

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 1 of 35

“It doesn't matter
who my father was;
it matters who I
remember
he was.”

-Anne
Sexton



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 3- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 4- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 5- Gov. Dugaard's Weekly Column
- 6- Rev. Snyder's Weekly Column
- 7- Historically Significant Sites in South Dakota
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- National Weather map
- 11- Today's Weather Almanac
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 14- News from the Associated Press

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

Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterston4@nvc.net



Protecting States' Rights to Water

For many South Dakotans, the Missouri River is a constant in our lives. We have driven past it countless times, fished its waters and boated on it with our friends and families. It has also historically been a major water source for state and municipal projects. However, a U.S. Army Corps' of Engineers proposed rule, estimated to be finalized as early as this fall, would limit states' rights to the natural flow of water through river systems.

The proposed rule, published during the previous administration, seeks to define the term "surplus water" in the Flood Control Act of 1944. In formulating the proposed rule, the Army Corps failed to take into account natural flows of the river system when defining surplus water. It was the intent of Congress to recognize and reaffirm the constitutionally protected rights of states to the natural flow of water through river systems like the Missouri. The proposed rule is an attack on states' rights and states' ability to access these natural flows.

Earlier this year, South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department requested access to a small quantity of water from the Missouri River to construct a parking lot on government property adjacent to a reservoir. The Army Corps denied the request on the basis that the "surplus water" rule hadn't been finalized. The Army Corps is blocking states from legitimate usage of the water.

As chairman of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management and Regulatory Oversight, I have held numerous hearings to review the Army Corps' management of the Missouri River. We recently held a hearing to focus on the problems with the "surplus water" rule. Secretary Steven Pirner of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources testified at the hearing. Of the proposed rule, he said, "this new definition of surplus water creates a monumental change to the law and steals South Dakota's rights to natural flows that, by tradition and law, are under the jurisdiction of the states."

In South Dakota, we live with a permanent flood as thousands of acres of productive farmland have been inundated to create the mainstem dams of the Missouri River. Recently, I was joined in a letter to President Trump by Governor Dugaard, Senator Thune and Representative Noem in which we stated that 500,000 acres of our most fertile river bottomlands were permanently flooded as the reservoirs filled following construction of these dams. Our citizens and tribal members were forced from their homes and communities.

We don't doubt the benefits of multi-use Army Corps projects, but they need to be taken into the proper historical context. In taking such an expansive view of what constitutes surplus water, and thus what is subject to federal control, the Army Corps clearly does not recognize the constitutionally protected rights of the states to the natural flows of the river system.

Rather, the Army Corps is attempting to produce a system in which legitimate municipal and industrial projects cannot gain access to the water passing through the states by refusing to grant easements to gain access to these water resources.

I have been working directly with EPW Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) to secure a verbal commitment toward addressing the "surplus water" rule through legislative action. We'll also continue working to make sure the Army Corps modifies its rulemaking process to consider the roles and rights of states.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



"So God Made a Farmer"

When you run a farm or a ranch, there's no timeclock. There's often no set lunch hour. There's no paid vacation. Unlike most jobs, the last person leaving the office doesn't turn out the lights – in farming and ranching, Mother Nature will take care of it for you. In this line of work, which is more like a way of life, farmers and ranchers not only pray for a safe day in the field and for their family and community, but they know God was listening when they wake to the near-musical sound of rain drops hitting a tin roof. They're hardworking, dedicated, patriotic people, and I'm proud to have many of them as my friends.

Agriculture, particularly production agriculture, is South Dakota's lifeblood. It's the top industry, and nearly everyone in the state is affected by it in one way or another. That's why I knew that I needed to use my voice in Congress to ensure the farming and ranching community was being treated the way it deserved to be treated. After all, where we're from, "agriculture" is nearly synonymous with "South Dakota."

At the end of the day, I think farmers and ranchers want to know that policymakers truly understand how tough this business can be. Having stood in the fields and witnessed the blood, sweat, and literal tears that go into this, I get it. It's why I chose to serve on the House Agriculture Committee and now the Senate Agriculture Committee, and I believe that I've used my voice – their voice – to effectively give South Dakota's farmers and ranchers a platform to be heard.

There's no greater example of this than the pro-farmer, pro-agriculture farm bill that's moving through Congress – the fourth farm bill that I've helped write – which is thanks, in large part, to the help and advice I've been fortunate to receive from the South Dakota agriculture community.

Knowing that this isn't always an easy process, in March 2017, nearly 20 months before the current farm bill was set to expire, I tried to get ahead of the game by introducing proposal after proposal to reform and strengthen the next farm bill. Since I started this process, I've rolled out roughly 40 legislative ideas. As evidenced by our bipartisan farm bill, which is now on its way to the full Senate for consideration, it's safe to say that the hard work paid off.

Multiple proposals that I'd written were included in the Agriculture Committee's draft bill, and several more were included before the committee voted 20-1 to move it one step closer to the finish line. I still have a few ideas on how to improve this already strong bill once we get it to the Senate floor, and I'm glad to have a commitment from Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow to help implement some of them, particularly my proposals related to the Conservation Reserve Program, which is so important in South Dakota.

Going through this process, I'm reminded of what Paul Harvey told the Future Farmers of America convention in 1978. He talked about what God needed on the 8th day: a caretaker. "God said, 'I need somebody willing to sit up all night with a newborn colt, and watch it die. Then dry his eyes and say, 'Maybe next year.' I need somebody who can shape an ax handle from a persimmon sprout, shoe a horse with a hunk of car tire, who can make harness out of haywire, feed sacks, and shoe scraps. And who, planting time and harvest season, will finish his 40-hour week by Tuesday noon, then, paining from tractor back, put in another 72 hours.' So God made a farmer."

Thank you, God, for making a farmer and for having him call South Dakota home.

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Strengthening Tribes

Much of South Dakota's history is rooted in Indian Country, but sadly, many of the systems designed to help tribal members are failing. From healthcare to education to housing, those who live on reservations are struggling.

In recent years, much of the attention has focused on the failing Indian Health System (IHS). Federal watchdog reports have repeatedly documented shocking cases of mismanagement and poorly delivered care. Babies were born on bathroom floors with no doctor present. Facilities were forced to wash surgical equipment by hand, due to broken sterilization machines. Medical personnel were coming to work with certifications that had lapsed. It is inhumane to provide this kind of "care."

I recognize recruiting quality medical and administrative staff is an issue at many IHS facilities, which are often located in extremely remote areas, but I'm confident these challenges can be overcome. I have introduced legislation, for instance, to expand the IHS' existing student loan repayment program in order to attract more and better personnel. It would also cut the red tape that impedes professionals from volunteering at IHS hospitals and clinics and allow administrators to more easily hire good employees and fire bad employees. Moreover, the legislation increases transparency by ensuring reports and plans are completed in a timely manner, enhancing congressional oversight, and expanding whistleblower protections.

The bill is one of the most comprehensive IHS reform packages to move through Congress in recent years. It was approved by a key House committee in mid-June, and I'm hopeful we can see it advance through the legislative process in the months to come.

Health care, however, is just one of the challenges faced by tribes in South Dakota. Housing continues to be an issue for many. Earlier this year, Sen. Thune, Sen. Rounds, and I put pressure on the Department of Agriculture to expand home ownership opportunities in these areas. This May, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue responded by announcing a new pilot program on tribal lands to assist low-income families in their journey toward home ownership. I am hopeful South Dakota families will be able to take advantage of the program soon.

While housing and healthcare provide security, education offers opportunity. Recruiting and retaining good teachers, however, has proven difficult. As such, I've introduced legislation in the House to help ease certain financial burdens on tribal schools. I'm optimistic the changes, if enacted, will help communities retain teachers with enhanced employee benefits while also preserving more resources for the classroom.

The Native American people enrich South Dakota's culture and play an important role in the American story, but many are struggling. Whether it's health care, education, or housing, I'm committed to fulfilling America's treaty obligations and expanding opportunities within tribal communities.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 5 of 35



South Dakota's Strong Foundation

This month marks the 110th anniversary of the laying of the State Capitol cornerstone. The four-foot by four-foot Ortonville granite cube, which features an engraving of the State Seal on the south side, cost \$475 and was laid in a Masonic ceremony on June 25, 1908, two years before workmen completed the building.

The cornerstone was dedicated by Gov. Coe Crawford and General William Henry Harrison Beadle, known as the "Savior of the School Lands" for establishing the permanent school fund in South Dakota and several other states.

In his speech during the ceremony Gov. Crawford noted, in part, that the Capitol "will stand throughout the coming years as an expression of beauty and art, and as the people come and go and linger within its walls, they will see in it an expression of the soul of the state."

In addition to serving as the Capitol's structural base, the cornerstone is a time capsule, containing coins, building schematics, a Bible, photographs, newspapers, and a variety of papers, and speeches. When installed, it established a strong foundation for the capitol building.

Or did it?

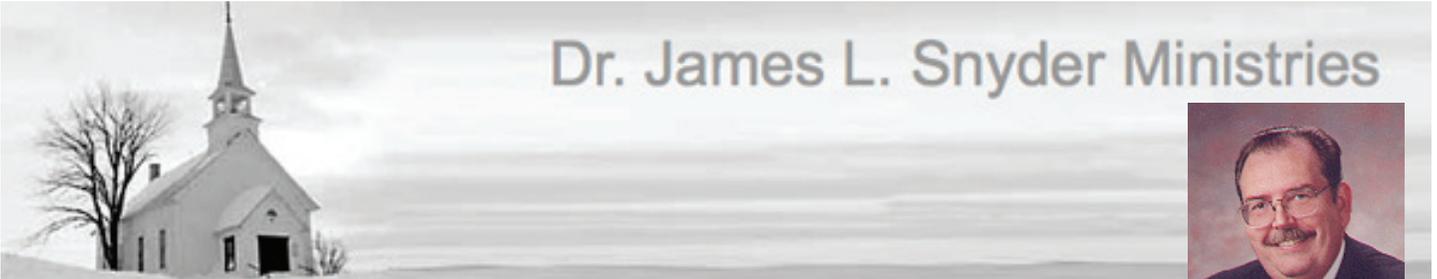
Cornerstones are often the symbolic anchors of large buildings, but most offer just a glimpse of the strong support mechanism underneath. In the case of the State Capitol, the cornerstone rests upon a broad rampart of brick and ordinary fieldstones, hauled to the worksite from the fields and pastures of central South Dakota.

Sometimes we see our elected officials as the cornerstone of state government, but this is only symbolic strength. South Dakota's true foundation is its citizens.

Earlier this month, we went to the polls and voted on individuals to stand for election this fall as our representatives on the school board, county commission, in city government, the legislature, Congress, and as our next governor.

The right to vote is the cornerstone of democracy and our elected leaders serve as only the public face of a vast interlocking support network, working together to shore up our state. It's the people who form the strong foundation of our government, our state, and our society.

In many ways, our beautiful Capitol building does serve as an "expression of the soul of the state." If you stop by the Capitol in Pierre, take a moment to visit the cornerstone in the building's southwest corner, and remember the strong foundation that lies beneath.



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Vacation Time Again?

I had just finished my project, sent it to my publisher, took a deep breath and said out loud, "I'm glad that's done. Now I can rest for a while."

I must have said it aloud for someone in the house heard it. I need to explain that with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, it does not matter if you say it aloud, mumble it under your breath or just think it, she hears it.

I do not know how she does it and she will not give me her secret.

"So," my wife said rather suspiciously, "ready to go on our vacation?"

I stuttered a little bit and said, "A what?"

That "V" word rarely resides between my two ears. I just never think of it. I am not a vacation fan. Sure, when the kids were home it was nice to get away and have some fun with them. However, that has been a long time ago. I think someone my age is just too old to go on vacation. What would be the purpose?

I am a little afraid that if I go on vacation, I might forget that I am on vacation and never return home and no one would ever see me again. You know how the memory is for us old guys. So, to be on the safe side, I do not think of vacation time.

"You know exactly what I mean," my wife said rather sternly with one of her sly smiles. "We should begin making plans for our vacation before you begin your next project."

She caught me off guard there. Under other circumstances, I might have responded by telling her that it was too late, I've already started my next project. I remember trying that once and I may be the writer, but she's the reader and she always reads between the lines.

Then she began laying out her well thought out plans for what our vacation would be like.

I interrupted her and said as soberly as possible, "That would be nice, but I do not have any money to sponsor a vacation right now."

All she did was laugh, which rather irritated me. Then she explained, "Don't give that a thought. I have been saving for this vacation since last year. I have it all worked out."

Without my knowing it, she has been planning this vacation for quite a while. She even worked out the schedule with the daughters and grandchildren. She usually watches them while the daughters are at work. It took several months, but she worked out a schedule so that the week she had planned was cleared on everybody's calendar.

She knew approximately when my project was due and started from there.

When it comes to developing my projects for my publisher, I can plan right down to the very day it is due. Outside of that, I am completely out of focus.

This is not true with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She can plan everything to the last detail. Doesn't matter if it is our vacation, some project at the church, or spending time with the grandchildren. She is the Planning Queen of all time.

It's not that I do not like vacations, because once I'm there I do. What I do not like is the planning and the preparation. It becomes so meticulous that I get bored.

I have been like this all my life. The first day of first grade in school, I did not want to go. When the bus came to pick me up, I refused to get on and even had a little fit with the bus driver.

My mother, of course, was not too happy with the situation and took it out on me. She grabbed me,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 7 of 35

threw me in the car and drove me to school. I was kicking and screaming all the way to school. When we got to school, she threw me out and drove away. At least that's how I remember it.

When it came time to go home I refused to leave school. I really didn't know how wonderful first grade would be.

I suppose that's the way I am. I do not want to do anything new, but when I do, I do not want to not do it. My wife understands this because she's had to deal with me all these years. So, when she says, "Are you ready for our vacation?" I know she has it all planned to the last detail. Very wisely, she does not reveal these plans to me until we are ready to go off on vacation.

Once I get to that vacation destination, I have a good time, and I have her to thank for that. If left up to me, it would never get done.

To answer the question, "Are you ready for our vacation?" let me just say, I must be because my wife is always thorough in all her planning.

Driving to our vacation destination, I could not help but think of something David said, "My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me" (Psalm 31:15).

I must confess that I often want to try to plan my life. I need to learn what David learned, God has already planned my life and all I need to do is to yield to his direction.

Historically Significant Sites in South Dakota

The Marcus Beebe family left a lasting legacy for South Dakota.

Four of the most significant buildings in Ipswich are associated with the Beebe family. The Beebe home, Ipswich State Bank building, Ipswich Baptist Church and the M.P. Beebe Library are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All are significant architecturally.

Arriving in Edmunds County in 1883, the year it was organized, Marcus Beebe became wealthy through large land holdings and by being instrumental in founding and later owning what became Ipswich State Bank. Marcus Beebe died in 1914. His widow, Leota, offered the Baptist congregation two-thirds of the cost of a new \$25,000 building. The offer was accepted and \$11,000 was pledged by church members. The Marcus P. Beebe Library was built by his widow and children as a tribute to him.

The buildings associated with the Beebe family are but four of the more than 1,300 individual properties and districts in South Dakota that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic and archeological resources. The National Register is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

To qualify for the National Register, properties must be at least 50 years old and be associated with historic events or people, represent distinctive architecture or construction, or provide important information about history.

The following is a small sampling of South Dakota properties listed on the National Register, with information about the property taken from its nomination.

Yankton's Hotel Charles Gurney qualified for the National Register for its architecture and for the role it has played in the social and business life of the community.

The hotel was originally a three-story cottonwood structure built in 1870. This structure was demolished and a Richardsonian Romanesque structure built around 1890, one of the most striking buildings in Yankton at the turn of the century. Yankton served as capital of Dakota Territory from 1861 to 1883. The hotel serves as a link to the past. The trial of Jack McCall for the murder of "Wild Bill" Hickok took place in a courtroom in the hotel's northern annex. It was a favorite meeting place for businessmen and politicians and served as a popular location for social gatherings for many generations.

The Rising Hail Colony, located about half a mile from the Missouri River in Charles Mix County, is ag-



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 8 of 35

riculturally significant. In 1938, Congress voted appropriations for two colonies – one called Andrus and the other Rising Hail, named after an American Indian chief. From 30 to 50 Yankton Sioux, representing eight to nine families, pooled their money and belongings such as machinery, livestock and tools in an effort to restore their old lifestyle. By 1942, they shared an annual profit of approximately \$13,000 and owned about 1,500 acres of land, numerous livestock, orchards, and fruit and vegetable gardens. By 1949, however, all but three families had moved away and the cooperative was dissolved.

The Rising Hail Colony is also significant for its architecture. The eight buildings all used chalk rock as their main construction material. This soft, bleached-white colored rock was taken from the banks of the nearby Missouri River.

While little remains of the Rising Hail Colony, the Hollands Grist Mill windmill in Milbank has been completely reconstructed. It is significant in the areas of engineering, settlement and industry. The mill was built in 1884 by English settler Henry Hollands in an effort to harness wind to grind wheat and corn and to saw wood. With a lack of significant water and other traditional power sources, wind was one of the most accessible power sources available in Dakota Territory.

The Gregory Buttes Stone Steps are an example of a Works Progress Administration project that employed local men and materials during the Depression. In 1936, WPA laborers gathered field stones from the surrounding area, cut them and placed them in 110 steps they had cut on the east slope of the Gregory Buttes. The steps lead from Gregory City Park up the slope of the buttes to an observation area. In 1936, the WPA employed almost 50,000 people in South Dakota. The WPA administered many types of programs, but the majority were construction projects.

Many buildings listed on the National Register have architectural significance. The Mitchell Lustron District is unique because the houses are concentrated in a small area.

The Lustron House was architecturally significant as an example of a new construction method for residential housing. All surfaces of the two- or three-bedroom houses were of enameled steel, making them durable and easy to maintain and giving them a sleek, modern look. The deluxe model contained many built-in features.

The houses were developed by Carl Strandlund as a response to the need for housing after World War II. Prefabrication of the house components and construction methods developed by the company meant a Lustron could be built in one to three weeks. The Lustron Corporation existed from 1946 to 1950 and produced approximately 2,500 houses before going bankrupt in 1950. There are approximately 38 Lustron Houses in South Dakota.

Information about all South Dakota properties listed on the National Register can be found at history.sd.gov by clicking on "Preservation."

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.



The photo is of the Marcus P. Beebe Memorial Library in Ipswich. (South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives for the photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 9 of 35

Today in Weather History

June 17, 1944: On this date, six estimated F2 or greater tornadoes were tracked across Faulk, Codington, Brown, Day, Grant, and Roberts County in South Dakota as well as Big Stone in Minnesota. The first tornado touched down at approximately 3:30 pm CST in Faulk County. This estimated F2 tornado destroyed all buildings except the house on a farm 7 miles northeast of Faulkton. The next tornado occurred at 4:00 pm CST in Codington County, where barns were destroyed. Cattle and a truck were thrown into Grass Lake, near Wallace. About the same time, in Brown County, a tornado moved northeast from just northeast of Warner and crossed the town of Bath. This storm killed two people and injured another twelve. A couple was killed in the destruction of their home. Twenty homes in Bath were damaged. A brick school had its upper story torn off. Another tornado moved through Codington County at 4:45 pm CST, killing three and injuring twenty-five. This F4 strength tornado moved northeast from two miles northeast of Henry, passing over Long Lake and ending 2 miles northwest of Florence. The funnel was described as snake-like over Long Lake and massive as it swept through five farms southwest of Florence. Over 100 head of cattle were killed, and about a dozen homes were destroyed. In Day County an estimated F2 moved due north from 4 miles south of Webster, ending 2 miles northeast of Roslyn. This storm passed two miles east of Webster where barns were destroyed, and livestock was killed on a half dozen farms. At 5:15 pm CST a monster of a storm moved northeast from 5 miles south of Summit, passing 3 miles south of Wilmot and ending about 3 miles east of Beardsley, Minnesota. This massive tornado had an estimated width of 1500 yards and traveled 30 miles. Along the path, eight people were killed, and another forty-three were injured. Farm devastation southwest and south of Wilmot was as complete as it could be with some farms reportedly left without even debris on the property. About 15 farms in South Dakota reported F3-F5 damage. From this day, the Red Cross counted 13 dead and 560 people injured across the state.

June 17, 2010: This day will go down as the day with the greatest single-day tornado total in Minnesota history. The 3 EF4 tornadoes in Minnesota were the first tornadoes EF4 or stronger in this state since the Granite Falls tornado on July 25, 2000. This outbreak produced the highest number of tornadoes rated EF4 or greater in one day in Minnesota since the Black Sunday tornado outbreak on April 30, 1967. This was the first EF4 tornado in Freeborn County since the Black Sunday outbreak. The four total EF4 tornadoes across the Upper Midwest on June 17, 2010 (3 in MN, and 1 in ND) were the most in an outbreak in the U.S. since the "Super Tuesday Outbreak" on February 5-6, 2008. The number of tornado fatalities (4) on this day was the highest in Minnesota since July 5, 1978. [Click HERE](#) for an NWS summary.

1946: The third deadliest tornado in Canadian history struck southwestern Ontario from Windsor to Tecumseh. 17 people were killed and hundreds injured. Damage was conservatively estimated at \$1.5 million.

2009: A tornado leveled a house, knocked down power poles and overturned about a dozen railroad cars in Aurora, Nebraska. The tornado is rated EF2, with winds between 111 and 135 mph.

1859 - Hot Santa Ana winds in southern California roasted fruit on one side at Santa Barbara. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1882 - A tornado traveled more than 200 miles across the state of Iowa killing 130 persons. The tornado touched down about ninety miles west of Grinnell, and struck the town and college around sunset, killing sixty persons, and causing more than half a million dollars damage. Traveling at nearly 60 mph, the tornado hit Mount Pleasant about 11 PM causing another half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1965 - Holly, CO, was deluged with 11.08 inches of rain to establish a state 24 hour rainfall record. (The Weather Channel)

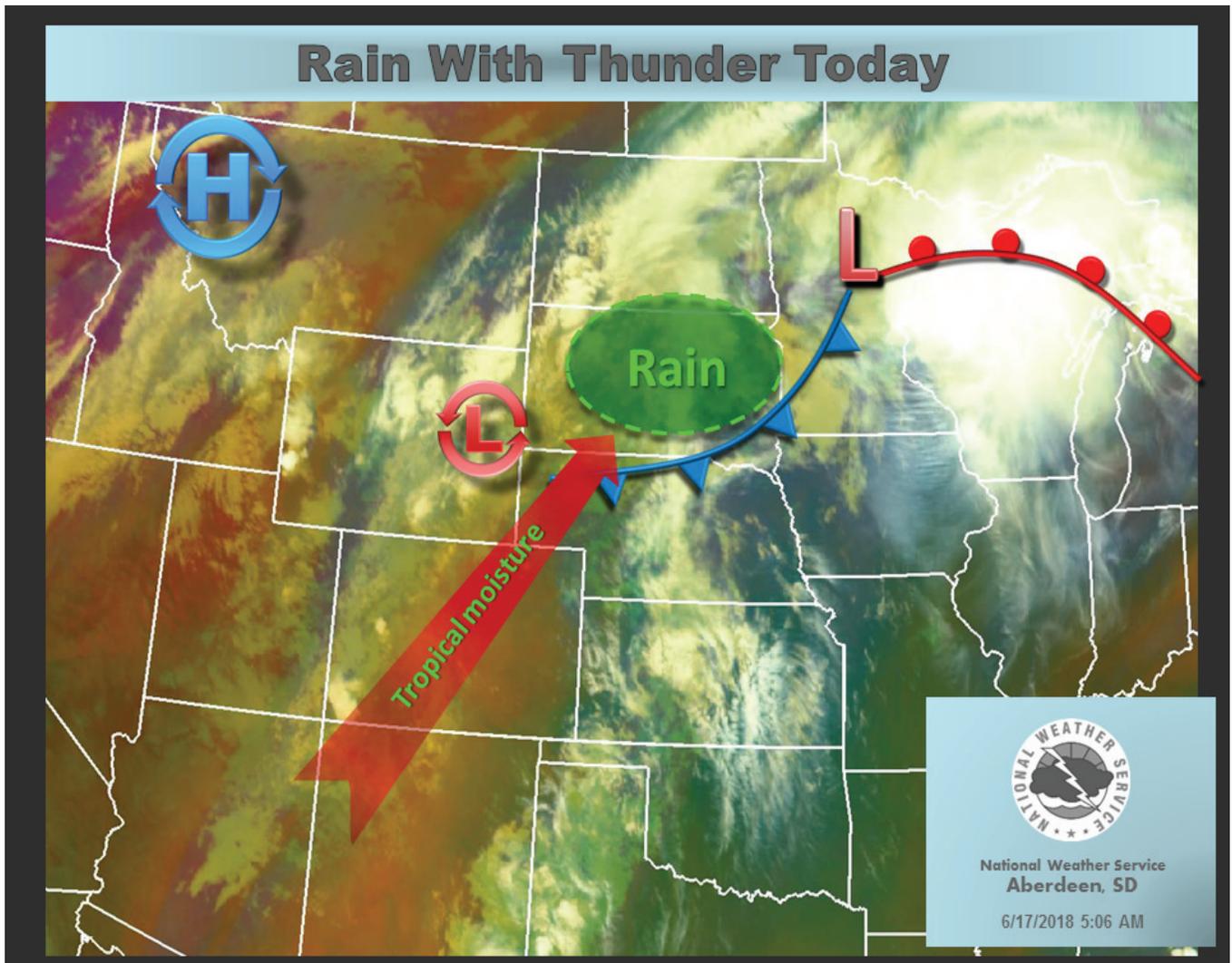
1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. Thunderstorms in Kansas produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Lyons, and baseball size hail at Garden City. The Edwards Aquifer, which supplies water to San Antonio, TX, reached a record level of 699.2 feet following a record 18.43 inches of rain in thirty days. Torrential rains between the mid May and mid June sent 8.8 million acre feet of water down the rivers of southern Texas, the largest volume in 100 years of records. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Georgia and the Carolinas. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Eden, NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 10 of 35

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 50%	 30%	 30%	 20%			
Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 69 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 81 °F



Published on: 06/17/2018 at 5:17AM

While a front has moved across the area with north winds, overrunning moisture associated with the remnants of Tropical Storm Bud will help generate rain with embedded thunder across much of central, north central and northeast South Dakota today. Moisture will wane by days end and through the overnight hours. This pattern will persist however and we have off and on chances for additional moisture through the week.

Groton Daily Independent

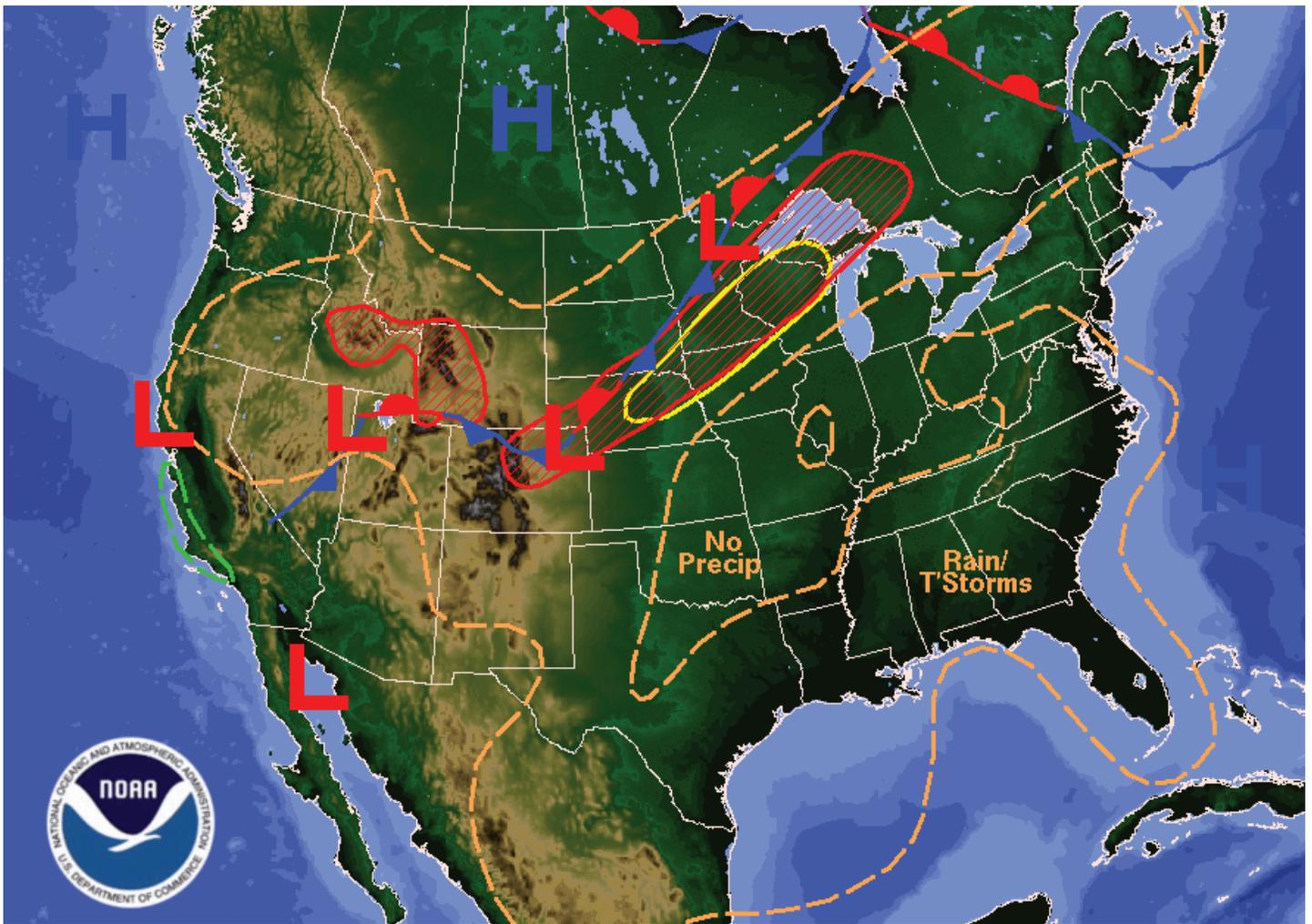
Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 11 of 35

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.9 F at 5:36 PM
Low Outside Temp: 63.7 F at 8:23 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 2:11 AM
Precip: 0.42

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1933
Record Low: 40° in 1915
Average High: 78°F
Average Low: 54°F
Average Precip in June: 2.07
Precip to date in June: 1.31
Average Precip to date: 9.21
Precip Year to Date: 5.61
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jun 17, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 12 of 35



RUNNING WITH GOD

It's not often that we read of a treasurer reading the Word of God. But we do read of one from Ethiopia who was doing exactly that. He'd been on a trip and was on his way home sitting in his chariot. We are told that he was reading it out loud and having a difficult time understanding its message. God knew he was confused and said to Phillip, "Go and talk with him in his chariot."

As soon as the Holy Spirit spoke to him, Phillip did not hesitate for one moment. He knew that God had something important for him to do so he ran as fast as he could to the chariot and began to talk to him about the Lord. As they rode along they came to a small body of water.

"Look," exclaimed the treasurer, "here is some water. What is there that could possibly keep me from being baptized?" Phillip answered, "You can - if you believe with all your heart." The official replied, "I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!" So, Phillip baptized him.

Imagine how this story might have ended if his heart was not sensitive to the Holy Spirit or if doing the Lord's work was not important to him or if he had walked and not run to the man. That man may never have come to the Lord as his Savior. None of that matters. When God called - he answered. Immediately!

Perhaps he read Psalm 119:32 for his devotions that morning: "I run in the path of Your commands, for You have broadened my understanding."

Prayer: Father, may I at all times - no matter the cost - be open to Your voice and obedient to Your call. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:32 I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 13 of 35

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

04-12-15-28-30

(four, twelve, fifteen, twenty-eight, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$69,000

Lotto America

06-15-17-19-33, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 3

(six, fifteen, seventeen, nineteen, thirty-three; Star Ball: five; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$3.73 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$175 million

Powerball

09-45-57-58-65, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 2

(nine, forty-five, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, sixty-five; Powerball: nine; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$137 million

Deadwood gets wildfire planning recommendations

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Deadwood officials are hoping a planning document will better prepare them for when the next wildfire nears the city.

Deadwood officials received recommendations last month from Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire, a grant program helping communities prepare for wildfires, the Black Hills Pioneer reported .

"The process went very smooth and was well-organized," said Bob Nelson Jr., Deadwood planning and zoning administrator. "Number one, what the city got out of it was awareness of issues that we may or may not have been paying attention to in regard to wildfire. The biggest benefit was to have an outside perspective with professional expertise guiding us through it."

The Black Hills ecosystem is mostly a fire-dependent landscape with frequent and significant fire occurrence, according to the report. The area has long experienced notable fire activity, with Deadwood being directly affected by fires in 1959 and 2002.

Deadwood was selected to receive technical assistance this year from the program's team of professional land-use planners, foresters, risk-modelers and researchers. The team focused its work with the city on including wildfire goals and policies in the next comprehensive plan.

The planning team's biggest suggestion was to add information in the comprehensive plan to acknowledge wildfires as both necessary natural disturbances and natural hazards.

The city must aim, among other things, to create a plan identifying key community roles required to continue all levels of critical government and non-government services during and immediately after a wildfire, according to the team. Such services include finances, utilities, emergency response, health care and food supply.

A rough draft of the comprehensive plan is expected to be completed this month, with the final planning document completed next month.

Yankton collective launches cooking supplies drive

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota collective is addressing food insecurity in a southeastern county by collecting kitchenware, food storage containers and other cooking supplies.

The Yankton Hunger Collaborative launched the special collection drive this month to direct donations toward an often missed facet of food insecurity, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported. The collective is part of the United Way of Greater Yankton and comprised of local food-related agencies, including Feeding Yankton, the Yankton Food Council and Mount Marty College.

There are about 2,570 Yankton County residents who lack access to a sufficient amount of affordable and nutritious food, said Angela Knodel, a nutrition assistant at the South Dakota State University Extension.

"We realized there are a lot of needs not being met with people who are food insecure not having the cooking supplies needed," Knodel said. "A lot of them are utilizing the food pantries, but not necessarily being able to cook the food that they're getting at the food pantries."

She said cooking at home allows residents to "cut down on fats, sodium, added sugar and make meals healthier for their families."

The collective plans to distribute the cooking supplies to different service agencies in Yankton. The group accepts donations such as utensils, can openers, baking sheets, measuring spoons, cooking thermometers and gently used pots and pans. Donations can be dropped off at Walmart, the United Way's Yankton offices or the Yankton County Extension Office through the end of June.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Police: Taxi driver who hit Moscow pedestrians fell asleep

By ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The suspect in a taxi crash near Red Square that injured two Mexican World Cup fans and other pedestrians told interrogators that he fell asleep at the wheel, Moscow police said Sunday.

City police released a video Sunday of an interrogation session with a man identified as the Kyrgyz taxi driver, in which he says he briefly dozed off and accidentally hit the gas. It was unclear whether the man spoke under duress.

The man says he hadn't slept in 20 hours and wasn't drunk, and ran away after the accident because he was afraid that angry bystanders would kill him. He was later detained.

Videos circulating on Russian social media and some news websites after the incident showed the taxi veering onto the sidewalk Saturday and striking pedestrians. The accident took place on Ilinka Street, about 200 meters (650 feet) from Red Square and Moscow's famous GUM shopping arcade, an area popular with tourists.

Viktoria Geranovich, who works nearby and filmed the fleeing driver on her phone, described her shock at the crash.

"I called the ambulance right away," she said. "I was trembling. It is not a thing you see every day, when a taxi drives right into the crowd."

Moscow police would not comment on whether the crash would affect security measures for the World Cup, which is being held in 11 Russian cities over the next month. Among the security concerns has been the possible use of vehicles as weapons.

A spokeswoman for FIFA told The Associated Press that the World Cup organizers regretted what happened, but referred security questions to Moscow authorities because the crash took place outside stadiums or fan venues. The spokeswoman, who was not authorized to be publicly named, said World Cup organizers were in regular contact with local authorities about security.

The Mexican Embassy told The Associated Press that the two injured female fans met with embassy representatives and were not hospitalized. The Mexican national soccer team plays against Germany on Sunday in Moscow.

Details on the other victims weren't immediately released.

Global soccer fans in Moscow shared information about the crash but didn't appear to let it dampen their enthusiasm.

"It is pretty horrible that something like that has happened," said Mexican supporter Julio Domingues. But he added "there are crazy people everywhere."

Fellow fan Fernando Ibarra said, "We hope our countrymen are OK! Big hug to the families too. Viva Mexico!"

DC's public schools go from success story to cautionary tale

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As recently as a year ago, the public school system in the nation's capital was being hailed as a shining example of successful urban education reform and a template for districts across the country.

Now the situation in the District of Columbia could not be more different. After a series of rapid-fire scandals, including one about rigged graduation rates, Washington's school system has gone from a point of pride to perhaps the largest public embarrassment of Mayor Muriel Bowser's tenure.

This stunning reversal has left school administrators and city officials scrambling for answers and pledging to regain the public's trust.

A decade after a restructuring that stripped the decision-making powers of the board of education and placed the system under mayoral control, city schools in 2017 were boasting rising test scores and a record graduation rate for high schools of 73 percent, compared with 53 percent in 2011. Glowing news articles cited examples such as Ballou High School, a campus in a low-income neighborhood where the entire 2017 graduating class applied for college.

Then everything unraveled.

An investigation by WAMU, the local NPR station, revealed that about half of those Ballou graduates had missed more than three months of school and should not have graduated due to chronic truancy. A subsequent inquiry revealed a systemwide culture that pressured teachers to favor graduation rates over all else — with salaries and job security tied to specific metrics.

The internal investigation concluded that more than one-third of the 2017 graduating class should not have received diplomas due to truancy or improper steps taken by teachers or administrators to cover the absences. In one egregious example, investigators found that attendance records at Dunbar High School had been altered 4,000 times to mark absent students as present. The school system is now being investigated by both the FBI and the U.S. Education Department, while the D.C. Council has repeatedly called for answers and accountability.

"We've seen a lot of dishonesty and a lot of people fudging the numbers," said Council member David Grosso, head of the education committee, during a hearing last week. "Was it completely make-believe last year?"

School Superintendent Hanseul Kang promised Grosso a "new accountability system" to prevent these kinds of abuses. The interim chancellor, Amanda Alexander, told the committee the estimated graduation rate for 2018 would end up just over 60 percent, a drop of more than 10 percentage points now that the attendance rules are being properly enforced. The chancellor's office runs the public school system while the Office of the State Superintendent of Education oversees both the public schools and Washington's robust charter school system.

Repeated efforts to interview both Kang and Alexander for this story were unsuccessful.

While the attendance scandal was still fresh, a new controversy engulfed the top public school official. Chancellor Antwan Wilson was forced to resign in February after revelations that he skirted his own rules to place his daughter in a prestigious high school while skipping a 600-student waiting list.

The Wilson scandal speaks to some of the unique dynamics and pressures of the D.C. school system. Parents who don't like their local "in-bound" school can apply to any public school in the city through a complex and highly competitive lottery process. One local columnist dubbed the school lottery system

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 17 of 35

“an academic Hunger Games.”

Most recently in the headlines has been one of the jewels of the school system, the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, alma mater of comedian Dave Chappelle and musician Me'Shell Ndegéocello. In May, an internal audit alleged that more than one-quarter of Ellington students were fraudulently coming in from neighboring Maryland or Virginia.

Students from outside Washington can attend city schools if they pay tuition, but the investigation alleges widespread residency fraud with parents faking Washington addresses to avoid those fees. Ellington parents have sued, claiming they're being railroaded by an administration eager to prove strong oversight and repair its reputation. The issue is working its way through courts.

The brutal year for Washington schools doesn't seem to have hurt Mayor Bowser as she runs for re-election. Bowser, campaigning on the improved economy in the capital, has no significant opposition in the all-important Democratic primary Tuesday as she seeks a second term.

The issue of the school system was the only down note in Bowser's otherwise triumphant State of the District speech in March. Bowser could only acknowledge “significant bumps in the road,” and promise rapid changes.

Defenders of the school system point out that independent measurements such as the National Association of Educational Progress test have shown consistent improvement that shouldn't be lost in the controversy over graduation rates.

Critics view the problems, particularly the attendance issue, as an indictment of the entire data-driven evaluation system instituted a more than a decade ago when then-Mayor Adrian Fenty took over the school system and appointed Michelle Rhee as the first chancellor. Rhee's ambitious plan to clear out dead wood and focus on accountability for teachers and administrators landed her on the cover of Time magazine holding a broom. But now analysts question whether Rhee's emphasis on performance metrics has created a monster.

1 dead, 20 injured in shooting New Jersey arts festival

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Shooting broke out at an all-night art festival in Trenton, New Jersey, early Sunday, sending people stampeding from the scene and leaving one suspect dead and 20 people injured, a local prosecutor said.

Sixteen of the 20 injured were treated for gunshot wounds, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo Onofri said Sunday morning. Four of those, including a 13-year-old boy, were in critical condition.

He said that two suspects opened fire around 2:45 a.m. during the Art All Night festival that showcases local art, music, food and films. One of the suspects, a 33-year-old man, was killed. Another suspect is in custody.

Authorities say that about 1,000 people were in the area when the shooting started.

Trenton resident Angelo Nicolo told Philadelphia 6ABC-TV that he and his brother were at the event when they heard loud popping sounds. He said people started running down the street.

“I saw two police officers escort a guy that got shot in the leg. They bandaged him up and whisked him away,” Nicolo said

Local television stations showed numerous police vehicles at the scene. The Trentonian said that the venue for the festival was strewn with broken glass and other debris. The event began Saturday afternoon and was scheduled to conclude Sunday afternoon.

Rescue ships dock in Spain as migrant debate roils Europe

By RENATA BRITO and IAIN SULLIVAN and JOSEPH WILSON, Associated Press

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — Ships in the Aquarius aid convoy docked Sunday at the Spanish port of Valencia, ending a weeklong ordeal for hundreds of people who were rescued from the perilous Mediterranean only to become the latest pawn in Europe's battle over immigration.

The Italian coast guard vessel Dattilo was the first of the three boats bearing the 630 migrants to touch

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 18 of 35

land just before 7 a.m. Sunday. The 270 migrants on board soon began to disembark after medical staff had made a preliminary inspection.

The rescue ship Aquarius came in four hours later with another 106 migrants. Aid workers awaiting their arrival clapped and cheered as the first migrants walked down the gangway. Another Italian navy ship, the Orione, came in shortly after 1 p.m.

The Aquarius, operated by the aid groups SOS Mediterranean Sea and Doctors Without Borders, was stuck off the coast of Sicily on June 9 when Italy refused it permission to dock and demanded that Malta do so. Malta also refused.

After days of bickering and food and water running low on the ship, Spain stepped in and granted the rescue boat entry. The 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) journey across the Mediterranean from Sicily to Valencia took nearly a week.

David Noguera, the head of Doctors Without Borders in Spain, said he was glad that Spain allowed the migrants in but he's worried that more European nations will close their ports to those rescued at sea in the future.

"I have mixed feelings," he told The Associated Press on Sunday as the first boat arrived. "I am happy that the journey (for the Aquarius migrants) is over — a journey that was too long — and I am worried for the situation in the Mediterranean and the closing of European ports."

The migrants were met by emergency workers, health officials, Red Cross volunteers and psychologists at the city's marina. Each were assigned to a translator and authorities worked to determine their identities before they were sent to welcome centers. The first migrant was a 29-year-old man from South Sudan.

Valencia emergency official Jorge Suarez said some of the migrants were in a state of shock.

"They are very shaken," Suarez said. "Put yourself in their position, you get off a ship and the first people who greet you are wearing masks."

He said an examination of the 130 migrants from the Dattilo did not reveal any serious health problems but many passengers showed signs of exposure to high temperatures at sea.

Spanish authorities are examining the migrants on a case-by-case basis to see who may qualify for asylum.

Due to their ordeal, the migrants from the Aquarius have been granted special authorization to remain in Spain for 45 days before they must begin resolving their legal situation.

"We have to strike a balance between our sensibilities and humanity and our respect for the law," said Spain's migration minister, Magdalena Valerio.

"These people could not be left adrift in the Mediterranean, where they would face death," she told Spanish radio Cope. "(The EU) must recognize that it needs an immigration policy that these times require."

The migrants reportedly include 123 unaccompanied minors, 11 children and as many as seven pregnant women. After Spain invited the Aquarius to land, Italy sent the Dattilo and Orione to help transport the migrants.

The refusal by Italy and Malta to allow the Aquarius to dock has reignited a continentwide battle over how to handle immigration.

Under the EU's asylum laws — currently the subject of a major political dispute and under revision — migrants must apply for asylum in the country where they first enter Europe. In practice, the policy has placed a heavy burden on Italy and Greece, where hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers have arrived in recent years.

Spain's new Socialist government has taken up the cause of the migrants to demonstrate its commitment to protecting human rights.

But overall, the European Union's 28 members have not agreed in the least how to handle the influx of refugees and migrants to Europe. The issue has put strong domestic pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, created a spat between France and Italy, and prompted eastern nations like Hungary and Poland to refuse to take in any migrants.

Immigration will be a top issue at the EU leaders' June 28-29 summit. In addition, a new populist government in Italy — one whose interior minister has vowed to deport tens of thousands of migrants as soon

as he can — will make any compromises on EU migration policy even more difficult.

The warmer weather has caused a spike in migrants taking off from North Africa for Europe. Spain's maritime rescue service pulled 986 people from 69 small smuggling boats near the Strait of Gibraltar between Friday and Saturday, and also recovered four bodies.

At least 792 migrants have died crossing the Mediterranean so far this year, according to the United Nations. Through the first five months of 2018, some 35,455 migrants reached European shores.

Wilson contributed from Barcelona, Spain.

Immigrants fleeing gangs prefer taking chance for US asylum

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and ANITA SNOW, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — The MS-13 gang made Jose Osmin Aparicio's life so miserable in his native El Salvador that he had no choice but to flee in the dead of night with his wife and four children, leaving behind all their belongings and paying a smuggler \$8,000.

Aparicio is undeterred by a new directive from Attorney General Jeff Sessions declaring that gang and domestic violence will generally cease to be grounds for asylum. To him, it's better to take his chances with the American asylum system and stay in Mexico if his bid is denied.

"Imagine what would happen if I was deported to El Salvador," he said Wednesday as he waited at the border to enter the U.S.

The directive announced Monday could have far-reaching consequences because of the sheer volume of people like Aparicio fleeing gang violence, which is so pervasive in Central America that merely stepping foot in the wrong neighborhood can lead to death.

The Associated Press interviewed several asylum-seekers this past week at a plaza on the border, and each of them cited gang violence as the main factor in fleeing their homelands. They planned to press on with their asylum requests in spite of the new rule.

The decision by Sessions came as the administration faced a growing backlash over immigration policies and practices that human-rights advocates view as inhumane, including separating children from immigrant parents. They leveled similar criticism over the asylum changes, which the White House says are necessary to deter illegal immigration.

"The mere fact that a country may have problems effectively policing certain crimes — such as domestic violence or gang violence — or that certain populations are more likely to be victims of crime, cannot itself establish an asylum claim," the attorney general wrote Monday, overruling a Board of Immigration Appeals decision granting asylum to a Salvadoran woman fleeing her husband.

U.S. officials do not say how many asylum claims are for domestic or gang violence, but advocates for asylum seekers said there could be tens of thousands of such cases in the immigration court backlog alone.

Many Central Americans seeking asylum say they are fleeing from gangs known as "maras," primarily the Mara Salvatrucha (or MS-13) and Barrio 18 groups. President Donald Trump has condemned those groups and the violence they commit in the U.S., referring to members as "animals."

The gangs were formed by young Central Americans mostly in Los Angeles decades ago and spread to the so-called Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras when members were deported. Today, Honduras and El Salvador in particular routinely post some of the world's highest homicide rates.

In Central America, maras stake out and battle over turf, attacking anyone who unwittingly crosses through their area on the way to school or work as a possible rival.

Gangsters sometimes forcibly take over people's homes. They extort bus drivers and small business owners, killing those unable or unwilling to pay. They threaten teens and young men in attempts to recruit them, and force girls and young women to be their girlfriends.

Maureen Meyer, director for Mexico and migrant rights at the Washington Office on Latin America advocacy group, said the ruling would "make it very difficult for a lot of the people seeking asylum in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 20 of 35

United States.”

Meyer said Central Americans commonly request asylum for extortion, forced recruitment and violence against women. Where the gangs are prevalent, moving elsewhere is not an option, she said.

“People feel very insecure in their homes and continue to see the U.S. as a safe haven in spite of Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric,” Meyer said of the steady northbound flow of Central Americans that began in 2014.

More than 100 asylum seekers gathered Wednesday near the entrance to San Diego, the largest crossing on the U.S.-Mexico border. Some Mexicans in the crowd said they were fleeing criminal groups.

Holding her 7-month-old daughter and trailed closely by her 5-year-old son, who was on crutches because of a gunshot wound, Maria Rafaela Plancarte said she abandoned their town near the western Mexican city of Zamora after her husband was shot and killed behind the wheel of the family car as they fled a party stormed by gunmen. Her son was wounded in the attack.

Plancarte, 34, said she has not considered moving elsewhere in Mexico and hopes to live with an aunt in California.

“I will feel more comfortable with a family that I know,” she said.

Alejandro Arroyo said he fled Apatzingan in western Mexico with his wife and their 14-year-old son, hoping asylum would bring them to his wife’s family in Gilroy, California. The 48-year-old said criminal gangs killed his nephew and brother-in-law, and he feared he and his son would be next.

They initially sought refuge in Tijuana, but requested U.S. asylum after being robbed by local police.

“I do not feel safe” in Apatzingan, Arroyo said, “and I do not feel safe here.”

Aparicio, from El Salvador, is caught in the middle of the change in asylum policies. His wife requested asylum about a month ago with three of their children - ages 2, 10 and 12 - and they were released to a family in Maryland while their cases wind through immigration court. Aparicio stayed in Tijuana to seek asylum with his 17-year-old son, hoping to reunite with the family later.

Sessions subsequently made his ruling on gang violence, but Aparicio is still pursuing asylum and hopes to get into the U.S.

— Snow reported from Phoenix. Associated Press Writer Peter Orsi in Mexico City also contributed to this report.

Republicans risking conservative backlash over immigration

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The push toward immigration votes in the House is intensifying the divide among Republicans on one of the party’s most animating issues and fueling concerns that a voter backlash could cost the GOP control of the House in November.

To many conservatives, the compromise immigration proposal released this past week by House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is little more than “amnesty.”

One tea party group described the Republican plan as “the final betrayal.” Fox Business host Lou Dobbs, who is close to President Donald Trump, tweeted Friday that Ryan is “trying to open our borders even more and give illegal immigrants the biggest amnesty in American history.”

Passage of the bill could alienate conservatives and depress turnout at a time when enthusiasm among Democrats is high. Yet scuttling the bill could turn off independent voters, an especially important bloc for House Republicans competing in dozens of districts that Democrat Hillary Clinton won in the 2016 presidential election.

“The GOP’s in a tough spot,” said Republican pollster Frank Luntz. “The hardcore Trump voter has a different point of view than the ever-important independent voter, and there doesn’t seem to be a middle ground.”

The draft legislation, resulting from intense negotiations between moderates and conservatives, includes a path to citizenship for an estimated 1.8 million young immigrants in the country illegally. The plan includes \$25 billion for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and other security measures sought by the White House.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 21 of 35

"While the bill contains some positive provisions, including full funding for the border wall and closing loopholes in current law that sustain illegal border surges, it is still a mass amnesty," said RJ Hauman, of the conservative Federation for American Immigration Reform.

"This bill hardly fulfills President Trump's bold promise to fix immigration, and sure isn't a winning message for the GOP in the midterms," Hauman said.

Trump will meet with House Republicans next week to discuss the issue just days after his comments during an impromptu Fox News interview on the White House driveway nearly derailed the planned House vote, according to a House GOP official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the plans ahead of an official announcement.

Trump had said in the interview that he wouldn't sign what was described as the "moderate" immigration bill, even though the version written by House leadership is based on his own priorities. White House officials later said the president had misspoken and didn't realize he was being asked about the compromise bill. The meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, the person said.

Skittish conservative lawmakers have indicated there's little chance they would support the current plan unless Trump were to give it a full embrace.

"House Republicans are not going to take on immigration without the support and endorsement of President Trump," said Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., the GOP's chief deputy vote counter.

The politics of the immigration debate have grown more heated since the administration adopted a "zero tolerance" approach at the Southern border. The policy is leading to an increase in the number of detained immigrants being separated from their children.

Trump has tried to blame Democrats for his own administration's policy, tweeting Saturday that they "can fix their forced family breakup at the Border by working with Republicans on new legislation, for a change!"

Facing a national uproar, House GOP leaders included a provision in the immigration proposal that would require families to be kept together for as long as they are in the custody of the Homeland Security Department.

The proposed fix won approval from moderate House Republicans locked in difficult re-election battles, but not from Republican Senate candidates running competitive races in GOP-leaning states. None spoke in support of the bill.

"We're studying the proposal," said Arizona Rep. Martha McSally, who is viewed as the GOP establishment's favorite in one of the top Senate races. "I try not get swayed by what the emotions are or the pressure. I really try to look at the policy issues."

Kelli Ward, one of McSally's main opponents in the Arizona Senate primary on Aug. 28, was more scathing in her assessment.

"Compromising on the rule of law to grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is the wrong path to take," she said of the House plan. "Congress should focus on border security and stop talking about amnesty as a solution."

In Pennsylvania, Rep. Lou Barletta, the Republican nominee against Democratic Sen. Bob Casey took an equally aggressive approach against his own party's immigration plan.

"I hate it," he told The Associated Press. "What does it accomplish? It's amnesty."

Barletta said he has compassion for the children caught up in the immigration debate. But he said he wouldn't support an immigration bill unless it also blocked employers from hiring immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, eliminated "sanctuary cities" and ended family-based migration.

Barletta said his party should "absolutely" fear a political backlash from its base this fall should Republicans push through the current compromise.

Other high-profile Republican candidates avoided questions about the immigration plan altogether, highlighting the political sensitivity of the issue.

The Republicans who declined to comment or ignored AP questions included Senate candidates Patrick Morrisey of West Virginia, Josh Hawley of Missouri, Mike Braun of Indiana and Matt Rosendale of Montana.

In an election year in which Democrats appear to have an advantage on voter enthusiasm, Republicans can ill afford to alienate any voters this fall, particularly their most passionate supporters.

Former White House counselor Steve Bannon lobbied against the compromise in private meetings with House conservatives earlier this past week.

He warned that Republicans "will lose the House and Trump will be impeached" if the House backs the new measure, according to Iowa Rep. Steve King, an immigration hard-liner who was in attendance.

Ford: Detroit train station key to autonomous vehicle plans

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Bill Ford looks past the tons of paint, plaster and steel needed to remake Detroit's blighted Michigan Central train station and sees more than just an iconic building in desperate need of a makeover.

The executive chairman of Ford Motor Co. and great-grandson of founder Henry Ford envisions the future of the carmaker's foray into self-driving vehicles.

Ford Motor Co. is embarking on a 4-year renovation of the 105-year-old depot and 17-story office tower just west of downtown. The massive project is expected to increase the automaker's footprint in the city where the company was founded, provide space for electric and autonomous vehicle testing and research, and spur investment in the surrounding neighborhood.

Ford will be reclaiming a derelict 20th century landmark, but it also will be using some iconic Motor City real estate to embark on a 21st century venture.

"This had to make business sense for us," Bill Ford told The Associated Press on Thursday. "We couldn't just do this as a philanthropic endeavor. It really will become a statement for us and a great recruiting tool for the kind of talent we're going to need to win in the autonomous vehicle war."

The company has said it aims to have a self-driving vehicle on the market by 2021.

The building's sale was announced last week. The company will announce details of the renovation and its plans Tuesday.

Bill Ford declined to say how much it cost to buy the 500,000-square-foot (46,450-square-meter) building from Manuel "Matty" Moroun or how much the carmaker expects to spend fixing it up. An unrelated 2004 plan to convert the train station into Detroit's police headquarters was expected to cost more than \$100 million.

The money for Ford's project is coming from a pool set aside in 2016 to update the automaker's headquarters in nearby Dearborn, though the company will also seek tax breaks and other incentives.

"We had to make sure that this actually could fit into our existing budget, and thankfully it did," Bill Ford said.

The train station opened in 1913 and for decades was the hub of rail transportation into and out of Detroit. Travelers and visitors marveled at its robust columns that stretched to an ornately tiled ceiling. But passenger rail travel waned as road and air travel got easier, and the last train left Michigan Central in 1988.

Scrapers stripped the vacant building of its metal and the thousands of broken windows allowed the elements to damage the walls, floors and ceilings, depressing the property's value.

Along the way, Detroit slid toward fiscal collapse. The population has dropped by more than one million people since the 1950s. Tens of thousands of homes were left abandoned even before the city tumbled into and out of bankruptcy several years ago.

The aging, hulking and empty Michigan Central exemplified Detroit's plight.

"It always really bothered me whenever you'd see a national story about the decay of Detroit" photos of the train station often were used, Bill Ford said while sitting in the depot's cavernous passenger waiting room.

"Then I started to think: 'What if we could buy it, rehab it and not just make it a beautiful building — which we're going to do — but make it something more?'" he said. "Make it really part of the reinvention of transportation for the future."

The rehabbed office tower will have room for about 5,000 workers, at least half of whom will be Ford's.

Restaurants, coffee shops, taverns and retail will fill the depot.

"My vision is this becomes a gathering spot for people who want to meet family or friends and grab a cup of coffee or quick lunch or dinner and then go off and do something else in Detroit," Ford added. "I want them to feel that this is going to be a really wonderful spot to be in, and that they will get excited about coming here."

Immigrants fleeing gangs prefer taking chance for US asylum

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and ANITA SNOW, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — The MS-13 gang made Jose Osmin Aparicio's life so miserable in his native El Salvador that he had no choice but to flee in the dead of night with his wife and four children, leaving behind all their belongings and paying a smuggler \$8,000.

Aparicio is undeterred by a new directive from Attorney General Jeff Sessions declaring that gang and domestic violence will generally cease to be grounds for asylum. To him, it's better to take his chances with the American asylum system and stay in Mexico if his bid is denied.

"Imagine what would happen if I was deported to El Salvador," he said Wednesday as he waited at the border to enter the U.S.

The directive announced Monday could have far-reaching consequences because of the sheer volume of people like Aparicio fleeing gang violence, which is so pervasive in Central America that merely stepping foot in the wrong neighborhood can lead to death.

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"The mere fact that a country may have problems effectively policing certain crimes — such as domestic violence or gang violence — or that certain populations are more likely to be victims of crime, cannot itself establish an asylum claim," the attorney general wrote Monday, overruling a Board of Immigration Appeals decision granting asylum to a Salvadoran woman fleeing her husband.

U.S. officials do not say how many asylum claims are for domestic or gang violence, but advocates for asylum seekers said there could be tens of thousands of such cases in the immigration court backlog alone.

Many Central Americans seeking asylum say they are fleeing from gangs known as "maras," primarily the Mara Salvatrucha (or MS-13) and Barrio 18 groups. President Donald Trump has condemned those groups and the violence they commit in the U.S., referring to members as "animals."

The gangs were formed by young Central Americans mostly in Los Angeles decades ago and spread to the so-called Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras when members were deported. Today, Honduras and El Salvador in particular routinely post some of the world's highest homicide rates.

In Central America, maras stake out and battle over turf, attacking anyone who unwittingly crosses through their area on the way to school or work as a possible rival.

Gangsters sometimes forcibly take over people's homes. They extort bus drivers and small business owners, killing those unable or unwilling to pay. They threaten teens and young men in attempts to recruit them, and force girls and young women to be their girlfriends.

Maureen Meyer, director for Mexico and migrant rights at the Washington Office on Latin America advocacy group, said the ruling would "make it very difficult for a lot of the people seeking asylum in the United States."

Meyer said Central Americans commonly request asylum for extortion, forced recruitment and violence against women. Where the gangs are prevalent, moving elsewhere is not an option, she said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 24 of 35

"People feel very insecure in their homes and continue to see the U.S. as a safe haven in spite of Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric," Meyer said of the steady northbound flow of Central Americans that began in 2014.

More than 100 asylum seekers gathered Wednesday near the entrance to San Diego, the largest crossing on the U.S.-Mexico border. Some Mexicans in the crowd said they were fleeing criminal groups.

Holding her 7-month-old daughter and trailed closely by her 5-year-old son, who was on crutches because of a gunshot wound, Maria Rafaela Plancarte said she abandoned their town near the western Mexican city of Zamora after her husband was shot and killed behind the wheel of the family car as they fled a party stormed by gunmen. Her son was wounded in the attack.

Plancarte, 34, said she has not considered moving elsewhere in Mexico and hopes to live with an aunt in California.

"I will feel more comfortable with a family that I know," she said.

Alejandro Arroyo said he fled Apatzingan in western Mexico with his wife and their 14-year-old son, hoping asylum would bring them to his wife's family in Gilroy, California. The 48-year-old said criminal gangs killed his nephew and brother-in-law, and he feared he and his son would be next.

They initially sought refuge in Tijuana, but requested U.S. asylum after being robbed by local police.

"I do not feel safe" in Apatzingan, Arroyo said, "and I do not feel safe here."

Aparicio, from El Salvador, is caught in the middle of the change in asylum policies. His wife requested asylum about a month ago with three of their children - ages 2, 10 and 12 - and they were released to a family in Maryland while their cases wind through immigration court. Aparicio stayed in Tijuana to seek asylum with his 17-year-old son, hoping to reunite with the family later.

Sessions subsequently made his ruling on gang violence, but Aparicio is still pursuing asylum and hopes to get into the U.S.

— Snow reported from Phoenix. Associated Press Writer Peter Orsi in Mexico City also contributed to this report.

Arizona Republicans brush off talk about McCain Senate seat

By MELISSA DANIELS, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Sen. John McCain's legacy was thrust into focus nearly one year ago when he announced his brain cancer diagnosis. The six-term Senator and decorated Vietnam War veteran is now fighting the illness from his beloved Arizona, and filling the role of one of the few Congressional Republican voices to publicly rebuke Trump administration decisions.

Yet the question of what happens if McCain steps down from office before 2022 is a lingering one, casting an uncomfortable haze around the future of a seat that can't quite ever be filled.

"John McCain is a one-of-a-kind politician, and there's no replacing him," said Stan Barnes, an Arizona Republican consultant. "No one serving in political office today remembers a time when John McCain was not representing us in Washington."

Some Arizona Republicans have criticized conversations about the future of McCain's seat as inappropriate. But reflections around the 81-year-old statesman's life, legacy and status as a national political figure have resurfaced via a new HBO documentary, "John McCain: For Whom the Bell Tolls," and his new memoir, "The Restless Wave."

The McCains have a family retreat south of Sedona, Arizona, along tree-lined Oak Creek. Daughter Meghan McCain was married there.

She said on KTAR's Mac and Gaydos radio show Tuesday that she's been trying to visit her father every other weekend. She said he's strong, walking, talking and hanging in there.

"Everybody's just dealing with it the best they can," Meghan McCain said.

Following a decorated military career that included spending more than five years in prison camps, McCain entered the political arena in the early 1980s. He went from the House of Representatives to being elected to the Senate in 1986, following Barry Goldwater who retired. McCain gained a reputation as a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 25 of 35

lawmaker who was willing to stick to his convictions rather than go along with party leaders. It is a streak that draws a mix of respect and ire.

Matt Salmon, a former Arizona congressman, said McCain was instrumental in his own political career—along with countless other Arizona Republicans. Much like Goldwater, McCain's been "the godfather of Arizona politics" for decades.

Salmon said McCain exemplifies how to stand up for one's convictions and constituents regardless of the wants of party leadership. During the late 1990s, Salmon drove a successful effort to remove Newt Gingrich as Speaker.

"I don't know that I would've had the courage to go do something like that without a maverick like John McCain paving the way," he said.

When Salmon was elected to Congress, McCain, as a mentor, was supportive, loyal and quick to share his dry sense of humor.

"He said to me, 'Congratulations Matt, now you're part of the problem,'" Salmon said.

McCain's maverick ways have pressed on in the era of President Donald Trump. He continues to release statements and tweets from Arizona. Following Trump's decision to not endorse a G7 statement with other global trade leaders, McCain tweeted a message to U.S. allies that said in part "Americans stand with you, even if our president doesn't."

Sen. Jeff Flake, Arizona's junior senator who is not running for re-election, said McCain's mantra of "country before party" sets him apart from other senators. Flake praised his honesty and transparency, as witnessed in the recent documentary.

"He was open about his mistakes, and his failings, and that's part of what's so endearing about him," he said.

Flake said during a recent visit with McCain at his home, the two sat on the deck for about an hour and talked about what they miss about Arizona politics, the kind that put party and partisanship aside. Flake said he's concerned that Arizona voters may miss out on having an independent voice that they've grown accustomed to when McCain is no longer in office.

"Today's politics kind of reward those who stick with the crowd," Flake said. "The incentives are not here to be independent and it takes a strong personality, like John, kind of an outsized personality, to pull that off."

Former Arizona congressman John Shadegg said most lawmakers don't work as hard as McCain. He cited town hall meetings in Arizona that McCain held in non-campaign years. One time at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport, Shadegg was speaking with McCain but had to cut the conversation short when "about a hundred people" came over to talk to the senator.

"There's a personal side to John McCain, which is very different than the public John McCain, and one that you can't help but like and respect," Shadegg said.

Some of the state's Republican voters have been critical of McCain for not being conservative enough. In 2016, primary challenger Kelli Ward came within 11 percentage points in a four-way race after running as a more conservative alternative. A few years before that, a censure effort from the state party called out McCain for campaigning as a conservative but voting more moderate.

On the flip side, McCain's service and his ability to stick to his convictions have earned him respect from Democrats. McCain's vote against a repeal of the Affordable Care Act shortly after he announced his diagnosis further endeared him to those who might disagree with him on other policies, Democratic consultant DJ Quinlan said.

"He did have his high profile moments where he was really willing to stick it to his party," Quinlan said.

In the event McCain steps down from his Senate seat before 2022, state law requires the governor to fill a vacancy with an appointee of the same political party who will serve until the next general election. Republican Gov. Doug Ducey hasn't been keen on speculating. He and his wife Angela visited John and Cindy McCain about two weeks ago.

"To anyone who uses this as an opportunity to speculate or fan the rumor mill: Washington DC's obsession with this when there is no issue to be discussed is disgraceful," Ducey spokesman Daniel Scarpinato

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 26 of 35

said in a statement.

Yet rumors abound, with names being suggested as possibilities to fill the seat as an appointee, such as Cindy McCain, former Sen. Jon Kyl and former state attorney general Grant Woods.

Republican consultant Barnes called replacement rumors "desperate barbershop gossip," though he said he understands the uncertainty some might have about the exit of such a dominant figure from the political stage.

"That particular Senate seat has been an outsized, powerful voice on the floor of the United States Senate, and you just can't overstate the importance of that phenomenon," Barnes said.

Some had wondered whether McCain's seat would be up this year if he left office before May 30, the deadline for candidates to file signatures to get on the ballot. That opportunity is likely closed — meaning the next general election where a candidate could run for the seat would be 2020 instead of 2018. Secretary of State Michele Reagan's office has said her office won't speculate on responses to possible vacancies, and will make any decisions once a vacancy becomes available.

Salmon said he doesn't think anyone can fill McCain's shoes. He recalled a trip to Vietnam where he saw a monument to McCain.

"His voice is not just an Arizona voice," he said. "It's a world voice."

He said many are wishing McCain well and hoping for the best.

"He's one of the toughest guys I've gotten to know," Salmon said. "It's not a disease that most people diagnosed with are successful at fighting. But they're not John McCain. He's a fighter."

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Ex-rebel looks to defy odds in Colombia presidential race

By JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

ZIPAQUIRA, Colombia (AP) — Gustavo Petro began his long ascent to the cusp of Colombia's presidency in this self-built barrio named after South American independence hero Simon Bolivar.

In 1983, equipped with little more than a shovel and a surplus of revolutionary ideals, the then-clandestine militant led some 400 squatter families in a months-long battle with local authorities to secure a plot of land to build their ramshackle homes here in Zipaquira, a city north of Bogota. Their rallying cry was: "A roof and a dignified life."

Thirty five years later, the founders of the "Bolivar 83" barrio still living in the slum celebrate Petro's rise as their own. The leftist candidate will face off against conservative Ivan Duque on Sunday in Colombia's presidential runoff election.

"He taught us to call each other comrades, not neighbors," remembers Ana Miriam Chitiva, pointing to photos hung on her home's wall of the barrio's early days, when the bespectacled, introverted Petro would help her lug concrete pipes and carve out dirt roads from the rocky, forested hillside.

The same crusading spirit has accompanied Petro throughout his four-decade political ascent. He's gone from fearless lawmaker who tormented Colombia's political class, to the renegade mayor of Bogota who took on powerful private interests and now a surprise, surging finalist in the country's first presidential election since the signing of a historic peace accord.

The two-man race between Petro and Duque has tightened in the final stretch, with one poll indicating Petro had climbed to within 6 points of his conservative rival. In the first round of voting three weeks ago, Duque topped Petro by more than 14 points.

Whoever is elected will lead Colombia at a crucial juncture. The country is in the early stages of implementing an accord with leftist rebels to end Latin America's longest running conflict. But cocaine production has soared in areas vacated by the rebels, threatening to undo security gains and testing traditionally close relations with the U.S.

Petro has vowed to fulfill the 310-page accord's lofty aspirations to tackle poverty and unequal land

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 27 of 35

distribution. Duque meanwhile wants to roll back some of the accord's benefits for top commanders until they confess their war crimes and compensate victims.

For Petro to even be within striking distance of Duque is a major feat — never before in Colombia's history has a leftist been so close to the apex of power.

To get this far he's had to soften his sometimes radical rhetoric, even going so far as to hold up mock stone tablets inscribed with 12 "commandments" committing him to stay clear of expropriating private property and earlier calls to rewrite the constitution.

He's also had to overcome comparisons with the late socialist revolutionaries Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez that the Colombian right-wing has labelled "Castro-Chavismo," a smear bandied about so much during the campaign that Petro's 7-year-old daughter has come up with a left-stepping dance to parody the accusations.

Business elites have thrown their support squarely behind Duque, the hand-picked candidate of powerful former President Alvaro Uribe, fearful that Petro's efforts to present himself as a moderate are a ruse.

Even some fellow leftists worry about a messianic streak.

Senator Antonio Navarro Wolff, a former peace negotiator for Petro's 19th of April Movement, or M-19, said his former comrade always stood out for his sharp intellect and shrewd political instincts — as well as a self-defeating tendency to shun others' opinions. But with his fledgling political movement occupying just four of 107 seats in the senate and an even smaller number in the lower house, he'll need to build bridges if elected president.

"The truth is he's always been a little selfish," said Wolff, who is among a group of high-profile leftists that belatedly endorsed Petro in the runoff after backing another, less polarizing candidate in the first round. He said the support was not a blank check, however. "If you want to get things done as president you can't act alone."

Petro, 58, was born on the same day — April 19 — that would give rise to the guerrilla movement that he joined as a muckraking teenage journalist in Zipaquirá. His nom de guerre was Aureliano, for a protagonist from "One Hundred Years of Solitude," the beloved work by novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez. But in "Bolivar 83," most of whose residents didn't know of his double life at first, he was called "Flaco" — Spanish for skinny — or "Little Gustavo."

After the housing fight was won, Petro was hunted down. While on the run, he'd jump between the homes of Chitiva and a sisterhood of single moms in "Bolivar 83" who now proudly call themselves "Petro's girlfriends." Once they even disguised him in high heels, lipstick and tight-fitting dress so he could slip past an army barricade.

Eventually his luck ran out and in a 1985 raid by the army he was discovered hiding in a hole dug next to one of the homes he helped build. He was taken to an army base in Bogota and beaten, and eventually spent two years in jail on weapons charges.

"Those who seek to brand Gustavo a guerrilla and a killer don't realize he didn't carry a weapon in his hands," said Gonzalo Suarez, a fellow M-19 militant.

"His biggest and most powerful weapon was, and still is, his deft mind, which is always focused on helping the poorest and worst off people in Colombia," said Suarez.

Petro rose to national prominence in 2006 leading a crusade to expose the alliance between conservative allies of then-President Uribe and right-wing paramilitary groups.

In hours-long televised speeches from the senate floor that mesmerized much of Colombia, he revealed evidence accusing Uribe of providing political cover for the formation of the militias as a governor in the 1990s and the personal involvement of his brother in murder and forced disappearances. Being so outspoken in a country where landholding elites have traditionally governed with impunity engendered numerous death threats.

But his allegations spurred the arrest and watershed conviction of dozens of politicians and members of congress for criminal ties to the paramilitaries. A decade later Santiago Uribe is now on trial for leading a death squad known as the 12 Apostles.

During his rise, U.S. officials viewed Petro as a radical "populist" in the mold of Chavez, according to a

2006 secret U.S. Embassy cable written by then deputy chief of mission Milton Drucker and published by pro-transparency group Wikileaks. But two years later, Ambassador William Brownfield in another cable described him as "pragmatic."

But some fellow leftists blame him for unilaterally cutting deals with President Juan Manuel Santos following his election in 2010.

The same go-it-alone streak was on display as mayor of Bogota, where he earned numerous enemies by banning bull fights, cutting bus fares and transferring control of private garbage collection to a city agency. For the latter he was ousted in 2014 by the Inspector General and banned from holding public office for 15 years. But the punishment was overturned and he was reinstated a month later by a judge acting in accordance with findings by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

"There's no doubt he's got a strong character," said Maria Mercedes Maldonado, the candidate's top policy adviser. "But that's what you need if you want to risk making meaningful transformations."

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17 killed in stampede after brawl at crowded Caracas club

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ and CLBYBURN SAINT JOHN, Associated Press**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Seventeen people were killed at a crowded nightclub in Venezuela's capital Saturday after a tear gas device exploded during a brawl and triggered a desperate stampede among hundreds gathered for a graduation celebration, government officials said.

Interior Minister Nestor Reverol said the incident at the "Los Cotorros" club in the middle-class neighborhood of El Paraiso left eight minors dead and five injured. Eight people were detained, including two teens believed responsible for setting off the tear gas canister.

Family members wept and embraced one another after identifying the remains of their loved ones at a nearby hospital. Outside the club, several mismatched shoes, including a sandal with a puckered red lip decoration, lay on the sidewalk.

"All I know is my son is dead," Nilson Guerra, 43, told local journalists.

More than 500 people were believed to be inside the club when the fight broke out. Julio Cesar Perdomo said his injured son told him the tear gas was launched from inside a bathroom and that partygoers tried to flee but found the club's door closed. Pictures posted by Reverol on Twitter show a narrow staircase leading to a metal door.

"The kids couldn't leave," Perdomo said.

Officials did not provide any information to confirm or deny Perdomo's account.

The club is officially called "El Paraiso" but is more widely known as "Los Cotorros" or "The Chatterboxes." Photos shared online from previous celebrations at the club show a dark interior with wooden tables and a stage upfront where DJs shuffled songs. Green painted metal bars and gates covered the doors and windows.

Outside, a faded sign on the red brick building read "We've opened!"

Jesus Armas, an opposition councilman who lives in the neighborhood, said the Interior Ministry should explain how a civilian was able to obtain tear gas canisters that should only be utilized by state security forces. He also urged authorities to investigate whether the club had permission to hold several hundred people inside.

"That's not a big space and that should not be authorized," he said.

He added that other violent incidents had taken place inside the club, which is frequently used by the Ecuadorean immigrant community for parties and political events. Several campaign signs for Ecuadorean politicians were hung outside the building.

Police have detained the owner of the club for "not guaranteeing adequate supervision and preventing the entry of any type of weapon." No information on the owner's name, exact charges or current whereabouts was immediately provided.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 29 of 35

"The establishment has been ordered closed, and we are investigating in coordination with the public ministry, which is directing the criminal investigation," Reverol said.

Caracas is one of the most violent capitals in the world and the country is engulfed in a deepening economic crisis that has forced hundreds of thousands to flee. The Venezuelan Observatory of Violence estimates about 26,600 people were killed in 2017.

The crime wave, coupled with a cratering economy, has extinguished much of Venezuela's once vibrant nightlife and left many families hesitant to let their teenage children out after dark. Relatives of those inside the club said the party was a celebration for the graduating class of several different high schools. Some parents had been hesitant to let their children attend.

Haide Berrio, the aunt of a 17-year-old boy killed in the melee, told local media she went running out to find her nephew in the middle of the night after hearing about the commotion at the club and knowing that he was attending the party.

Relatives of the boy found him among the dead and said he was killed by asphyxia.

Her eyes sunken in grief, she said all the family wants now is for the club to be permanently closed and the owner held responsible.

"I am asking for justice," she said.

Many victim relatives echoed her call for accountability.

Yoanna Aponte said her 16-year-old cousin died after suffering cranial trauma when she tried to escape and was crushed by the stampede.

"She fell to the ground," she said between wails, "and all the kids stumbled over her."

From Missoni to Dolce&Gabbana, Milan men bask in street wear

By COLLEEN BARRY, AP Fashion Writer

MILAN (AP) — Milan designers continue to cast their eyes toward Millennials with a focus on street wear — but without giving up tailored luxury and technical innovations.

Menswear collections for next spring and summer were being shown Saturday during the second day of Milan Fashion Week. The focus is increasingly on elements that can play up into office looks or down into casual street wear, using the same basic building blocks. The approach allows the designers to reach across generations, geographies and income levels.

"Street wear is a way of dressing," said Angela Missoni, creative director of the eponymous fashion house founded by her parents. That is to say: it is not delivered as a finished outfit, but a look that can be created from elements on the runways.

In Milan, that includes sporty oversized polos and T-shirts, thick-heeled sneakers and trekking sandals.

Here are some highlights from Saturday's previews, including Missoni, Dolce&Gabbana, Versace and Plein Sport.

MISSONI TRIBAL TIRETRACK LOOKS

The Missoni man is finishing a trek from Europe to West Africa, Paris to Dakar. His looks range from soft-tailored suits in a cotton-wool blend to rugged hand-painted leather pants with a slightly degraded feel. They were paired with nylon windbreakers layered with a breathable, sporty nylon ripstop jacket that blocks the sand.

Menswear designer Mayur Ghadialy said the knitwear brand is increasingly including non-knitwear fabrics in collections, knowing that "too many layers of knitwear can get bulky."

Missoni's quintessential soft-tailoring came through in a double-breasted suit and pants made from a pure cotton knit-weave hybrid. It was layered with an elongated mesh T-shirt under a polo shirt.

Loose neck covers provided protection against the desert elements. On the rugged end, a jacquard sweater inspired by creative director Angela Missoni's personal collection of African rugs was paired with a hip pair of burnt-orange leather shorts.

The tribal feel came through in alternating geometric patterns or ethnic borders on light-weight tops that

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 30 of 35

were oversized for a comfortable tunic vibe. Patterns on viscose shorts and tops and loose pajama tops were reminiscent of tire tracks in the sand.

VERSACE EMBRACES WIDE VISION OF MASCULINITY

Donatella Versace is looking to dress a man whose masculinity is challenged by neither lace, nor neon nor florals.

The Versace man is ready to work in a double-breasted pinstriped suit but leaves the shirt unbuttoned to show off a Versace T-shirt that reads like Tabloid newsprint. The headline: "Versace finally speaks out."

The flash soon followed, with shiny red snakeskin coats over mid-thigh shorts and Versace newsprint tops. Boxy jackets with flat pockets were worn with matching shorts, dressed up with a woman's cross-body bag.

Men wore sheer tops over legible T-shirts, lace detailing on military-style knitwear and floral print suits with buttons left open to show off necklaces and belly-button jewelry. Flashes of neon green and orange closed the show, in knit sleeveless tops that show off a man's hours at the gym. The bright footwear included the Versace Chain Reaction sneaker.

"The Versace man is the center of all the attention," Donatella Versace said in notes.

The menswear runway was punctuated by corresponding looks for women, including model Bella Hadid in a snug leather mini with form-accentuating ruffle accents and Kendall Jenner in a body-hugging floral mini with thigh-high boots.

MISSONI LOOKS AHEAD

Creative director Angela Missoni was still beaming the day after announcing a 70 million euro (\$81 million) investment by an Italian state-backed fund to help secure the future of the family-run brand founded by her parents 65 years ago.

"I feel very proud to have done this for my mother. I think I accomplished my mission," she said.

Missoni said plans include expanding menswear, now 10 percent of the brand's turnover, to its former equilibrium with womenswear and adding accessories like bags and footwear, now absent from the lineup.

The most important move the brand will make strategically is to expand its retail presence into China, which she said is forecast to be 50 percent of the global luxury market in the coming years.

The deal allows the family to retain control while ushering the third generation into management as they head for an eventual public listing. Missoni, who remains creative director and chairman, said that was probably five years away.

Her mother Rosita retains her position as honorary chairwoman, while one of her nephews, Giacomo Missoni, enters the board alongside her brother, Luca Missoni.

Angela Missoni said she was struck by the positive reaction to the news that the knitwear brand had reinforced its position with Italian investors.

"I understood in that moment that we are like the Colosseum. We are a piece of history. We are a point of national pride," she said.

DOLCE&GABBANA CONTRASTS

It was bring on the bling at Dolce&Gabbana, where the designing duo explored the brand's DNA with turns by some of the brand's historic models — Naomi Campbell, Monica Bellucci and Marpessa Hennink — decked out in sleek men's suits.

Designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana created menswear looks that ran the brand's gamut from suits for daytime that were still tightfitting and sexy to glammed-up versions in bright sequins. There was loud beach and resort wear that featured colorful bursts of prints or black-and-white logo plays, and geek looks in sandals with socks and a beanie.

Elegant all-white suits and outfits had golden brocade touches, recalling Baroque churches in the duo's beloved Sicily. And the northern Italy Milan DNA came through in a sleek muscle knit and black trousers or high-waist camouflaged trousers with bold printed shirts.

Accessories included bejeweled surgical masks, presumably for smoggy cities, and the new Dolce &

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 31 of 35

Gabbana Super King sneaker featuring logos on the heel and a geometric sole.

To underscore the brand's broad reach, the designers filled the runway with Millennial influencers, real-world royals and aristocrats, singers and performers but also ordinary people: elderly women out for a stroll in bold primary prints, homosexual couples and a family with children.

DOLCE&GABBANA UNDER THE HOOD

The designing duo kept up a recent tradition of nominally "secret" runway shows, this round showing off a range of branded briefs on well-toned models.

There was something for everyone, from classic white briefs to stretchy boxers to undergarments printed with Sicilian ceramic designs of blue and lemon yellow, for anyone who cares to match their underwear with dinner-ware.

Models carried an array of bags from leather weekenders to fanny packs to adventure bags to brief cases.

PLEIN SPORT

Audacious German designer Philipp Plein marked his return to Milan after a year's absence with the announcement of a deal with the AS Monaco Football Club as the official fashion sponsor.

Details will be forthcoming. But Plein said his brands -- Philipp Plein, Plein Sport and Billionaire -- grew 25 percent last year and he forecast 15 percent to 20 percent growth this year.

Friend and supporter Paris Hilton did a saucy turn on the artificial turf tennis court runway in spikey, sparkly high heels a zip-front swimming suit with block-color parachute pants.

Plein Sport looks for the season focused on tennis wear, with cute pleated skirts, tennis shorts and V-striped polos accompanied by every manner of accessory, from sweatbands to rackets to visors.

Fighting rages around airport in Yemen port city of Hodeida

By AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Saudi-led forces fought to retake the international airport of Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida, Yemeni officials and witnesses said on Saturday, as their Shiite Houthi rebel rivals denied the coalition had seized the facility that is the starving nation's main gateway for food shipments.

With battles raging at the southern side of Hodeida International Airport, the military of Yemen's exiled government said it had entirely seized the compound, and that engineers were working to clear mines from nearby areas just south of the city of some 600,000 people on the Red Sea.

"The armed forces which are supported by the Arab coalition have freed Hodeida International Airport from the Houthi militias and the engineering teams have started to clear the airport and its surroundings from mines and bombs," the military said on its official Twitter account.

Sadek Dawad, spokesman of the Republican Guards force loyal to the Saudi-led coalition, said government forces had battled their way onto the airport's grounds.

Dawad also said the southern gate of Hodeida city was captured by pro-coalition forces.

"The military operations to liberate the city of Hodeida will not be stopped until we secure the city and its strategic port and that won't last too long," he told The Associated Press.

Houthi-linked civil aviation authorities, however, denied that their rivals of the Saudi-led coalition and Yemeni forces have taken control of Hodeida's airport.

A statement posted Saturday on the Houthis' official news agency, SABA, quoted Ahmed Taresh, the head of Hodeida airport, as adding that airstrikes have completely destroyed the airport.

The Houthi-run Al Masirah satellite news channel aired footage it described as being from near Hodeida showing a burned-out truck, corpses of irregular fighters and a damaged Emirati armored vehicle. The Iranian-aligned fighters rifled through a military ledger from the vehicle before chanting their slogan: "Death to America, death to Israel, damn the Jews, victory to Islam!"

Yemeni officials and witnesses said forces from the United Arab Emirates-backed Amaleqa brigades, backed by air cover from the Saudi-led coalition, were heading to eastern Hodeida province to attempt to

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 32 of 35

cut off the main road that links it with the capital, Sanaa.

The officials said that if government forces capture the Kilo 16 Road they will trap the rebels in Hodeida and the western coast and prevent them from receiving supplies from the capital. The rebels are then expected to have no choice but to head to the northern province of Hajjah.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media and the witnesses for fear of reprisals.

The Saudi-led coalition began its assault Wednesday on Hodeida, the main entry for food into a country already on the brink of famine. Emirati forces are leading ground forces mixed with their own troops, irregular militiamen and soldiers backing Yemen's exiled government. Saudi Arabia has provided air support, with targeting guidance and refueling coming from the U.S.

United Nations special envoy Martin Griffiths, meanwhile arrived in Sanaa in an effort to broker a cease-fire.

International aid groups and the U.N. cautioned the Saudi-led coalition from launching the assault. Their fear is that a protracted fight could force a shutdown of Hodeida's port at a time when a halt in aid risks tipping millions into starvation. Some 70 percent of Yemen's food enters via the port, as well as the bulk of humanitarian aid and fuel supplies. Around two-thirds of the country's population of 27 million relies on aid and 8.4 million are already at risk of starving.

The World Health Organization expressed concern on Saturday over the fighting around Hodeida, calling for unbroken aid access and protection of health workers.

In a statement Saturday, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said "we stand with our U.N. partners to call on all parties to the conflict to protect the port, and allow its uninterrupted functioning. We also call on all parties to protect health workers and their facilities from harm, as well as to ensure unimpeded access for medical teams seeking to treat the wounded."

For its part, the Saudi-led coalition says it had no choice but to launch the assault as the port provided millions of dollars for the Houthis through customs controls. They also accuse the Houthis of using the port to smuggle weapons through, something a U.N. panels of experts described in January as "unlikely" as incoming ships require U.N. permission and are subject to random searches.

The U.N. and Western nations say Iran has supplied the Houthis with weapons, from assault rifles to the ballistic missiles they have fired deep into Saudi Arabia, including at the capital, Riyadh.

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.

Aid agencies and the U.N. evacuated international staff from the city ahead of the offensive. Some of the wounded able to flee are driving onto Aden, some 315 kilometers (195 miles) away, after being stabilized at a hospital in Mocha on the way, the aid group Doctors Without Borders said. The local hospital in Hodeida already is struggling to help the wounded, the group said.

Thousands remain besieged in the city and around the airport due to the fighting.

"Families are trapped inside and it is difficult leaving as they are coming under airstrikes and bombardment by both parties of the war," relief worker Saber Wasel told The Associated Press. "It was a hard night for citizens because of the intensity of the strikes and gunfire."

Security officials and witnesses said Saturday that Houthi rebels had also attacked government forces in al-Faza and al-Gah towns on the western coast over the past two days, killing at least 16 troops and wounding at least 13 others, and cut off the road that links between al-Gah and ad-Durayhimi district, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) south Hodeida's airport.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media, and the witnesses for fear of reprisals.

The Houthis seized control of Sanaa in September 2014, later pushing south toward the port city of Aden. The Saudi-led coalition entered the conflict in March 2015 and has faced criticism for a campaign of airstrikes killing civilians and destroying hospitals and markets.

The Houthis meanwhile have laid land mines killing and wounding civilians, targeted religious minorities and imprisoned opponents.

Associated Press writers Maggie Michael and Samy Magdy in Cairo contributed to this report.

Police say 2 Kansas deputies killed by inmate were parents

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — Two Kansas sheriff's deputies who were shot and killed by an inmate while transporting him between the courthouse and jail were both parents, authorities said Saturday.

The inmate, whose name hasn't been released, shot Wyandotte County Sheriff's deputies Theresa King and Patrick Rohrer on Friday in a gated area behind the county courthouse. He may have used one of the deputies' own guns to shoot them during a struggle after he got out of the van, authorities said.

The inmate was also shot and underwent surgery Friday. Terry Zeigler, the police chief of Kansas City, Kansas, said at a news conference Saturday that as far as he knew, the man was in stable condition.

Rohrer, 35, died shortly after the shooting. He had been with the force for seven years and leaves behind two young children, Wyandotte County sheriff's Maj. Kelli Bailiff said. King, 44, died early on Saturday at a hospital. She had three children, including a young one.

Zeigler said the authorities were withholding the inmate's name until he's been formally charged, which is expected to happen next week.

The officials declined to go into more specifics about how the shooting happened, though Bailiff said the deputies had "followed proper procedure."

A candlelight vigil for the deputies will be held at 8 p.m. Sunday in front of City Hall.

Vows in the air: German couple married in tightrope wedding

BERLIN (AP) — A couple in eastern Germany have gotten married in a swing dangling from a motorcycle atop a tightrope, 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground.

The German news agency dpa reported that a pastor standing in a cage atop a fire service ladder presided over the wedding of Nicole Backhaus and Jens Knorr in the town of Stassfurt on Saturday. The couple exchanged rings in the air but, for safety's sake, waited until they were back on the ground to kiss.

More than 3,000 people watched the wedding in the sky, which took place during a local festival.

The tightrope was stretched between the town wall and a tower, and the motorbike was ridden by Falko Traber, a member of a family of artists.



Pastor Stefan Gierung, left, stands in a cage atop of a fire service ladder in front of bride Nicole Backhaus, center, and groom Jens Knorr, right, both sitting in a swing dangling under a motorcycle with artist Falko Traber, top, during the wedding ceremony atop a tightrope in Stassfurt, Germany, Saturday, June 16, 2018. (Peter Gercke/dpa via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 34 of 35

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 17, the 168th day of 2018. There are 197 days left in the year. This is Father's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 17, 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

On this date:

In 1397, the Treaty of Kalmar created a union between the kingdoms of Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

In 1579, Sir Francis Drake arrived in present-day northern California, naming it New Albion and claiming English sovereignty.

In 1818, French composer Charles Gounod (goo-NOH'), known for the operas "Faust" and "Romeo et Juliette," was born in Paris.

In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on a trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Wales with pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, becoming the first woman to make the trip as a passenger.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1948, a United Air Lines DC-6 crashed near Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, killing all 43 people on board.

In 1953, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stayed the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, originally set for the next day, the couple's 14th wedding anniversary. (They were put to death June 19.)

In 1967, China successfully tested its first thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside Democratic national headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

In 1987, Charles Glass, a journalist on leave from ABC News, was kidnapped in Beirut by pro-Iranian guerrillas. (Glass escaped his captors in August 1987.)

In 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial, but held liable in a civil trial.)

In 2015, nine people were shot to death in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina; suspect Dylann Roof was arrested the following morning. (Roof has since been convicted of federal hate crimes and sentenced to death; he later pleaded guilty to state murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

Ten years ago: Hundreds of same-sex couples got married across California on the first full day that gay marriage became legal by order of the state's highest court. (However, California voters later approved Proposition 8, which restricted nuptials to a union between a man and a woman.) A truck bombing in Baghdad killed 63 people. Four British soldiers were killed by an explosive in Afghanistan's Helmand province. The Boston Celtics won their 17th NBA title with a stunning 131-92 blowout over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 6. Igor Larionov and Glenn Anderson were elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame along with former linesman Ray Scapinello and junior hockey builder Ed Chynoweth. Actress-dancer Cyd Charisse died in Los Angeles at age 86.

Five years ago: A G-8 summit of wealthy nations opened in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, under a cloud, with Russian President Vladimir Putin defiantly rejecting calls from the U.S., Britain and France to halt his political and military support for Syrian leader Bashar Assad's regime. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that states can't demand proof of citizenship from people registering to vote in federal elections unless they get federal or court approval to do so.

One year ago: The jury in Bill Cosby's sexual assault case declared itself hopelessly deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial for the 79-year-old TV star charged with drugging and groping a woman more than a decade earlier; prosecutors immediately announced they would pursue a second trial, which resulted in Cosby's

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 338 ~ 35 of 35

conviction. The Navy destroyer USS Fitzgerald was damaged in a collision with a Philippine-flagged container ship off Japan that killed seven sailors.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 86. Movie director Ken Loach is 82. Actor William Lucking is 77. Singer Barry Manilow is 75. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 75. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 67. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 64. Actor Jon Gries (gryz) is 61. Rock singer Jello Biafra is 60. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 60. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 57. Actor Greg Kinnear is 55. Actress Kami Cotler is 53. Olympic gold medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 53. Actor Jason Patric is 52. Rhythm and blues singer Kevin Thornton is 49. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 48. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 47. Tennis player Venus Williams is 38. Actor Arthur Darvill is 36. Actress Jodie Whittaker is 36. Country singer Mickey Guyton is 35. Actor-rapper Herculeez (AKA Jamal Mixon) is 35. Actress Marie Avgeropoulos is 32. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 31. Actor Damani Roberts is 22.

Thought for Today: "Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad." — Wade Boggs, Baseball Hall of Famer.