, and had not been expected to conclude until 1:30 p.m. Instead, the two men wrapped up at 11:25 a.m.

Pompeo said they finished everything they needed to address in the morning session. Immediately afterward, he tweeted that he had had substantive talks on the priorities for the potential summit. Pompeo was accompanied by Andrew Kim, the head of a CIA unit assigned to work on North Korea, and Mark Lambert, the head of the State Department's Korea desk.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 24 of 33

"Our secretary of state is having very good meetings," Trump told reporters at Joint Base Andrews before departing on a trip to Texas. He said of the North Koreans, "I believe they will be coming down to Washington on Friday. A letter being delivered to me from Kim Jong Un. It is very important to them."

"It is all a process," he said of arranging the summit. "Hopefully we will have a meeting on the 12th."

Despite the upbeat messaging in the United States, Kim Jong Un, in a meeting with Russia's foreign minister on Thursday, complained about the U.S. trying to spread its influence in the region, a comment that may complicate the summit plans. "As we move to adjust to the political situation in the face of U.S. hegemonism, I am willing to exchange detailed and in-depth opinions with your leadership and hope to do so moving forward," Kim told Sergey Lavrov.

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

Trump views a summit as a legacy-defining opportunity to make a nuclear deal, but he has left the world guessing since canceling the meeting last week in an open letter to Kim that complained of the North's "tremendous anger and open hostility." North Korea's conciliatory response to that letter appears to have put the summit back on track.

Kim Yong Chol is the most senior North Korean visitor to the United States since Vice Marshal Jo Myong Rok visited Washington in 2000 to meet President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. That was the last time the two sides, which are technically at war, attempted to arrange a leadership summit. It was an effort that ultimately failed as Clinton's time in office ran out, and relations turned sour again after George W. Bush took office in early 2001 with a tough policy on the North.

Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the North Korean ruling party's central committee, was allowed into the United States despite being on a U.S. sanctions list, and North Korean officials are not normally allowed to travel outside the New York area.

The North Korean mission at the United Nations did not respond to an email seeking comment Thursday, and phone calls were not answered.

Lederman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Jonathan Lemire in Washington and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

Mormons grapple with race 40 years after ending black ban

By BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Mormon church on Friday will celebrate the 40th anniversary of reversing its ban on black people serving in the lay priesthood, going on missions or getting married in temples, rekindling debate about one of the faith's most sensitive topics.

The number of black Mormons has grown but still only accounts for an estimated 6 percent of 16 million worldwide members. Not one serves in the highest levels of global leadership.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has worked to improve race relations, including calling out white supremacy and launching a new formal alliance with the NAACP, but some black Mormons and scholars say discriminatory opinions linger in some congregations from a ban rooted in a belief that black skin was a curse.

In a 2013 essay, the church disavowed the reasons behind the ban and condemned all racism, saying the prohibition came during an era of great racial divide that influenced early church teachings. Blacks were always allowed to be members, but the nearly century-long ban kept them from participating in many important rituals.

Scholars said the essay included the church's most comprehensive explanation for the ban and its 1978 reversal, which leaders say came from a revelation from God.

But it didn't include an apology, leaving some unsatisfied.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 25 of 33

"A lot of members are waiting for the church just to say, 'We were wrong,'" said Phylcia Norris-Jimenez, a 30-year-old black Mormon and member of the grass-roots Black LDS Legacy Committee, group of women who are organizing a conference Saturday in Utah to honor the legacy of black Mormon pioneers.

Norris-Jimenez said non-black church members still struggle with how to talk about the ban or understand the pain it causes. She said the anniversary celebration honors something that should have never existed but that it's a good gesture and hopefully leads to more discussions about race.

A fellow group member, LaShawn Williams, said she finds comfort in her belief that the ban was a "policy of people, not a policy of God," made during a racist time.

She and her three children are the only black members of her congregation in Orem, Utah, and she tries to talk about race issues regularly with the teenagers she teaches in Sunday school.

Williams, an assistant professor in social work at Utah Valley University, would like an apology.

"If we preach repentance, we should definitely embody it," she said.

The theme of the anniversary celebration in Salt Lake City is "Be one," a reference to a Mormon scripture. Top church leaders will deliver a message, and Gladys Knight, one of the most famous black Mormons, will perform.

"This is a call to the entire church, and by extension, the entire world, to let go of prejudices and come together as one unified family," said Ahmad Corbitt, a church employee who led the effort to organize the event.

Corbitt declined to address a church apology, saying the faith is focused on a forward-looking approach to unity.

Darius Gray, co-founder of the Genesis Group that supports black Mormons, said the church and its doctrine aren't racist but racism lingers in the faith as it does in society.

He said he's been plagued by calls from Mormons concerned about how they're being treated, which he attributes to a rise in racism in the U.S. since President Donald Trump was elected.

He said he wouldn't be opposed to an apology for the ban but that he's more interested in helping the faith make progress in rooting out racism. Gray, who helped plan Friday's event, said it's a step toward healing.

"An apology is here today and gone tomorrow," Gray said. "More significant is what an organization does long term. The LDS church has been moving forward and changed its paradigm in massive ways."

The Utah-based church doesn't provide ethnic or racial breakdowns of its members, but independent Mormon researcher Matt Martinich said those of primarily African descent account for about 6 percent of worldwide members.

In the U.S., blacks account for about 1 to 3 percent of 6.6 million Mormons, according to Pew Research Center surveys done in the last two decades.

It's not the only faith that struggles with a lack of black members in its U.S. congregations: The United Methodist Church, Catholic Church and Judaism also have similarly low rates, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center study .

Mormons probably shouldn't wait for a rare apology from church leaders, said W. Paul Reeve, a Mormon studies professor at the University of Utah. The church seems to be trying to walk a tight rope by disavowing past beliefs while not apologizing for the ban to avoid members questioning other doctrine they think should be changed, he said.

"What else are they wrong about? Are they wrong about gay marriage? Are they wrong about female ordination?" Reeve said. "If they got race and the priesthood wrong, what else could they be wrong about? I think that's part of the fear."

Warriors withstand James' 51 points to win NBA Finals Game 1

By JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Golden State Warriors somehow withstood LeBron James' latest brilliance on the NBA Finals stage.

A costly blunder by J.R. Smith and a disputed foul call involving James himself sure helped.

Stephen Curry scored 29 points and the Warriors capitalized on Smith's mistake that sent the game into overtime, overcoming a 51-point performance by James to beat Cleveland 124-114 in Game 1 on Thursday night.

The game nearly over, James jawed with both Curry and Klay Thompson, then Tristan Thompson and Draymond Green tangled moments later and made contact. After replay review, Tristan Thompson received a Flagrant 2 foul and ejection with 2.6 seconds left.

James was in utter disbelief as regulation ended stunningly: George Hill made the first of two free throws with 4.7 seconds left after being fouled by Klay Thompson, but when Smith secured the rebound of the second, he dribbled back toward halfcourt instead of shooting, apparently thinking the Cavs had a lead.

"He thought it was over. He thought we were up one," coach Tyronn Lue said.

Yet Smith insisted he knew the score. Green figured Smith was simply looking for James, saying, "I would have looked for LeBron, too."

"I just thought we were going to call a timeout. Because I got the rebound, I'm pretty sure I couldn't shoot it over KD," Smith said of Kevin Durant. "If I thought we were ahead, I would have just held on to the ball so they could foul me. Clearly that wasn't the case."

Instead, OT.

And why not? Both these teams were pushed to their limits in seven-game conference finals they each had to win on the road.

"I can't talk about a situation that way because I do some dumb stuff on the court," Durant said of how the fourth quarter finished. "I don't know what was going through J.R.'s head. He made a great rebound and gave them an opportunity to win the basketball game."

Game 2 is Sunday night back at Oracle Arena, where the Warriors have won 18 of their last 19 postseason games. In 2015, when the Golden State beat the Cavs to capture the franchise's first title in 40 years, the first two games of the series went to OT — Golden State winning the opener and Cleveland Game 2.

James shot 19 for 32 to go with eight assists and eight rebounds in the opener of his eighth straight NBA Finals and ninth overall, as well as Cavs-Warriors Take IV. James notched his eighth 40-point game during this playoff run to tie Hall of Famer Jerry West's feat in 1965 for most in a single postseason.

"We've got to move on," James said. "This game is over and done with. We had opportunities."

James drove past Curry for a three-point play with 50 seconds remaining in the fourth. But James was given a foul following a review with 36.4 seconds left and Durant converted a pair of free throws to tie it at 104.

The call had initially been a charge on 2017 finals MVP Durant and James protested the change — while KD said afterward he thought it was the right decision because "I knew he was late on the drive and I knew I had my man beat and he came over a little late."

James called it a "huge play" and said "I knew I was outside the charge line."

"I read that play as well as I've read any play in my career, maybe in my life," James said.

Rules allow officials to go to replay in the final 2 minutes of regulation or in overtime to determine if a defender attempting to draw a charge was in the restricted area. When doing so, they can view if the defender was in a legal guarding position. They decided James wasn't and changed their original call.

Lue was disgusted to lose this way, saying of the overturned call: "It's never been done, ever in the history of the game. And then tonight in the finals on the biggest stage, when our team played well, played our (butt) off, man, it ain't right."

Lue added that the way James played, "to come up robbed, it's just not right."

Durant struggled to find his stroke but wound up with 26 points on 8-for-22 shooting and nine rebounds.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 27 of 33

Golden State got a serious scare when Thompson went down after Smith slid hard into the Splash Brother's left leg at the 6:17 mark of the first quarter. Thompson lay grimacing in pain then went to the locker room with what was called a bruised left leg that needed re-taping. He returned for the start of the second quarter to huge roars from the yellow-clad sellout crowd and scored 24 points. He and Curry each connected on five 3s.

Curry drained one of those way-out-there 3-pointers that have been hard to come by this postseason to beat the halftime buzzer and Golden State shot 13 for 36 from deep.

Kevin Love returned from a concussion to provide a big boost for Cleveland with 21 points and 13 rebounds.

The Warriors missed the defensive presence of 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala, who was out for a fifth straight postseason game dealing with a bone bruise in his left knee. He is scheduled to be re-evaluated ahead of Game 2.

Everybody expects another wild one with so much talent on both sides.

"It was a crazy game," Curry said. "... The finals, man, anything is liable to happen."

TIP-INS

Cavaliers: James has 109 career 30-point games in the playoffs, tying Michael Jordan for most ever. ... Cleveland held a 19-4 advantage on the offensive glass, getting seven offensive rebounds in the first half to the Warriors' none. ... James' first quarter: 4 for 4 with a 3-pointer, 12 points, three assists, a steal and turnover.

Warriors: Curry's early three-point play gave him the free throw he needed for 379 to pass Rick Barry (378) for first place on the Warriors' career list. ... With his 293rd career 3 in the playoffs, made in the second quarter, Thompson passed Kobe Bryant (292) for sixth place on the NBA's list for postseason 3s. ... Kevon Looney started again in place of Iguodala, but coach Steve Kerr went to McGee after the break. ... Home run king Barry Bonds was in attendance.

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

Trump pardons favor the celeb-connected, conservative causes

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday pardoned a conservative commentator he claims "was treated very unfairly by our government!" and announced he's thinking about clemency for Martha Stewart and former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, among "lots" of other people.

"What they did to him was horrible," Trump told reporters, speaking of his decision to clear the name of Dinesh D'Souza, who had pleaded guilty to campaign finance fraud.

It was the latest example of Trump trying to right a perceived wrong with his presidential pardon power, and a move that makes ever clearer that, in the Trump administration, the odds of a pardon have heavily favored those with a celebrity backer, those who have become a cause celebre among conservatives and those with a reality TV connection.

Trump has been particularly drawn to cases where he believes there was a political motivation to the prosecutions — a situation that may remind him of his own predicament at the center of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election meddling, which he insists is nothing but a "witch hunt."

On Thursday, Trump said he was seriously considering commuting the sentence of Blagojevich, the Democratic former governor serving a 14-year prison sentence on numerous counts of corruption, including trying to sell the U.S. Senate seat that was vacated by Barack Obama. The president also said he was considering a pardon for Stewart, the celebrity lifestyle guru who served a stint in federal prison after being convicted of charges related to a stock sale.

Both had connections to Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" reality television show: Blagojevich was a contestant in 2010 and Stewart hosted the 2005 spinoff series, "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart."

Hours earlier, Trump said on Twitter he would pardon D'Souza. An outspoken critic of Obama, D'Souza

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 28 of 33

claimed his prosecution by the Obama Justice Department was politically motivated.

Trump has issued five pardons as president: The first went to former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio, a top Trump supporter during the 2016 campaign, who was spared the prospect of serving jail time after a conviction stemming from his use of racially targeted immigration patrols. Next came Navy sailor Kristian Saucier, who had taken photos of classified portions of a submarine. Trump often mentioned Saucier's case on the campaign trail as he criticized his former Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, for her use of a private email server. Saucier had claimed his prosecution was driven by sensitivity about classified information driven by Clinton's case.

Next came former White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. A former top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney, Libby was convicted of lying to investigators and obstruction of justice following the 2003 leak of the covert identity of a CIA officer. The Libby case was taken up by conservatives who argued he was the victim of an overly zealous and politically motivated prosecution by a special counsel.

That pardon, especially, was seen as a sign that Trump might be willing to pardon former aides caught up in the Mueller inquiry.

Trump has also been moved by cases championed by celebrities. Last week, he pardoned Jack Johnson, boxing's first black heavyweight champion, whose case had been brought to his attention by actor Sylvester Stallone. And on Wednesday, he met with reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who urged him to pardon Alice Marie Johnson, a woman serving a life sentence for drug offenses.

Trump's predecessors largely relied on a formal, Department of Justice process to identify those deserving of clemency.

None of the clemencies that Trump has granted have come through the front door of the Justice Department's Office of the Pardon Attorney, which typically assists the president in exercising his pardon power. Instead they've been brought to the president by White House lawyers, advisers and outside confidants and celebrities, according to a senior White House official, who said there are dozens of pardons currently under consideration by White House attorneys and the president.

The official said Trump has prioritized actions that have personally affected him — noting he's been particularly drawn to cases where he believes there was political motivation to the prosecutions.

In its latter years, the Obama administration searched for candidates like nonviolent drug offenders and those affected by mandatory minimum sentencing policies, viewing clemency as a tool to promote policy goals. There is no such systematic review by the Trump White House.

But White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said it was unfair to suggest the only people winning pardons under Trump are those connected to him or with a celebrity backer.

"Certainly, something has to be brought to his attention and if somebody has the ability to do that it would help, but the president is making decisions based on the merits of the individual cases and what he thinks is the right thing to do," she said. "There's a process, but ultimately the president has the power and the authority to make a decision and he does."

Since the beginning of his presidency through May 7, Trump received 570 requests for pardons and about 2,306 requests for commutation of sentences. But because there were pending requests at the end of the Obama administration, the total number of requests for pardons pending before Trump is 2,271 and 8,932 for commutation.

Trump has denied dozens of pardon and commutation requests, while thousands of petitions have been closed without presidential action.

Kevin Ring, president of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, which worked with the Justice Department during the Obama administration to help identify candidates for clemency, said that many are torn over Trump's decision-making process, which appears to be more haphazard than in the past.

"Nobody wants to criticize displays of mercy because we think they're so sorely lacking, but most of these wouldn't be on anyone's 'Top 10' list of people who have been mistreated by the system," Ring said.

Others were more critical. "The President's ad hoc use of the pardon power is concerning enough. But the possibility that he may also be sending a message to witnesses in a criminal investigation into his

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 29 of 33

campaign is extremely dangerous," tweeted Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va.

Trump told reporters Thursday that no one asked him to pardon D'Souza. But D'Souza told the conservative Daily Caller that Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas played a key role.

D'Souza said that during a dinner about a month ago, Cruz said he would push for a pardon in conversations with Trump. D'Souza said Cruz called him recently to tell him Trump was receptive to the idea and action could be imminent.

D'Souza, whose case had become a cause in conservative circles, was sentenced to five years' probation in 2014 after pleading guilty to violating federal election law by making illegal contributions to a U.S. Senate campaign in the names of others.

Watchdog groups criticized D'Souza's pardon, saying it signaled contempt for the rule of law.

"Donald Trump has sent a message to his friends and cronies that if you break laws to protect him or attack our democracy, he's got your back," said David Donnelly, president and CEO of Every Voice.

Trump is not the only president to draw flak for his pardon decisions. Former President Bill Clinton ignited a major controversy with a last-minute pardon for fugitive financier Marc Rich, the ex-husband of a major Democratic fundraiser. And Gerald Ford pardoned Richard Nixon for his involvement in the Watergate scandal just days after taking over from his predecessor.

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire aboard Air Force One, Zeke Miller and Kevin Vineys in Washington, and Michael Tarm in Chicago contributed to this report.

Kim Jong Un complains of US 'hegemonism' as summit nears

By ERIC TALMADGE and HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un complained of "U.S. hegemonism" to Russia's visiting foreign minister on Thursday, as one of his top lieutenants was in New York trying to pave the way for a summit with President Donald Trump.

Kim told Sergey Lavrov that he hopes to boost cooperation with Russia, which has remained largely on the sidelines in recent months as Kim has reached out diplomatically to the United States as well as to South Korea and China.

"As we move to adjust to the political situation in the face of U.S. hegemonism, I am willing to exchange detailed and in-depth opinions with your leadership and hope to do so moving forward," Kim told Lavrov.

Kim has previously made harsher comments and even threatened to launch nuclear attacks on the United States numerous times. But his comments Thursday come at a sensitive moment, when a senior North Korean official was in New York for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the planned summit.

After his meeting with North Korean senior envoy Kim Yong Chol, Pompeo said "real progress" has been made in the last three days toward setting the conditions needed for Trump and Kim Jong Un to have a successful summit in Singapore. Still, Pompeo said he doesn't yet know whether the meeting will proceed on the announced date of June 12 and that he believes North Korea's leaders are contemplating a different path forward that would allow their nation to more fully integrate into the international community.

Kim Yong Chol, the highest-level North Korean official to visit the United States in 18 years, plans to travel to Washington to convey a personal letter by Kim Jong Un to Trump.

Kim Jong Un's comment on U.S. hegemonism wasn't carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, which targets an external audience. The agency quoted Kim as saying that the North's willingness for the "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula still remains unchanged" but also that the process should be "stage-by-stage basis by founding a solution to meet the interests of each other."

Since January, Kim has significantly toned down his rhetoric against Washington and Seoul and tried to reach out to them following a year of heightened nuclear tensions that saw increased fears of war on the Korean Peninsula.

But continuing differences led Trump to abruptly cancel the planned summit last week, and then quickly announce it might still be held as scheduled.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 30 of 33

Despite having a border with North Korea and relatively cordial relations that President Vladimir Putin has seemed to want to develop further, Russia has kept a surprisingly low profile as Kim has emerged onto the world stage this year, meeting twice with Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Lavrov's visit suggests Russia wants to become involved and make sure North Korea informs it of its intentions and is mindful of Moscow's concerns.

In their talks, Lavrov relayed Putin's "warmest regards and best wishes" for Kim's "big endeavors" on the Korean Peninsula. He also expressed Moscow's support for an agreement Kim reached with Moon at a summit last month that focused on measures to ease hostilities and increase exchanges between the two Koreas.

Video of the beginning of their meeting also showed Lavrov inviting Kim to Moscow.

According to Russian media, he also discussed ways to expand relations during a meeting with Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho.

"We welcome the contacts that have been developing in the recent months between North and South Korea, between North Korea and the United States," Lavrov said in comments to the media. "We welcome the summits that already took place between Pyongyang and Seoul as well as planned meetings between North Korean and U.S. leadership."

He vowed Russia's support for denuclearization and a broader effort to create a stable and long-lasting peace in the region, but indicated that Moscow believes sanctions can be eased while the process is in progress, which diverges from the U.S. position that denuclearization must come first.

"It's absolutely obvious that when a conversation starts about solving the nuclear problem and other problems of the Korean Peninsula, we proceed from the fact that the decision can't be complete while sanctions are still in place," he said.

Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea. Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

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

St. Paul archdiocese to pay \$210M to clergy abuse victims

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI** and **AMY FORLITI**, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis announced a \$210 million settlement Thursday with 450 victims of clergy sexual abuse as part of its plan for bankruptcy reorganization, making this the second-largest payout in the scandal that rocked the nation's Roman Catholic Church.

Victims' attorney Jeff Anderson said the money, a total of \$210,290,724, will go into a pot to pay survivors, with the amount for each survivor to be determined.

Anderson said a formal reorganization plan will now be submitted to a bankruptcy judge for approval, and then it will be sent to the victims for a vote. Anderson expected they will readily approve it.

"We changed the playing field," said Jim Keenan, who was sexually abused as a child in the 1980s by a Twin Cities-area priest. "They have to listen to victims now, and that is huge."

Marie Mielke, who was sexually abused from 1997 to 2000 by a St. Paul seminarian who later became a priest, urged fellow survivors to have the courage to stand up.

"Power and healing is just as true as the evil that's out there," she said. "So get up and grab it."

Archbishop Bernard Hebda said he was grateful to victims who came forward.

"I recognize that the abuse stole so much from you, your childhood, your innocence, your safety, your ability to trust, and in many cases, your faith," he said, adding that he hopes the settlement brings closure to those who were harmed. "We've been working with them very carefully to try to formulate this in a way that benefits them to the maximum."

According to the website BishopAccountability.org, which tracks clergy sex abuse cases, this is the largest total payout among the Roman Catholic archdioceses and dioceses that have filed for bankruptcy protec-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 31 of 33

tion. But the largest total payout of any kind came in 2007, when the Archdiocese of Los Angeles settled clergy sex abuse cases with 508 victims for \$660 million.

Thomas Abood, chairman of the Archdiocesan Finance Council and Reorganization Task Force, said the settlement will be outlined in greater detail when it is filed in court. But he said most of the funding, roughly \$170 million, will come from insurance carriers. The rest will come from parishes, the archdiocese, a pension fund and real estate sales.

"We will do everything we can to expedite it," Abood said, adding that he hopes the process can be completed in the next few months. "We have gone everywhere we could to raise money for this settlement."

The archdiocese filed for bankruptcy in 2015, two years after the Minnesota Legislature opened a three-year window that allowed people who had been sexually abused in the past to sue for damages. That resulted in hundreds of claims being filed against the archdiocese.

The bankruptcy case proceeded slowly as attorneys argued over how much money the archdiocese and insurance companies should pay. Last December, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Kressel rejected competing reorganization plans filed by the archdiocese and a creditors' committee and ordered both sides back into mediation.

Pamela Foohey, associate professor at Indiana University Maurer School of Law, said this settlement speaks to the value of negotiations — as the settlement amount is about \$50 million more than the original plan put forth by the archdiocese.

"It allows survivors to feel like justice was served and ... having a voice was really important to accepting the outcome," she said. And, in going back to the table, the victims' advocates were able to secure more money from insurance carriers, showing that victims don't have to take what's given because further negotiations "might show that they have more than they are saying they do."

Fifteen Catholic dioceses or archdioceses across the country have filed for bankruptcy, including three in Minnesota, as they sought to protect themselves from growing claims of sexual abuse by clergy members. A fourth Minnesota diocese, St. Cloud, announced its intention to file in February but hasn't done so.

Forliti reported from Minneapolis. Associated Press Writer Youssef Rddad also contributed from Minneapolis.

Asian shares mostly higher, shrugging off Wall Street losses

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

Shares were mostly higher in Asia on Friday after U.S. stocks slid amid mounting trade tensions. U.S. benchmarks fell after the Trump administration said it is imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum imported from Europe, Canada and Mexico.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent to 22,283.54 and the Kospi in South Korea jumped 0.8 percent to 2,441.33. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index edged 0.1 percent higher to 30,491.64. The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.2 percent to 3,088.38 and the S&P ASX 200 slipped 0.3 percent to 5,994.40. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed.

TRADE MOVES: Canada and Mexico responded to the Trump administration's moves with tariffs of their own, and the European Union is expected to follow suit. The parties will likely keep negotiating, and contentious talks between the U.S. and China are due to resume during the weekend. And while experts say a trade war remains a remote possibility, all of those disputes have been weighing on the market for months, and the uncertainty that is creating has real effects.

THE QUOTE: "You can do great harm to an economy just by leaving people up in the air about what the final deal is going to be," said David Kelly, chief global strategist of JPMorgan Funds. He said the uncertainty is undoing some of the effects of the recent corporate tax cut.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index lost 0.7 percent to 2,705.27. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 1 percent to 24,415.84 and the Nasdaq composite dipped 0.3 percent to 7,442.12 as technology companies like Alphabet and Facebook bucked the market's decline. The Russell 2000 index, which is made up of

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 32 of 33

smaller companies that tend to do more business in the U.S., slipped 0.9 percent to 1,633.61. It closed at a record high Wednesday.

GM-SOFTBANK: GM said SoftBank is taking a 20 percent stake in the GM Cruise automated division. General Motors stock jumped 12.9 percent to \$42.70. That was its biggest gain since GM went public again in 2010 after emerging from bankruptcy. In Tokyo, Softbank's shares edged 0.1 percent higher.

ENERGY: U.S. crude oil shed 13 cents to \$66.97 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 1.7 percent to \$67.04 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 2 cents to \$77.57 per barrel. It added 0.1 percent to \$77.59 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 109.03 yen from 108.83 yen. The euro was flat at \$1.1694.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 1, the 152nd day of 2018. There are 213 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 1, 1968, the cult British television series "The Prisoner," starring Patrick McGoohan as an ex-secret agent who finds himself trapped in a sinister, Orwellian village, had its American premiere on CBS. Author-lecturer Helen Keller, who earned a college degree despite being blind and deaf almost her entire life, died in Westport, Connecticut, at age 87.

On this date:

In 1533, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of King Henry VIII, was crowned as Queen Consort of England.

In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state.

In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state.

In 1813, the mortally wounded commander of the USS Chesapeake, Capt. James Lawrence, gave the order, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with the British frigate HMS Shannon in the War of 1812.

In 1868, James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, died near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at age 77.

In 1927, Lizzie Borden, accused but acquitted of the 1892 ax murders of her father, Andrew, and her stepmother, Abby, died in Fall River, Massachusetts, at age 66.

In 1943, a civilian flight from Portugal to England was shot down by Germany during World War II, killing all 17 people aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.

In 1958, Charles de Gaulle became premier of France, marking the beginning of the end of the Fourth Republic.

In 1977, the Soviet Union formally charged Jewish human rights activist Anatoly Shcharansky with treason. (Shcharansky was imprisoned, then released in 1986; he's now known as Natan Sharansky.)

In 1980, Cable News Network made its debut.

In 1997, Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X, was severely burned in a fire set by her 12-year-old grandson in her Yonkers, New York, apartment (she died three weeks later). The Chicago Tribune published a pretend commencement speech by columnist Mary Schmich (shmeech) which urged graduates to, among other things, "wear sunscreen" (the essay ended up being wrongly attributed online to author Kurt Vonnegut).

In 2009, Air France Flight 447, an Airbus A330 carrying 228 people from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean with the loss of everyone on board.

Ten years ago: Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton won a lopsided, but largely symbolic, victory in Puerto Rico's presidential primary. Fire ripped through a back lot at Universal Studios. At least eight people suf-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 322 ~ 33 of 33

located at an overcrowded stadium in Monrovia during a soccer match between host Liberia and Gambia. NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander took its first practice scoop of Martian soil. Fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent died in Paris at age 71.

Five years ago: In a scene reminiscent of the Arab Spring, thousands of people flooded Istanbul's main square after a crackdown on an anti-government protest turned city streets into a battlefield clouded by tear gas.

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared he was pulling the U.S. from the landmark Paris climate agreement. A gunman described by police as a heavily indebted gambler stormed a crowded casino in the Philippine capital and torched gambling tables, creating a choking level of smoke that killed at least 37 people. Ananya Vinay, a 12-year-old from Fresno, California, won the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling "marocain," a type of dress fabric of ribbed crepe.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Erdman is 93. Singer Pat Boone is 84. Actor-writer-director Peter Master-son is 84. Actor Morgan Freeman is 81. Actor Rene Auberjonois (oh-behr-juh-NWAH') is 78. Opera singer Frederica von Stade is 73. Actor Brian Cox is 72. Rock musician Ronnie Wood is 71. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 71. Actress Gemma Craven is 68. Actor John M. Jackson (TV: "NCIS: Los Angeles") is 68. Blues-rock musician Tom Principato is 66. Country singer Ronnie Dunn is 65. Actress Lisa Hartman Black is 62. Actor Tom Irwin is 62. Singer-musician Alan Wilder is 59. Rock musician Simon Gallup (The Cure) is 58. Country musician Richard Comeaux (River Road) is 57. Actor-comedian Mark Curry is 57. Actor-singer Jason Donovan is 50. Actress Teri Polo is 49. Basketball player-turned-coach Tony Bennett is 49. Actor Rick Gomez is 46. Model-actress Heidi Klum is 45. Singer Alanis Morissette is 44. Actress Sarah Wayne Callies is 41. Comedian Link Neal (Rhett & Link) is 40. TV personality Damien Fahey is 38. Pop singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile is 37. Actor Johnny Pemberton is 37. Actress-writer Amy Schumer is 37. Tennis player Justine Henin is 36. Actor Taylor Handley is 34. Actress Willow Shields is 18.

Thought for Today: "To be nobody-but-yourself — in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else — means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting." — E.E. Cummings, American poet, (1894-1962).