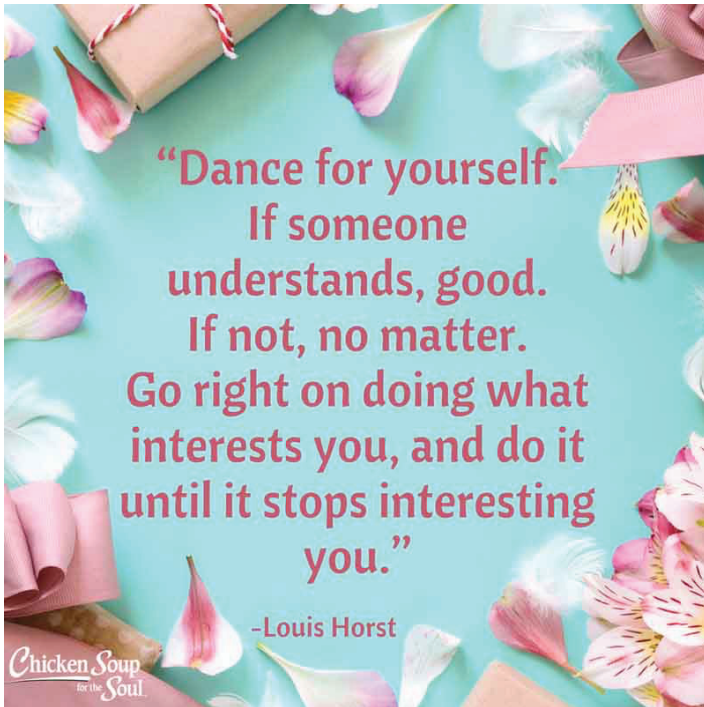


Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 1 of 55



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Midwest Masonry Ad
- 1- Abeln's 90th Birthday
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Transit Fundraiser
- 3- Drought Monitor
- 4- Pool payments for 10 more years
- 5- Prairie Dog Control Programs Available
- 5- GFP Asks Public to Leave Animals Alone
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- National Weather map
- 8- Today's Weather Almanac
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

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

Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



Virginia Abeln will be celebrating her 90th birthday on June 16, 2018. Help her celebrate by sending birthday wishes to: 407 North Garfield, Apt.11, Groton, SD, 57445

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 2 of 55



Larry Harry (left) and David McGannon (right) slaved over a hot grill in hot weather to grill hamburgers, brats and hot dogs for the annual Groton Community Transit fundraiser held Thursday. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The servers at the Groton Community Transit fundraiser were Darlene Daly (manager), Topper Tastad, Lori Westby, Liz Doeden, Pam Hanson and Sherry Koehler. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Community Transit Fundraiser

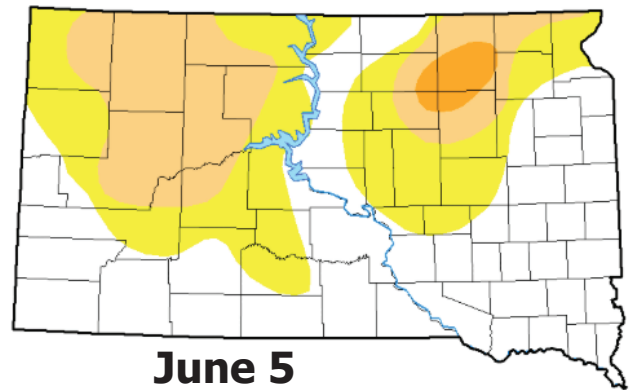
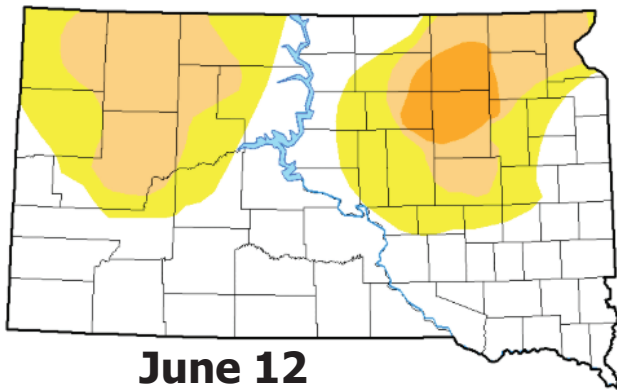


Sherry Koehler gets a hot dog ready for a customer. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Drought Monitor

Drought Classification

None D0 (Abnormally Dry) D1 (Moderate Drought) D2 (Severe Drought) D3 (Extreme Drought) D4 (Exceptional Drought)



Significant rainfall fell in parts of the High Plains region, while most of the mountainous areas remained dry. Thunderstorms in northeast Colorado, Nebraska, and northwest and eastern Kansas delivered between 0.5 and 3 inches of rain, helping to prevent additional drying caused by the high temperatures. Similar rainfall totals in southwest Kansas were enough to lessen precipitation deficits and result in an improvement from extreme to severe drought. Aside from the Black Hills, much of the Dakotas saw rainfall amounts over a half inch, with some areas exceeding 2 inches. This rainfall led to the removal of abnormal dryness in some areas west of the Missouri River in South Dakota and far southern North Dakota. Recent rainfall also helped decrease moderate drought in northwest South Dakota, though if recent hot weather and a high atmospheric demand for moisture continues, a reversion back to moderate drought conditions may occur. Severe drought was reduced in coverage in north-central North Dakota, where precipitation deficits over multiple time scales had decreased sufficiently for an improvement. Meanwhile, over the central Rockies, continued warm, dry weather exacerbated longer term precipitation deficits leading to an expansion of drought and abnormal dryness in north-central Colorado and south-central Wyoming.

Another 10 years of pool payments

IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000 FOR THE
CALENDAR YEARS 2008 - 2027 WITH TAXES
PAYABLE IN THE CALENDAR YEARS 2009-2028.

For some reason, everyone was led to believe that this was going to be the last year of the pool opt-out. The auditors discovered that the city has another 10 years to go on the opt-out. To get proof, research was done in the Groton Independent archives and indeed, the above image was taken off the sample ballot published in the paper. It shows that another 10 years of pool payments will need to be made.

Prairie Dog Control Programs Available

PIERRE, S.D.—The South Dakota departments of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and Agriculture (SDDA) want to remind South Dakota ranchers and producers to contact either department regarding prairie dog encroachment issues. The state's prairie dog control program is cooperatively operated by the GFP and SDDA.

GFP manages encroachment issues for prairie dogs that move from public lands to adjacent private lands, while the SDDA manages complaints between private landowners.

"GFP will control prairie dogs that have encroached onto private land from adjacent public land," said GFP Wildlife Damage Program Administrator Keith Fisk. "However, landowners that have encroachment problems on their property from adjacent public land must be within one-mile of the public land and have at least 10 acres (of actual prairie dog colonies) to be eligible for assistance."

Additionally, landowners must register on GFP's website and request assistance regarding unwanted prairie dogs before Aug. 15, 2018. Once eligibility has been verified later this fall, GFP staff or a department representative will control the invading colony on the private land. All complaints must be received by the Aug. 15, 2018, deadline.

Landowners who are experiencing encroachment from adjoining private land should contact the SDDA. If the colony is encroaching from private land, a signed written complaint must be completed.

There are two methods to file a complaint. The first option is for the affected landowner to sign a letter of complaint and mail it to the local County Weed and Pest Board. The second method requires the landowner to submit a formal written complaint to the SDDA and mail a copy to the neighboring landowner. Landowners can find the complaint form at http://sdda.sd.gov/legacydocs/Ag_Services/forms/pdog%20complaint%20form.pdf or by calling the SDDA at 605.773.3796. Notices of private land encroachment may be sent to the SDDA throughout the year.

Please visit <http://prairiedogcontrol.sd.gov> to register for GFP's assistance. For additional questions about assistance with prairie dog encroachment from public land or eligibility, please contact GFP at 605.773.5913. The South Dakota Prairie Dog Management Plan is available online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/UserDocs/nav/prairiedog-management-plan.pdf>.

-GFP-

GFP Asks Public to Leave Animals Alone

PIERRE, S.D. - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is reminding people that it is important to leave wild animals alone.

"Sometimes people think baby animals have been lost or abandoned, when actually they haven't," says Thea Miller Ryan, director of The Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. "Mothers often leave their young for several hours before coming back for them."

Each year GFP receives numerous phone calls from people who find baby animals, and while people think they are being helpful, picking up the creatures can actually be harmful.

"Tell your kids, your neighbor kids and your friends – If you care, leave them there," reminds Ryan.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 6 of 55

Today in Weather History

June 15, 1935: This estimated F3 tornado moved east from 17 miles southwest of Onida. There was near F4 damage to one farm about 9 miles SSW of Onida. The house was destroyed, 60 cattle were killed, and five people were injured. At another farm, the home shifted over the storm cellar, trapping a family.

June 15, 1977: There were thunderstorms with heavy rain and some hail which began on the 15th and continued into the 16th. At Watertown, almost 6.9 inches of rain fell during this two day period. In Deuel County, Gary received 6 inches, Altamont 5.5 and Brandt, 4.5 inches in Goodwin, and 3.70 inches in Clear Lake. Other amounts include; 4.85 inches at 3NE of Raymond; 4.57 inches in Clark; 4.21 at 1NE of Bryant; and 3.97 inches in Castlewood.

June 15, 1978: Numerous severe thunderstorms developed over all of central South Dakota. Tornadoes, funnel clouds, hail up to baseball size, and wind gusts to near 80 mph caused widespread destruction. Estimated loss was between 20-25 million dollars. The Governor declared some counties disaster areas. Six trailers were destroyed, and a home was unroofed northwest of Aberdeen. Fifteen people were injured from these storms.

June 15, 1978: Torrential rains began during the evening hours and continued into the morning hours on the 16th. Heavy rains were estimated between 5 to 6 inches, causing flash flooding south of Watertown. Some rainfall amounts include; 2.43 inches in Watertown; 2.07 in Castlewood; and 2.05 inches in Clear Lake. Hail caused severe crop damage in Hughes County.

1987: Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the northwestern U.S. A tornado damaged five homes and destroyed a barn near Salmon, Idaho. It lifted a metal shed 100 feet into the air and deposited it 100 yards away. Hail an inch and a half in diameter caused ten million dollars damage to automobiles at Nampa, Idaho.

1991: The second largest volcanic eruption of the 20th Century began as Mt. Pinatubo injected 15 to 30 million tons of sulfur dioxide 100,000 feet into the atmosphere. 343 people were killed in the Philippines as a result of the eruptions, and 200,000 were left homeless. Material from the explosion would spread around the globe, leading to climate changes worldwide as the sun's energy was blocked out and global temperatures cooled by as much as one degree Fahrenheit. 1992 was globally one of the coldest since the 1970s.

1662 - A fast was held at Salem MA with prayers for rain, and the Lord gave a speedy answer. (David Ludlum)

1879 - McKinney ND received 7.7 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1896 - The temperature at Fort Mojave, CA, soared to 127 degrees, the hottest reading of record for June for the U.S. The low that day was 97 degrees. Morning lows of 100 degrees were reported on the 12th, 14th and 16th of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Dust devils are usually rather benign weather phenomena, however, two boys were injured by one near Prescott AZ. One of the boys suffered a black eye, and the other boy had two vertabrae fractured by wind-blown debris. (The Weather Channel)








1957 - East Saint Louis was deluged with 16.54 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state of Illinois. (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region spawned five tornadoes around Denver, CO, in just one hour. A strong (F-3) tornado in southern Denver injured seven persons and caused ten million dollars damage. Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Portland ME was a record for June. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

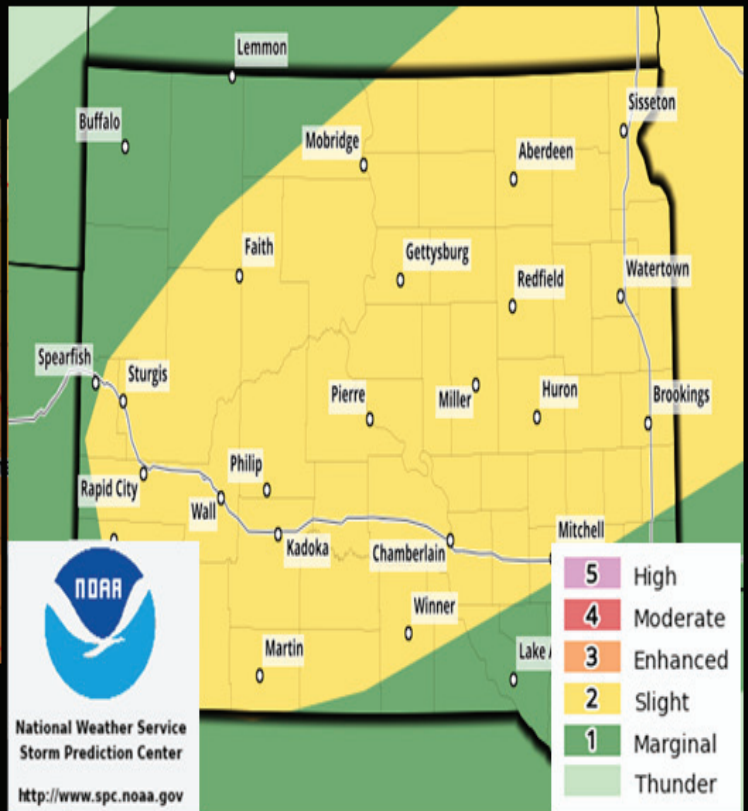
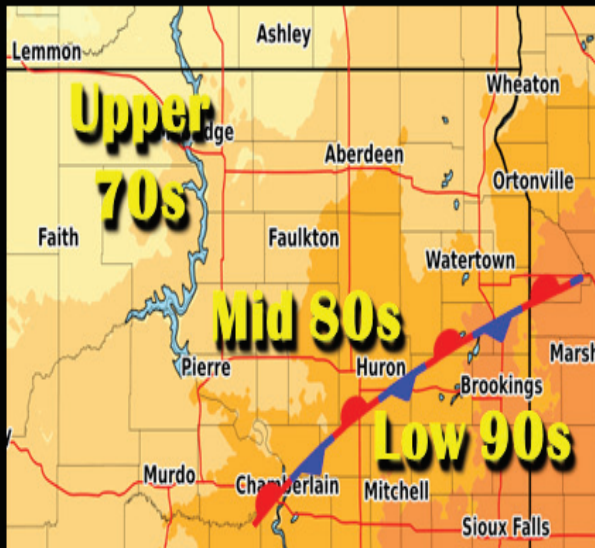
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States. The thunderstorms spawned eight tornadoes, including strong (F-3) tornadoes which injured three persons at Mountville PA and four persons at Columbia, PA. There were 111 reports of large hail and damaging winds, including wind gusts to 80 mph at Norfolk, VA, and Hogback Mountain, SC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Broton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 7 of 55

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	Severe Thunderstorms	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 85 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 76 °F

Cooler Today – Risk For Severe Weather Saturday



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 6/15/2018 2:36 AM Central

Published on: 06/15/2018 at 2:44AM

A front will move across the area early this morning, with slightly cooler and less humid conditions set for today. Far to the west, storms will fire in the afternoon/evening - moving northeast and will eventually arrive in central/eastern South Dakota Saturday morning. Additional daytime heating and added humidity will help set the stage for possibly severe afternoon thunderstorms across a good part of the state into western Minnesota.

Groton Daily Independent

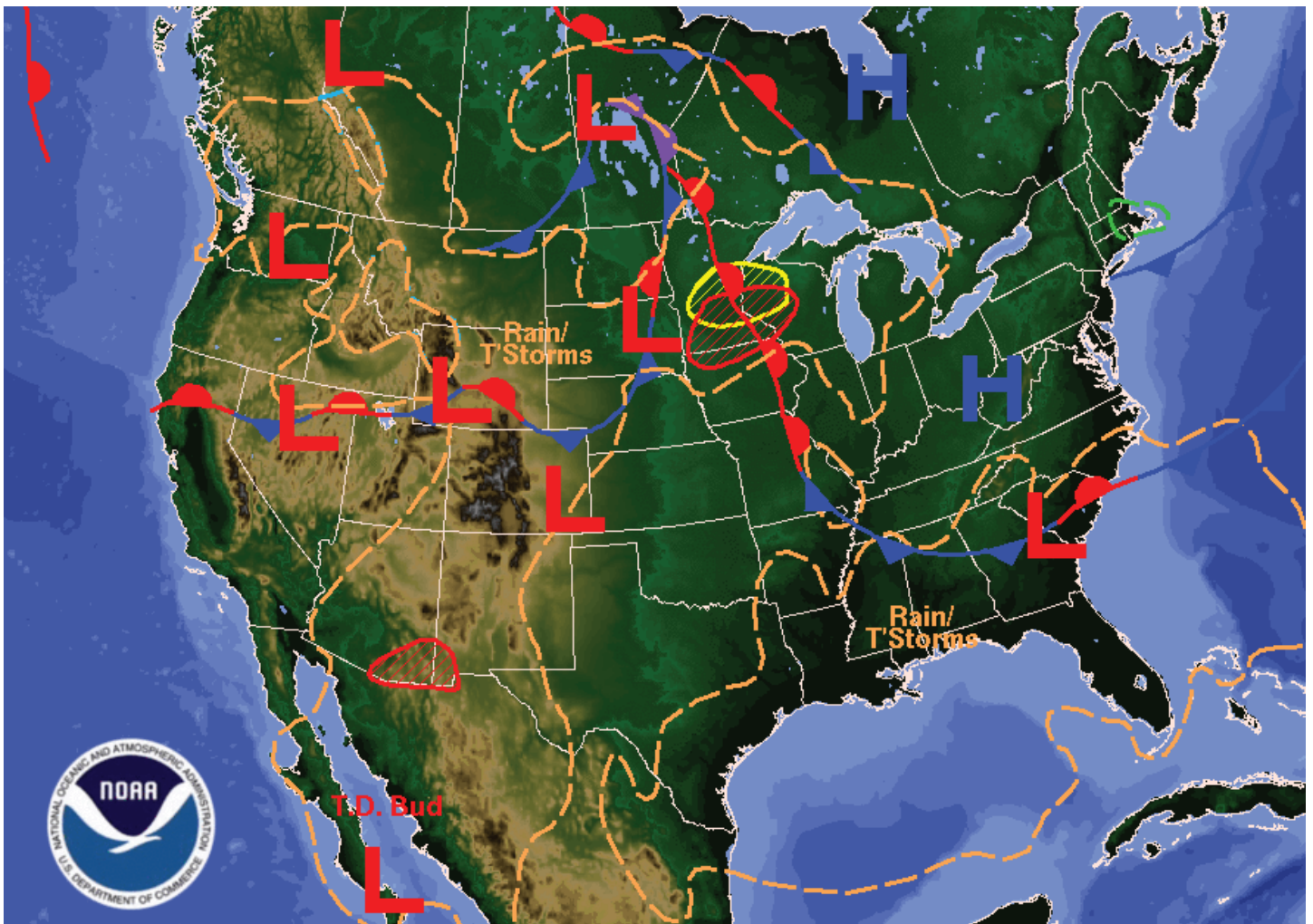
Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 8 of 55

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 88.4 F at 5:05 PM
Low Outside Temp: 62.8 F at 12:00 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 1:37 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1933
Record Low: 36° in 1968
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 54°F
Average Precip in June: 1.81
Precip to date in June: 0.89
Average Precip to date: 8.95
Precip Year to Date: 5.19
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jun 15, 2018, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 9 of 55



FROM BEGINNING TO END

Sitting across the desk from me were two heart-broken parents. They had followed the suggestions and recommendations of other parents on the best methods to raise children in a Christ-honoring home. However, their son had recently entered a recovery program for addicts.

"How did this happen?" the father asked me. I had been asked this question many times and each time I attempted to answer the question it became more difficult. After a moment's pause I tried, to the best of my ability, to explain that in the process of addiction the early experiences seemed to solve problems for people and after the initial experiment with drugs, what once was a problem solver became a problem creator and the "fun" or pleasure once associated with the drug vanished with the joy.

Then I told them the fable of a honey bee that discovered a large jar of honey with no lid on it. So, it decided to enjoy the sweet nectar without the amount of work it normally took to get the "joy of sweetness." As it reveled in the honey its wings slowly became glued together and there it was - dying. The promise of pleasure ended up in the grip of death.

A Psalmist warned us of this process: "I am laid low in the dust," he wrote. Another way to interpret it is "I am glued to the things of earth." But he found an escape route: "Preserve my life according to Your Word."

Stuck in sin? Release is ours through Christ!

Prayer: Please, Father, enable us to see the path to happiness goes through Your Son into eternal life! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:25 My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 10 of 55

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

Farmers in Trump country protest Pruitt's ethanol policies

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Deep in the heart of Trump country, Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt is being met with protests by farmers and ethanol producers concerned that he is undermining the industry with his strong support of oil and gas.

Their unhappiness is being broadcast on billboards, at rallies and in meetings the EPA chief is holding during a tour of heartland states, and comes as Pruitt battles a series of allegations of ethical misconduct back in Washington.

The farmers argue that Pruitt's actions have hammered demand for ethanol, hurting both ethanol and corn prices. They want Pruitt to keep President Donald Trump's promises to support the ethanol industry.

"Agriculture is not very happy with Mr. Pruitt at this point," said David Fremark, whose family grows about 11,000 acres (17.2 square miles) of corn, sorghum, soybeans and spring wheat near Miller, South Dakota.

Corn producers — some arriving in a line of tractors — timed a rally in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Wednesday to coincide with Pruitt's visit to a farm in central South Dakota for a private meeting with farmers. Fremark was at the meeting.

"He's done some good things, but this far and away overshadows everything he's done," Fremark said of the EPA administrator, a champion of regulation-cutting. "We're glad that he came out to hear what we have to say. But I think what we had to say fell on deaf ears. ... He's not acting like our friend."

Pruitt, a Republican and the former attorney general of Oklahoma, also met with Kansas farmers Tuesday and was touring a large ethanol plant in Nebraska on Thursday.

The farm-state trouble is adding to criticism of Pruitt from Republican lawmakers, growing numbers who already were joining Democrats in faulting the EPA head over allegations he has exploited his office for first-class travel, jobs for his wife and other perks.

Trump "made this promise on ethanol," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, said in a telephone interview. "But Pruitt is trying to break this promise."

"We ain't going to be played for a sucker. And that's what they're trying to do," Grassley said of farm states, and oil and gas interests.

Grassley's Iowa colleague, Republican Sen. Joni Ernst, told an energy group last week that Pruitt had lied to lawmakers on the ethanol issue, and added that Pruitt was "about as swampy as you get."

South Dakota Republican Sen. John Thune praised Pruitt for talking to the farmers on their own ground, but said in a statement that Pruitt and the EPA "need to honor the commitment the president made to American farmers."

An EPA official who'd been on Pruitt's South Dakota visit acknowledged Pruitt walked into tense meetings with farmers and ethanol producers on the matter. But "at the end of those discussions there was a sincere appreciation reflected by all in the room of the willingness to engage on these important issues and the commitment to find meaningful solutions," Mandy Gunasekara, deputy assistant administrator of the EPA's air office, said in an email.

"Decision-making is a difficult process, but instead of playing it safe and staying in Washington, Administrator Pruitt has been and continues to go out to communities impacted by the agency's decisions," Gunasekara said.

Local media said they were not told in advance of Pruitt's meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, and some initially were turned away. Reporters were allowed into a Nebraska session among Pruitt, farmers and businesspeople in Lincoln.

Farmers and ethanol producers say EPA's practice under Pruitt has been to grant more waivers to refineries that allow them to reduce how much ethanol they have to blend into gasoline, pushing down the corn and ethanol prices. That, they say, has resulted in a large decrease in demand for ethanol. The EPA

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 12 of 55

says recent court decisions played a part in those changes.

They also cite the lack of action so far on Trump's promise to farmers to remove restrictions on the sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol year-round across the country. The industry says they can't expand if the effective cap remains at 10 percent.

In Lincoln on Thursday, Pruitt told people gathered at the state farm bureau that he supported expanding the sale of that higher-ethanol gas year-round and would work toward it. "Right now we're in a pause period, and I hope we can hit play," Pruitt told the group. Some there praised his work at EPA.

Billboards in South Dakota accused Pruitt of favoring oil and gas companies. An Iowa-based conservative group called American Future Fund, whose backers include a wealthy ethanol producer, produced a 30-second web spot citing Pruitt's Washington scandals. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is embarrassing President Trump," the ad declares, and calls for Pruitt's firing.

"Pruitt is putting oil companies above farmers," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat.

EPA officials say final decisions on the ethanol issues are up to the White House. But farmers still blamed Pruitt.

"We've got corn prices that are at or below the price of production right now and oil companies are making record profits," said Troy Knecht, who raises corn, soybeans and alfalfa on 5,500 acres (8.6 square miles) near Houghton, South Dakota.

"Whether he and Scott Pruitt aren't communicating, we don't know. But somebody needs to be accountable for this," said Knecht, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association.

Knickmeyer reported from Washington. Tess Williams contributed from Lincoln.

South Dakota high court dismisses appeal against Keystone XL

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Supreme Court this week dismissed an appeal from opponents of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, saying a lower court lacked jurisdiction to hear their cases. But an attorney battling the project says the "fight is not over."

Groups fighting TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline appealed a judge's decision last year upholding regulators' approval for the pipeline to cross the state. But the high court said in a Wednesday ruling that justices didn't "reach the merits of the case" because the lower court didn't have jurisdiction to weigh the appeal of the Public Utilities Commission's decision.

Robin Martinez, an attorney for conservation and family agriculture group Dakota Rural Action, on Thursday called the high court's decision "disappointing," but said "this fight is not over." Martinez said the organization, one of the appellants, is regrouping and evaluating its options.

"That's really disappointing that the court didn't reach the merits, because the risk to South Dakota's land and water resources is clearly there," Martinez said. "It's a shame that that did not get a closer look by the court."

TransCanada spokesman Terry Cunha said in an email that the pipeline developer is pleased with the court's decision.

Keystone XL would cost an estimated \$8 billion. The 1,179-mile pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries.

TransCanada announced in April it was meeting with landowners and starting aerial surveillance of the proposed route. The company hopes to begin construction in early 2019.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe and conservation and family agriculture group Dakota Rural Action appealed to the South Dakota high court after a judge had affirmed state regulators' approval for the pipeline.

The Public Utilities Commission initially authorized TransCanada's project in 2010, but the permit had to be revisited because construction didn't start within the required four years. The panel voted in 2016 to

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 13 of 55

accept TransCanada's guarantee that it would meet all conditions laid out by the commission when it first approved that state's portion of the project.

Cunha said the company is working to get needed land easements for the pipeline in Nebraska. But Nebraska landowners have filed a lawsuit challenging the Nebraska Public Service Commission's decision to approve a route through the state.

Separately in Nebraska, a husband and wife who don't want the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to run through their farm this week deeded a plot of their land to a Native American tribe, creating a potential roadblock for the project.

Art and Helen Tanderup signed over a 1.6-acre plot of land to the Ponca Indian Tribe on Sunday. The Ponca enjoy special legal status as a federally recognized tribe.

The land has been used as a planting space for sacred Ponca corn for the last five years, and it was chosen in part because it sits on the \$8 billion pipeline's proposed route. It's also part of the historic Ponca route that tribe members were forced to take when the U.S. government relocated them to present-day Oklahoma in 1877.

"What the impact will be, I don't know," Tanderup said. "But now, they'll have a voice in this issue. They will be a player at the table."

It's not clear whether deeding the land to the tribe would hinder the company or create a new legal argument for the Ponca, given their status as a federally recognized Indian tribe. Brad Jolly, an attorney for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, said he was focusing more on overturning state regulators' approval of the pipeline in a case pending before the Nebraska Supreme Court.

"I haven't gotten to all the what-ifs yet," Jolly said.

The Keystone pipeline also faces a potential obstacle in a federal lawsuit brought by Montana landowners and environmental groups seeks to overturn President Donald Trump's decision to grant a presidential permit for the project.

Associated Press writer Grant Schulte contributed to this report from Lincoln, Nebraska.

South Dakota Democrats to choose attorney general candidate

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Democrats choosing their candidate for state attorney general will decide between a highly experienced former U.S. attorney and a past Oglala Sioux Tribe attorney general who could become the first Native American woman in the country to hold the post.

Former U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler has emphasized his experience and dominated in fundraising as he seeks to cast himself as Democrats' best hope of ending Republicans' decades-long grip on the attorney general's office. Tatewin Means, who previously served as the Oglala Sioux's chief law enforcement officer, says she's the only candidate who has been an attorney general.

Delegates at the Democratic Party's state convention Friday in Sioux Falls will weigh those resumes before voting to nominate their party's candidate for the office, which a Democrat hasn't held in South Dakota since the 1970s. The party last fielded a candidate for the position in 2010.

"We have two great candidates running for attorney general that have activated our base all across the state," Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said, noting that party delegate attendance is set to be up from 2016.

Republicans are set to choose their attorney general candidate at a state party convention in Pierre later in June.

In the Democratic contest for attorney general, Seiler said he's the most qualified candidate. He served as South Dakota's U.S. attorney from 2015 through 2017, leaving after more than two decades at the office.

"I'm the best qualified and most experienced," Seiler said ahead of the convention. "I have the background in public service at all levels, and, at the end of the day, I think I have the best chance of winning the seat for the Democrats in November."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 14 of 55

Seiler has said he would make fighting methamphetamine abuse his main priority if elected attorney general. He said officials should also review the state's public corruption laws and ethics and transparency in state government.

He noted South Dakota's Republican-dominated government, saying that democracy works best when there are "checks and balances."

Former South Dakota U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson hosted a fundraiser for Seiler shortly after his formal campaign announcement, and Seiler has brought in more than \$90,000 in the race. Means had raised about \$6,000 as of mid-May.

"He's the most qualified candidate to run as a Democrat for attorney general in my lifetime," Johnson said. "Having Randy in Pierre at this point in our state's history would be beneficial to the entire state — Democrats and Republicans both — who just want a career prosecutor who's going to help keep them safe and hold politicians accountable."

Means declared her candidacy in April in an open letter saying she would lead the state in a new direction. As attorney general for the Oglala Sioux Tribe from 2012-2017, Means said she oversaw an office that handled thousands of cases each year. She now works as the chair of graduate studies at Oglala Lakota College.

Means said she offers a fresh perspective, calling herself an inclusive leader who considers the voices of marginalized communities. The Sioux Falls AFL-CIO endorsed her earlier this month, saying that working families need a "champion in Pierre."

She said South Dakota deserves more from the attorney general's office and said officials' approach toward longstanding issues such as addiction and mental health has been ineffective.

The Democratic Attorneys General Association says the group believes she's the first Native American woman to run for a state attorney general post. Means said her entire life has been about overcoming obstacles.

"This is just another boundary that I see that as indigenous people and as an indigenous woman that we need to break through," she said. "This has never been about myself or personal accolades. It's about what it means to my family, to my ancestors, to my children."

Oklahoma base fixing some of Air Force's grounded bombers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Part of the U.S. Air Force's recently grounded bomber fleet is currently undergoing maintenance at Oklahoma's Tinker Air Force Base.

The commander of the Air Force Global Strike Command ordered a "safety stand down" of all B-1B Lancers last week. The order came after an emergency landing in Texas last month prompted an investigation revealing problems with the long-range bomber's ejection seats, the Oklahoman reported.

The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Complex "will comply with the safety stand down requirements and ensure each aircraft is inspected and deemed safe to return to flight," said Jerry Bryza, spokesman for the 72nd Air Base Wing.

The B-1B Lancer is a weapon system that can hit speeds of 900-plus mph (1,448-plus kph), according to the Air Force. The bomber has served the Air Force since 1985 and was first used in combat in 1998. B-1s flew less than 1 percent of combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom, but delivered 43 percent of the Joint Direct Attack Munitions used, according to the Air Force.

The fleet has 62 bombers, all located at Tinker, Dyess Air Force Base in Texas, Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, Edwards Air Force Base in California, and overseas.

Global Strike Command spokeswoman Linda Frost declined to say how many are at each site for security reasons. She said not all of the bombers are affected by the ejection seat issue, and officials are still working to determine the affected planes based on specific lot numbers.

Frost said the investigation is ongoing and that it's too soon to determine how long the stand down will last. But she said returning B-1s to flight is the command's top priority.

Rapid City considers railroad quiet zone

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City officials are considering spending more than \$4 million to create a railroad quiet zone in the city's downtown.

The City Council will discuss several options Monday to reduce noise from train horns at railroad crossings, the Rapid City Journal reported .

The city's cheapest option would cost about \$1.7 million to limit the quiet zone to the central downtown area, including only four crossings between two streets. About half of the plan's cost would go toward making minimal signal upgrades required by the Federal Railroad Administration.

A nearly \$3.2 million proposal suggests closing or converting certain crossings for pedestrian traffic. Spending a little more than half a million more would avoid closures, and instead would extend and build medians and install gates.

The most expensive option costs \$4.4 million for improvements that most effectively reduce safety risks at crossings, such as a directional horn system.

City Planner Kip Harrington said the central downtown-only option is shortsighted and could hinder residential development east of a major downtown street.

No plan ensures that midday or late-night horn blasts won't occur.

The city's railroad quiet zone task force will meet next week to discuss funding for the project. A final report is expected within the next two months.

City officials will need to file a notice of intent with the Federal Railroad Administration and railroad companies once a quiet zone option is approved.

Harrington said Rapid City would be the first town or city in the state to implement a railroad quiet zone policy should it move forward.

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

One person dead in Keystone shooting

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — Pennington County sheriff's officials say one person has died in a shooting in Keystone.

Authorities say emergency personnel were called to a home about 8 p.m. Wednesday on a report of a person with a gunshot wound. When they arrived they found the person was dead.

The Rapid City Journal reports that while the investigation is ongoing, police say there's no reason to believe the public is in danger.

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

Sutton chooses Sioux Falls businesswoman as running mate

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Democratic governor hopeful Billie Sutton has chosen a longtime Republican businesswoman to be his running mate.

Sutton, a state senator and former professional rodeo cowboy, said Thursday that Sioux Falls businesswoman and now-lieutenant governor candidate Michelle Lavalley brings "balance and bipartisanship" to his campaign.

Sutton's team says Lavalley recently switched parties to join the ticket. Lavalley says South Dakota is ready to break away from "politics as usual, regardless of political affiliation."

The campaign says Lavalley has worked in management roles at Raven Industries, Avera McKennan Hospital and the University of South Dakota. Sutton says Lavalley has the experience to help build a stronger state economy.

Sutton wants to become the first Democratic governor elected in South Dakota since 1974. He faces Republican Kristi Noem, the state's U.S. representative, in the general election.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 16 of 55

Man guilty in road rage slaying of Kansas City area mother

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A man has been convicted in the fatal road rage killing of a Kansas City area mother after she stopped for groceries.

Forty-year-old Christopher Taylor was found guilty Wednesday of first-degree involuntary manslaughter and armed criminal action in the 2016 death of 22-year-old Whitney Gray, of Independence.

Gray was driving a minivan with a 16-year-old, a 3-year-old and an 8-month-old inside when Taylor began following her closely and nearly caused an accident while trying to pass her in Independence. At a light, a liquid was thrown from the passenger side of Gray's van onto Taylor's sport utility vehicle, and then a loud "pop" was heard. Gray died at the scene. Not one else was hurt.

Taylor was later arrested in Box Elder, South Dakota. Sentencing is set for Aug. 24.

Hunt underway for mountain lion spotted in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A hunt is underway for a young mountain lion that has been spotted several times in a residential neighborhood in Rapid City.

The Rapid City Journal reports that sightings Monday and Tuesday have been confirmed through video recorded on household security cameras. John Kanta with South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks says there have been several other eyewitness sightings.

If the lion is captured, it will be euthanized because it has entered a residential area and could pose a threat to people. But Kanta says it's rare for a lion to attack a human.

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

Potter County Commission violated state open meeting laws

GETTYSBURG, S.D. (AP) — The Potter County Commission violated state open meeting laws by holding an impromptu quorum after a meeting had been adjourned.

The American News reports the state Open Meetings Commission came to that conclusion after looking into a Dec. 28 meeting the county commissioners had with the county sheriff after the official meeting had been adjourned.

The complaint originated with Potter County News Editor Molly McRoberts. It was investigated earlier this month.

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

2 more people sentenced in deadly Spearfish drug ring

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Two more Spearfish residents have been sentenced for their roles in the illegal and deadly drug trade in the city.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that 26-year-old Marcus Pelletier was sentenced to serve a year in prison for drug distribution. Thirty-four-year-old Jeffrey Duex was sentenced to 15 days in jail and three years of probation for drug use.

The two were among nine people charged in a drug ring that authorities say resulted in the fentanyl-related deaths in January 2017 of 23-year-old Carrera Hall and 38-year-old Troy Kuntz.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

In World Cup's shadow, layoffs and anger at Russian factory

By **FRANCESCA EBEL, Associated Press**

VOLGOGRAD, Russia (AP) — Beneath Volgograd's baking early morning sun, clouds of midges pester factory workers at the Red October steelworks as they clock in. These workers are the lucky ones — they're still employed, while many of their colleagues were temporarily laid off because of the World Cup.

The layoffs have aggravated troubles at the struggling factory, prompting angry workers to plan a protest timed for the city's first World Cup match Monday. Authorities are apparently trying to head off trouble through pressure and promises of cash.

Welcome to the daily realities of President Vladimir Putin's Russia, even as he tries to use the Cup to show off his economic and political successes.

"I am worried about what is going on here," says 38-year-old metal welder Mikhail Privalov, mopping the sweat off his brow as he enters the factory, which sits in the shadow of the gleaming Volgograd Arena. "The management is handling this situation very badly."

The factory, whose faded red and yellow front still bears the emblems of the Soviet Union, is famous for weathering shells and gunfire from Adolf Hitler's armies and continuing steel production during the vicious World War II Battle of Stalingrad, as the city used to be called.

Today, the world's largest sports tournament has brought the plant to a partial standstill.

Under measures intended to reduce stores of hazardous materials which could be used by terrorists, factories have been asked to change the way they work before and during the World Cup, which opened Thursday and runs through July 15.

Meanwhile, Red October workers are facing wage cuts and delays as the factory grapples with restructuring, a corruption investigation and tax troubles.

"We're continuing to work but we don't really know why, when our wages have been cut so low. The administration keeps promising us things but who believes them?" said Vitaly, a father of two who spoke on condition his last name not be used. Many workers fear repercussions if they speak out publicly.

The exact number of people on temporary layoffs is unclear, but local journalists and factory workers estimate that more than half of the factory's 3,500 employees are out of work for the next month. Several attempts by The AP to contact factory management were ignored.

About 70 steelworkers staged a walkout June 7, protesting the factory's problems.

"I need to feed my family and kids," 37-year-old Denis Mozlyakov, who participated in the walkout, told The Associated Press through his VKontakte profile, Russia's alternative to Facebook. "I didn't see another way out."

The following day, union representatives penned an open letter to Putin, in which they described mass layoffs and insufficient funds for the full payment of wages, calling it "a catastrophic situation, which could bring (the factory) to a complete standstill."

The union then announced a protest rally June 18 - the day of Volgograd's first World Cup match, England vs. Tunisia.

Since then, the administration has sought to placate workers, notably with assurances that May's delayed wages will be paid.

As the World Cup opened Thursday in Moscow, union representative Sergei Belousov — among those who signed the letter to Putin — told The AP, "all our problems have been solved, there will be no rally - we'll go to support the football instead!"

Some 10 other workers contacted by The AP over Vkontakte were less optimistic, describing their uncertainty and distrust in the administration's promises. They declined to meet in person for fear of backlash or threats to their personal safety.

Mozlyakov, who has worked at the factory for three years, said, "Every day there are new rumors. I can't believe any of them. The factory has turned into a swamp of lies and deception."

Sergei Zhukov, a local economic journalist who runs the internet portal volpromex.ru, says the factory's financial difficulties reach far beyond the World Cup. In 2016, six plant managers were detained in a cor-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 18 of 55

ruption scandal, suspected of stealing millions of dollars. Meanwhile the tax inspectorate has launched legal action against the current management, which denies wrongdoing.

In addition, he said, the factory is undergoing modernization that is requiring production cutbacks.

"The current situation is linked with general, deeper problems at the factory," he said. "With or without the World Cup, these problems would still exist."

Yet Red October's troubles have been exacerbated by security measures introduced by Russia's Federal Security Service ahead of the tournament, which ordered many factories to stop or change certain procedures.

"The purpose is to avoid the use of hazardous materials which can possibly be a threat to large masses of people," World Cup organizing committee CEO Alexei Sorokin said last month. "The use and production of hazardous materials will be somewhat reduced, but the purpose is not to shut down factories."

Volgograd Mayor Andrei Kosolapov said in May that factories in his city wouldn't close entirely but enter into an unspecified "technical regime" during the Cup, an apparent euphemism for partial closure.

"The priority is the championship, the people are secondary," said factory shift supervisor Dmitry Egorov. "The people are left without the means of survival and the enterprise managers and representatives do not care."

James Ellingworth and Angela Charlton in Moscow contributed.

More AP World Cup coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/WorldCup>

Afghan official: US drone kills Pakistan Taliban chief

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A U.S. drone strike in northeastern Kunar province killed Pakistan Taliban chief Mullah Fazlullah, the insurgent leader who ordered the assassination of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said Friday.

In a telephone interview, Mohammad Radmanish said Fazlullah and two other insurgents were killed early Thursday morning.

According to a statement attributed to U.S. Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Lt. Col Martin O'Donnell, the U.S. carried out a "counterterrorism strike" Thursday in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan targeting "a senior leader of a designated terrorist organization."

The statement did not say whether the strike had killed anyone and did not identify Fazlullah as the target.

Radmanish said the attack took place in Marawara district, near the border.

Yousafzai survived the assassination attempt in 2012. Fazlullah had ordered her killing for promoting girls' education. Yousafzai returned to her hometown earlier this year, opening a school funded by a charity she established to promote girls education globally.

She has often said that Fazlullah's attempts to silence her backfired and instead he amplified her voice around the world.

A ruthless leader, Fazlullah ordered the bombing and beheadings of dozens of opponents when his band of insurgents controlled Pakistan's picturesque Swat Valley from 2007 until a massive military operation routed them in 2009.

His insurgent group, the Tehrik-e-Taliban, also took responsibility for the brutal attack on an Army Public School in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar in December 2014 when more than 140 children and their teachers were slaughtered.

Survivors of the attack told of insurgents roaming through the school shooting their victims, some as young as six years old, in the head.

Fazlullah rose to prominence through radio broadcasts in Swat demanding the imposition of Islamic law, earning him the nickname "Mullah Radio." His radio talks also aired the grievances of many in the northwest against the government, such as its slow-moving justice system. He also reached out to women,

promising to address their complaints about not getting a fair share of their inheritance.

His brutality often included public beheadings, often of police officers. His exact age is not known but he was believed to be in his late 30s.

Associated Press writer Munir Ahmed in Islamabad Pakistan also contributed to this report

Watchdog report blasts FBI but doesn't hand Trump total win

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An inspector general report condemning the FBI's actions in the Hillary Clinton email investigation blasts former FBI Director James Comey but also denies total vindication to the president who fired him.

The 500-page document stops far short of endorsing the attacks levied at Comey for the last year by President Donald Trump.

Although Trump has alleged that a politically tainted FBI tried to undermine his Republican campaign, the report did not conclude that political preferences influenced Comey or the Justice Department.

Trump has suggested anyone less politically connected than Clinton would have been charged for the same behavior, yet the report does not second-guess the FBI's decision to spare her from prosecution.

And while the president has slammed Comey's deputy, Andrew McCabe, because of Democratic political contributions to his wife, the Justice Department report said he was not required to recuse himself and had correctly flagged the issue inside the bureau.

"We found no evidence that the conclusions by the prosecutors were affected by bias or other improper considerations; rather, we determined that they were based on the prosecutors' assessment of the facts, the law and past department practice," the report says.

Yet there's no doubt the report gave Trump fresh ammunition for continued attacks on Comey and for his defense that Comey's firing in May 2017 — an act now central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether the president sought to obstruct justice — was wholly justified. At the same time, it likely gave comfort to Clinton supporters who believe Comey's actions may have torpedoed her chance of becoming president.

The report branded Comey as insubordinate for repeatedly breaking with Justice Department protocol in his handling of the email probe in the explosive final months of the 2016 presidential campaign. It also sharply rebuked FBI officials who traded politically charged, anti-Trump text messages even as the investigation into the campaign was underway.

Thursday's report documents in painstaking detail one of the most consequential investigations in modern FBI history and reveals how the bureau, which for decades has endeavored to stand apart from politics, came to be entangled in the 2016 presidential election. It underscores efforts by FBI and Justice Department leaders to juggle developments in the Clinton investigation — she had used private email for government business while secretary of state — with a separate probe that was then unknown to the American public into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Comey, whom Trump fired shortly after taking office, bore the brunt of the report's criticism.

It says the FBI director erred when he announced in July 2016 that Clinton had been "extremely careless" with classified material but would not be charged with any crime, and again months later when he told Congress just days before the election that the investigation into Clinton's emails had been reopened. Comey concealed from the Justice Department his plans to make a public announcement until the morning he did so, even though such statements are normally handled by the Justice Department, if at all, the report says.

"We found that it was extraordinary and insubordinate for Comey to do so, and we found none of his reasons to be a persuasive basis for deviating from well-established Department policies in a way intentionally designed to avoid supervision by department leadership over his actions," the report says.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 20 of 55

Though it says those mistakes weren't politically motivated, Trump supporters seized on the report's description of Comey as "insubordinate." And they quickly focused on the report's recounting of anti-Trump text messages from two FBI officials who worked the Clinton probe and later the Russia case, including one in which an agent says, "We'll stop it," with regard to a possible Trump victory.

The report suggests that text from Peter Strzok, who was later dropped from Mueller's team, "implies a willingness to take official action to impact the presidential candidate's electoral prospects." It did not find evidence that those views seeped into the investigation.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the report "reaffirmed the president's suspicions about Comey's conduct and the political bias amongst some of the members of the FBI."

FBI Director Chris Wray told reporters the FBI accepted the report's findings and was making changes, including requiring further training for FBI employees and re-emphasizing the importance of objectivity. In a New York Times opinion piece released after the report, Comey said he disagreed with some conclusions but respected the watchdog's work.

In his defense, Comey has said he was concerned that the Justice Department itself could not credibly announce the conclusion of its investigation, in part because Lynch had met days earlier aboard her plane with former President Bill Clinton. Both said they did not discuss Hillary Clinton's case.

Concerned about the "appearance that former President Clinton was influencing" the probe, Lynch began talking to her staff the next morning about possibly recusing herself from overseeing the investigation, the report says. She told the inspector general she decided not to step aside because it might "create a misimpression" that she and the former president had discussed inappropriate things.

Bill Clinton, also interviewed in the IG investigation, said he had "absolutely not" discussed the probe. Also criticized was Comey's decision, despite the discouragement of the Justice Department, to reveal to Congress that the FBI was reopening the investigation following the discovery of new emails.

The FBI obtained a warrant nine days before the presidential election to review those emails, found on the laptop of former U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., — the husband of top Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin — and ultimately determined there was nothing that changed its original conclusion.

The report faulted the FBI for failing to act with more urgency in reviewing emails from Weiner's laptop, saying the inaction had "potentially far-reaching consequences." Clinton supporters say her name could have been cleared well before the election had the FBI moved faster to review the emails. Comey said had he known earlier about the laptop's import, it might have affected his decision to notify Congress.

The Weiner laptop was discovered as the FBI was upgrading the nascent Russia investigation. Though there's no evidence the device was put on the back-burner to protect Clinton, the watchdog said it could not be certain that Strzok's decision to prioritize the Russia probe over examining the Weiner laptop was "free from bias," especially because Strzok was exchanging anti-Trump text messages at the time.

The report lambastes Strzok and a now-retired FBI lawyer, Lisa Page, for text exchanges that it says were "deeply troubling" and created the appearance "that investigative decisions were impacted by bias or improper considerations." Most of the problematic texts relate to the FBI's Russia investigation, the report notes.

Both Strzok and Page acknowledged that some of their texts could be read as showing bias against Trump, but both insisted bias played no part in their work.

The report also notes that Comey, despite chiding Clinton for mishandling government business, occasionally used personal email himself to discuss FBI matters.

"But my emails," she said, reacting in a three-word tweet.

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick, Steve Braun and Colleen Long contributed to this report.

Read the report: <http://apne.ws/UW6V5LZ>

Inside the summit: Talks with 'aliens,' familiar frustration

By ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump got the history-making handshake he wanted with North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Now, with the smiling snapshot a part of history, new details are emerging about the bizarre behind-the-scenes negotiations that led up to the summit — and about the president's post-summit frustrations with how it's being portrayed.

Setting up the Singapore meeting was no easy feat for the technically still-warring heads of state, requiring planners to accommodate confounding requests and paranoia. But neither has it been easy for Trump to sell the plan to a doubting class of experts, allies and the media. He's chafing at the skepticism swirling about the nuclear accord that he wants to define his legacy.

Scenes from inside the summit:

"ALIEN" TERRITORY?

Like talking with "aliens." Sitting at tables at the luxurious Capella Hotel in Singapore or in the sparse Demilitarized Zone on the Korean Peninsula, that's how U.S. officials involved in negotiations with their North Korean counterparts described their conversations ahead of the summit.

The North Koreans had never before participated in an event of the sort, were unfamiliar with notions of press access and deeply afraid about both espionage and assassination. The North Korean logistics teams struck the Americans as organized, detail-oriented and mission-focused, said one official involved in the planning. There were also a number of women involved in senior roles, surprising to the U.S. side.

On the day before the summit, U.S. and North Korean officials met throughout the day in Singapore to hash out areas of agreement for what became the joint statement issued by the two leaders on Tuesday. The U.S. team wanted to send in an official photographer to capture the moment for history — a manifestation of the White House's desire to turn the summit into an international media event — but the North Koreans balked.

"How do we know she's not a spy?" protested the North Koreans. They eventually agreed the photographer could attend, said an official familiar with the discussions with the North Koreans who wasn't authorized to discuss it and insisted on anonymity.

Similar worries had come up earlier in the talks when the Korean delegation voiced concerns that cameras belonging to the press could be concealed weapons.

THE TRUST GAP

There was hardly trust on the U.S. side either. Kim, after all, is accused by the U.S. of ordering the murder of his half brother with a nerve agent last year.

From the first logistical talks in Singapore, it was clear to U.S. officials that overcoming the security trust gap was among the most significant hurdles to getting the two leaders into the same room.

For every person the White House wanted to put in the room for the meetings, the North wanted to know how they would know the person was not there to spy on the proceedings or harm Kim.

U.S. officials credited the Singaporean government for helping to prevent the mistrust from sinking the summit.

Checkpoints were jointly patrolled by U.S., North Korean, and Singaporean officials, with some journalists on site required to undergo separate security sweeps by each of the three parties. U.S. officials agreed to cap the number of U.S. government officials they allowed onto the luxury summit property to match the far smaller North Korean delegation.

It left all but the most senior American negotiators, including many subject matter experts, monitoring the proceedings via television and emailed updates from the president's hotel, a 20-minute drive away.

OLD HABITS DIE HARD

At a formal signing ceremony Tuesday afternoon, a gloved North Korean official inspected Kim's chair and the black felt-tipped pen bearing Trump's signature in gold that was positioned for Kim's use.

At the last minute, Kim's sister, Kim Yo-jong, who was standing to his side, provided a pen of her own for his use.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 22 of 55

The U.S.-supplied pen was later retrieved, unused, by a White House staffer.

EQUAL PARTNERS

Throughout the summit preparations, U.S. officials described the North Koreans as focused on ensuring they were not the junior partner in the talks.

In a symbolic concession, the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) was listed above the U.S. in the official summit logo on credentials for the summit. The White House also agreed to limit the number of journalists allowed to cover some events to mirror the North Korean contingent of state-run media.

Still, Trump appeared to be in the driver's seat, clapping Kim on the back and directing over to their interpreters to start their one-on-one meeting. The U.S. president also signaled for reporters in the room to be escorted out — after both took questions from the journalists.

FRUSTRATION FACTOR

On the final day before the summit, officials at the White House National Security Council back in Washington grew incensed over a New York Times report suggesting that "science is unwelcome" in Trump's administration and that the U.S. negotiating team was devoid of nuclear physicists. So the White House issued a directive to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo: He would go in front of cameras in Singapore and call out the newspaper by name, an official familiar with the instruction said. Pompeo complied.

"Before discussing the summit, I want to address a report in The New York Times," Pompeo opened. "Any suggestion that the United States somehow lacks the technical expertise across government or lacks it on the ground here in Singapore is mistaken."

Now that he's back home, Trump has been fuming privately and publicly over the skeptical news coverage about his signed agreement with Kim. Never steeped in details or history, the president feels he has made ground-breaking progress, as evidenced by his grand statements telling the world to "sleep well." Back in DC, in a terrible mood, he is frustrated by all the questions about the fine print.

Trump has been calling lawmakers to express enthusiasm for the agreement — but also complaining that he has not had more robust support from GOP lawmakers, said a person with knowledge of the calls, who spoke on condition of anonymity to share internal conversations. While the president calls the summit a "first step," with more meetings sure to come, he also has been arguing that he has already done more than his predecessor, President Barack Obama.

Tough US tariffs on China could begin as early as Friday

By KEN THOMAS and PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has approved a plan to impose punishing tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of Chinese goods as early as Friday, a move that could put his trade policies on a collision course with his push to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons.

Trump has long vowed to fulfill his campaign pledge to clamp down on what he considers unfair Chinese trading practices. But his calls for billions in tariffs could complicate his efforts to maintain China's support in his negotiations with North Korea.

Trump met Thursday with several Cabinet members and trade advisers and was expected to impose tariffs on at least \$35 billion to \$40 billion of Chinese imports, according to an industry official and an administration official familiar with the plans. The amount of goods could reach \$55 billion, said the industry official. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the matter ahead of a formal announcement.

If the president presses forward as expected, it could set the stage for a series of trade actions against China and lead to retaliation from Beijing. Trump has already slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and European allies, and his proposed tariffs against China risk starting a trade war involving the world's two biggest economies.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Friday that China's response would be immediate and that Beijing would "take necessary measures to defend our legitimate rights and interests."

Geng gave no details. Beijing earlier drew up a list of \$50 billion in U.S. products that would face retalia-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 23 of 55

tory tariffs, including beef and soybeans, a shot at Trump's supporters in rural America.

Trump's decision on the Chinese tariffs comes in the aftermath of his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The president has coordinated closely with China on efforts to get Pyongyang to eliminate its nuclear arsenal. But he signaled that whatever the implications, "I have to do what I have to do" to address the trade imbalance.

Trump, in his press conference in Singapore on Tuesday, said the U.S. has a "tremendous deficit in trade with China and we have to do something about it. We can't continue to let that happen." The U.S. trade deficit with China was \$336 billion in 2017.

Administration officials have signaled support for imposing the tariffs in a dispute over allegations that Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology, according to officials briefed on the plans. China has targeted \$50 billion in U.S. products for potential retaliation.

Wall Street has viewed the escalating trade tensions with wariness, fearful that they could strangle the economic growth achieved during Trump's watch and undermine the benefits of the tax cuts he signed into law last year.

"If you end up with a tariff battle, you will end up with price inflation, and you could end up with consumer debt. Those are all historic ingredients for an economic slowdown," Gary Cohn, Trump's former top economic adviser, said at an event sponsored by The Washington Post.

But Steve Bannon, Trump's former White House and campaign adviser, said the crackdown on China's trade practices was "the central part of Trump's economic nationalist message. His fundamental commitment to the 'deplorables' on the campaign trail was that he was going to bring manufacturing jobs back, particularly from Asia."

In the trade fight, Bannon said, Trump has converted three major tools that "the American elites considered off the table" — namely, the use of tariffs, the technology investigation of China and penalties on Chinese telecom giant ZTE.

"That's what has gotten us to the situation today where the Chinese are actually at the table," Bannon said. "It's really not just tariffs, it's tariffs on a scale never before considered."

The Chinese have threatened to counterpunch if the president goes ahead with the plan. Chinese officials have said they would drop agreements reached last month to buy more U.S. soybeans, natural gas and other products.

Scott Kennedy, a specialist on the Chinese economy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the Chinese threat was real and helped along by recent strains exhibited among the U.S. and allies. "I don't think they would cower or immediately run to the negotiating table to throw themselves at the mercy of Donald Trump," Kennedy said. "They see the U.S. is isolated and the president as easily distracted."

Ron Moore, who farms 1,800 acres of corn and soybeans in Roseville, Illinois, said soybean prices have already started dropping ahead of what looks like a trade war between the two economic powerhouses. "We have to plan for the worst-case scenario and hope for the best," said Moore, who is chairman of the American Soybean Association. "If you look back at President Trump's history, he's been wildly successful negotiating as a businessman. But it's different when you're dealing with other governments."

The U.S. and China have been holding ongoing negotiations over the trade dispute. The United States has criticized China for the aggressive tactics it uses to develop advanced technologies, including robots and electric cars, under its "Made in China 2025" program. The U.S. tariffs are designed specifically to punish China for forcing American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

The administration is also working on proposed Chinese investment restrictions by June 30. So far, Trump has yet to signal any interest in backing away.

"I think the tariffs are coming," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. "It really does depend on whether China makes a move to ameliorate Trump's concerns, and so far they haven't."

Gaza residents pray near Israel, as Muslims mark major feast

By WAFAA SHURAF, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza worshippers knelt on prayer rugs spread on sandy soil, near the perimeter fence with Israel, joining hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world Friday in marking the holiday that caps the fasting month of Ramadan.

The three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday is typically a time of family visits and festive meals, with children getting new clothes, haircuts and gifts. In the Middle East, celebrations were once again marred by prolonged conflict in hot spots such as Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen.

In the Gaza Strip, some worshippers performed the traditional morning prayers of the holiday in areas several hundred meters (yards) away from the heavily guarded fence with Israel.

Friday's prayers marked the continuation of weeks-long protests against a blockade of Gaza, imposed by Israel and Egypt after the 2007 takeover of the territory by the Islamic militant group Hamas. Since late March, more than 120 protesters have been killed and more than 3,800 wounded by Israeli army fire in the area of the fence.

Ismail Haniyeh, the top Hamas leader, joined worshippers in an area east of Gaza City. At one point, as the faithful bowed their heads on their prayer mats in unison, a young man on crutches — presumably injured in previous protests — followed the ritual while he remained standing. Some activists later approached the fence, burning tires.

Protest organizers said they planned to release large numbers of kites and balloons with incendiary materials rags throughout the day Friday, in hopes they will land in Israel. Such kites with burning rags attached have reportedly burned hundreds of acres of crops and forests in Israel.

Protest organizer Mohammed al-Tayyar, a member of a group calling itself the "burning kites unit," said Friday larger balloons with greater potential for damage would be released after 10 days unless the blockade is lifted. Israel's defense minister has said Israel is determined to stop such kites and balloons.

The protests have been organized by Hamas, but turnout has been driven by growing despair in Gaza about blockade-linked hardships; unemployment now approaches 50 percent and electricity is on for just a few hours every day.

Hamas has also billed the protests as the "Great March of Return," suggesting they would somehow pave the way for a return of Palestinian refugees and their descendants — about two-thirds of Gaza's residents — to return to ancestral homes in what is now Israel.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled or fled in the Mideast war over Israel's 1948 creation.

Haniyeh told reporters after Friday's prayers, which were also being held outdoors in another location east of the town of Khan Younis, that protests would continue.

He said a recent U.N. General Assembly resolution blaming Israel for the Gaza violence "shows that the marches of return and breaking the siege revived the Palestinian issue and imposed the issue on the international agenda." The resolution also said Israel had used excessive force against Palestinian protesters.

Israel says it is defending its territory and civilians living near Gaza. It has accused Hamas of trying to use the protests as cover for damaging the fence and trying to carry out cross-border attacks. Israel and Egypt argue that the blockade is needed to contain Hamas which has a history of violence and refuses to disarm.

In Jerusalem, senior Muslim cleric Muhammad Hussein told tens of thousands of worshippers that a plan for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, expected to be unveiled by the Trump administration, is unfair and "aims at the liquidation of the Palestinian cause."

President Donald Trump has promised to negotiate the "ultimate deal" but the plan's reported, though unconfirmed parameters have been dismissed by the Palestinians as siding with Israel.

The Palestinian issue also loomed large in Iran.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, addressing worshippers Friday, praised citizens for showing up at massive rallies last week in support of the Palestinians on Jerusalem Day. That day was initiated by Iran in 1979 to express support for the Palestinians and oppose Israel.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said in an Eid al-Fitr message that he believes the "land of Palestine

will be returned to owners of the land with the help if God.”

Iran and Israel are bitter foes.

In Syria, President Bashar Assad attended Eid prayers in the town of Tartous, part of an area that has remained loyal to him throughout seven years of civil war. The coastal region is home to Syria's minority Alawite population that has been the core of Assad's support. Assad, an Alawite, traces his family's origins to Qardaha, a town in the mountains nearby.

Tens of thousands of men from the coastal region are believed to have been killed fighting for the president since 2011, according to Syrian monitoring groups. Assad is now in control of Syria's largest cities and its coastal region.

In Afghanistan, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani touted a three-day holiday cease-fire with the Taliban, calling for a longer truce and urging the Taliban to come to the negotiating table.

The Taliban agreed to the cease-fire but leader Haibaitullah Akhunzada reiterated his demand for talks with the U.S. before sitting down with the Afghan government.

Associated Press writer Karin Laub in Jericho, West Bank and Ian Deitch in Jerusalem contributed reporting.

FBI report: Anti-Trump texts 'cast a cloud' over email probe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the FBI investigated both candidates running for president in 2016, two FBI employees exchanged thousands of personal texts and messages that included a running political commentary — including newly released messages in which one of them expressed a desire to “stop” the election of Donald Trump.

In a highly anticipated report released Thursday, the Justice Department's internal watchdog said those messages sullied the FBI's reputation and “cast a cloud” over its investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails, even if they did not affect the investigation itself. The report, which faulted former FBI Director James Comey for his handling of the probe, also cited anti-Trump communications sent by three other unnamed FBI employees.

The messages between FBI agent Peter Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page — both of whom worked on special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe — have also given congressional Republicans ample fodder to criticize the Clinton investigation, which eventually cleared her, and to question the department's ongoing probe into Russian intervention and whether President Donald Trump's Republican campaign was involved. That investigation, now led by Mueller, is also looking into whether Trump obstructed justice.

“Peter Strzok should not have a job anywhere near our Justice Department,” said North Carolina Rep. Mark Meadows, a Republican who is close to Trump, after a briefing on the report. The House Judiciary Committee said Thursday they would subpoena Strzok to testify.

Strzok is a respected, veteran counterintelligence agent who helped lead the Clinton investigation. Page was less well-known and has left the agency since the text messages were revealed.

Both Strzok and Page worked on the Clinton probe. Strzok was also assigned to Mueller's team; he was removed from the Russia probe in the summer of 2017 after the department found out about the texts. Page only briefly worked on Mueller's team and left before the texts were discovered.

Texts between the two included their observations of the 2016 election and criticism of Trump. They used words like “idiot,” “loathsome,” “menace” and “disaster” to describe him. In one text four days before the election, Page told Strzok that the “American presidential election, and thus, the state of the world, actually hangs in the balance.”

Many of the texts had already been made public after the FBI sent them to Congress. But in a new, inflammatory text revealed in the report, Page wrote Strzok in August 2016: “(Trump's) not ever going to become president, right? Right?!”

Strzok responded: “No. No he won't. We'll stop it.”

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 26 of 55

The inspector general's report said that exchange "is not only indicative of a biased state of mind but, even more seriously, implies a willingness to take official action to impact the presidential candidate's electoral prospects. This is antithetical to the core values of the FBI and the Department of Justice."

Still, investigators said they did not find "documentary or testimonial evidence" that the bias affected the probe. And Strzok's lawyer, Aitan Goelman, said the report revealed no evidence that the FBI agent's political views affected the handling of the Clinton investigation.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said that "conduct in the report" had already been referred to the department's disciplinary arm, but he would not say which employees had been referred or for what conduct. Page no longer works for the agency.

In interviews included in the report, both Strzok and Page acknowledged that some of their texts could be read as showing their bias against Trump, both during the early stages of the collusion investigation and after Trump assumed office in January 2017.

But both insisted bias played no part in their motivations.

In addition to Strzok and Page, the report identifies another FBI attorney who had sent anti-Trump messages and had been assigned to the Clinton investigation and also the investigation into Russian interference. The report says this attorney, called "FBI Attorney 2," was "the primary FBI attorney assigned to (the Russia) investigation beginning in early 2017" and had also worked for Mueller. The report says the attorney left Mueller's investigation in late February 2018, shortly after the inspector general provided Mueller with some of the instant messages they had discovered.

The report describes some of those messages, including one the day after the election in which he lamented the results and said he was "so stressed about what I could have done differently." He also wrote to a colleague, "I just can't imagine the systematic disassembly of the progress we made over the last 8 years." In another message, he called then-Vice President-elect Mike Pence "stupid."

The report also details anti-Trump instant messages between other employees assigned to the Clinton case. In one case, a male agent and a female agent who are now married exchanged messages in which the female agent called Trump's Ohio supporters "retarded" and later messaged, "f--- Trump." On Election Day, the male agent messaged "I'm ... with her," referring to one of Clinton's campaign slogans. The male agent was one of two agents who had interviewed Clinton for the investigation.

Associated Press writers Chad Day, Stephen Braun and Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

Looming war games suspension raises concern in Seoul

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After being blindsided by President Donald Trump's decision to shelve major U.S. military exercises in South Korea, Seoul appears to be going along with it.

A senior South Korean presidential official said Friday that Washington and Seoul have begun discussions on temporarily suspending the massive "Ulchi Freedom Guardian" exercises that usually take place in August and possibly other joint drills while nuclear diplomacy with North Korea continues. Seoul's Defense Ministry said Defense Minister Song Young-moo held "deep" discussions about the drills with U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis in a telephone conversation Thursday evening.

The presidential official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules, said an official announcement on the drills is "coming soon, within the next few days" and it seems almost certain the exercises will be halted.

The official spoke a day after South Korean President Moon Jae-in, holding a National Security Council meeting for the first time since a North Korean long-range missile test in November, said the allies can be flexible about their military pressure on the North. But that's only as long as North Korea, which launched a diplomatic initiative in 2018, remains sincerely engaged in negotiations on its nuclear disarmament, Moon said.

Moon's assessment highlights the big "if." There are lingering questions over whether North Korean

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 27 of 55

leader Kim Jong Un will ever agree to fully relinquish a hard-won nuclear arsenal he may see as a stronger guarantee of his survival than whatever security assurances the United States could provide. Those doubts only increased after Tuesday's summit between Kim and Trump in Singapore, where they issued an aspirational vow to seek the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula without describing when and how it would occur.

The joint drills and the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea have been the core of the alliance between the two countries.

Trump's decision to suspend the exercises, coupled with the vague joint statement issued after his summit with Kim, have reinforced fears in South Korea that the North is attempting to take advantage of a U.S. president who appears to care less about the traditional alliance than his predecessors.

Such concerns are shared in Japan, the region's other major U.S. ally. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodra told reporters Friday that the joint military exercises between the U.S. and South Korea are "important pillars in maintaining regional peace and stability."

Not everyone thinks suspending the war games is a bad idea. Some analysts say putting off the drills is a necessary trust-building step with North Korea following nearly 70 years of hostility and would allow the allies to push the process forward more easily.

But others are decidedly more critical, saying Trump wasted critical leverage against North Korea, which has yet to take material steps toward denuclearization.

"We will know whether it was a good move or not in a month or two," said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies. "If the North responds by providing evidence of its claimed closure of a missile engine test site and also freezes and shuts down some of its nuclear facilities, then the suspension of the drills can be chalked up as a success. If the North doesn't take quick steps toward denuclearization, then we gave up the drills for nothing."

Kim Jae-yeop, a professor of defense strategy at South Korea's Hannam University, said the suspension of the drills was likely the one clear move the allies had to lure North Korea into a denuclearization process.

He said it would have been a colossal mistake to pre-emptively lift the heavy economic sanctions against North Korea, and that Washington couldn't unilaterally remove the most stringent measures anyway because they were passed by the U.N. Security Council.

Washington and Seoul tried to entice North Korea with a possible declaration to formally end the Korean War, which halted 65 years ago with an armistice, not a peace treaty, but apparently that wasn't enough for Kim Jong Un.

"Unlike sanctions, the allies can just snap their military exercises back on if it becomes clear North Korea won't be delivering on their end," said Kim, the professor, who said the allies would be able to maintain operational readiness with routine and lower-level drills.

He also noted that the allies have used the war games as a bargaining chip before. To entice North Korea to sign on to a non-nuclear agreement, Seoul and Washington called off the now-defunct "Team Spirit" drills in 1992. But, annoyed with North Korea's refusal to allow nuclear inspections, they revived the exercises the following year.

This year, the allies delayed their springtime drills for weeks to encourage North Korean participation in the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The U.S. and South Korea hold major joint exercises every spring and summer in South Korea. The spring one — actually a pair of overlapping exercises called "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle" — includes live-fire drills with tanks, aircraft and warships, and usually involves about 10,000 American and 200,000 Korean troops.

The summer Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise consists mainly of computer simulations to hone joint decision making and planning. Some 17,500 American and 50,000 South Korean troops participated last year.

North Korea has always reacted to the exercises with belligerence and often its own demonstrations of military capability.

During last year's Ulchi exercises, North Korea fired a powerful new intermediate range missile over Japan in what its state media described as a "muscle-flexing" countermeasure to the drills. North Korean leader

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 28 of 55

Kim then called for more weapons launches targeting the Pacific Ocean to advance his country's ability to contain Guam, a U.S. military hub. North Korea did not carry out a threat to lob missiles toward Guam.

During the Ulchi drills in 2016, North Korea successfully test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile, a critical military breakthrough that raised alarm in South Korea and Japan. Shortly after the drills, the North carried out its fifth nuclear test.

The suspension of the drills could allow more diplomatic space for Washington and Seoul to resolve the nuclear standoff with North Korea. But for Seoul, the way Trump announced the decision is also a cause for concern, some experts say.

In addition to not consulting with South Korea before saying the war games should be stopped, Trump called the exercises "very provocative," contradicting countless previous declarations by Washington and Seoul over the years that the drills are routine and defensive in nature. Trump also complained that the drills "cost a fortune" and said he would eventually want to bring home all U.S. troops from South Korea.

Nam Sung-wook, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Korea University, said Trump's comments indicate he considers the stoppage of the drills and the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea as a goal, rather than a concession to be granted to North Korea if it takes irreversible and verifiable steps to relinquish its nuclear weapons, facilities and materials.

"What has become clear is that the security provided by the U.S.-South Korea alliance has likely reached its limit," said Nam, a former analyst for South Korea's spy agency. "South Korea has to start thinking about new defense strategies so that it could maintain security against North Korea on its own."

An editorial published Friday in the conservative Chosun Ilbo, South Korea's largest newspaper, echoed Nam's concern, saying the U.S.-South Korean alliance is being substantially undermined while the prospects for disarming the North are getting murky.

"Now everyone is concerned about the security of the North Korean regime, but who's looking after the safety and security of South Korean people?" the newspaper said.

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this story.

AP Explains: Poor People's Campaign 1968 vs. 2018

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Thousands of anti-poverty activists have launched a campaign in recent weeks modeled after Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign of 1968. Like the push 50 years ago, advocates are hoping to draw attention to those struggling with deep poverty from Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta, from the American Southwest to California's farm country.

The latest effort is led by Rev. William Barber of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Rev. Liz Theoharis of New York City, who are encouraging activists in 40 states to take part in acts of civil disobedience, teach-ins and demonstrations to force communities to address poverty. They say poverty continues to be ignored and only a "moral revival" can bring it to the nation's consciousness.

The new campaign has also brought new attention to the tumultuous summer of 1968 when the two leading backers of the campaign — King and Robert F. Kennedy — were assassinated two months apart.

Here's a look at the two campaigns:

THE ORIGINAL CAMPAIGN

Before his assassination, King sought to organize a campaign to direct the country's attention toward poverty. He felt attacking poverty was the next phase of the civil rights movement and the 1968 campaign would push for a guaranteed income, the end to housing discrimination and reducing the nation's growing trend toward militarism.

At the time, around 13 percent of U.S. residents lived in poverty.

King reached out to Mexican-American, Native American and Appalachia white leaders to build a multi-ethnic, multiracial coalition that would come from their hometowns on "mule carts" and "old trucks" to Washington, D.C., to dramatize the plight of the poor. Following King's assassination in Memphis, members

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 29 of 55

of the coalition began to fight with each other.

Thousands of poor people set up a shantytown they called "Resurrection City" on the Washington National Mall but became demoralized by racial tensions, a lack of leadership, and eventually, the assassination of Kennedy.

THE REBOOT

Organizers of the 2018 campaign said they wanted to use the 50th anniversary of the 1968 effort to restart conversations around the struggles that poor people continue to face, especially since the U.S. poverty rate is roughly back to around 13 percent. This time, Barber and Theoharis said the campaign won't be centered solely in Washington and would include events around the country.

For 40 days, demonstrators planned to hold acts of civil disobedience like blocking traffic and refusing to leave public buildings every Monday nationwide. Hundreds of activists, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, have been arrested so far.

Theoharis said the purpose is to build "a season of organizing" to create a long-term movement aimed at restoring the Voting Rights Act, ending gerrymandering, and helping bolster the minimum wage. She said organizers also hope to influence the 2018 midterm elections and the 2020 presidential election.

Because the nation is more diverse than in 1968, Barber said the new campaign also calls for protection of immigrant, LGBT residents and refugees from the Middle East.

THE CHALLENGES

Barber said media coverage of poverty has been ignored and overshadowed by what he calls "Trump porn" — excessive coverage of President Donald Trump's tweets, the investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election and the legal fight involving adult film actress Stormy Daniels.

Small newspapers that used to cover poor rural areas like Linden, Tennessee and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota also have faced cutbacks. Not since Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign have national politicians regularly visited rural, poor areas and focused on poverty in their platforms.

In addition, Barber said many American Christians have ignored the plight of the poor since megachurches regularly focus on the "prosperity Gospel." Others have been focused solely on abortion and fighting gay rights, he said.

Barber said the multi-faith campaign seeks to reaffirm messages that religious figures like Jesus were primarily concerned about helping the poor and that the country had a moral obligation to tackle poverty. He also promised that organizers plan to pressure for media coverage of U.S.-Mexico border areas like El Paso, Texas, and Native American communities like San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona.

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

Trump's halt of 'war games' could weaken defenses in Korea

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's decision to suspend major U.S. military exercises in South Korea could weaken allied defenses, depending on the length and scope of the hiatus. But the potential for diplomatic damage seems even greater.

The United States, South Korea and Japan were making a public display of solidarity Thursday over the outcome of Trump's summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un. But analysts and former officials with experience in U.S.-Asia policy were shaken by Trump's failure to inform the Asian allies — or even the Pentagon — before mothballing the military maneuvers.

"Those exercises are critically important because they are deterrence," said Chuck Hagel, a former defense secretary in the Obama administration. He welcomed Trump's willingness to talk to Kim but worried that the president has underestimated the complications he has introduced for the Pentagon by suspending the military drills.

"You don't just shut them on and off like a water faucet," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 30 of 55

The exercises in question go well beyond routine training, which apparently is unaffected by Trump's decision. Large-scale exercises are done to ensure that evolving tactics, procedures and plans can be carried out smoothly and that U.S. and South Korean forces are in sync. They also are a means of showing allied solidarity, which is part of the psychology of deterring enemy attack.

The U.S. has stationed combat troops in South Korea since the Korean War ended in 1953 with an armistice and no peace treaty. The more than 28,000 U.S. forces serve as a military tripwire against North Korean aggression. The next major exercise with South Korea is known as Ulchi Freedom Guardian; last year's version was held for 11 days in August and involved about 17,500 U.S. troops.

The U.S. has insisted these kinds of drills are defensive measures to demonstrate U.S. and South Korean preparedness to respond promptly to any aggression by the North. But when Trump announced his decision to halt them, he characterized them as "provocative" and as "war games."

"Those are literally the North Korean and Chinese talking points," said Christine Wormuth, the Pentagon's top policy official from 2014 to 2016.

In further explaining his reasons for suspending major exercises, Trump said they "cost a fortune," though even the Pentagon, which foots the bill for U.S. participation in all such maneuvers, has been unable to say what they cost.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' office on Wednesday sent out a request to military commands for cost estimates for the main military exercises held on and around the Korean Peninsula, according to officials who spoke about the request on condition of anonymity to discuss internal communications. In the past, some estimates for smaller exercises have been about \$2 million, while some larger ones have cost \$15 million or more - all relatively minor expenses for a department with a budget now exceeding \$700 billion.

On Thursday, the Pentagon issued a brief statement saying Mattis had discussed the summit outcome with his South Korean counterpart, including they can work together to "fulfill the president's guidance" on military exercises.

Michael Green, who was Asia director on the National Security Council staff during the George W. Bush administration, said the likely damage from suspending drills is multiplied by Trump's failure to inform South Korean and Japanese officials in advance and his focus on cost-savings. This was then compounded, in Green's view, by Trump's dubious assertion on Twitter that North Korea no longer poses a nuclear threat.

"The No. 1 problem with this, geopolitically, is that it suggests to our allies that we are just incompetent, that we don't recognize the threat," Green said.

Harry Harris, the retired Navy admiral and former commander of U.S. forces throughout the Pacific, said Thursday he believes the North's nuclear weapons still pose a threat, but he endorsed Trump's decision to suspend U.S. military exercises.

"We should give major exercises a pause to see if Kim Jong Un is serious about his part of the negotiations," Harris said at a Senate hearing to consider his nomination to be U.S. ambassador in Seoul. Harris said the suspension of drills provides "breathing space" for progress in negotiating North Korea's nuclear disarmament.

Without mentioning that South Korea and Japan were not consulted before Trump suspended drills, Harris said such decisions should not be taken unilaterally.

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called the suspension of drills a mistake, a bad negotiating tactic and a move that undermines U.S. security.

"We must not impose upon ourselves the burden of providing so-called 'good faith' concessions as the price for continued dialogue," the Arizona Republican said in a statement.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meanwhile, briefed his South Korean, Japanese and Chinese counterparts on the Singapore summit. At a news conference in Seoul, Pompeo said "staying closely aligned with our allies ... will be critical" to success with North Korean denuclearization, but he had nothing to say about the suspension of military drills.

The White House has said that the maneuvers were suspended "in a show of good faith," for as long as productive negotiations with the North continue, and that "regular readiness training and training

exchanges" will continue. The Pentagon, however, has remained silent on what Trump meant and hasn't confirmed it will cancel or postpone the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise.

When Ulchi Freedom Guardian was announced last year, the U.S. military called it a "computer-simulated defensive exercise designed to enhance readiness." Also participating were troops from nations that contributed forces during the 1950-53 Korean War, including Australia, Britain, Canada and Colombia.

In Wormuth's view, Trump's stated concern about the cost of such exercises, combined with his talk of eventually bringing all U.S. troops home from South Korea, is likely to create doubt in Seoul and Tokyo about American steadfastness.

"This is going to further erode people's confidence in our staying power," she said.

Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

Watchdog: Comey 'insubordinate,' not biased in Clinton probe

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a stinging rebuke, the Justice Department watchdog declared Thursday that former FBI Director James Comey was "insubordinate" in his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation in the explosive final months of the 2016 presidential campaign. But it also found there was no evidence that Comey's or the department's final conclusions were motivated by political bias toward either candidate.

President Donald Trump had looked to the much-anticipated report to provide a fresh line of attack against Comey and the FBI as Trump claims that a politically tainted bureau tried to undermine his campaign and, through the later Russia investigation, his presidency. He is likely to use the harsh assessment of Comey as validation for his decision to fire him, an act now central to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into whether the president sought to obstruct justice.

Clinton and her supporters, on the other hand, have long complained that she was the one whose election chances were torpedoed by Comey's investigation announcements about her email practices, in the summer and then shortly before the election.

Yet the report's nuanced findings — that the FBI repeatedly erred, though not for politically improper reasons — complicated efforts by Republicans and Democrats alike to claim total vindication.

The conclusions were contained in a 500-page report that documents in painstaking detail one of the most consequential investigations in modern FBI history and reveals how the bureau, which for decades has endeavored to stand apart from politics, came to be entangled in the 2016 presidential election.

The report also underscores efforts by senior FBI and Justice Department leaders in the final stages of the presidential race to juggle developments in the Clinton investigation - she had used private email for government business while secretary of state - with a separate probe into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia. The Russia investigation, though diverting bureau resources and attention away from the final stages of the Clinton probe, was unknown at the time to the American public.

Comey, whom Trump fired shortly after taking office, bore the brunt of the report's criticism. It says the FBI director, who announced in July 2016 that Clinton had been "extremely careless" with classified material but would not be charged with any crime, repeatedly departed from normal Justice Department protocol. Yet it does not second-guess his conclusion that Clinton should not have been prosecuted — despite assertions by Trump and his supporters that anyone less politically connected would have been charged.

It also disputed the Trump talking point that the FBI favored Clinton over him, saying, "We found no evidence that the conclusions by the prosecutors were affected by bias or other improper considerations; rather, we determined that they were based on the prosecutors' assessment of the facts, the law and past department practice."

Still, Trump supporters quickly focused on the report's recounting of anti-Trump text messages from two FBI officials who worked the Clinton probe and later the Russia case, including one in which an agent says, "We'll stop it" with regard to a possible Trump victory.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 32 of 55

The report suggests that text from Peter Strzok, who was later dropped from Mueller's team, "implies a willingness to take official action to impact the presidential candidate's electoral prospects." It did not find evidence that those views seeped into the investigation.

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the report "reaffirmed the president's suspicions about Comey's conduct and the political bias amongst some of the members of the FBI."

FBI Director Chris Wray told reporters the FBI accepted the report's findings and was making changes, including requiring further training for employees and reemphasizing the importance of objectivity. In a New York Times opinion piece released after the report, Comey said he disagreed with some conclusions but respected the watchdog's work.

The inspector general faulted Comey for his unusual July 5, 2016, news conference at which he disclosed his recommendation against bringing charges, even though cases that end without prosecution are rarely discussed publicly. Comey did not reveal to Attorney General Loretta Lynch his plans to make such an announcement.

"We found that it was extraordinary and insubordinate for Comey to do so, and we found none of his reasons to be a persuasive basis for deviating from well-established Department policies in a way intentionally designed to avoid supervision by department leadership over his actions," the report says.

Comey has said he was concerned that the Justice Department itself could not credibly announce the conclusion of its investigation, in part because Lynch had met days earlier aboard her plane with former President Bill Clinton. Both said they did not discuss Hillary Clinton's case.

Concerned about the "appearance that former President Clinton was influencing" the probe, Lynch began talking to her staff the next morning about possibly recusing herself from overseeing the investigation, the report says. She told the inspector general she decided not to step aside because it might "create a misimpression" that she and the former president had discussed inappropriate things.

Bill Clinton, also interviewed in the IG investigation, said he had "absolutely not" discussed the probe.

Also criticized was Comey's decision, despite the discouragement of the Justice Department, to reveal to Congress that the FBI was reopening the investigation following the discovery of new emails.

The FBI obtained a warrant nine days before the presidential election to review those emails, found on the laptop of former Rep. Anthony Weiner, and ultimately determined there was nothing that changed its original conclusion.

The report faulted the FBI for failing to act with more urgency in reviewing emails from Weiner's laptop, saying the inaction had "potentially far-reaching consequences." Clinton supporters say her name could have been cleared well before the election had the FBI moved faster to review the emails. And Comey said had he known earlier about the laptop's import, it might have affected his decision to notify Congress.

The Weiner laptop was discovered as the FBI was upgrading the nascent Russia investigation. Though there's no evidence the device was put on the back-burner to protect Clinton, the watchdog said it could not be certain that Strzok's decision to prioritize the Russia probe over examining the Weiner laptop was "free from bias," especially because Strzok was exchanging anti-Trump text messages during that same period.

The report lambastes Strzok and a now-retired FBI lawyer, Lisa Page, for text exchanges that it says were "deeply troubling" and created the appearance "that investigative decisions were impacted by bias or improper considerations." Most of the problematic texts relate to the FBI's Russia investigation, the report notes.

Both Strzok and Page acknowledged that some of their texts could be read as showing bias against Trump, but both insisted bias played no part in their work.

The report also notes that Comey, despite chiding Clinton for mishandling government business, occasionally used personal email himself to discuss FBI matters.

"But my emails," she said, reacting in a three-word tweet.

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick, Steve Braun and Colleen Long contributed to this report.

Read the report: <http://apne.ws/UW6V5LZ>

Saudi-led troops fight rebel forces south of Yemen's Hodeida

By AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The Saudi-led coalition backing Yemen's exiled government captured a town south of the port city of Hodeida on Thursday as fierce fighting and airstrikes pounded the area on the second day of an offensive to capture the strategic harbor that is the main entry point for food in a country teetering on the brink of famine.

A Saudi military spokesman said the forces were drawing closer to the Red Sea port in a campaign aimed at driving out Iranian-aligned Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who have held Hodeida since 2015, and breaking the civil war's long stalemate.

International aid agencies and the United Nations have warned the assault could shut down the vital aid route for some 70 percent of Yemen's food, as well as the bulk of humanitarian aid and fuel supplies. Around two-thirds of Yemen's population of 27 million relies on aid and 8.4 million are already at risk of starving.

The United Arab Emirates ambassador to U.N. agencies in Geneva maintained the Saudi-Emirati coalition had no choice but to act.

"Should we leave the Houthis smuggling missiles?" Ambassador Obaid Salem al-Zaabi told a news conference. "This comes from this seaport. We already gave the United Nations the chance to operate from this seaport, and (the Houthis) refused."

The ambassador's comments contradict the conclusions of a U.N. panel of experts that said it was unlikely the Houthis were using the port for smuggling arms. In a report in January, the panel cited the fact that ships coming into the port face random inspections, require U.N. approval and that no weapons have been seized since March 2017.

The U.N. and Western nations have accused Iran of supplying the Houthis with weapons, from assault rifles to the ballistic missiles they have fired deep into Saudi Arabia, including at the capital, Riyadh. Over 150 ballistic missiles have been fired into the kingdom by the Houthis, according to Saudi officials.

On Thursday, a senior UAE official said the Trump administration has rejected requests for military assistance in the coalition attack on Hodeida. The requests were for aerial satellite imagery, other surveillance and reconnaissance, and minesweeping, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter.

The U.S. has not publicly opposed the assault but has urged the coalition to ensure that humanitarian aid deliveries to the port continue.

The port remained open on Thursday, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council, which cited information from the U.N. There were "four vessels filled with food and fuel at berth" and another five vessels anchored nearby, it said.

"People in the governorate have reported heavy airstrikes along coastal areas and roads in districts south of Hodeida," the council said. "No direct attacks have been reported within Hodeida city itself, despite the overhead presence of fighter jets."

Late Thursday, Saudi Arabia's U.N. ambassador said there were two ships, each carrying 5,000 tons of food, ready to dock immediately at the port of Hodeida.

Abdallah Al-Mouallimi said the ships — from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — are part of coalition efforts "toward ensuring abundant humanitarian supplies" to Hodeida during the offensive.

On Thursday, coalition troops took the town of Nakhila in Yemen's ad-Durayhimi district, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Hodeida International Airport, according to Yemen's government-run SABA news agency.

Col. Turki al-Malki, a Saudi military spokesman, said coalition forces were some six kilometers (three miles) from the airfield, in an interview with the Saudi-owned satellite news channel Al Arabiya.

Meanwhile, Col. Aziz Rashed, the spokesman for an army unit allied with the Houthis, told a news conference in the capital, Sanaa, that the rebels foiled a naval attack by government forces backed by the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 34 of 55

Saudi-led coalition in waters off Hodeida. He said the rebels had countered "hostile naval warships" off the coast of al-Olifika, to the south.

The Saudi-led coalition launched the assault on Hodeida on Wednesday, raising warnings from aid agencies that Yemen's humanitarian disaster could deepen and that the offensive could set off prolonged street-by-street battles, inflicting heavy casualties.

"Any closure of the port, even for a few days, will have a dramatic impact on the humanitarian operations in the country," the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, Lise Grande, told The Associated Press Thursday.

"There is no substitute for Hodeida. Everything depends on that port," she said.

Late Thursday, Yemen's Foreign Minister Khaled Alyemany told a group of U.N. reporters in New York that military operations by the Saudi-led coalition are not taking place near the port but in an area close to the airport.

The coalition's initial battle plan appears to involve a pincer movement. Some 2,000 troops who crossed the Red Sea from an Emirati naval base in the African nation of Eritrea were awaiting orders to move in from the west after Yemeni government forces seize Hodeida's port, Yemeni security officials said.

Emirati forces with Yemeni government troops moved in from the south near Hodeida's airport, while others sought to cut off Houthi supply lines to the east, the officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists.

Four Emirati soldiers were killed in Wednesday's assault, the United Arab Emirates' state-run news agency said, but gave no details of how they died. Al-Zaabi, the UAE ambassador in Geneva, said they died in the Hodeida campaign, without elaborating.

Hodeida is some 150 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of Sanaa, Yemen's capital, which has been in Houthi hands since September 2014. The Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015.

The United Nations and other aid groups already had pulled their international staff from Hodeida ahead of the assault. In a press statement on Thursday after an emergency closed-door meeting, the U.N. Security Council again called for Hodeida and the port of Saleef to be kept open and reiterated support for a political solution to the three-year conflict.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in Yemen's civil war, which has displaced 2 million others and helped spawn a cholera epidemic. Saudi-led airstrikes have killed large numbers of civilians and damaged vital infrastructure.

The coalition has blocked most ports, letting supplies into Hodeida in coordination with the U.N. The air campaign and fighting have disrupted other supply lines, causing an economic crisis that makes food too expensive for many to afford.

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Jamey Keaten in Geneva, Samy Magdy in Cairo, Matthew Lee in Washington and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Musk company to build Chicago-to-O'Hare express transport

By SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Entrepreneur Elon Musk said Thursday a high-speed transportation system that will whisk people between downtown Chicago and O'Hare International Airport at speeds of up to 150 mph could be operational in about three years.

Musk joined Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to formally announce that a Musk-owned enterprise, The Boring Company, was selected for the project and will fully fund it. They say electric vehicles will carry passengers through underground tunnels in about 12 minutes each way.

Emanuel called the new transit system "the fast lane to Chicago's future," and said it will create jobs and make the city more competitive.

He scoffed at critics who question the still-unproven technology or the city's ability to achieve what's

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 35 of 55

been a goal at City Hall for more than a decade. He noted there were doubters when the city set out to reverse the flow of the Chicago River or build the first skyscraper — other seemingly impossible tasks the city now boasts of having accomplished.

“Chicago is always looking at what’s possible and then making it achievable,” Emanuel said. “There are doubters along the way all the time who sit on the sideline and then when the thing gets built and opportunities come and the job growth happens you can’t find them.”

Musk, who’s CEO of electric car maker Tesla and aerospace company SpaceX, noted he’s successfully completed other “pretty tricky” projects .

He said he expects the company will begin digging the dual tunnels after it’s received all the necessary regulatory approvals, a process he expects to take a few months. Once construction begins he’d like to see the system operational in 18 months to two years, but said it should be no more than three years.

“This is a difficult thing that we’re doing, it’s a hard thing, it’s a new thing,” Musk said. “I’d hope that you’d cheer us on for this, because if we succeed it’s going to be a great thing for the city, and if we fail, well I guess me and others will lose a bunch of money.”

Thursday’s news conference was held in the mothballed shell of an underground station that the city constructed years ago. The site, in a downtown development known as Block 37, will serve as the downtown station for the new express service. The Boring Company will create a new station at O’Hare.

Vehicles will depart the airport and downtown as often as every 30 seconds, and each vehicle will accommodate up to 16 passengers and their luggage.

The 12-minute ride — which Emanuel equated to “three songs on your iPod” — compares to the roughly 40 minutes it currently takes to make it from O’Hare to the city via the Chicago Transportation Authority’s Blue Line train. The alternative — by road — can take more than twice as long.

The company plans to collect ticket and advertising revenue, and Deputy Mayor Robert Rivkin said the estimated fare will be \$20 to \$25 per ride, which is significantly less than a taxi ride to or from the airport. A Blue Line ticket from O’Hare costs \$5.

Making the long-discussed express route a reality — and at no cost to taxpayers — would be a major accomplishment for Emanuel, who’s seeking his third term next year. The project’s timeline will allow him to campaign on the initiative, with its success or failure unknown until well past the election.

Some critics already have emerged. Alderman Scott Waguespack, a member of the City Council’s progressive caucus, said Emanuel was again putting the interests of billionaires and big corporations ahead of the needs of neighborhoods and taxpayers. He said the caucus is demanding hearings on the “potential boondoggle.”

In May, Musk said a tunnel built under a Los Angeles suburb to test a transportation system was almost complete and that the public would be offered free rides in a few months. Musk also touted a possible high-speed tunnel project connecting Washington, D.C., and New York last summer.

Musk’s flagship electric car company Tesla Inc. struggled last year to turn an annual profit for the first time in its 15 years of doing business. Musk announced Tuesday that Tesla would be laying off about 3,600 workers mainly from its salaried ranks as it slashes costs. He said the cuts amount to about 9 percent of the company’s workforce of 40,000.

For nearly all of its history, Tesla has put up losses while investing heavily in technology, manufacturing plants and an extensive car-charging network.

After summit, North Korea shows Trump in striking new light

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Koreans are getting a new look at President Donald Trump. They see him shaking hands with Kim Jong Un at their historic summit in Singapore, and even awkwardly saluting a three-star general. It’s a far cry from the “dotard” label their government slapped on him last year.

Previously, even on a good day, the best he might get was “Trump.” No honorifics. No signs of respect. Now, he’s being called “the president of the United States of America.” Or “President Donald J. Trump.”

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 36 of 55

Even “supreme leader.”

The post-summit transformation of North Korea’s official version of Trump, who’s now being shown by state media looking serious and almost regal, underscores the carefully choreographed reality show the government has had to perform to keep its people, taught from childhood to hate and distrust the “American imperialists,” ideologically on board with the tectonic shifts underway in their country’s relationship with Washington.

With a time lag that suggests a great deal of care and thought went into the final product, the North’s state-run television aired its first videos and photos of the summit on Thursday, two days after the event and a full day after Kim returned home to Pyongyang, the capital.

To be sure, the star of the show was Kim. Trump’s first appearance and the now famous handshake didn’t come until almost 20 minutes into the 42-minute program.

To the dramatic, almost song-like intonations of the nation’s most famous newscaster, the program depicted Kim as statesmanlike beyond his years, confident and polite, quick to smile and firmly in control. He was shown allowing the older American — Trump, in his seventies, is more than twice Kim’s age — to lean in toward him to shake hands, or give a thumbs up, then walking a few steps ahead to a working lunch.

The program also showed an awkward moment of Trump reaching out to shake the hand of a North Korean general, Minister of the People’s Armed Forces No Kwang Chol, who instead saluted the American president. Trump saluted the officer in return, and the two then shook hands. In another scene, he moved a chair with his foot instead of his hands. Both elicited giggles from North Koreans watching the program.

Before showing Trump and Kim signing their joint statement, the newscaster said Trump made a point of giving Kim a look at his armored Cadillac limousine, and noted that it is known to Americans as “the Beast.” She also at one point called them the “two supreme leaders” of their countries.

The image-heavy news of Kim’s trip to Singapore was presented like a chronological documentary, starting with the red-carpet send off at the Pyongyang airport on, interestingly enough, a chartered Air China flight. That was followed by video of his motorcade making its way to the St. Regis Hotel in Singapore as throngs of well-wishers waved as though awaiting a rock star, and Kim’s night tour of the city-state on the summit’s eve.

The state media’s representation of the summit and Trump is extremely important because it gives the North Korean population, which has only limited access to other news sources, an idea not just of what’s going on but also of how the government expects them to respond.

For the average North Korean, the state media’s coverage of Kim’s diplomatic blitz this year must seem nothing short of astonishing.

After sending a top-level delegation that included his own sister to the Winter Olympics in South Korea in February, Kim has met twice each with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Chinese President Xi Jinping and the state media have splashed all of the meetings across its front pages and newscasts — though generally a day after the fact to allow time to make sure the ideological tone is right and the images as powerful as possible.

In the run-up to the summit, the North’s media softened its rhetoric so as not to spoil the atmosphere as Kim prepared to sit down with the leader of the country North Korea has maligned and lambasted for decades as the most evil place on Earth, other than perhaps Japan, its former colonial ruler.

It fired a few barrages against hard-line comments by U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and National Security Adviser John Bolton and has stood ever critical of “capitalist values,” but has kept direct references to Trump to a minimum. Bolton, who has been a target of Pyongyang’s ire since his service in the George W. Bush administration, was introduced in the Thursday program dead-pan and shown shaking Kim’s hand.

What this all means for the future is a complicated matter.

North Korea has presented Kim’s diplomatic strategy as a logical next step following what he has said is the completion of his plan to develop a credible nuclear deterrent to what Pyongyang has long claimed is a policy of hostility and “nuclear blackmail” by Washington.

That was its message through the news on Thursday, which stressed that the talks with Trump would

be focused on forging a relationship that is more in tune with what it called changing times — most likely meaning North Korea's new status as a nuclear weapons state — and its desire for a mechanism to ensure a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula and, finally, denuclearization.

Despite the respectful tone, there remains a clear undercurrent of caution.

Kim remains the hero in the official Pyongyang narrative. Whether Trump will be his co-star, or once again the villain, is fodder for another episode.

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

Sessions cites Bible to defend separating immigrant families

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions cited the Bible on Thursday in his defense of his border policy that is resulting in hundreds of immigrant children being separated from their parents after they enter the U.S. illegally.

Sessions, speaking in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on immigration, pushed back against criticism he had received over the policy. On Wednesday, a cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church said that separating mothers from their babies was "immoral."

Sessions said many of the recent criticisms were not "fair or logical and some are contrary to law."

"I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13, to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order," he said. "Orderly and lawful processes are good in themselves and protect the weak and lawful."

Last month, the attorney general announced a "zero tolerance" policy that any adult who enters the country illegally is criminally prosecuted. U.S. protocol prohibits detaining children with their parents because the children are not charged with a crime and the parents are.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, more than 650 children were separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border during a two-week period in May.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Thursday that she hadn't seen Sessions' comments but affirmed that the Bible did back up the administration's actions.

"I can say that it is very biblical to enforce the law. That is actually repeated a number of times throughout the Bible," she said. "It's a moral policy to follow and enforce the law."

In an unusually tense series of exchanges in the White House briefing room, Sanders wrongly blamed Democrats for the policy separating children from parents and insisted the administration had made no changes in increasing the use. Until the policy was announced in April, such families were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring separation.

"The separation of illegal alien families is the product of the same legal loopholes that Democrats refuse to close, and these laws are the same that have been on the books for over a decade, and the president is simply enforcing them," she said.

"We don't want this to be a problem," she said.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the archbishop of Galveston-Houston, told the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on Wednesday that he was joining other religious leaders in opposing the government's border policy.

"Our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma," DiNardo said in a statement.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

House GOP unveils bill for young immigrants, \$25B for border

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans unveiled a “discussion draft” of a sweeping immigration bill that includes a path to citizenship for young immigrants, \$25 billion in border security — including advance funds for President Donald Trump’s wall with Mexico — and a provision aimed at addressing the crisis of family separations at the border.

Presented to lawmakers Thursday, the measure sticks to Trump’s immigration priorities while trying to join the party’s warring conservative and moderate factions on an issue that has divided the GOP for years. Passage is far from certain.

Speaker Paul Ryan wants to hold a vote as soon as next week to put the issue to rest before the midterm election. He called it a “very good compromise.”

“Our members felt very, very passionate about having votes on policies they care about, and that is what we are doing,” he said earlier Thursday. “So we’re bringing legislation that’s been carefully crafted and negotiated to the floor. We won’t guarantee passage.”

The 293-page bill represents the kind of ambitious overhaul of the immigration system Republicans have long considered but have been unable to turn into law. It shifts away from the nation’s longtime preference for family immigration to a new system that prioritizes entry based on merits and skills. It beefs up border security, clamps down on illegal entries and reinforces other immigration laws.

To address widespread concern over the sharp rise of families being separated at the border, the measure proposes keeping children in detention with their parents, undoing 2-decade-old rules that limit the time minors can be held in custody. The White House sought the change.

Trump has been supportive of the House GOP’s approach, but the legislation faces opposition from Democrats. It’s unlikely to be approved in the Senate.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called the legislation “nothing more than a cruel codification of President Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda that abandons our nation’s heritage as a beacon of hope and opportunity.”

Advocates for immigrants said the changes to family detentions were particularly severe. Kerri Talbot, the policy director at Immigration Hub, called it a “wish list” from top White House immigration adviser Stephen Miller that “would allow the Trump administration to jail children for long periods of time.”

GOP leaders have said they may take up the family detentions issue separately, if needed, as the crisis of children being separated from their parents continues. Administration officials have said they need more money for detention beds to house the influx of immigrants resulting from the administration’s “zero tolerance” policy of stepped-up border enforcement.

The main new element is a path to citizenship for as many as 1.8 million young people who have been living in the U.S. illegally since childhood. Many conservatives object to providing these immigrants with legal status, calling it amnesty for those who broke the rules to get here. They are commonly referred to as “Dreamers,” based on never-passed proposals in Congress called the DREAM Act that would have provided similar protections for young immigrants.

Republicans were reluctant to tackle the “Dreamer” issue this year. But it took on new urgency when moderate Republicans pushed it to the fore after Trump ended the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, exposing the young immigrants to deportation. A federal court case has temporarily allowed the program to keep running.

One Republican, Rep. Tom MacArthur of New Jersey, said he likes the way the compromise bill handles young people because “they’re not getting in line in front of anyone else. That’s fair.” But, he added, because those people can eventually apply for citizenship, “they’re not permanently sort of second-class residents of America.”

Under the proposal, some 700,000 DACA recipients, as well as a broader group of young people who didn’t register for the program, could apply for legal status, which would be valid for six years and renewable “indefinitely.”

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 39 of 55

Eventually, young people, who are under 31 years old and have been in the country since at least June 2007, could begin to be awarded green cards based on a point system. It prioritizes education, English language proficiency, military service and continued employment. After that, they could apply for citizenship, as is the situation under current law for those with permanent legal status.

The new visa program, which is also available to other immigrants — including what lawmakers said is about 200,000 children who were brought to the U.S. legally by their parents — is contingent on the \$25 billion in border security funding being fully provided.

In return, the proposal would eliminate several existing visa programs. Among them, family-related visas for the married children or adult siblings of U.S. citizens as well as the 55,000 visas now available under the diversity lottery system for immigrants from other represented countries, including many in Africa.

To beef up the border, the proposal provides the \$25 billion the White House wants for security, including technology, roadways and money for the border wall. It authorizes National Guard troops at the U.S.-Mexico border. It also calls for the deployment of a biometric entry-exit system for all entry ports that has long been under debate.

The bill makes it easier for authorities to deport those here illegally, rather than allowing some to be released under certain circumstances.

For children who arrive unaccompanied by adults, it proposes “equal treatment” despite their country of origin. Advocates for immigrants said that opens the door for sending children from Central America swiftly back to their home countries, even when they are far away, the same way children from Mexico are turned back at the border.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking, Matthew Daly and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LisaMascaro>

Fewer US teens smoking, doing drugs ... and drinking milk

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fewer U.S. teens are smoking, having sex and doing drugs these days. Oh, and they’re drinking less milk, too.

Less than one-third of high school students drink a glass of milk a day, according to a large government survey released Thursday. About two decades ago, it was nearly half.

Last year’s survey asked about 100 questions on a wide range of health topics, including smoking, drugs and diet. Researchers compared the results to similar questionnaires going back more than 25 years.

One trend that stood out was the drop in drinking milk, which started falling for all Americans after World War II. In recent decades, teens have shifted from milk to soda, then to Gatorade and other sports drinks and recently to energy drinks like Monster and Red Bull.

The survey showed slightly fewer kids are drinking soda and sports drinks now, compared to the last survey in 2015.

One caveat: Most students were not asked about energy drinks so how many kids drink them now isn’t known. A study from a decade ago estimated that nearly a third of kids between the age of 12 and 17 were regularly drinking energy drinks.

Kids have shifted from a dairy product rich in calcium and vitamin D to beverages laden with sugar and caffeine, which is likely contributing to the nation’s obesity problem, said Barry Popkin, a University of North Carolina researcher who studies how diets change.

“This is not a healthy trend for our long-term health,” he said.

For teens, the government recommends 3 cups daily of dairy products — milk, yogurt or cheese.

The survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is conducted every two years. About 15,000 students at 144 high schools were surveyed last year. The surveys are anonymous and voluntary,

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 40 of 55

and there's no check of medical records or other documents to verify answers.

Some of the findings:

— Not as many teen are having sex, although there wasn't much change from the 2015 survey results. Last year, about 40 percent said they'd ever had sex, down from 48 percent a decade ago.

— There was no substantial recent change for cigarette smoking, either. About 9 percent are current smokers, down from more than 27 percent when the survey started in 1991. Ditto alcohol, with 30 percent saying they currently use alcohol, down from 51 percent in 1991.

— Marijuana use seems to be hovering, with about 36 percent of students saying they had ever tried it. But overall, illegal drug use seems to be falling, including for synthetic marijuana, ecstasy, heroin, inhalants, and LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs. For the first time, the survey asked if they had ever abused prescription opioid medications. About 14 percent did.

— Another first-time question: Have you had a concussion from a sport or physical activity at least once in the previous year? Nationally, 15 percent said they had. The finding may sound high but it's not far off from what's been reported by some other researchers, said Michael Collins, who runs a University of Pittsburgh-affiliated sports concussion program.

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

GOP lawmakers decry family separations as WH defends policy

By MATTHEW DALY, KEVIN FREKING and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans distanced themselves Thursday from the Trump administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the southern border even as the White House cited the Bible in defending its "zero tolerance" approach to illegal border crossings.

"I can say that it is very biblical to enforce the law. That is actually repeated a number of times throughout the Bible," said White House press secretary Sarah Sanders. "It's a moral policy to follow and enforce the law."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions had earlier cited the Bible in his defense of the border policy that has resulted in hundreds of children being separated from their parents. Speaking Thursday in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Sessions pointed to a verse in the Book of Romans on obeying the laws of government, saying, "God has ordained them for the purpose of order."

The comments came as House Speaker Paul Ryan and other Republicans said they were not comfortable with family separations, which spiked dramatically after the Justice Department adopted a policy in April of referring all illegal border crossers for prosecution.

"We don't want kids to be separated from their parents," Ryan said Thursday.

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., tweeted Thursday that he told a constituent that, "I am asking the White House to keep families together as much as we can."

In an unusually tense series of exchanges in the White House briefing room, Sanders blamed Democrats for the policy separating children from parents and wrongly insisted the administration had made no changes increasing the tactics' use.

"The separation of illegal alien families is the product of the same legal loopholes that Democrats refuse to close and these laws are the same that have been on the books for over a decade, and the president is simply enforcing them," she said.

Ryan and other GOP lawmakers said they are seeking to resolve the problem in a compromise immigration bill. A draft of that bill released Thursday would keep children with their families while they are in Homeland Security Department custody.

Ryan claimed Thursday that the family-separation policy is being dictated by a court ruling that prevents children who enter the country illegally from being held in custody for long periods.

But House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi pushed back on that assessment, saying that President Donald

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 41 of 55

Trump could "stop the practice on a dime."

She called the Trump administration's separation policy "barbaric," adding: "It has to stop."

The family separations are occurring as a result of the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy for those entering the country illegally. Under the directive, families crossing the border are routinely referred for criminal prosecution. Previously, families were often sent to civil deportation proceedings, which allow children to remain with their parents.

During the criminal proceedings, the children are usually released to other family members or foster care.

Rep. Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., said he's "heartbroken" by the separations and is working to find a solution to keep families together. His comments were in response to a letter from local officials urging him to demand that the Department of Homeland Security end the practice.

"As a father to two young girls it is unimaginable what these parents are suffering," Yoder said.

With horror stories of babies and young children being taken from their mothers receiving heavy news coverage, the White House sought to shift the narrative by providing some media groups with a tour of a former Wal-Mart near the border in Texas that houses several hundred immigrant children.

The tour was tightly controlled and the Health and Human Services Department did not allow any photographs or video or interviews, instead releasing a government-produced video of the shelter.

The Associated Press declined to participate in the tour, which came after a Democratic senator tried to enter a federal facility in Texas where immigrant children are being held. Police were called and Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon was told to leave.

Merkley said he was able to enter another facility used for processing migrants and run by the Department of Homeland Security. He said he saw men, women and children crowded in cages.

"It reminds me a little bit of a dog kennel, constructed of cyclone fencing," Merkley said.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also weighed in, saying U.S. officials have discretion to keep families intact. "Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the bishops group.

The cardinal's rebuke is what drew the response from Sessions, who insists the policy of separating families is necessary to deter illegal border-crossings.

Historically, immigrants without serious criminal records have been released from custody while they pursued asylum or refugee status. The Trump administration has moved to detain more people, including asylum seekers.

Lawmakers are considering several ideas to prevent family separations, though it remains to be seen if any proposal can garner enough support to pass.

If Republicans really wanted to tackle the issue of separating families, they could bring a bill to the House floor on an expedited basis, Pelosi said, adding that she sees no prospect for a legislative fix in the Republican-controlled Congress in an election year.

Ryan, R-Wis., said the House would vote next week on two competing immigration measures, but said he "won't guarantee passage."

He said Trump backs the GOP efforts to find a compromise.

Associated Press writers John Hanna in Topeka, Kan. and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump accused in lawsuit of misusing charitable foundation

By JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's attorney general sued President Donald Trump and his foundation Thursday, accusing him of illegally using the charity's money to settle disputes involving his business empire and to boost his political fortunes during his run for the White House.

The president called the case "ridiculous."

The lawsuit against Trump and the foundation directors — his children Don Jr., Eric and Ivanka — seeks

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 42 of 55

\$2.8 million in restitution, additional unspecified penalties and the dissolution of the foundation, which Trump had already pledged to dismantle.

The attorney general's office detailed what it said was a closely coordinated effort by Trump's campaign and the foundation to burnish his political image by giving out big grants of other's people money to veterans' organizations during the run-up to the Iowa caucuses, the first presidential nominating contest of 2016.

"The foundation's grants made Mr. Trump and the campaign look charitable and increased the candidate's profile to Republican primary voters and among important constituent groups," Democratic Attorney General Barbara Underwood's lawsuit said.

It accused the foundation of "improper and extensive political activity, repeated and willful self-dealing transactions, and failure to follow basic fiduciary obligations."

Underwood referred her findings to the IRS and the Federal Election Commission for possible further action. IRS and FEC representatives declined to comment.

The Trump Foundation's mission says its funds are to be used "exclusively for charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational purposes," according to the lawsuit.

In exchange for tax-exempt status, charities are required to follow rules that include a strict prohibition against involvement in political campaigns.

In tweets, Trump vowed: "I won't settle this case!"

He said former Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who started the investigation, "never had the guts to bring this ridiculous case" before resigning last month after being accused of physically abusing women he dated. Schneiderman has denied the allegations.

Trump's foundation called the case "politics at its very worst," noting that Schneiderman, a Democrat, was a vocal Trump opponent. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, meanwhile, called Underwood "outrageously biased."

The 31-year-old foundation said that it has given more than \$19 million to charitable causes while keeping expenses minimal, and that Trump and his companies have contributed more than \$8 million.

Underwood is a career government lawyer who was appointed after Schneiderman's resignation. She has said she doesn't intend to run for election.

Schneiderman began investigating the charity in 2016, after The Washington Post reported that the foundation's spending personally benefited the presidential candidate. Some of the expenditures uncovered by The Post were cited in the lawsuit.

In a handwritten note, Trump directed that \$100,000 in foundation money go to settle legal claims against Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, the lawsuit said.

The foundation also paid \$158,000 to resolve a lawsuit over a prize for a hole-in-one contest at Trump National Golf Club in Briarcliff Manor, New York; \$10,000 to buy a 6-foot (1.8-meter) portrait of Trump at a charity auction; and \$5,000 for advertisements published in the programs for charitable events. The ads promoted Trump's hotels.

The suit also singled out a \$32,000 payment that the foundation made to satisfy a Trump company pledge to contribute to a land-preservation group.

After New York's attorney general began investigating, Trump's business empire reimbursed the foundation for various payments and returned the painting to the foundation.

Despite the prohibition on political activity, Trump's foundation cut a \$25,000 check in 2013 to Republican Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi's re-election campaign, the lawsuit notes. After a watchdog group complained to the IRS in 2016, Trump reimbursed the foundation and paid a \$2,500 fine.

Then Trump's foundation was "co-opted" by his presidential campaign, the lawsuit says.

Four days before the Iowa caucuses, Trump held a televised rally and fundraiser for veterans' organizations. The event raised approximately \$5.6 million, half of which went to the Trump Foundation; the rest was given directly by donors to veterans groups, the lawsuit says.

The foundation then gave campaign staff members control over the money raised, the attorney general charged.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 43 of 55

"Is there any way we can make some disbursements this week while in Iowa?" then-campaign manager Corey Lewandowski wrote in an email.

Lewandowski did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The foundation went on to make at least five grants of \$100,000 each to Iowa groups before the caucuses, with Trump presenting giant checks at a series of campaign rallies. The checks bore Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan along with the foundation's address.

Trump didn't give any money personally at the time, but several months later, after media pressure, followed through on a pledge to donate \$1 million.

During his campaign, Trump was highly critical of Democratic rival Hillary Clinton's family charity, the Clinton Foundation, for taking donations from people who met with her while she was secretary of state.

Whatever the claims against Trump's foundation, Iowa groups that got checks said Thursday they were grateful for the money.

Support Siouland Soldiers used its \$100,000 donation to open an emergency food pantry and provide clothing, haircuts and other services to veterans, founder Sarah Petersen said. She said she is not sure what to make of the lawsuit against Trump.

"I think people support a candidate based on lots of decisions and choices and positions on the issues," she said. "I don't know that giving a charity a donation would sway a lot of voters."

Associated Press writers Ryan J. Foley in Iowa City, Iowa; Jake Pearson in New York and Tami Abdollah and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed.

New San Francisco mayor went from the projects to City Hall

By JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco's incoming mayor knows the yawning gap between rich and poor firsthand, having been raised by her grandmother in the city's drug- and violence-riddled projects.

It is now the job of London Breed — the first black woman elected mayor of the city — to unite a wealthy but conflicted San Francisco, where the high-tech economy has sent the median price of a home soaring to \$1.3 million and where homeless tents and human waste fester on sidewalks.

People who know her say the 43-year-old Breed has the grit, drive and deep love for her hometown to tackle its problems.

"I know where she comes from. I know where she is currently," said high school classmate Adonne Loggins. "It's not an easy way to come up. A lot of people fall by the wayside, and she didn't. That's a tribute to her character and her willingness to fight."

Breed, currently president of the 11-member Board of Supervisors, was declared the winner Wednesday of last week's eight-way mayoral election. The Democrat takes office next month.

She is only the second woman to become mayor of San Francisco. The first was Dianne Feinstein, now senator.

San Francisco, with a population of 870,000, is about 6 percent black, one of the smallest percentages among major U.S. cities.

In her first official speech as mayor-elect on Thursday, Breed fondly recalled people telling her to go to college when she didn't know what that was.

"If it wasn't for a community that believed in me and supported me and raised me and did what was necessary to make sure that I was a success, I would not be here," she said to several hundred people at Rosa Parks Elementary School. "But the problem is, I am the exception and not the norm, and as mayor I want to change what is normal in this city."

Breed wants the technology sector to work with youngsters so that they have a real shot at sharing in the city's immense wealth. She wants to build more housing more quickly and supports the use of legal conservatorships to get mentally ill people and drug users off the street and into treatment.

She has also promised to end long-term homeless tent camps within a year of taking office.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 44 of 55

Breed has a broad smile, a blunt way of speaking and a down-to-earth demeanor. She is a big foodie who lives in a rent-controlled apartment in the city's fashionably dilapidated Lower Haight neighborhood, blocks from the traditionally black Western Addition and Fillmore neighborhoods where she grew up.

She unwinds at night by washing dishes by hand — no dishwasher in her unit — and re-hashing her day with friends by phone. Like many other residents of the city, she has been unable to afford a house. That may change; as mayor, she will be paid \$335,996 a year.

Breed was raised by her grandmother Comelia Brown, a house cleaner who told a young London to make her bed, clean the kitchen and not even think about skipping school if she wanted to continue living in her house.

She drank powdered milk, and Christmas toys came from the firefighters' annual giveaway. Her grandmother died in 2016 after a long struggle with dementia.

"I gave my grandma a really hard time. And can I tell you? She never gave up on me," she said Thursday.

A brother ended up in prison, and a younger sister died of a drug overdose in 2006, but Breed earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis and then a master's in public administration from the University of San Francisco.

Loggins, a classmate at Galileo High, recalls an outspoken, stubborn girl active in school politics and the black student union who was itching to improve the system. She was voted the girl in her senior class most likely to succeed.

Breed got her start in politics in the mid-1990s as an intern for then-Mayor Willie Brown, writing proclamations and answering mail.

"I was living in public housing," she recalled in a recent interview at one of her favorite Mexican restaurants. "The ability to get stuff done by saying you're calling from the mayor's office was amazing."

For more than a decade, she headed the African American Art & Culture Complex, beefing up programs for at-risk youth and the elderly. She encouraged a police presence there, not just because of the potential for violence but also because she wanted the youngsters to develop good relationships with police, she said.

In 2012, she decided to challenge the supervisor for her district, appalled that then-Mayor Ed Lee had appointed someone Breed felt was out of touch with the community. Most of the city's power brokers, including Lee and Brown, told her to stay out, she recalled.

"A lot of people told her it would be an uphill battle, it would be a difficult race to win," said Debbie Mesloh, president of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. "She said she was going to go to every house and walk every neighborhood, and she did."

She won, but not before taking heat for an expletive-laden rant about how she wasn't controlled by anyone, including her mentor, Brown. The rant cost her Feinstein's endorsement.

Friends and colleagues say Breed has since smoothed the rough edges, but the idea that she is beholden to others, including the business sector that supported her mayoral run, rankles.

"I'm not the old guard," she said. "I make my own decisions and I do what I feel is the right thing to do, and I stand by the decisions that I make."

Amelia Ashley-Ward, publisher of the San Francisco Sun-Reporter, called Breed an example to "every young girl everywhere who wants to be something."

"They just need to stand up and fight for what they want to be, and, yes, be stubborn and hard-headed sometimes," Ashley-Ward said.

This story has been corrected to change quote in paragraph 9 to "what is normal in this city," instead of "what is wrong with this city."

Justices strike down Minnesota voter clothing restrictions

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Thursday struck down Minnesota's broad restrictions on voters wearing "political" hats, T-shirts and pins to the polls, but said states can place limits on such apparel.

Minnesota contended the restrictions were reasonable, kept order at polling places and prevented voter intimidation. But the justices, in a 7-2 ruling, said the state's limits on political clothing violate the free speech clause of the First Amendment.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that "if a State wishes to set its polling places apart as areas free of partisan discord, it must employ a more discernible approach than the one Minnesota has offered here."

At another point he wrote: "Casting a vote is a weighty civic act, akin to a jury's return of a verdict or a representative's vote on a piece of legislation. It is a time for choosing, not campaigning. The State may reasonably decide that the interior of the polling place should reflect that distinction."

Most states restrict what people can wear when they vote, but Minnesota's restraints were some of the broadest. State law bars voters from casting a ballot while wearing clothing related to a campaign, such as a T-shirt with the name of a candidate. It also said voters couldn't wear a "political badge, political button, or other political insignia" to vote. That was the part of state law that was challenged and invalidated by the court.

Roberts said the problem came down to the word "political," which state law didn't define. He said the state's interpretation of what counted as political was unreasonable, covering any item that made reference to a group with recognizable political views or referring to any subject on which a political candidate or party has taken a stance.

"Would a 'Support Our Troops' shirt be banned, if one of the candidates or parties had expressed a view on military funding or aid for veterans? What about a '#MeToo' shirt, referencing the movement to increase awareness of sexual harassment and assault?" Roberts wrote.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Stephen Breyer would have sent the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court for clarification of the law's boundaries.

It is unclear exactly how many states the ruling could affect. Both Minnesota and the group challenging the state's law had said there are about 10 states with laws similar to Minnesota's, though they disagreed significantly on which ones.

Roberts said other states have laws that describe restrictions "in more lucid terms" than Minnesota's, referencing laws in California and Texas. California bars voters from wearing anything with a "candidate's name, likeness or logo" or a "ballot measure's number, title, subject, or logo," Roberts said, and Texas prohibits wearing anything connected to a political party appearing on the ballot.

Daniel Rogan, who defended Minnesota's law before the justices, said that while he was disappointed by the justices' conclusion, there was a lot in the opinion "we're very pleased about." Secretary of State Steve Simon, a Democrat, said he would work with the Legislature, which returns in January, to pass new voter apparel legislation. And Rogan said other provisions in state law will still bar voters from wearing apparel that promotes a candidate or party or that might be considered misleading to voters.

The case before the Supreme Court dates back to 2010 and involves a dispute that began over tea party T-shirts and buttons with the words "Please I.D. Me," a reference to legislation then under discussion in Minnesota that would have required residents to show photo identification to vote. The legislation didn't become law.

Pointing to the state's statute, Minnesota officials said before the election that neither the tea party T-shirts nor those buttons would be permitted at the polls. In response, a group of voters and organizations sued.

J. David Breemer, a lawyer with the Pacific Legal Foundation, the group behind the challenge, said the court "put all government entities on notice — they cannot dictate the terms of personal expression, nor can they designate the arbiters of free speech at their whim."

The Supreme Court has previously backed some restrictions on voters' free speech rights at the polls. In 1992, the court upheld a Tennessee statute prohibiting the display or distribution of campaign materials

within 100 feet of a polling place.

The case is 16-1435 Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky.

Associated Press reporter Kyle Potter in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this report.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

Apple closing iPhone security gap used by law enforcement

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is closing a security gap that allowed outsiders to pry personal information from locked iPhones without a password, a change that will thwart law enforcement agencies that have been exploiting the vulnerability to collect evidence in criminal investigations.

The loophole will be shut down in a forthcoming update to Apple's iOS software, which powers iPhones.

Once fixed, iPhones will no longer be vulnerable to intrusion via the Lightning port used both to transfer data and to charge iPhones. The port will still function after the update, but will shut off data an hour after a phone is locked if the correct password isn't entered.

The current flaw has provided a point of entry for authorities across the U.S. since the FBI paid an unidentified third party in 2016 to unlock an iPhone used by a killer in the San Bernardino, California, mass shooting a few months earlier. The FBI sought outside help after Apple rebuffed the agency's efforts to make the company create a security backdoor into iPhone technology.

Apple's refusal to cooperate with the FBI at the time became a political hot potato pitting the rights of its customers against the broader interests of public safety. While waging his successful 2016 campaign, President Donald Trump ripped Apple for denying FBI access to the San Bernardino killer's locked iPhone.

In a Wednesday statement, Apple framed its decision to tighten iPhone security even further as part of its crusade to protect the highly personal information that its customers store on their phones.

CEO Tim Cook has hailed privacy as a "fundamental" right of people and skewered both Facebook and one of Apple's biggest rivals, Google, for vacuuming up vast amounts of personal information about users of their free services to sell advertising based on their interests. During Apple's 2016 battle with the FBI, he called the FBI's effort to make the company alter its software a "dangerous precedent" in an open letter.

"We're constantly strengthening the security protections in every Apple product to help customers defend against hackers, identity thieves and intrusions into their personal data," Apple said. "We have the greatest respect for law enforcement, and we don't design our security improvements to frustrate their efforts to do their jobs."

It was first reported by various new outlets, including Reuters and The New York Times.

It's unclear what took Apple so long to close an iPhone entryway that had become well-known among legal authorities and, presumably, criminals as well.

It got to that point that two different firms, Israel-based Cellebrite and U.S. startup Grayshift, began to sell their services to law enforcement agencies trying to hack into locked iPhones, according to media reports. Grayshift, founded by a former Apple engineer, even markets a \$15,000 device designed to help police to exploit the security hole in the iPhone's current software.

Many animals are shifting from day to night to avoid people

By EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ MEGA, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lions and tigers and bears are increasingly becoming night owls because of us, a new study says.

Scientists have long known that human activity disrupts nature. Besides becoming more vigilant and reducing time spent looking for food, many mammals may travel to remote areas or move around less to avoid contact with people.

The latest research found even activities like hiking and camping can scare animals and drive them to

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 47 of 55

become more active at night.

"It suggests that animals might be playing it safe around people," said Kaitlyn Gaynor, an ecologist at the University of California, Berkeley, who led the study. "We may think that we leave no trace when we're just hiking in the woods, but our mere presence can have lasting consequences."

Gaynor and her colleagues analyzed 76 studies involving 62 species on six continents. Animals included lions in Tanzania, otters in Brazil, coyotes in California, wild boars in Poland and tigers in Nepal.

Researchers compared how much time those creatures spent active at night under different types of human disturbance such as hunting, hiking and farming. On average, the team found that human presence triggered an increase of about 20 percent in nighttime activity, even in animals that aren't night owls.

Results were published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

The findings are novel because "no one else has compiled all this information and analyzed it in such a ... robust way," said Ana Benitez Lopez of Radboud University in the Netherlands, who reviewed the study.

Marlee Tucker, an ecologist at Goethe University Frankfurt in Germany who was not part of the research, was surprised that any kind of human activity is enough for mammals to see people as a threat.

"It's a little bit scary," she said. "Even if people think that we're not deliberately trying to impact animals, we probably are without knowing it."

Gaynor said animals that don't adapt well to the darkness will be affected. But she said that behavioral shift could also help other animals reduce direct encounters with people.

"Humans can do their thing during the day; wildlife can do their thing at night," she said. That way, people would be sharing the planet "with many other species that are just taking the night shift while we're sleeping."

Follow Emiliano Rodriguez Mega on Twitter: @mapache_rm

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

US: No sanctions relief before North Korea denuclearizes

By JOSH LEDERMAN and CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The United States will not ease sanctions against North Korea until it denuclearizes, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday, as he reassured key Asian allies that President Donald Trump had not backed down on Pyongyang's weapons program.

Pompeo, meeting in Seoul with top South Korean and Japanese diplomats, put a more sober spin on Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un after the president's comments fueled unease in Washington, Tokyo and Seoul. He said Trump's curious claim that the North's nuclear threat was over was issued with "eyes wide open," and brushed off a North Korean state media report suggesting Trump would grant concessions even before the North fully rids itself of nuclear weapons.

"We're going to get denuclearization," Pompeo said in the South Korean capital. "Only then will there be relief from the sanctions."

Diverging from the president, Harry Harris, Trump's choice to become ambassador to South Korea, said the U.S. must continue to worry about the nuclear threat from North Korea.

However, Harris, the former commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, endorsed Trump's plan to pause major military exercises with the South, saying the U.S. is in a "dramatically different place" from where it was a year ago.

Pompeo emphasized that the drills, which North Korea claims to be preparation for a northward invasion, could still be resumed if the mercurial Kim stops negotiating in good faith.

The words of reassurance from Pompeo came as diplomacy continued at an intense pace after Tuesday's summit in Singapore, the first between a sitting American president and North Korea's leader in six decades of hostility. In the village of Panmunjom along the North-South border, the rival Koreas on

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 48 of 55

Thursday held their first high-level military talks since 2007, focused on reducing tensions across their heavily fortified border.

Pompeo flew from Seoul to China's capital, Beijing, later Thursday for a meeting with President Xi Jinping, whose country is believed to wield considerable influence with North Korea as its chief ally and economic lifeline.

"I also want to thank China and President Xi for his role in helping bring North Korea to the negotiating table," Pompeo told reporters.

Pompeo thanked Beijing for its continuing efforts to help achieve the "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea." He said both sides had agreed that sanctions would not be eased until that's achieved.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the Singapore summit as having "great historic significance" with the potential to lead to "enduring peace." Wang said the U.S. should continue to "work through China."

Pompeo said there was still a risk that denuclearization might not be achieved and there was more work to be done by Beijing and Washington.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang reiterated China's support for a political settlement, while also pointing to an eventual lifting of U.N. Security Council economic sanctions.

"We believe that the sanctions themselves are not the end," Geng said.

China has been praised by Trump for ramping up economic pressure on the North, which the U.S. believes helped coax Kim to the negotiating table.

For its part, Beijing has broadly welcomed Trump's diplomacy with Kim. The summit in Singapore marked a reduction in tensions — a sea change from last fall, when North Korea was conducting nuclear and missile tests, and Trump and Kim were trading threats and insults that stoked fears of war.

Kim is now promising to work toward a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, and state media heralded the meeting as victorious, with photos of Kim standing side-by-side with Trump splashed across newspapers in Pyongyang. On Thursday, North Koreans finally got a glimpse of video of Trump and Kim together, as official Korean Central Television broadcast the first footage of Kim's trip to Singapore.

Yet there were persistent questions about whether Trump had given away too much in return for too little.

Trump's announcement minutes after the summit's conclusion that he would halt the "provocative" joint military drills were a shock to South Korea and caught much of the U.S. military off guard, too. Pyongyang has long sought an end to the exercises it considers rehearsals for an invasion, but U.S. treaty allies Japan and South Korea view them as critical elements of their own national security.

So Pompeo had some explaining to do as he traveled to Seoul to brief the allies on what transpired in Singapore.

In public, at least, South Korea's leader cast the summit's outcome as positive during a short meeting with Pompeo at the Blue House, South Korea's presidential palace. President Moon Jae-in, an avowed supporter of engagement with North Korea, called it "a truly historic feat" that had "moved us from the era of hostility towards the era of dialogue, of peace and prosperity."

Still, there were signs as Pompeo met later with the top Japanese and South Korean diplomats that concerns about the freeze had not been fully resolved. South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told reporters afterward that the military drills issue "was not discussed in depth."

"This is a matter that military officials from South Korea and the United States will have to discuss further and coordinate," Kang said.

The U.S. has stationed combat troops in South Korea since the end of the Korean War and has used them in a variety of drills. The next scheduled major exercise, involving tens of thousands of troops, normally would be held in August.

With the Trump-Kim summit concluded, the baton was being passed to lower-level U.S. and North Korean officials, who Pompeo said would likely resume meeting as early as the next week to hash out details of a disarmament deal, sure to be a complex and contentious process. He said the U.S. was hopeful North Korea would take "major" disarmament steps before the end of Trump's first term in office, which con-

cludes in January 2021.

Lederman reported from Seoul. Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung and Youkyung Lee in Seoul, Gillian Wong in Beijing, Matthew Pennington and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Ken Moritsugu in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Follow AP's summit coverage here: <http://apne.ws/MPbJ5Tv>

Prosecutor: Man makes deadly toxin for an attack in Germany

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER and DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German authorities have thwarted a plot by a Tunisian man who created the deadly toxin ricin using castor bean seeds and planned to use the poison in an Islamic extremist attack in Germany, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

Sief Allah H., whose last name wasn't given in line with German privacy laws, was taken into custody Tuesday during a raid on his apartment in Cologne. The 29-year-old was formally arrested Wednesday after a judge reviewed the evidence.

Authorities are still investigating exactly how the suspect planned to use the toxin, but said he was working on a "biological weapon" attack in Germany.

"We don't know how, or how widely, the ricin was to have been distributed," said prosecutors' spokesman Markus Schmitt.

The suspect is believed to have begun procuring material online in mid-May, prosecutors said. He succeeded in creating the toxin this month and investigators found it in the apartment search.

Prosecutors wouldn't say how much ricin the suspect had produced.

The seeds of the castor bean plant are naturally poisonous and can be used to create ricin. The substance kills the body's cells by preventing them from creating protein. A few milligrams are enough to kill an adult if it's eaten, injected or inhaled. Early symptoms include chest pain, breathing difficulties and coughing.

The suspect is not known to have been a member of a terrorist organization but did have contacts with extremists, Schmitt said.

"He had contacts with people in the jihadist spectrum," Schmitt said, but would not elaborate on whether those contacts were online, in person or both.

He also would not comment on a report in the top-selling Bild newspaper that American intelligence tipped off German investigators after they detected the suspect's online activity buying the seeds to make ricin.

Bild also reported that the suspect bought bomb-making materials and chemicals used in the production of ricin. It said the suspect lived in the Chorweiler neighborhood of Cologne with his wife, a convert to Islam, and four children. He supposedly used instructions to make a ricin bomb that had been posted online by the extremist Islamic State group.

His wife was initially taken into custody but was later released, prosecutors said.

Poll finds most parents and kids agree on Trump, economy

By LAURIE KELLMAN and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In some ways, President Donald Trump has brought Tammy Kennedy and her daughter, Sue Ann, together on politics.

They don't agree on every issue— Tammy supports abortion rights, for example, while Sue Ann opposes them. Even so, the two agree on most issues and disapprove of the way Trump is doing his job.

"I think we've talked about him in terms of immigration," said Tammy, 51, of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration that has resulted in the separation of some parents and children at the borders. "I can't imagine my child being ripped away from me."

"We do agree on his performance," Sue Ann, 18, said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 50 of 55

They're part of a majority of American young people and their parents who disapprove of the job the president is doing, a poll shows. The survey conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV found that 57 percent of parents and 73 percent of young people ages 15 to 26 disapprove of the president's performance.

The common ground doesn't end there. The generations also agree that politics have become dysfunctional, and both say they're dissatisfied with the two-party system.

On issues broadly, a 55 percent majority of young people and their parents say they usually see eye to eye, and 31 percent say they debate things diplomatically. Just 9 percent say they avoid talking politics, and only 5 percent say their debates turn into "World War III."

And most say they agree with each other on a wide variety of individual issues, including feelings on the economy, health care, immigration, racism and abortion.

Still, hotheadedness abounds over politics, as anyone who has access to the internet knows. The survey showed that online, especially, politics seeps into interactions with extended family members. Twenty percent of young people and their parents say they have done the virtual equivalent of uninviting a family member — by blocking them or unfriending them — because of a disagreement over politics. An equal percentage of both generations say they have been blocked or unfriended.

Mackenzi Curtis, 22, said she stopped following one older family member, who's in his 60s, on Facebook over his posts about the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Several students became gun control advocates after a gunman killed 17 people on Feb. 14.

"I was thinking they're pretty much bullying a teenager that's been through a traumatic experience," Curtis, a mother of two in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, said. "I think it has a lot to do with the difference in generations."

Eleven percent of respondents say they have had a holiday gathering ruined over politics, while about an equal percentage say they've decided not to attend a family event for the same reason. Seventeen percent say political disagreements inspired a relative to skip a family event.

The two generations are equally likely to engage on social media on the Nov. 6 elections, the study found. A quarter of parents and young people say they'll post or comment on the midterms, and similar percentages say they share memes about the races. That's a key data point for the campaigns trying to rev up and drive voters to the polls.

By any measure, Trump revolutionized Twitter as a political instrument before his 2016 upset over Democrat Hillary Clinton and during his presidency. Ahead of the 2018 midterms, both parties are leveraging the power of social media, engagement and relationships as Republicans defend their congressional majorities and Democrats try to topple them.

Among parents and young people who say they aren't of the same mind, young people say they tend to disagree with their parents most about racism, while their parents say the largest area of disagreement is gun control. Both generations tend to point to Trump and LGBT rights as sources of contention.

The generations say it can be hard to sway the other generation when differences exist, but not necessarily impossible.

Few young people and parents — only 11 percent overall — say they are always able to persuade each other to change his or her views, but another 53 percent say they can sometimes do it. Just 6 percent say they can always be persuaded, but 44 percent say they sometimes can be.

Larry Kapenstein, a 64-year-old retired postal worker in Middletown, Pennsylvania, said Trump most recently displeased his family by disinviting the Philadelphia Eagles — this year's Super Bowl champions — to the White House. But while they agree on Trump, Kapenstein said one of his children can be hard to convince on taxes. He's coming to terms with where chunks of his paycheck go. And that can lead to the question of who's to blame for that.

Hint: Voters and the politicians they elect.

"He just doesn't understand why we have to pay taxes," Kapenstein said. "He's just getting into the working world, but he just doesn't get it."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 51 of 55

On Twitter follow Kellman at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and Swanson at http://www.twitter.com/El_Swan

The Youth Political Pulse poll was conducted April 23 to May 9 by the AP-NORC Center and MTV. The poll was conducted using NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It includes 558 young people ages 15-26, and 607 parents in the same age group. The margin of sampling error for all young people is plus or minus 5.6 percentage points, and for parents is plus or minus 6.7 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research: <http://www.apnorc.org>

How Fox's businesses would match up with Disney and Comcast

BY MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Competing bids from Comcast and Disney for the bulk of Twenty-First Century Fox come as the media landscape changes and companies get more involved in both creating and distributing content.

X-Men and other movies from Fox's studios would help beef up Disney's upcoming streaming service. Comcast, already a major cable operator, would get a larger portfolio of cable channels including FX and National Geographic.

Comcast's \$65 billion cash bid Wednesday is higher than what many analysts were expecting and tops Disney's all-stock offer, valued at \$52.5 billion when it was made in December.

GBH Insights analyst Dan Ives said Comcast's price "speaks to Comcast really wanting these key assets." Disney is expected to make a counter offer.

Each bid raises different regulatory concerns, though this week's approval of AT&T's takeover of Time Warner signals that regulators might have a hard time stopping mega-mergers.

Here's how the companies would match up:

MOVIES

Fox's film studios, with "Avatar," X-Men, the Fantastic Four and Deadpool, would pair well with Disney's studios. This includes reuniting the Marvel franchises X-Men and the Avengers, as some of those characters were already in Fox's hands when Disney bought Marvel in 2009. Disney also has the Muppets, Pixar and "Star Wars."

In fact, Fox and Disney might pair too well, as far as regulatory concerns go. BTIG analyst Richard Greenfield estimates the combined studios make up 45 percent of worldwide box office revenue. A larger studio could use its power to keep its movies in more theaters longer and squeeze out rival movies.

Comcast's Universal movie business has such franchises as "Jurassic Park." The Fox properties would expand Comcast's reach, though the company would have just 25 percent of the box office with Fox added, according to figures from Box Office Mojo.

TELEVISION

Fox's TV productions include "The Americans," "This Is Us," "Modern Family," and "The Simpsons." Its networks include FX Networks and National Geographic. The Fox businesses would pair well with Disney channels like ABC, the Disney Channel and Freeform. "Modern Family" already airs on ABC.

Comcast owns NBCUniversal, including the NBC broadcast network, CNBC and USA. Comcast's studios produce "Chicago Fire" and "Will & Grace," both airing on NBC.

Comcast might run into regulatory problems because the cable operator would control a larger portfolio of content along with its distribution. However, a federal judge on Tuesday approved a similar attempt by DirecTV owner AT&T to buy Time Warner. The judge rejected the government's fears that the AT&T deal could lead to higher prices for consumers or hinder online alternatives from getting content.

Regardless of which company prevails in buying Fox, the Fox television network and some cable chan-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 52 of 55

nels including Fox News will stay with media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

SPORTS

Disney's deal includes getting Fox's regional sports network, which shows hometown sports in several cities including New York, Los Angeles, Dallas, Cleveland, Detroit and Kansas City. Those networks would complement Disney's nationally focused ESPN. Disney recently launched ESPN Plus, a separate streaming service with more local offerings. That service could benefit from Fox's regional offerings.

Comcast already has similar regional networks through NBC Sports, including ones in Boston, Chicago and the San Francisco Bay area. Getting the Fox networks would expand Comcast's territorial reach.

STREAMING

Whichever company prevails will control streaming service Hulu. Currently, Comcast, Disney and Fox each has a 30 percent stake, with Time Warner owning the other 10 percent. With Fox's share, either Comcast or Disney would end up with a controlling 60 percent stake.

Disney already plans an entertainment-focused streaming service in 2019. If Disney prevails, it could combine that with Hulu or keep them as separate services.

If Comcast prevails, Disney's service could be less appealing, as it wouldn't have Fox video. Comcast doesn't currently have similar streaming ambitions and wouldn't benefit as much from the Fox video.

INTERNATIONAL

Internationally, Fox's cable and international TV businesses are part of the offerings. That's key for Comcast, which has a limited overseas presence.

Disney and Comcast had already been at battle in the U.K. over Sky, an operator of television channels. Fox has a 39 percent stake in Sky and has been trying to buy outright, with the intention of selling the full company to Disney as part of that deal. U.K. regulators have given the OK to that offer if Fox sells Sky News. Regulators there also have cleared Comcast's \$30.7 billion offer for the 61 percent of Sky that Murdoch doesn't own.

Other international networks include Fox Networks Group International, Star India, Tata Sky and Endemol Shine Group.

THEME PARKS

Comcast and Disney have made extensive use of their portfolios at their theme parks in California, Florida and overseas. Disney, for instance, is expanding its attractions related to "Star Wars." On the flip side, Disney turned its Pirates of the Caribbean ride into a major movie franchise. Comcast's Universal Studios has attractions based on Universal's "Fast and the Furious" franchise.

Either company would be able to expand its opportunities with Fox, though the theme parks have historically been able to reach licensing deals with rival studios. Universal, for instance, has rides based on Fox's "The Simpsons" and Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter." Disney has licensed Fox's "Avatar" for its "Pandora" park within Walt Disney World.

TVs, robots, soybeans on front lines of US-China trade spat

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — President Donald Trump is poised to hike the prices of Chinese-made technology products that might include flat-screen TVs and ultrasound machines for American buyers.

They could be among tech imports worth up to \$50 billion on which Trump is preparing to slap 25 percent tariffs in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

The White House has yet to release a final list of products. A tentative version in April ran the technology gamut from TVs and telecoms equipment to medications and industrial chemicals.

It would be the first direct impact on American consumers of the dispute over a state-led technology development strategy the White House says violates Beijing's free-trade commitments and hurts foreign competitors.

More than a routine trade dispute, it reflects Washington's unease that American technology leadership and prosperity might be eroded by China's state-led efforts to compete in smartphones, electric cars,

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 53 of 55

biotech and other fields.

Economists and businesspeople say Beijing is unlikely to give ground on a strategy seen by communist leaders as the path to higher incomes and to restoring China's rightful role as a global leader.

WHAT IS THE DISPUTE?

U.S. officials say the tariff hike targets goods that might benefit from Chinese theft of technology or pressure on foreign companies to hand it over in exchange for market access.

They point to plans stretching back two decades that call for state-led development of Chinese competitors in artificial intelligence, clean energy, electric cars, robotics, biotech and other fields. Foreign companies complain Beijing subsidizes fledgling Chinese developers and shields them from competition in violation of its free-trade commitments.

Trump is hardly the first foreign leader to complain. Others have filed World Trade Organization complaints or lobbied Chinese leaders in person during visits to Beijing. But Trump has attacked head-on, threatening to disrupt Chinese exports.

CHINESE GOODS TARGETED FOR TARIFF HIKES

In addition to TVs and medical equipment, the tentative list in April included bakery ovens, power generators, cassette players, electric motors and video cameras.

That could hurt emerging Chinese global brands including Huawei in telecoms, Mindray in medical equipment and Hisense in TVs.

Business groups warn the tariffs are effectively a tax on American consumers, though the American Chamber of Commerce says Trump's threat prompted Beijing to engage in more intensive negotiations than it has in years.

"MADE IN CHINA 2025"

U.S. officials cite Beijing's long-range development strategy, dubbed "Made in China 2025," as emblematic of tactics they say hamper competition and will hurt American competitors.

It calls for creating Chinese global competitors in information technology, numerical control machinery and robotics, aerospace and aviation equipment, maritime engineering equipment and high-tech vessel manufacturing, advanced rail equipment, energy-saving and electric vehicles, electrical equipment, agricultural machinery, new materials and biopharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Foreign business groups have complained for a decade Beijing is squeezing them out of promising fields. They say "Made in China 2025" appears to leave them little or no place in those industries.

Previous technology plans since the 1990s have targeted even broader areas including nuclear power, genetics, deep sea equipment, satellites and lasers.

AMERICAN GOODS FACING POSSIBLE RETALIATION

China announced a \$50 billion list of goods in April including soybeans and light aircraft for possible retaliation, though it hasn't repeated that threat in response to the latest developments from Washington.

April's list of 106 products also includes beef, whiskey and orange juice. That targets rural Trump supporters and reflects Chinese effort to minimize losses by picking goods available from other suppliers.

Soybeans are the biggest U.S. export but other products on the list also are major earners. U.S. aviation-related exports to China totaled \$13.2 billion in 2016.

It was unclear whether Beijing might try to make an exception for Chinese-owned U.S. exporters such as pork producer Smithfield Foods.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 54 of 55

Asian stocks mixed after ECB announcement, US data

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed Friday after Wall Street largely finished with gains following the European Central Bank's announcement to phase out its bond-buying stimulus. Upbeat U.S. data helped bolstered sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.4 percent to 22,827.77 but South Korea's Kospi retreated 0.5 percent to 2,412.10. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index inched up 0.1 percent to 30,473.09 while China's Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.7 percent to 3,020.51. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 jumped 1.2 percent to 6,089.10. Stocks in Taiwan were lower while in Indonesia, markets were closed for a holiday.

EUROPE: The ECB on Thursday said it would phase out by the end of the year its bond-buying stimulus for the 19 countries that use the euro. It had deployed the program in 2015 to save the region from the risk of falling prices and growth. It also said it plans to hold off on raising interest rates until at least the summer of 2019, which is longer than some investors expected.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "While investors may fear higher interest rates, the stronger underlying economies that drive the stimulus withdrawal are positive for company profits," Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets and Stockbroking, said in a daily commentary. "These competing drivers mean that investor sentiment swings are an important consideration for markets."

US DATA: The data for the U.S. economy released on Thursday were encouraging. Retail sales jumped in May after shoppers spent more at home and garden stores, gas stations and restaurants. A separate report showed that fewer U.S. workers filed for unemployment claims last week than expected, an encouraging sign for the labor market.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks finished mostly higher on Thursday. The S&P 500 index rose 6.86 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,782.49. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 25.89, or 0.1 percent, to 25,175.31, and the Nasdaq composite rose 65.34, or 0.8 percent, to 7,761.04, a record.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.68 Japanese yen from 110.65 yen while the euro was flat at \$1.1568.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 5 cents to \$66.94 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Thursday, it rose 25 cents to settle at \$66.89 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 13 cents to \$75.81 per barrel. On Thursday, it fell 80 cents to \$75.94.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 15, the 166th day of 2018. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

On this date:

In 1520, Pope Leo X issued a papal bull in which he threatened to excommunicate Martin Luther if he did not recant his religious beliefs, a threat that was carried out the following January.

In 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

In 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state.

In 1849, James Polk, the 11th president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan (sy-PAN') during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1955, the United States and Britain signed a cooperation agreement concerning atomic information

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, June 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 336 ~ 55 of 55

for "mutual defence purposes."

In 1969, the variety show "Hee Haw," a fast-paced mixture of country music and comedy skits, debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1978, King Hussein (hoo-SAYN') of Jordan married 26-year-old American Lisa Halaby, who became Queen Noor.

In 1988, the baseball romantic comedy "Bull Durham," starring Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon, was released by Orion Pictures.

In 1993, former Texas Gov. John Connally, who was wounded in the gunfire that killed President John F. Kennedy, died in Houston at age 76.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush went for a bike ride and attended church in Paris, then he and his wife, Laura, traveled to London for meetings with Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, as well as Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife, Sarah. The NBC News program "Meet the Press" paid tribute to its host, Tim Russert, who had died two days earlier. "In the Heights" was named best musical, "August: Osage County," best play, at the Tony Awards.

Five years ago: Wild celebrations broke out in Tehran and other cities as reformist-backed Hassan Rowhani capped a stunning surge to claim Iran's presidency. Paul Soros, 87, a successful innovator in shipping, philanthropist and older brother of billionaire financier George Soros, died in New York.

One year ago: A day after a man with a rifle and a handgun wounded House Whip Steve Scalise (skuh-LEES') and others at a baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, some far-right Republicans suggested that vitriolic rhetoric on the left could be to blame for the attack, prompting House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi to retort, "How dare they say such a thing?" Two escaped inmates sought in the killings of two guards on a Georgia prison bus were captured after being held at gunpoint by a rural Tennessee homeowner whose vehicle they were trying to steal.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm and blues singer Ruby Nash Garnett (Ruby and the Romantics) is 84. Funk musician Leo Nocentelli (The Meters) is 72. Actor Simon Callow is 69. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 69. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 67. Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) is 65. Actor-comedian Jim Belushi is 64. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 64. Actress Julie Hagerty is 63. Actress Polly Draper is 63. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 61. Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is 60. Actress Eileen Davidson is 59. Bluegrass musician Terry Smith is 58. Actress Helen Hunt is 55. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 55. Actress Courteney Cox is 54. Country musician Tony Ardo is 54. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 52. Contemporary Christian musician Rob Mitchell is 52. Rock musician Jimmy McD is 50. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 49. Actress Leah Remini is 48. Actor Jake Busey is 47. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Johnson is 46. Rock musician T-Bone Willy (Save Ferris) is 46. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 45. Actor Greg Vaughan is 45. Actress Elizabeth Reaser is 43. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 42. Former child actor Christopher Castile is 38. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 37. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 34. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 28. Olympic gold medal gymnast Madison Kocian is 21. Actress Sterling Jerins is 14.

Thought for Today: "In trying to make something new, half the undertaking lies in discovering whether it can be done. Once it has been established that it can, duplication is inevitable." — Helen Gahagan Douglas, U.S. Representative (1900-1980).