

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 1 of 42

“Knowledge is the soil, and intuitions are the flowers which grow up out of it.”

-Henry Ward Beecher



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

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Hanlon Brothers Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Youth Talent Contests
- 2- Groton Property Manager Wanted
- 2- No Motorized Boats on Swan Lake Effective Immediately
- 3- Department of Revenue taking next steps after U.S. Supreme Court decision
- 3- Agtegra Ad
- 4- Blood Drive Ad
- 4- Clint Neumann Joins NSU's Womens Basketball Coaching Staff
- 5- Big Tree comes down
- 6- Fire Marshal Urges Safety in Using Fireworks
- 7- SDHSAA announces 2018-19 Distinguished Service Award Recipients
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of Stockdams with our 60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Youth Talent Contests

The SD Association of Fairs & Celebrations is pleased to announce the availability for non-professional youth, ages 13-19 to compete at either of two regional Youth Talent Contests. The winners from both regional contests will advance to the state competition in Huron on September 3rd during the SD State Fair for a chance to win the grand prize of \$500 and a trophy. Cash and trophies will be awarded for the top 4 places.

Most any type of talent act is accepted; dance, musical, comedic, magic, and more and can be solo or group. Complete rules, registrations, consent forms, category information will be provided by the regional contest chairmen. Acts do not have to be from South Dakota to compete.

One regional talent competition will be held on July 28th in Aberdeen at the Blues, Brews & BBQ event in Centennial Village. For more information, please contact Denise Huber; 605.225.8445 or by email at denise_n_ray@hotmail.com

The other regional talent competition will be held in Vermillion during the Clay County Fair on August 11th. For more information, please contact Missy O'Conner at 605.677.9214 or by email at sdclaycountyfair@gmail.com

Prize sponsors are Romeo Entertainment Group, Theatrical Media Services, Bitzer Agency, RaceWest Awards of Ipswich and the SD Association of Fairs & Celebrations along with the SD State Fair.

Groton Property Manager Wanted

Real Estate Rental property manager wanted. Must live in or near Groton. Potential income of up to \$5,000 a month. Experience a plus. For details, call Lee at 605-824-4888.

No Motorized Boats on Swan Lake Effective Immediately

PIERRE, S.D. – Due to flood waters impacting homes and property, a temporary restriction on the use of motorized boats on Swan Lake in Turner county, southwest of Sioux Falls, is effective immediately. This has been an official order made by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks secretary, Kelly Hepler.

State law gives the department secretary, as the governor's designee, the authority to prohibit or restrict recreational use or navigation on any portion of a river, lake or stream in order to protect the public peace, health or safety.

The temporary restriction is in effect through July 3, 2018, but could be rescinded earlier if the situation allows.

"This temporary order was put in place at the request of homeowners who live on Swan Lake as a means to protect private property that is now inundated by high water," said Emmett Keyser, regional wildlife supervisor for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. "Many of these homeowners have landscaping and other structures under water due to recent heavy rains in the Swan Lake watershed. Once the waters recede and safety is no longer a threat to recreational users, we will request that the declaration be revoked."

A violation of a public waterway restriction is a Class 2 Misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a fine of \$500, or both.

Department of Revenue taking next steps after U.S. Supreme Court decision

PIERRE, S.D. — Following the United States Supreme Court's historic decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*, the South Dakota Department of Revenue is taking the next steps in implementing 2016's remote seller taxation law.

"The U.S. Supreme Court's June 21 decision was monumental for the State of South Dakota and Main Street businesses throughout the nation," Department of Revenue Secretary Andy Gerlach said.

While the U.S. Supreme Court's decision was in South Dakota's favor, a State Circuit Court injunction prevents immediate implementation of a 2016 law which requires online sellers without a physical presence in South Dakota to collect and remit sales tax. Because the U.S. Supreme Court set aside the previous decision of the South Dakota Supreme Court, the case will return to the South Dakota court system for further legal proceedings.

The Department of Revenue expects that the U.S. Supreme Court will formally send its decision to the South Dakota Supreme Court in mid-July. The case will return to the State Circuit Court with the possibility for an August decision.

As the State of South Dakota prepares to implement the 2016 law, the Department of Revenue will continue to be a resource for both out-of-state and in-state businesses.

"The South Dakota Department of Revenue will work in partnership with the business community to ensure a smooth implementation of this decision," Gerlach said. "While it may take several months for litigation to conclude, we will continue to communicate with our current and future taxpayers on implementation."

The Department of Revenue will provide further updates on this topic online at sd.gov/remoteseller. Interested parties may also sign up to receive email updates at the webpage.

**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE DAY,
FROM YOUR FRIENDS
AT AGTEGRA!**



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Clint Neumann Joins Women's Basketball Coaching Staff

Aberdeen, S.D. – Northern State head women's basketball coach, Paula Krueger announced today the completion of her coaching staff with the hiring of Clint Neumann. Neumann joins the Wolves as the team's second assistant, after spending three seasons at Bemidji State University. Along with game day and practice responsibilities, Neumann will also focus on recruiting and team operations including travel, meals, and camps at NSU.

"I'm excited to announce the hiring of Clint Neumann to complete my staff," explained Krueger. "He brings Midwest recruiting experience and has an extensive knowledge of the Northern Sun. He and Coach Kruger bring tremendous energy to our staff."

As an assistant with the Beavers, Neumann mentored NSIC All-Conference guard, Aimee Pelzer and NSIC All-Freshman team member, Brooklyn Bachmann. Pelzer was the first all-conference first team member for Bemidji State since the 2008 season, as the Beavers shot above 40.0 percent the field for the first time in five seasons. Bachmann led the team and all NSIC freshmen with 12.5 points, 5.1 rebounds and 2.1 assists and 1.1 steals per game in 2017-18. Neumann assisted in day-to-day office operations, as well as pre-game scouting, practice planning, and recruiting at Bemidji State.

"It's an honor to join one of the top basketball programs in all of college basketball, at any level," noted Neumann. "I can't wait to help build upon the great tradition at Northern State University."

He began his coaching career with the Minnesota Heat AAU, program as the head 13U coach, before working as the freshman baseball assistant at Mounds View High School. Neumann stepped into the collegiate ranks in 2014 as the men's basketball manager at the University of Minnesota.

Neumann received his bachelor of science in sport management from the University of Minnesota in May of 2015.

Find the **HERO** in you.
Give blood 3 times a year!

Groton Blood Drive
Thurs., June 28th 11:45am-6pm
Groton Community Center

To schedule an appointment:
Contact Stacy Oliver @397-2323
or go to www.bloodhero.com
select Donate Blood & enter
"groton" as the sponsor code.

**Sponsored by James Valley
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entered to win a \$100 JVT credit.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 5 of 42



This big cottonwood tree at the corner of Second Street and Fourth Avenue in Groton was removed over the weekend. Here are the photos from before, the branches on the ground and afterwards.

(Photos by Paul Kosel)



Fire Marshal Urges Safety in Using Fireworks

PIERRE, S.D. – Even though there has been more rain this month in parts of South Dakota, the state's Fire Marshal is reminding people still to be careful with fireworks as they prepare for the July Fourth holiday.

Sale of fireworks in South Dakota begins this Wednesday, June 27, and can be purchased until Thursday, July 5. It is legal to discharge fireworks through Sunday, July 8.

State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says most years, the concern is about discharging fireworks in dry conditions. But he says people also need to be careful in areas which have received rain as well.

"Unintentional fires started by fireworks can start in any type of conditions regardless of rainfall amounts," he says. "It still comes down to common sense, following the instructions on the fireworks and not discharging fireworks around people and buildings."

Since some individual cities may adopt fireworks limits that are stricter than state law, Merriman suggests that citizens check local ordinances and regulations. Merriman offers a few simple safety tips:

- *** Follow the instructions on the product;
- *** Avoid using fireworks in places where a fire could start;
- *** Keep a source of water handy; and,
- *** Many fireworks such as sparklers, which are popular with younger children, can cause painful burns and should be used with adult supervision.

The state Fire Marshal's Office is part of the state Department of Public Safety.

SDHSAA announces 2018-19 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Ten distinguished individuals from across the state of South Dakota have been selected to receive the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) Distinguished Service Award for the 2018-19 school year. Following a nomination process, the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award are selected by the SDHSAA Board of Directors.

The SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award program was established by the SDHSAA in 1976. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest recognition bestowed by the SDHSAA. It is designed to honor individuals who have made significant long-term contributions to the high school athletic and fine arts activities in our state.

Distinguished Service Award recipients are individuals whose contributions have had an impact on high school activity programs. The Distinguished Service Award is presented to honor administrators (principals, superintendents and athletic/activity directors); Board of Education members; athletic and fine arts activities coaches & directors; contest officials for fine arts and athletic activities; and contributors to statewide high school activities. The recipients of this award have given outstanding service to the youth of the state through the high school athletic and fine arts activities programs.

The following individuals are the 2018-19 SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award recipients:

Category: Administrators

Bud Postma – Madison

Steve Moore – Sioux Falls Roosevelt

Jim Aisenbrey - Baltic

Category: Coaches & Directors

Nelly Long – Pine Ridge

Bill Sawinsky - Webster

Marica Shannon – Mitchell

Toby Rath – Rapid City Central

Category: Board of Education

Sandy Klatt – Brandon Valley

Category: Contest Official

Bob Malloy – Parkston

Tom McGough - Miller

The Distinguished Service Awards will be presented throughout the 2018-19 school year at various SDHSAA state athletic and fine arts events.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 8 of 42

Today in Weather History

June 27, 1894: Three people were injured as a tornado destroyed a home 5 miles north of Houghton in Brown County. Lumber on a wagon was scattered for over a mile. This tornado was estimated to be an F2. Also, a second F2 tornado formed south of Aberdeen and moved northeast and went near Randolph, to beyond Bath. Several barns and two homes were destroyed along the narrow path. Three other small funnels were seen to touch down. Another tornado with estimated F2 strength moved ENE from northeast of St. Lawrence to Bonilla and Hitchcock. At least one home was destroyed. One person was killed in the destruction of her home, north of Wessington. An estimated F2 tornado hit 2 miles south of Henry. At least two small houses were blown away. There was another possible tornado 12 miles north of Henry. Numerous tornadoes continued into Minnesota.

June 27, 1928: A long-lived estimated F2 tornado moved southeast from 7 miles west of Faulkton, passing north and east of Orient. Buildings were damaged on nine farms. One home near Orient was riddled with timbers from a nearby grain elevator. This tornado was estimated to travel a distance of 40 miles.

1915: The temperature at Fort Yukon, Alaska soared to 100 degrees to establish a state record.

1995: The Madison County Flood on June 27, 1995, was the worst flash floods Virginia had seen since the remnants of Camille dropped up to 30 inches of rain one night in Nelson County in August 1969. The Nelson County flood ranked as one of the nation's worst flash floods of this century and resulted in the deaths of 117 people. The Madison County flood killed one person.

2011: Polar temperatures and unusual snowfall chill several cities in Brazil's southern states. Four cities in Santa Catarina state are blanketed in snow. The town of Urubici reported a temperature of 23.9 degrees Fahrenheit with a wind chill of 16.6 degrees below zero. In Florianopolis, the capital of Santa Catarina and a renowned sea resort, thermometers registered 21.2 degrees.

1901 - There was a rain of fish from the sky at Tiller's Ferry. Hundreds of fish were swimming between cotton rows after a heavy shower. (David Ludlum)

1957 - Hurricane Audrey smashed ashore at Cameron, LA, drowning 390 persons in the storm tide, and causing 150 million dollars damage in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Audrey left only a brick courthouse and a cement-block icehouse standing at Cameron, and when the waters settled in the town of Crede, only four buildings remained. The powerful winds of Audrey tossed a fishing boat weighing 78 tons onto an off-shore drilling platform. Winds along the coast gusted to 105 mph, and oil rigs off the Louisiana coast reported wind gusts to 180 mph. A storm surge greater than twelve feet inundated the Louisiana coast as much as 25 miles inland. It was the deadliest June hurricane of record for the U.S. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)




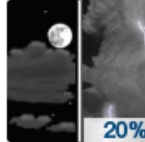


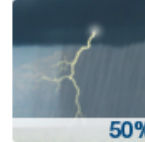
1987 - Thunderstorms moving out of Nebraska produced severe weather in north central Kansas after midnight. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph damaged more than fifty camping trailers at the state park campground at Lake Waconda injuring sixteen persons. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Beloit and Sylvan Grove. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The afternoon high of 107 degrees at Bismarck, ND, was a record for the month of June, and Pensacola, FL, equalled their June record with a reading of 101 degrees. Temperatures in the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley dipped into the 40s. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Ohio Valley to western New England. Thunderstorm spawned six tornadoes, and there were 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Tropical Storm Allison spawned six tornadoes in Louisiana, injuring two persons at Hackberry. Fort Polk LA was drenched with 10.09 inches of rain in 36 hours, and 12.87 inches was reported at the Gorum Fire Tower in northern Louisiana. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 9 of 42

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
20%			20%	10%	40%	50%
Slight Chance Showers then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot	Partly Cloudy then Severe Thunderstorms	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 88 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 70 °F	High: 90 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 80 °F

Today

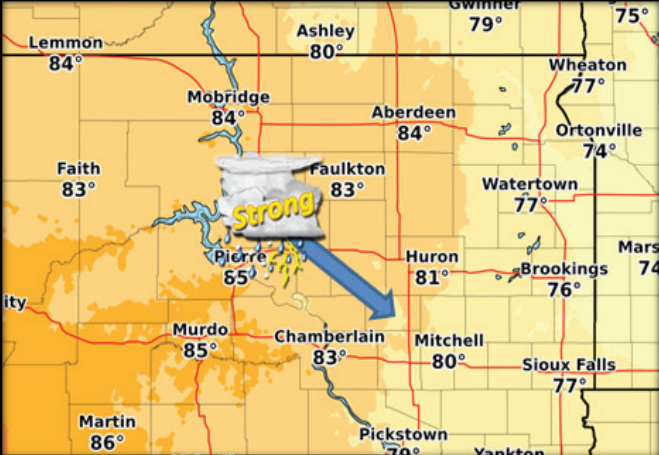
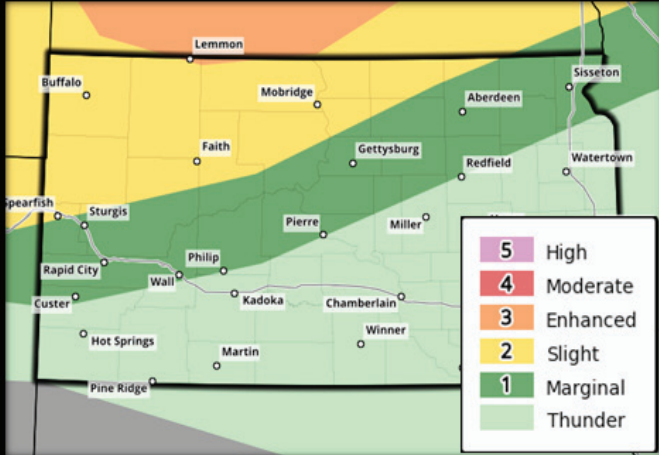
Early Morning Storms




- Storms end by morning
- Seasonal temperatures in the afternoon

Thursday Afternoon-Friday

Severe Storms Possible

- Threat greatest for NW SD and all of ND
- Large hail and damaging winds

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
Updated: 6/27/2018 3:23 AM Central

Published on: 06/27/2018 at 3:33AM

Early morning thunderstorms will track southeast across parts of central South Dakota, but will quickly come to an end later this morning. The rest of the day will feature seasonal temperatures and a northerly breeze. Another round of storms, likely severe, is expected Thursday afternoon into Friday. The greatest threat will be over parts of northwest South Dakota and all of North Dakota. Large hail and damaging winds are possible.

Groton Daily Independent

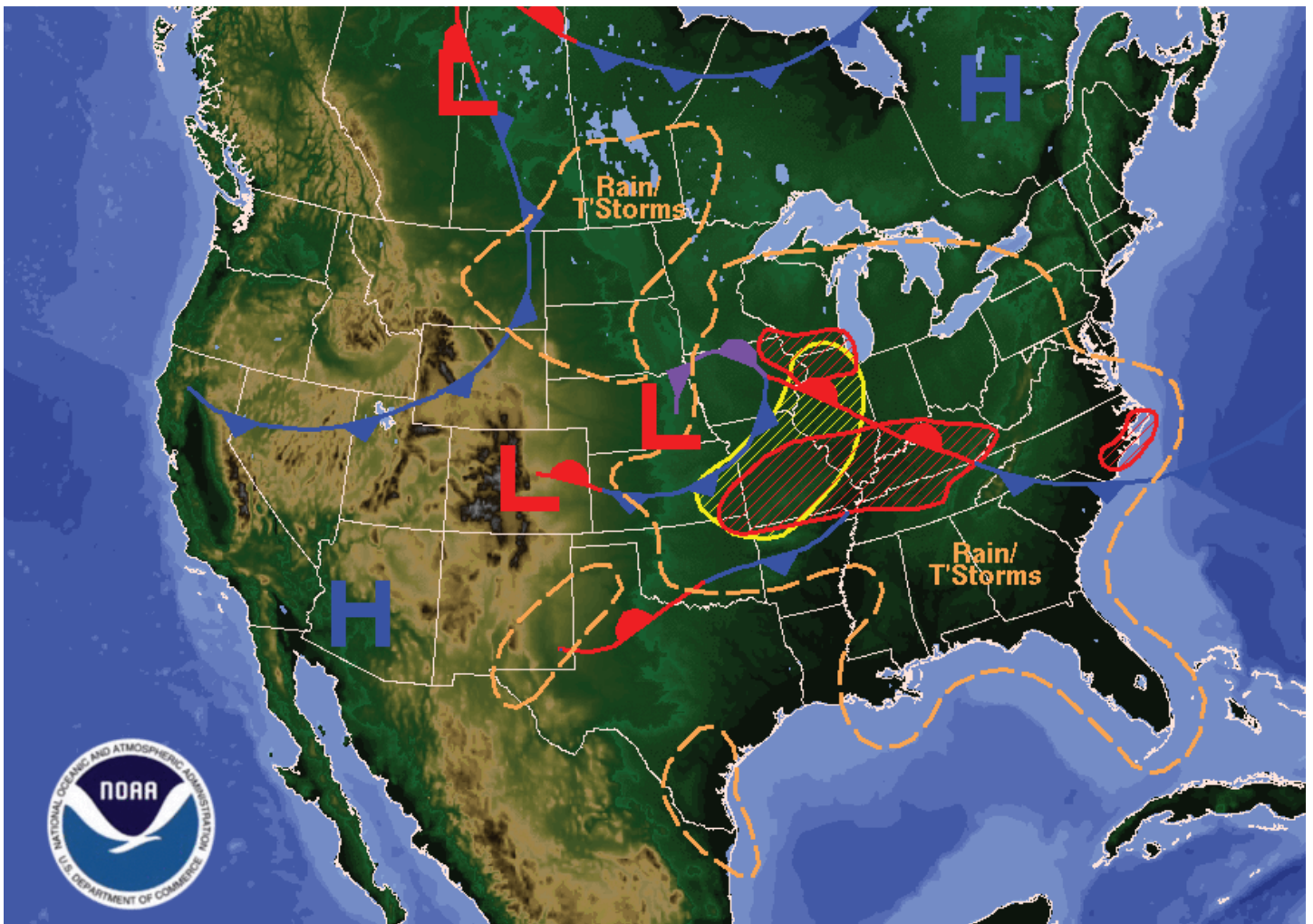
Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 10 of 42

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.6 F at 6:54 PM
Low Outside Temp: 59.8 F at 6:41 AM
High Gust: 12.0 Mph at 2:30 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 2017
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in June: 3.34
Precip to date in June: 1.52
Average Precip to date: 10.48
Precip Year to Date: 5.82
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 26, 2018, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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



MIDNIGHT THANKS

There is a story of a young girl who was demon-possessed and a qualified fortune teller. A group of men saw an opportunity to make large sums of money from her talents so they formed a syndicate, bought her time and talents and made a good deal of money.

Not long after they formed their syndicate, an evangelist and his young associate saw the girl and felt sorry for her. The evangelist stood before her, addressed the demon in her and said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." Instantly, the demon left her when he heard the voice of the evangelist.

When the owners of the girl realized that their investment and future income was gone they succeeded in having Paul and Silas arrested. They were given a bloody beating and then thrown into a dungeon and their hands and feet were clamped into stocks.

When we look at this story up to this point we see two men imprisoned for doing what was good and right yet were deeply wronged. Did they stop and pity themselves and complain to the God they were serving? Indeed not! At midnight they began to pray and sing praises to God and a revival broke out: the jailer was converted.

One thing that cannot be taken away from a Christian is the presence of Christ. With Him and in Him there is a freedom that only He can give - even at midnight. Might they have been familiar with the words of the Psalmist: "At midnight I rise to give You thanks."

Prayer: It's easy, Father, to give thanks when things are going our way. May we also give thanks in our trials. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:62 At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 12 of 42

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

17-25-29-39-60, Mega Ball: 19, Megaplier: 2

(seventeen, twenty-five, twenty-nine, thirty-nine, sixty; Mega Ball: nineteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$212 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Defense: Woman didn't know about couple's embezzling scheme

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The lawyer for a former South Dakota educational cooperative employee charged in an embezzlement scheme denied Tuesday that she knew about alleged financial misconduct uncovered after the cooperative's business manager shot his wife and four children, then set fire to their house and killed himself in 2015.

Defense attorney Clint Sargent said during opening statements in the theft trial of Stephanie Hubers that jurors won't see any evidence she knew about the embezzlement, arguing also that Hubers "didn't steal a thing."

Hubers is a former Mid-Central Educational Cooperative staffer accused of receiving about \$55,000 to keep quiet about the embezzlement by Mid-Central business manager Scott Westerhuis and his wife before their deaths in the 2015 murder-suicide. Attorney General Marty Jackley told jurors that Hubers knew about the couple's theft, participated in it and profited from it.

"Stephanie Hubers knew about this and played an active role in it," Jackley said in the court room in Sioux Falls.

Hubers pleaded not guilty to one count of grand theft and two counts of grand theft by deception and three alternative receiving stolen property counts. She faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and fines for each count.

She's accused of getting roughly \$55,000 from a nonprofit called the American Indian Institute for Innovation from 2009 to 2014 that she wasn't entitled to or that she knew had been stolen.

Jackley said Hubers invoiced the nonprofit for payment for work she didn't perform. Hubers told authorities that Scott Westerhuis paid her extra money from the nonprofit beyond her Mid-Central salary to perform duties such as research. She said the additional duties quickly stopped, but the extra money kept coming, according to court documents.

But Sargent said the money Hubers received from the nonprofit was paid to her like a contractor after Mid-Central wouldn't approve a raise for her.

Hubers' trial comes more than two years after authorities launched a financial investigation because of the deaths. Investigators believe the total amount that Scott Westerhuis and his wife, Nicole, stole before their deaths surpassed \$1 million.

The investigation spurred the felony charges in 2016 against Hubers, 45, of Geddes, and two others who allegedly helped in the couple's embezzlement scheme.

Mid-Central employees didn't know about transfers from nonprofits Scott and Nicole Westerhuis ran — including the American Indian Institute for Innovation — to their own consulting companies or themselves,

Sargent said.

He said prosecutors claim that Hubers knew about the embezzlement, but jurors wouldn't "see any evidence of that."

"It's a theory. It's based on our most cynical views of, 'Oh she had to know,'" Sargent said. "It was a shock to everyone to find out that Scott and Nicole were liars and thieves."

Sargent said Hubers tried to help authorities after the deaths.

After the opening statements, jurors heard from Division of Criminal Investigation agents, state Department of Legislative Audit officials and a September 2015 interview DCI investigators conducted with Hubers.

In the interview, not long after the killings and fire, Hubers said that obviously there was activity going on "unbeknownst" to her. She said the only thing she knew about the American Indian Institute for Innovation was the money she had received, an arrangement she said Scott Westerhuis had with two other Mid-Central employees.

One agent assured her that she wasn't in trouble.

Hubers said the Westerhuises were "tight knit," and said Scott Westerhuis told her that they were a private family. She described her own relationship with the family as one that included watching their children and knowing their routine.

Testimony from a DCI agent was set to continue when the proceedings started again on Wednesday. The two others charged in the case, former Mid-Central Director Dan Guericke and consultant Stacy Phelps, are to face trial later.

Guericke and Phelps are accused of backdating two contracts between Mid-Central and the American Indian Institute for Innovation in August 2015 before they were made available to the state Department of Legislative Audit. Investigators say in the court records they believe the contract changes were an attempt to avoid a potential audit of the Institute.

Guericke is also accused of conspiring with Scott and Nicole Westerhuis to backdate contracts with other people.

Guericke has been charged with six felony counts for falsifying evidence and conspiring to offer forged or fraudulent evidence. Phelps, who previously served as chief executive of the American Indian Institute for Innovation, is charged with four felony counts for those alleged crimes.

Zinke deletes photo of his Trump socks after complaints

By The Associated Press

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has deleted a photo of himself wearing socks with President Donald Trump's face and the slogan "Make America Great Again" after multiple groups said he was violating federal law.

Zinke tweeted the photo before speaking Tuesday to the Western Governors Association at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota.

Zinke later apologized and re-posted the photo with "Make America Great Again" blacked out, saying he had not realized it could be viewed as a political slogan.

In March, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel sent updated guidance on the federal Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from engaging in political activity while on duty.

The guidance says employees may not wear, display or distribute items with the slogan "Make America Great Again" while on duty or in the workplace.

Civil War veteran given headstone over 100 years after death

ALEXANDRIA, S.D. (AP) — A Civil War veteran was honored with a military headstone on his grave in South Dakota more than a century after his death.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held a remembrance ceremony Saturday for Corp. Timothy Peters in Alexandria, the Daily Republic reported. Peters served as a corporal from 1861 to 1865 in a Wisconsin company. He mostly fought in Missouri and Arkansas.

Peters survived the Civil War, got married, had children and eventually moved to Hanson County. He

died in 1906 and was buried without an official military headstone.

Peters' military headstone was at first wrongly placed on the grave of a Timothy Peters in Washington state in 2007. A Civil War history buff in Washington had tried to get Civil War soldiers buried in his county the proper headstone, but didn't realize that the Timothy Peters he'd found was born after the war ended.

Joni Krause stumbled upon the mix up while researching her family history, including her distant relative Timothy Peters.

"I messed around for a couple years, trying to get it straightened out," Krause said of the headstone error. "I just kind of gave up. I knew the truth."

Gordon Stuve, a camp commander for the nonprofit Sons of Union, contacted Krause about the issue about two years ago. Stuve wanted to move the stone to the proper grave, but he needed permission from Peters' relatives.

"After almost 11 years exactly, this stone has found its home," Stuve said at the headstone dedication. "And I thank the people that participated in this project with me."

Krause was given a memorial flag, while Peters was remembered with a firing squad salute.

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

US, Canada reach deal on disputed \$244M water project

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Canada will have a say in the operation of a major Missouri River water project in the northern U.S. under a deal negotiated by officials in the two countries to end a 16-year-legal battle.

The agreement on the \$244 million Northwest Area Water Supply project won't be final until a federal appeals court formally dismisses the case, and the state of Missouri also is still fighting the project in court. But the deal will end the international dispute that has held up completion of the project first authorized by Congress in 1986.

The project aims to bring Missouri River water to as many as 82,000 people in northwestern North Dakota, giving them a reliable source of quality water. Manitoba sued in 2002 over concerns about the possible transfer of harmful bacteria or other agents from the Missouri River Basin to the Hudson Bay Basin.

The agreement reached between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Canadian province of Manitoba sets up a team with Canadian representation to oversee treatment and monitoring of the river water, and among other duties help develop an emergency response plan. The team also is to have representatives of the state and federal governments south of the border, and is to meet at least once a year.

The Manitoba government in a statement to The Associated Press called the agreement "a crucial deal" that will allow the province to end its court fight. U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer in Washington, D.C., ruled last August that the water project complied with federal environmental law, but Manitoba appealed.

"Without this settlement, Manitoba would not have a voice in the future of the NAWS project," the statement said. "The province is ensuring that Manitoba is involved in the discussion when important decisions are made that could affect Manitoba's waterways."

The Bureau of Reclamation declined comment until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit acts on a joint motion filed by U.S. and Canadian officials asking for dismissal of Manitoba's appeal.

North Dakota is a part of that motion. Tim Freije, NAWS project manager for North Dakota's State Water Commission, said the state has no problem with Manitoba being given a role on the team that will oversee water treatment and monitoring.

The deal won't resolve Missouri's claims. The state joined the lawsuit in 2009 over fears that NAWS would deplete the Missouri River water it needs for residents and its shipping and agriculture industries. Collyer ruled the state had no standing to sue the federal government. The state has appealed, though state Solicitor General John Sauer acknowledges in court documents that even a ruling favorable to the state might not stop the project. Freije has said North Dakota isn't worried about Missouri's claim.

Collyer has allowed some work on the water project to be done through the years. A combined \$129

million in federal, state and local money has been spent on more than 225 miles of pipeline and other infrastructure. The system currently serves about 25,000 people, though the water comes not from the river but from Minot's water treatment plant, which relies on groundwater. Future state and federal funding is not guaranteed.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Sanford Health to merge with Good Sam

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two large employers in Sioux Falls have agreed to merge.

The membership of senior care provider Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society voted Tuesday to merge with Sanford Health.

Sanford Health's board of directors approved the merger last week. The deal still needs regulatory approval.

The Argus Leader reports the two nonprofits combined employ about 10,900 in the Sioux Falls area, with a total of 47,000 employees nationwide.

Good Sam's has 200 locations in 24 states. Its board previously voted to accept the plan. The society's membership includes current executives, location administrators and executive directors and managers, as well as some former employees.

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

Still no new job for deputy fired after winning election

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — Negotiations have stalled on a different county job for a South Dakota sheriff's deputy who was fired by his boss after defeating him in a primary race.

Bon Homme County commissioners earlier this month voted to offer Deputy Mark Maggs a different job to keep him on the payroll with health insurance until he assumes the sheriff's job in January.

The Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan reports commissioners met Monday to discuss progress on negotiations but took no action. Chairman Mike Soukup says negotiations will continue, and commissioners will meet again Monday.

Sheriff Lenny Gramkow fired Maggs after Maggs beat him in the June 5 election. The sheriff's office was inundated with negative phone calls that hindered emergency responses after the firing. Gramkow says he has no regrets.

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

6 people injured, 2 pets killed in Box Elder house fire

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Six people suffered minor injuries and two pets died in a house fire in Box Elder. Firefighters responded to the scene about 2:30 p.m. Monday and stopped the flames from spreading to nearby buildings.

The adult and three children in the home and two adult neighbors were treated at the scene for minor injuries. Two pets died, while two others survived.

The home was extensively damaged. There was no immediate word on the cause of the fire.

Sanford Health absorbing North Dakota research institute

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health is expanding its research work by adding in a Fargo, North Dakota-based research institute focused on eating disorders and obesity.

Sanford Research is absorbing Neuropsychiatric Research Institute. NRI was established in 1955 and previously worked with Fargo-based MeritCare Health System, which Sanford Health absorbed in a 2009

merger.

Sanford says the goal is to establish a major research program for Sanford Research in Fargo. NRI's employees will join Sanford.

Sanford Research is a nonprofit research arm of Sanford Health, the largest rural, not-for-profit health care system in the nation.

Anthrax confirmed in South Dakota cattle herd

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Officials say anthrax has been confirmed in South Dakota livestock for the first time year this year.

State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven has confirmed that eight cows died out of a herd of 87 unvaccinated cattle in Clark County.

The Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at South Dakota State University confirmed the disease from samples submitted over the weekend.

Anthrax can cause the rapid loss of a large number of animals in a short time. Infected livestock often are found dead with no illness detected.

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board says anthrax spores survive indefinitely in contaminated soil. The board says strict enforcement of quarantines and proper burning and burying of carcasses suspected to have died from anthrax is important to prevent further soil contamination from bacterial spores.

Travel ban ruling stirs dismay among immigrants, advocates

By JEFF KAROUB and JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Maryam Bahramipناه is torn between staying with her husband, who came to Michigan from their native Iran, and returning home to see her mother, who suffered a stroke.

With the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to uphold President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, she expects that she can't do both.

"I'm very sad," said Bahramipناه, who cried when she heard about the decision. "I don't know what to do. I really don't know. Now it's official and I don't know."

Muslim individuals and groups, as well as other religious and civil rights organizations, expressed outrage and disappointment at the high court's rejection of a challenge claiming the policy discriminates against Muslims or exceeds the president's authority. Protesters voiced dismay at rallies across the country.

At a protest in New York, Khulood Nasher held back tears as she spoke of her two sons stranded in Yemen. In 2014, she received asylum and her sons were approved to join her in the U.S. But after the U.S. embassy in Yemen was closed in 2015, their processing was delayed. The last year has been filled with starts and stops for the mother, but today felt like a death blow.

"Today, we were broken. I lost my heart to see my family," said Nasher, who works as a translator.

Not all reaction was negative, however. A nonprofit group that supports Trump's policies called the decision a "tremendous victory."

"Today's Supreme Court ruling is monumental," America First Policies spokeswoman Erin Montgomery said. "It states that deciding who can and cannot enter our country does indeed fall within the realm of executive responsibility. Note the word 'responsibility.'"

The travel ban has been fully in place since December, when the justices put the brakes on lower court decisions that had blocked part of it from being enforced. The policy applies to travelers from five countries with overwhelmingly Muslim populations: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries, blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

Detroit-area immigration attorney Farah Al-Khersan expects chaos at border crossings and other points of entry.

"For anybody who has a nonimmigrant visa who is here — even someone with a green card — I would

not recommend that they leave right now," she said. "Once you're outside of the country and you're trying to come in, that's going to be a problem."

For Afnan Salem, a Somali refugee living in Columbus, Ohio, the decision reinforces worries she may never reunite with her grandparents or father.

"We were hoping that at least the Supreme Court would rule at least for fair play and let us be reunited with our families," said Salem, who came to the U.S. eight years ago and has since become a citizen. "But the decision that came out, our hearts are broken."

Jehan Hakim, program coordinator for the Islamic Scholarship Fund in San Francisco, said the ban is unconstitutional, "regardless of what the government says."

"It's unconstitutional as the Chinese Exclusion Act, it's unconstitutional as the incarceration of Japanese Americans and it's unconstitutional as the detainment of Latino immigrants," said Hakim, a Yemeni-American. "We will not stop fighting."

As Syrians face violence in their native country and a ban on entering the U.S., the executive director of the Syrian American Council says many are scared.

Suzanne Meriden, the council's executive director, choked up as she said, "It's sad on so many levels. I never cry. We're here to calm people, but I just get stressed out about it all. You try to hold yourself together, but sometimes it's too hard."

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, a conservative group that supports tighter immigration policies, heralded the Supreme Court decision and called it "a great victory for the security of the American people and the rule of law."

Bill O'Keefe, Catholic Relief Services' vice president for government relations, said in a statement that many of the people seeking refuge in the U.S. are victims of the same terrorists Americans are trying to fight, and denying them entry won't make the nation safer.

Bahramipناه, the Iranian woman who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, had hoped the Supreme Court would end the ban for good this time so her mother would be able to come to the U.S. to celebrate Bahramipناه's birthday next week.

"My mother told me, 'What do I buy you for your birthday?'" Bahramipناه said, choking back tears. "I said, 'Just pray that this ban does not hold forever.'"

Watson reported from San Diego. Associated Press reporters Adam Geller and Stephen Groves in New York City, and Lorin Eleni Gill in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Jeff Karoub is a member of AP's Race and Ethnicity Team. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> and find more of his work at <https://apnews.com/search/jeff%20karoub>.

Republican immigration bill faces likely defeat in House

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A far-reaching Republican immigration bill is careening toward likely House rejection, a defeat that would be a telling rebuff of the leaders of a divided GOP. The party's lawmakers are considering Plan B: Passing legislation by week's end curbing the Trump administration's contentious separating of migrant families.

After months of trying to bridge the chasm between moderates and conservatives and two postponed votes, top Republicans braced for a showdown roll call Wednesday. Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., labeled the legislation "a great consensus bill" and tried putting the best face on the likely outcome.

"What we have here is the seeds of consensus that will be gotten to, hopefully now but if not, later," he told reporters Tuesday.

The vote caps months of futile GOP efforts to pass wide-ranging legislation on an issue that could color scores of congressional races in this fall's contest for House and perhaps Senate control. The Senate

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 19 of 42

rejected three proposals in February, including one reflecting President Donald Trump's hard-line policies and two bipartisan plans.

Democrats and centrist Republicans from swing districts say the GOP could suffer because the party, steered by Trump's anti-immigrant harangues, could be alienating pivotal moderate voters. But conservatives relish such tough stances. And rather than achieving middle ground, leaders' efforts have largely underscored how irreconcilably divided the GOP is on the topic.

The Republican compromise would provide a shot at citizenship for hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought illegally to the U.S. as children. It would provide \$25 billion for Trump to build his coveted wall with Mexico, restrict family-based immigration and bar the Homeland Security Department from taking migrant children from parents seized crossing into the country without authorization.

Leaders were adding eleventh-hour provisions aimed at winning votes. One would make it easier for migrant farmworkers to stay longer in the country, the other would gradually require companies to use an electronic database to verify their employees' U.S. citizenship.

But those amendments didn't remove the key stumbling block — the reluctance by conservatives to back legislation helping people who arrived illegally become citizens. Many Republicans deride that plan as amnesty for lawbreakers, a potential attack line their next primary challenger could wield against them.

Also unhelpful has been Trump, who last week swerved from voicing support for the GOP immigration drive to denouncing it as a waste of time, since Democrats have the numbers in the closely divided Senate to kill any legislation they oppose.

"He was helpful Tuesday, but Friday he wasn't," Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., lamented about Trump.

Even the evolving, separate measure focused sharply on preventing family separation was hurting the compromise bill's prospects. It offers Republicans a chance to vote to address the high-profile problem without backing pieces of the broader measure that might anger conservatives

Democrats solidly oppose the GOP bill as punitive.

Curbelo and Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., from districts with large numbers of Hispanic voters, helped force Ryan to stage immigration votes. This spring they launched a petition that could have led to House passage of liberal-leaning measures creating a pathway to citizenship, bills backed by Democrats but opposed by most Republicans. Leaders headed off the petition by urging GOP lawmakers to not sign it, partly by crafting the compromise package the House was voting on Wednesday.

The House rejected a more conservative bill last week clamping down on legal immigration and lacking a way for the young immigrants to become citizens.

With television and social media awash with images and wails of young children torn from migrant families, Republicans want to pass a narrower measure addressing those separations should the broader bill fail.

Trump has issued an executive order reversing his own family separation policy, but around 2,000 children remain removed from relatives. GOP senators have rallied behind legislation ending the 20-day court-imposed limit on detaining families — along with steps aimed at speeding their prosecutions — and House Republicans are considering something similar.

Many want to pass it by week's end, when Congress starts a weeklong July 4 recess.

"It's a concern from a humanitarian standpoint, and we want to make sure that Republicans prove we can do both, we can uphold the law, we can also take care of families," said Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., an influential House conservative.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., expressed hope that senators could negotiate a bipartisan accord that could pass easily. No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said he hoped that would happen this week.

But one of the four senators negotiating the legislation said more time will be needed. Sen. Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., said in a brief interview that a ban against separating migrant families — the key feature of a bill she's proposed backed by every Democratic senator — must be part of any deal "or there won't be a bill."

Rain, high water complicate cave search for Thai soccer team

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — Heavy rainfall stymied efforts to rescue members of a youth soccer team trapped in a cave in northern Thailand by flooding underground passages faster than water can be pumped out, a senior official said Wednesday.

Muddy water rising to the ceiling of one of the chambers has prevented Thai navy SEAL divers from progressing farther into the cave to where they think the 12 schoolboys and their coach, who went missing Saturday, may be sheltering. There has been no contact with the group since they entered the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Chiang Rai province.

At the entrance to the cave, officials were bringing in large water hoses and more water pumps. Navy divers who have been working their way through the complex said that water levels were rising in some places at a rate of 15 centimeters (6 inches) per hour early Wednesday.

"We tried to pump the water (out of the chamber) but the water keeps rising. That means the water that comes in with the rain is still much more than what we can pump out," said Chiang Rai Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn. "So we need to pump the water faster."

He said the navy SEAL teams leading the search have been bolstered.

Narongsak also said teams continued to look for another way in to the blocked portions of the cave by searching for any shafts that might be accessible on the surface of the mountain, under which the cave sits. Two fissures were found Tuesday but proved to be dead ends. The rescuers were exploring another one found Wednesday morning.

Despite setbacks, officials remained publicly optimistic about the prospects for a successful rescue.

"We still have hope. All agencies are trying their best. We have a challenge from the water level that keep rising," Thai army chief Gen. Chalermchai Sittisart told reporters at the site. "We are adding more pumps to lower the level down so that the SEAL team could operate better."

He added that all agencies were working hard, "rotating 24 hours so that we can have a success in this operation."

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda told reporters earlier that the divers could proceed only when enough water is pumped out so there is space between the water and the ceiling to make it safer to work. The divers will also soon start using special oxygen tanks that provide longer diving times, he said.

A SEAL diver said the water is so murky that even with lights they cannot see where they are going underwater, so they need to be able to lift their heads above the water.

The boys aged 11-16 have been missing since their 25-year-old coach took them to the cave complex on Saturday after a practice match.

Somkuan Saokeaw, a volunteer rescue worker who had just left the cave area where a SEAL team was operating, said Wednesday morning that they had worked through the night in the farthest chamber they could access.

The cave complex extends several kilometers (miles) and has wide chambers and narrow passageways with rocky outcrops and changes in elevation. Still, officials have said they are hopeful the boys found a safe space away from the floods.

Parents waited overnight in tents outside the cave entrance as rain poured. Medics sat in a tent nearby, and bicycles, backpacks and soccer cleats the boys left behind remained at the entrance.

Authorities have said footprints and handprints were found inside the cave complex, as well as other items thought to belong to the boys. They noted that tourists trapped there by past floods have been rescued after the waters receded.

The cave, cut into a mountainside near the border with Myanmar, can flood severely during the rainy season, which runs from June to October.

Associated Press journalists Kaweewit Kaewjinda and Jason Corben in Bangkok contributed to this report.

US Rep. Joe Crowley defeated in Democratic primary in NY

By DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a 28-year-old political novice running on a low budget and an unabashedly liberal platform, upset longtime U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley on Tuesday in the Democratic congressional primary in New York.

The surprise victory by the community organizer in a district that includes parts of the Bronx and Queens came after an energetic, grassroots campaign that mustered more than enough support in a low-turnout race that many had expected to be an easy win for Crowley, a member of the Democratic House leadership.

"The community is ready for a movement of economic and social justice. That is what we tried to deliver," said Ocasio-Cortez, who has never held elected office and whose candidacy attracted only modest media attention.

She told The Associated Press after her victory that she didn't have enough money to do polling in the race, but felt in her gut that her message had a chance to connect.

"I live in this community. I organized in this community. I felt the absence of the incumbent. I knew he didn't have a strong presence," she said.

Crowley has been in Congress since 1999 and hadn't faced an opponent in a primary election since 2004, when Ocasio-Cortez was just a teenager. He was considered a candidate to become the next House speaker if Democrats win the majority.

"It's not about me," Crowley, 56, told his supporters at a campaign party following his loss. "It's about America. I want nothing but the best for Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. I want her to be victorious."

He later played guitar with a band at the election night gathering, and dedicated the first song, Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run," to Ocasio-Cortez.

Crowley represents New York's 14th Congressional District, where he is also the leader of the Queens Democratic party.

Ocasio-Cortez was outspent by an 18-1 margin during her race but won the endorsement of some influential groups on the party's far left, including MoveOn, as well as the actress Cynthia Nixon, who is running for governor. She defeated Crowley by 15 percentage points.

Born in the Bronx to a mother from Puerto Rico and a father who died in 2008, Ocasio-Cortez said she decided to challenge Crowley to push a more progressive stance on economic and other issues.

She attended Boston University, where she earned degrees in economics and international relations, and also spent time working in the office of the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy.

After graduating, she returned to the Bronx where she became a community organizer. In the 2016 presidential campaign she worked for U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Among her issues is expanding the Medicare program to people of all ages and abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She recently went to Tornillo, Texas, to protest against policies that have separated parents from their children at the southern U.S. border.

Ocasio-Cortez gained some internet attention for a campaign video called "The Courage to Change," a two-minute spot for which she wrote the script and featured footage from her own home.

Crowley is chair of the House Democratic Caucus, the fourth-highest ranking position in Democratic leadership in that chamber of Congress.

His loss drew the attention of President Donald Trump.

"Wow! Big Trump Hater Congressman Joe Crowley, who many expected was going to take Nancy Pelosi's place, just LOST his primary election. In other words, he's out! That is a big one that nobody saw happening. Perhaps he should have been nicer, and more respectful, to his President!" he tweeted.

The Republican candidate for the office, Anthony Pappas, is running unopposed and had no primary. Pappas teaches economics at St. John's University.

This story has been corrected to show that Ocasio-Cortez said "meet a machine," not "beat a machine."

Shelter chief says he's 'ready now' for migrant reunions

By ROBIN MCDOWELL, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The chief executive officer of the nation's largest shelters for migrant children says he's "ready now" to start reuniting hundreds of babies and young kids with their families.

Juan Sanchez of the nonprofit Southwest Key Programs made the comments hours before a judge in California ordered U.S. border authorities to bring separated families together within 30 days of a late Tuesday ruling. If children are younger than 5, they must be reunified within the next 14 days.

Sanchez said his nonprofit has located many of the parents who have been arrested for trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border so — if the opportunity arose — they could move quickly to reunite the families.

"We're ready today," said Sanchez, who had been fearful of a long, drawn out process.

Sanchez earlier said parents' cases would likely have to first make their way through the legal system. Only then could the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement give the go-ahead to put families back together. He said there appeared to be a lack of urgency on behalf of the government, and worried that the process could take months.

More than 2,000 children were separated from their parents as part of the Trump administration's recent "zero-tolerance" crackdown on illegal immigration — and around 600 of them are in Southwest Key facilities around the country.

It's not clear how border authorities will meet the deadline set by the California judge.

Earlier Tuesday, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar refused to be pinned down on how long it would take. He said his department does extensive vetting of parents to make sure they are not traffickers masquerading as parents.

Sanchez finds himself in the center of political controversy after agreeing to take in more than 600 children who were stripped from their parents.

Of those, 152 are younger than 5, including some babies and toddlers. The rest are between 6 and 11 years old.

Newly planned family detention space could allow recently separated children to be housed with their parents, Sanchez said, adding that would not be optimal, but would be better than keeping them apart.

"If it was me," he said, "I'd say I want the child with me."

Currently Southwest Key has nearly 5,100 children in 26 shelters in Texas, Arizona and California, accounting for nearly half the unaccompanied minors being held in facilities all over the country. Most of them are older children who weren't taken from their parents but instead tried to cross the border on their own.

The nonprofit organization has booked \$458 million in federal contracts during the current budget year — half of what is being handed out by HHS for placing immigrant children who came to the U.S. unaccompanied or were separated from their families after arriving.

Southwest Key, meanwhile, is hoping to get a green light for a new "tender age" shelter in a Houston warehouse previously used for Hurricane Harvey evacuees.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission said it could take three weeks to inspect the site and another two months to decide whether a permit will be issued.

Sanchez said he opposed the family-separation policy, but for the sake of the children he felt his organization needed to take them in.

"Somebody has to take care of them," he said.

Associated Press reporter Nomaan Merchant contributed to this report from Houston.

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

Trump-backed South Carolina Gov. McMaster wins GOP runoff

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — One of President Donald Trump's earliest and most loyal supporters won a key runoff Tuesday, as South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster fended off a challenge from a self-made millionaire to secure the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

"Be proud of South Carolina," McMaster told a crowd of supporters gathered Tuesday night at his victory party. "There's no other place like it."

The vote tested the heft of Trump's endorsement in South Carolina, where McMaster, 71, was elevated to the governorship he'd long sought early last year following the departure of Nikki Haley to serve as U.N. ambassador. As lieutenant governor, McMaster was the nation's first statewide elected official to back Trump, ahead of South Carolina's early presidential primary.

McMaster — a former state attorney general and U.S. attorney who was elected lieutenant governor in 2014 — has had the last year and a half to develop the mantle of an incumbent. He's tallied up economic development announcements and championed issues aligned with the president's priorities, such as clamping down on sanctuary cities and restricting funding for groups affiliated with abortions.

In November's general election, he'll seek a full term for the office that eluded him in 2010, when he lost a four-way primary to Haley in his first bid for governor.

Tuesday's runoff threatened to embarrass the White House if the governor fell short to businessman and first-time candidate John Warren. Warren largely self-funded his effort and argued he was more similar to Trump than McMaster.

Two weeks ago, McMaster was the top individual vote-getter in the GOP gubernatorial primary but failed to get the majority needed to win it outright. Warren came in second and was quickly endorsed by the third- and fourth-place finishers.

At an election night party in Greenville, Warren, 39, told supporters that together they had started a new movement within South Carolina's Republicans and that he hoped the momentum would continue despite the loss.

"Conservatives across this state have united, and they want to take their government back from the special interests, the political insiders," Warren said. "And that message is worth repeating for years to come."

Both Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have visited the state in recent days to campaign for McMaster. During a wide-ranging speech at a rally in West Columbia on Monday night, Trump implored Republicans to back McMaster. Trump pointed to his frequent nemesis, the news media, and warned that a loss for McMaster would be portrayed as a defeat for him.

"So please, get your asses out tomorrow and vote," Trump said. He followed up the rally with a sunrise tweet telling voters McMaster "will never let you down" and tweeted a congratulatory message Tuesday night.

Trump has a mixed track record when going all-in for candidates. His preferred candidates have recently lost in Alabama and Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday night, McMaster said that he could continue the state's upward momentum by parlaying his relationship with the Trump administration. One of his supporters said Tuesday that he felt the president's backing of McMaster could give a needed boost to the campaign at a critical moment.

"He brought himself and Mike Pence here," Tony Anderson Jr. of Conway said. "That just speaks volumes. Trump supports Henry because he knows Henry is a genuine guy."

In November, McMaster faces Democratic state Rep. James Smith, who won his primary outright.

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

Reach Kinnard at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP>. Read her work at <https://apnews.com/search/meg%20kinnard>.

Pregnancy center ruling a blow for abortion-rights advocates

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — In knocking down a California law aimed at regulating anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers, the U.S. Supreme Court delivered a blow to abortion-rights supporters who saw the law as a crucial step toward beating back the national movement against the procedure.

Democratic-led California became the first state in 2016 to require the centers to provide information about access to birth control and abortion, and it came as Republican-led states ramped up their efforts to thwart abortion rights.

Despite the court's 5-4 decision Tuesday, abortion-rights advocates pledged to keep fighting what they call "fake health centers," but their next steps weren't immediately clear.

Some saw potential to use the ruling to push back against laws in conservative states such as Wisconsin and Texas that require abortion providers to share information about adoption or to combat the federal push to ban U.S.-funded family planning clinics from referring women for abortions.

Hawaii and Illinois have laws similar to California, which required unlicensed centers to post information saying so and mandating licensed centers provide information about access to free or low-cost state programs that provide birth control, prenatal care and abortion. The ruling puts the laws in other states at risk.

California lawmakers said their law was meant to crack down on centers that deceive women by failing to inform them of their options or providing medically inaccurate information aimed at discouraging them from having abortions.

Advocates saw some room for hope in Justice Stephen Breyer's dissenting opinion. He said that among the reasons the law should be upheld is the high court has previously backed state laws requiring doctors to tell women seeking abortions about adoption services.

"After all, the law must be evenhanded," he wrote.

Anti-abortion rights groups, meanwhile, hailed the ruling as a victory for free speech and said the law coerced crisis pregnancy centers into providing information about services they don't support. Thomas Glessner, president of the National Institute for Family and Life Advocates, which had sued over California's law, called it a "great day for pro-life pregnancy centers."

Estimates of the number of crisis pregnancy centers in the U.S. run from 2,500 to more than 4,000, compared with fewer than 1,500 abortion providers, women's rights groups said in court documents. NIFLA has ties to 1,500 pregnancy centers nationwide and roughly 150 in California.

"California was really responding to what was becoming a pervasive issue in California with these crisis pregnancy centers giving false information," said Maggy Krell, chief legal counsel for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

California had not been enforcing the law in recent months. The justices sent the case back to lower courts but wrote in the majority opinion that the centers "are likely to succeed" in their constitutional challenge to the portion of the law involving licensed centers.

"California cannot co-opt the licensed facilities to deliver its message for it," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote. He called the requirement for unlicensed centers to post a notice stating they are unlicensed "unjustified and unduly burdensome."

Abortion-rights groups and California lawmakers said they needed to go through the decision fully before moving forward. A spokeswoman for state Attorney General Xavier Becerra said his office is "closely monitoring our options to determine the best next steps."

"The state of California and NARAL are just never going to stop protecting the right to choose and expanding it and ensuring that women actually have the full range of voices available to them," said Amy Everitt, vice president for special projects at abortion-rights group NARAL Pro-Choice America. "How we operationalize that and the very next steps, I'm not sure."

Advocates said the attorney general and local authorities should keep targeting crisis pregnancy centers that provide false information to consumers, such as pamphlets that suggest abortions can lead to breast cancer.

They also stressed the importance of fighting the Trump administration's appointment of anti-abortion justices to lower courts nationwide. They suggested that while the crisis pregnancy center case was decided on free-speech grounds, conservatives have the full-scale elimination of abortion rights in their sights.

California Assembly members David Chiu and Autumn Burke, both Democrats, said they would explore options for another legislative go-round at the issue and said they may be more aggressive in the face of defeat.

"I don't think the message we send today is that we're going to back off," Burke said. "I think the message that we send today is: You shot one over the bow, we're going to shoot three over the bow."

Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko and Mark Sherman in Washington contributed.

Democratic heavyweight loses in New York as Trump picks win

By STEVE PEOPLES, DEEPTI HAJELA and MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As Donald Trump's party came together, a 28-year-old liberal activist ousted top House Democrat Joe Crowley in the president's hometown Tuesday night, a stunning defeat that suddenly forced Democrats to confront their own internal divisions.

Crowley, the No. 4 House Democrat and until Tuesday considered a possible candidate to replace Nancy Pelosi as leader, becomes the first Democratic incumbent to fall this primary season. He was beaten by underfunded challenger Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a former Bernie Sanders organizer who caught fire with the party's left wing.

Crowley's loss echoed across the political world, sending the unmistakable message that divisions between the Democratic Party's pragmatic and more liberal wings may be widening heading into the high-stakes November midterm elections. It also exposed a generational divide among Democrats still struggling with their identity in the Trump era.

"The community is ready for a movement of economic and social justice. That is what we tried to deliver," Ocasio-Cortez said in an interview with The Associated Press. Born in the Bronx to a mother from Puerto Rico and a father who died in 2008, she said she knew she could connect with the district, which includes Queens and part of the Bronx.

"I live in this community. I organized in this community. I felt the absence of the incumbent. I knew he didn't have a strong presence," she said.

Trump, on social media at least, seemed equally excited about Crowley's defeat.

"Perhaps he should have been nicer, and more respectful, to his President!" Trump tweeted, oddly taking credit for a victory by a candidate more liberal than Crowley. He added: "The Democrats are in Turmoil!"

All in all, Trump had reason to celebrate Tuesday night as all three of his endorsed candidates survived primary challenges that could have embarrassed him and the party.

Those included New York Rep. Dan Donovan, who defeated convicted felon Michael Grimm in New York City's only Republican stronghold, and former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who once branded Trump "a fraud" but has warmed to the president in the past two years.

Yet none of the day's contests mattered more to Trump than the one in South Carolina.

Gov. Henry McMaster, one of the president's earliest and strongest supporters, survived an unusually tough challenge from a political newcomer, self-made Republican millionaire John Warren.

The White House went all-in for the governor in recent days, dispatching the president and the vice president to the state in an effort to prevent a political debacle.

Trump's party did just that on Tuesday, though the president has a mixed track record when weighing in on party primaries: His preferred candidates have suffered stinging losses in Alabama and western Pennsylvania in recent months.

With the November general election a little more than four months away, more than half the states had selected their candidates after the day's final votes were counted across South Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Maryland, Colorado and Utah.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 26 of 42

History suggests that Trump's Republican Party, like the parties of virtually every first-term president dating back to Ronald Reagan in 1982, will suffer losses this fall.

Yet Crowley's loss suggests that Democrats must overcome intraparty divisions if they hope to take control of Congress and key governors' offices nationwide.

In New York, Ocasio-Cortez cast Crowley as an elitist out of touch with the community.

"This race is about people versus money. We've got people, they've got money," Ocasio-Cortez said in biographical web ad that followed her through mundane New York life, dressing for work, walking, changing into high heels on the subway platform. "Women like me aren't supposed to run for office."

Trump got more good news elsewhere in New York City as Grimm failed in his political comeback attempt at the hands of the Trump-backed incumbent Donovan.

Grimm had held the Staten Island seat until 2015, when he pleaded guilty to knowingly hiring immigrants who were in the country illegally to work at his Manhattan restaurant and cooking the books to hide income and evade taxes.

More than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) away in deep-red Utah, former Massachusetts Gov. Romney defeated little-known state Rep. Mike Kennedy, who questioned Romney's conservative credentials and ability to work well with the president. Romney, too, was endorsed by Trump despite his aggressive criticism of the president before his election.

In a weekend op-ed published in The Salt Lake Tribune, Romney wrote that the Trump administration's policies have exceeded his expectations, but he pledged to "continue to speak out when the president says or does something which is divisive, racist, sexist, anti-immigrant, dishonest or destructive to democratic institutions."

Trump cheered Romney's win on social media: "I look forward to working together - there is so much good to do. A great and loving family will be coming to D.C."

Not to be forgotten: races to determine gubernatorial candidates in Maryland, Colorado and Oklahoma.

In Maryland, former NAACP President Ben Jealous seized the Democratic governor's nomination. He would become the state's first African-American governor if he beats Republican incumbent Gov. Larry Hogan this fall.

In Colorado, five-term Democratic congressman Jared Polis won the Democratic nomination in the race to replace outgoing Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper. And in Oklahoma, former state Attorney General Drew Edmondson beat former state Sen. Connie Johnson to win the Democratic nomination in the race to be the state's next governor.

Oklahoma voters also backed the medicinal use of marijuana despite opposition from law enforcement and business, faith and political leaders.

But Crowley's defeat overshadowed much of the day's developments.

He becomes the first congressional leader to fall in a party primary since former Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor was stunned by unknown conservative Dave Brat in 2014's midterm election.

That loss, and perhaps this one, cemented the GOP's sharp shift away from the political center and foreshadowed the anti-establishment fervor that fueled Trump's election in 2016.

And while Trump cheered Crowley's downfall, so did liberal leaders who backed Ocasio-Cortez.

"These results are also a shot across the bow of the Democratic establishment in Washington: a young, diverse, and boldly progressive Resistance Movement isn't waiting to be anointed by the powers that be," said Matt Blizek, of MoveOn.

Kinnard reported from South Carolina. AP writers Brian Witte in Annapolis, Maryland, and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City contributed.

Find all of our primary coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Primaryelections>

Judge: Separated families must be reunited within 30 days

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, MICHAEL BALSAMO and WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — A judge in California on Tuesday ordered U.S. border authorities to reunite separated families within 30 days, setting a hard deadline in a process that has so far yielded uncertainty about when children might again see their parents.

If children are younger than 5, they must be reunified within 14 days of the order issued Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego. Sabraw, an appointee of President George W. Bush, also issued a nationwide injunction on future family separations, unless the parent is deemed unfit or doesn't want to be with the child. He also requires the government provide phone contact between parents and their children within 10 days.

More than 2,000 children have been separated from their parents in recent weeks and placed in government-contracted shelters — hundreds of miles away, in some cases — under a now-abandoned policy toward families caught illegally entering the U.S.

Amid an international outcry, Trump last week issued an executive order to stop the separation of families and said parents and children will instead be detained together. A Department of Homeland Security statement over the weekend on reuniting families only seemed to sow more confusion.

"The facts set forth before the Court portray reactive governance responses to address a chaotic circumstance of the Government's own making," Sabraw wrote. "They belie measured and ordered governance, which is central to the concept of due process enshrined in our Constitution."

The ruling was a win for the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the lawsuit in March involving a 7-year-old girl who was separated from her Congolese mother and a 14-year-old boy who was separated from his Brazilian mother.

"Tears will be flowing in detention centers across the country when the families learn they will be reunited," said ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt.

The Justice and Homeland Security Departments did not immediately respond to requests for comment late Tuesday.

It's not clear how border authorities will meet the deadline. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Congress on Tuesday that his department still has custody of 2,047 immigrant children separated from their parents at the border. That is only six fewer children than the number in HHS custody as of last Wednesday. Democratic senators said that wasn't nearly enough progress.

Under questioning, Azar refused to be pinned down on how long it will take to reunite families. He said his department does extensive vetting of parents to make sure they are not traffickers masquerading as parents.

Also challenging will be the requirement the judge set on phone contact.

At a Texas detention facility, immigrant advocates complained that parents have gotten busy signals or no answers from a 1-800 number provided by federal authorities to get information about their children.

Attorneys have spoken to about 200 immigrants at the Port Isabel detention facility near Los Fresnos, Texas, since last week, and only a few knew where their children were being held, said Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia.

"The U.S. government never had any plan to reunite these families that were separated," Sandoval-Moshenberg said, and now it is "scrambling to undo this terrible thing that they have done."

A message left for HHS, which runs the hotline, was not immediately returned.

Many children in shelters in southern Texas have not had contact with their parents, though some have reported being allowed to speak with them in recent days, said Meghan Johnson Perez, director of the Children's Project for the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, which provides free legal services to minors.

"Things might be changing now. The agencies are trying to coordinate better," she said. "But the kids we have been seeing have not been in contact with the parents. They don't know where the parent is. They're just distraught. Their urgent need is just trying to figure out, 'Where is my parent?'"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 28 of 42

The decision comes as 17 states, including New York and California, sued the Trump administration Tuesday to force it to reunite children and parents. The states, all led by Democratic attorneys general, joined Washington, D.C., in filing the lawsuit in federal court in Seattle, arguing that they are being forced to shoulder increased child welfare, education and social services costs. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for a comment on the multistate lawsuit.

"The administration's practice of separating families is cruel, plain and simple," New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement. "Every day, it seems like the administration is issuing new, contradictory policies and relying on new, contradictory justifications. But we can't forget: The lives of real people hang in the balance."

In a speech before the conservative Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in Los Angeles, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions defended the administration for taking a hardline stand on illegal immigration and said the voters elected President Donald Trump to do just that.

"This is the Trump era," he said. "We are enforcing our laws again. We know whose side we are on — so does this group — and we're on the side of police, and we're on the side of the public safety of the American people."

After expressing reluctance in May to get too deeply involved in immigration enforcement decisions, the judge who issued Tuesday's ruling was clearly influenced by Trump's reversal last week and the Homeland Security Department's statement on its family reunification plan Saturday night, which, he said, left many questions unanswered.

"This situation has reached a crisis level. The news media is saturated with stories of immigrant families being separated at the border. People are protesting. Elected officials are weighing in. Congress is threatening action," he wrote.

Outraged by the family separations, immigrant supporters have led protests in recent days in states such as Florida and Texas. In Los Angeles, police arrested 25 demonstrators at rally Tuesday ahead of Sessions' address.

Outside the U.S. attorney's office, protesters carried signs reading, "Free the children!" and "Stop caging families." Clergy members blocked the street by forming a human chain. Police handcuffed them and led them away.

Later, protesters gathered outside the hotel where Sessions gave his speech. As the attorney general's motorcade arrived, the crowd chanted, "Nazi, go home."

Weissert reported from Harlingen, Texas. Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington; Gene Johnson in Seattle; Robin McDowell in Austin, Texas; Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, California; and John Antczak in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

Muslims, advocates saddened over court's travel ban decision

By JEFF KAROUB and JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Maryam Bahramipناه is torn between staying with her husband, who came to Michigan from their native Iran, and returning home to see her mother, who suffered a stroke.

With the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to uphold President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries, she expects that she can't do both.

"I'm very sad," said Bahramipناه, who cried when she heard about the decision. "I don't know what to do. I really don't know. Now it's official and I don't know."

Muslim individuals and groups, as well as other religious and civil rights organizations, expressed outrage and disappointment at the high court's rejection of a challenge that claimed the policy discriminated against Muslims or exceeded the president's authority. Protesters voiced their dismay at rallies across the country.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 29 of 42

At a protest in New York, Khulood Nasher held back tears as she spoke of her two sons stranded in Yemen. In 2014, she received asylum and her sons were approved to join her in the U.S. But after the U.S. embassy in Yemen was closed in 2015, their processing was delayed. The last year has been filled with starts and stops for the mother, but today felt like a death blow.

"Today, we were broken. I lost my heart to see my family," said Nasher, who works as a translator.

Not all reaction was negative, however. A nonprofit group that supports Trump's policies called the decision a "tremendous victory."

"Today's Supreme Court ruling is monumental," America First Policies spokeswoman Erin Montgomery said. "It states that deciding who can and cannot enter our country does indeed fall within the realm of executive responsibility. Note the word 'responsibility.'"

The travel ban has been fully in place since December, when the justices put the brakes on lower court decisions that had blocked part of it from being enforced. The policy applies to travelers from five countries with overwhelmingly Muslim populations: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. It also affects two non-Muslim countries, blocking travelers from North Korea and some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

In a statement emailed to The Associated Press, American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt said it's clear "that the president for political reasons chose to enact a Muslim ban despite national security experts, both Democrat and Republican" who counseled against it. Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center called the ban "hateful and discriminatory," and added that "immigration policy should never be decided based on race or religion."

Detroit-area immigration attorney Farah Al-Khersan expects chaos at border crossings and other points of entry.

"For anybody who has a nonimmigrant visa who is here — even someone with a green card — I would not recommend that they leave right now," she said. "Once you're outside of the country and you're trying to come in, that's going to be a problem."

For Afnan Salem, a Somali refugee living in Columbus, Ohio, the decision reinforces worries she may never reunite with her grandparents or father.

"We were hoping that at least the Supreme Court would rule at least for fair play and let us be reunited with our families," said Salem, who came to the U.S. eight years ago and has since become a citizen. "But the decision that came out, our hearts are broken."

As Syrians face violence in their native country and a ban on entering the U.S., the executive director of the Syrian American Council says many are scared.

Suzanne Meriden, the council's executive director, choked up as she said, "It's sad on so many levels. I never cry. We're here to calm people, but I just get stressed out about it all. You try to hold yourself together, but sometimes it's too hard."

Meanwhile, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, a conservative group that supports tighter immigration policies, heralded the Supreme Court decision, calling it "a great victory for the security of the American people and the rule of law."

Bill O'Keefe, Catholic Relief Services' vice president for government relations, said in a statement many of the people seeking refuge in the U.S. are victims of the same terrorists that Americans are trying to fight, and denying them entry won't make the nation safer.

Bahramipناه, the Iranian woman who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, had hoped the Supreme Court would end the ban for good this time so her mother would be able to come to the U.S. to celebrate Bahramipناه's birthday next week.

"My mother told me, 'What do I buy you for your birthday?'" Bahramipناه said, choking back tears. "I said, 'Just pray that this ban does not hold forever.'"

Watson reported from San Diego. Associated Press reporters Adam Geller and Stephen Groves in New York City, and Lorin Eleni Gill in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Jeff Karoub is a member of AP's Race and Ethnicity Team. Follow him on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> and find more of his work at <https://apnews.com/search/jeff%20karoub>.

Messi finally scores, Argentina advances at World Cup

By STEVE DOUGLAS, AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — From his thigh to his foot to the back of the net, Lionel Messi finally scored a goal at this year's World Cup.

The exquisite strike from the Argentina great sparked the first of several celebrations from an animated Diego Maradona, who screamed, shouted and made obscene gestures — and raised concerns for his health.

Argentina staved off elimination with a 2-1 victory over Nigeria on Tuesday, getting a late goal from Marcos Rojo. Maradona showed both middle fingers to the crowd after the 86th-minute winner.

A short time later, videos posted on social media showed Maradona needing help out of the stands and into an adjoining luxury box at the stadium. He appeared to have his eyes closed and a later photo showed a pair of paramedics attending to him.

There was no immediate information on his health, but about two hours later he was photographed smiling at an airport. Another photo posted on Twitter appeared to show him sitting on a plane.

Messi's goal — his 65th for Argentina — was surely enough to impress even Maradona.

From a long pass over the defense by Ever Banega, Messi caressed the ball with his left thigh, took another touch with his left foot, and then delivered a smooth right-footed finish into the corner.

Messi fell to his knees and pointed his fingers upward in celebration. At the same time, Maradona crossed his arms with his hands on his shoulders and looked to the sky.

"I knew that God is with us," Messi said, "and he wouldn't let us get eliminated."

Messi, who later hit the post off a free kick, and Banega controlled the game in the first half. Rojo finished it off in the second by cushioning a volley with his right foot into the bottom corner and ensuring Messi's quest for a first World Cup title continued.

Argentina will play France in the last 16 in Kazan on Saturday. If Argentines win and Portugal beats Uruguay on Saturday, Messi would face Cristiano Ronaldo in the quarterfinals.

Without that late goal from Rojo, the 31-year-old Messi might have retired from international soccer for a second time — and for good this time.

Instead, it was Messi who was at the center of the celebrations. His teammates formed a circle around him while striker Gonzalo Higuain cried nearby. Messi then clenched his fist as he turned toward the Argentina fans.

"He's above everybody else," Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli said. "The most important thing for Leo is his human side. He cries. He suffers. He's happy when Argentina wins. I know him.

"Many people say Leo does not enjoy playing for Argentina, but I do not agree. He enjoys and suffers like all the other players and that makes him even bigger."

Before Rojo's goal, Nigeria had been only a few minutes from qualifying for the last 16 for the fourth time.

Javier Mascherano gave away a penalty with a pull on Leon Balogun at a 49th-minute corner. Victor Moses converted — and marked the goal with a somersault — to put Nigeria back in control of the race for second place in the group.

Argentina was facing finishing a World Cup without a win for the first time since 1934, but instead the team is headed to the knockout stage.

"This is Messi," Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr said with a shrug.

GROUP DYNAMICS

Minutes away from advancing to the knockout stage, Nigeria ended up third in the group — ahead of Iceland but a point behind Argentina.

Argentina has four days to prepare for its last 16 match against France. It is the first game of the knockout stage.

KEY TO SUCCESS

Messi delivered his best performance of the tournament, with his goal allowing Argentina to take early control of the game.

Yet the standout player might have been Banega, who was recalled to midfield after being on the bench for the first two games and impressed with his work rate and range of passing.

SERIOUS STATS

Messi joined Maradona and Gabriel Batistuta as the only Argentina players to have scored in three different World Cups. He has also now scored as a teenager, in his 20s and in his 30s at a World Cup.

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

Steve Douglas is at www.twitter.com/sdouglas80

Unclear math: HHS has 2,047 children; full US count lacking

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of migrant children in custody after being separated from their parents barely dropped since last week, even as Trump administration said it's doing everything possible to expedite family reunification.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told senators at a hearing Tuesday that his agency currently has 2,047 migrant children — or six fewer than the total HHS count last week.

Confusion reigned, with officials later telling reporters on a conference call they couldn't provide complete numbers because they are focused on reuniting families.

Finance Committee Democrats told Azar it doesn't seem like much progress is being made on reuniting families, even after President Donald Trump scaled back his "zero tolerance" policy on the southwest border.

"HHS, Homeland Security, and the Justice Department seem to be doing a lot more to add to the bedlam and deflect blame than they're doing to tell parents where their kids are," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Azar suggested at one point that parents share the blame.

"It's not a desirable situation to have children separated from their parents," he said. "Listen, to be up-front, if the parents didn't bring them across illegally this would never happen."

Many parents have trekked north from Central America fleeing rampant violence in their countries, saying they fear for their lives and their children's lives, and claiming asylum under U.S. laws and policies.

The current total of 2,047 in HHS shelters compares to the 2,053 the agency reported as of Wednesday of last week.

Azar didn't say whether additional children had been transferred to HHS in the meantime. For years the department has housed unaccompanied minors who cross the border, but handling large numbers of separated kids presents new challenges.

It's still unclear how many children who were separated from their parents have been in government custody. That's partly because Customs and Border Protections can also hold children for brief periods.

Azar carefully avoided specific reunification timetables and goals.

"So what is the plan?" asked Florida Democrat Bill Nelson.

Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, defended Azar: "You've clearly been saddled with some really tough problems, and I have confidence you'll handle them expeditiously and well."

Azar said he's hampered by a court order that says children can't be held longer than 20 days with parents detained by immigration authorities.

However, lawyers for the migrants say the administration can easily get around that barrier by temporarily releasing the parents while their asylum cases are being decided by immigration authorities.

In interviews, some lawyers and advocates for the migrants have complained that the reunification process appears plodding and overly complicated. Among the issues:

— Telephone numbers provided for parents to contact their separated children aren't answered. Lawyer Mario Williams of Nexus Derechos Humanos Attorneys in Atlanta said he and one of his clients experienced

continual frustration trying to get through. "There was no communication," he said.

Azar told senators that "every parent has access to know where their child is" and could communicate with them by phone or through Skype, if it's available. Immigration officials have posted notices in all facilities advising detained parents who are trying to find their children to call a toll-free hotline. Calls are supposed to happen at least twice a week.

— Using the government's database to match children and parents can be hit-and-miss. Seattle lawyer Janet Gwilym with Kids in Need of Defense says one of her improvised techniques is to enter the alien number for a parent or child and then enter another number with the last digit slightly higher or lower.

"I've heard of other legal practitioners having a hard time connecting," she said.

HHS officials say they know where every child is and are working to link kids and parents.

— HHS is requiring parents to complete extensive paperwork to have their children sent back. Williams, the Atlanta lawyer, said his client was asked to provide a fresh set of fingerprints. The lawyer refused to do that, since immigration authorities already had the mother's prints. The child was released anyway, Williams said.

Azar said careful vetting is needed because sometimes traffickers pose as parents.

A fact sheet released by HHS late Saturday said Customs and Border Protection had reunited 522 children in its custody with their parents. Those children don't appear to have been turned over to HHS.

Azar said the number in HHS custody had gone as high as 2,300.

The health secretary echoed Trump's calls on Congress to change the law so that immigration authorities are no longer barred from holding children together with their parents for more than 20 days.

Asked about the age of children in HHS custody, Azar said, "We have infants in our care." But that's not just as a result of Trump's now-suspended "zero tolerance" policy.

"As shocking as it sounds, we have always had infants at our care," he said, adding that babies are sometimes found abandoned at the border.

Migrant kids could end up in already strained foster system

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**, Associated Press

Foster care advocates say the government won't likely be able to reunite thousands of children separated from parents who crossed the border illegally, and some will end up in an American foster care system that is stacked against Latinos and other minorities.

With few Spanish-speaking caseworkers, it's a challenge tracking down family members of the children who live south of the U.S.-Mexico border, and other relatives living in the states might be afraid to step forward to claim them because of fears of being detained or deported themselves.

Many complications have arisen for these separated families since the Trump administration adopted its "zero-tolerance" policy on entering the country illegally. As many as 2,300 children were separated from their migrant parents from the time the administration adopted the zero-tolerance policy until June 9, the Health and Human Services Department has said.

Long-term treatment of them is a concern, advocates said.

"Because they are Latino and because their relatives are living, not in Europe, not in Asia, but down south of the border, they are going to be discriminated against," said Richard Villasana, founder of Forever Homes for Foster Kids, who concentrates on locating relatives of foster children. "That's exactly what's going to happen to these migrant kids. The probability they are going to get better treatment than our U.S.-born Latino children? It's not going to happen."

Those children who do get placed with families face the likelihood of losing their language and culture, which advocates say could have a detrimental effect on how they develop.

Peter Schey, the attorney in a lawsuit resulting in the 1997 Flores settlement that generally bars children from being kept in immigration detention for more than 20 days and is now being challenged by the Trump administration, said he was concerned that several thousand children have already been separated

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 33 of 42

from their parents "without the Trump administration having any effective procedures in place to reunite children with their parents, many of whom have already been deported."

Officials have said they are working to reunite families as soon as possible but have provided no clear answers on how that will happen. The children are now in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement, and can be "held in a temporary shelter or hosted by an appropriate family."

The Homeland Security Department said in fiscal year 2017, before the zero tolerance policy began, it was able to place 90 percent of its children with either a parent or close relative. And Immigration and Customs Enforcement is working on "dedicating a facility as its primary family reunification and removal center," a briefing sheet said.

However, many child welfare professionals worry these children will "end up in a child welfare system where we already have thousands of children across this country where many of them are trying to reunify" with parents and relatives, said Maria L. Quintanilla, founder and executive director of the Latino Family Institute.

In 2016, more than 91,000 Hispanic or Latino children were in the foster care system in the United States, according to government data. Hispanic children made up a little more than 1 in 5 — 21 percent — of all children in foster care in September 2016, according to the most recent data available. That was an increase from 10 years earlier, when Hispanic children made up 19 percent of the foster care population.

More than 54,000 Hispanic children entered foster care in 2016, with more than 25,000 waiting to be adopted at the end of the fiscal year. More than 53,000 exited the foster care system that year because they were reunified with their parents, adopted or entered guardianship with another family.

By comparison, there were more than 191,000 non-Hispanic white children in foster care in fiscal 2016, with around 127,000 entering the system, 112,000 exiting the system and 51,000 waiting to be adopted at the end of the fiscal year.

In a July 2017 paper, San Diego State University economics department chair Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes and Oxford University professor Esther Arenas-Arroyo wrote that the increase in immigration enforcement between 2001 and 2015 contributed to raising the share of Hispanic children in foster care between 15 and 21 percent.

Villasana said it's rare that foster care agencies will go the extra mile to find families who live in Mexico or Latin America for children already in the foster care system.

"These migrant kids are going to be put into the same discriminatory system that discriminates against a Latino child because their relatives happen to be located south of the border," Villasana said. "You've got individuals who will not pay to bring in someone who speaks Spanish, understands Spanish, can read Spanish and knows the country and knows how to proceed in this matter, and will pick up the phone and go do this work."

There are some people who will, but "we're talking about the exceptions rather than the rule," he added. "The rule primarily for the United States is that those children are not going to go anywhere."

While there are not exact numbers on bilingual and bicultural caseworkers, AdoptUSKids, a national adoption organization, said in a report that jurisdictions "are often challenged to find ample Spanish speaking staff to respond in a timely fashion to individuals and families who only speak Spanish."

If they end up in the foster care system, social workers will be concerned with trying to place them with families, given that they know the children just came into the United States with relatives or to stay with relatives who might not want to risk being deported to claim them, Quintanilla said.

"I would be very, very cautious about wanting to work with a child we know for a fact has a family," she said. "Why would we want to place that child with another family, a nonrelated family, with the only crime being the government's zero-tolerance policy (keeping relatives from claiming the children)?"

Cultural concerns also come into play as children can find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings after being separated from their parents — possibly in households where their native language isn't spoken, Quintanilla said.

According to a National Center for Health Statistics study, Hispanic women are significantly less likely

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 34 of 42

than non-Hispanic women or men of any race or ethnicity to have adopted children. And according to a study by the Barna Group, 73 percent of adoptive parents are nonHispanic white adults.

"It's difficult for any child to be separated from their parents, regardless of what the circumstances are, but if you're placed in a home that doesn't look like you, that doesn't have the familiar smells that doesn't have the familiar rituals, it just adds on to the loss for this child," she said.

Jesse J. Holland covers race and ethnicity for The Associated Press. Contact him at jholland@ap.org, on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/jessejholland> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/jessejholland>. You can read his stories at AP at <http://bit.ly/storiesbyjessejholland>.

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

On both sides of Atlantic, migrants meet hostile reception

By LORI HINNANT and COLLEEN BARRY, Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — On both sides of the Atlantic, migrants flooding across borders by the hundreds each day have met a hostile reception and governments unable to agree on how to cope with the arrivals. In Europe, where far-right parties have joined the governments in Italy and Austria and made gains elsewhere, even the most basic decision of which port would accept a ship filled with migrants has been fraught.

On Tuesday, yet another rescue boat loaded with migrants struggled to find safe harbor in the Mediterranean, while in Austria police cadets playing the role of desperate refugees rattled a chain-link fence demanding to be let in as part of a high-profile training exercise to test the mettle of a new border force charged with preventing an influx of migrants.

"We have had migratory crises in the past, but that is not what we are going through now. What we are living through now is a European political crisis," French President Emmanuel Macron said after a daylong meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican during which they discussed the issue.

The European crisis mirrors the one in the United States, where a broad-ranging Republican immigration bill was set for a vote Wednesday, with little certainty that it would survive. With legislation in disarray and a global uproar over the separation of more than 2,300 migrant children from their parents, the Trump administration abruptly reversed a key element of its zero-tolerance immigration policy last week, halting the practice of separating immigrant families caught illegally crossing the border, but leaving more than 2,000 separated children in limbo in government-contracted shelters.

The standoffs in Europe involve multiple governments, all running their own immigration policies but with open borders among them.

Twice this month, as calm seas and warm weather spurred greater numbers to set sail, rescue ships filled with migrants have been left in a holding pattern in the Mediterranean. The latest standoff involves the German-operated Lifeline, which has sailed for five days without safe harbor. France, Portugal, Italy and at least one other country agreed to divide up the migrants on board, and said Malta would take in the ship.

But the German aid group operating the ship said Malta had sent a message refusing entry into its territorial waters, further confusing an agreement that had taken days to negotiate.

Malta also flatly refused to accept an empty rescue ship, the Aquarius, which needed some mechanical work before it could resume its sweeps of the Mediterranean. The ship headed to the French port city of Marseille instead.

It was the Aquarius that touched off last week's showdown, when the ship, operated by French aid groups and carrying 630 migrants, had its journey to land extended by a week after Malta and Italy refused docking rights. Spain ultimately accepted the passengers, and the Aquarius traveled an additional 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) to get there.

"It's five useless days to come here when the Aquarius is not on the migrant route to rescue, and that's a shame in terms of saving human lives," Frederic Penard of SOS Mediterranee said in Marseille, where the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 35 of 42

ship was expected on Friday. Italy, which believes the rescue ships operated by aid groups only encourage more migrants, also refused docking in Sicily.

Italy's new right-wing interior minister, Matteo Salvini, has contended that the rescue boats essentially provide "taxi service" at sea for the human traffickers.

But with calm seas and fair weather, more migrants continued to take their chances crossing from North Africa.

Spain's Maritime Rescue Service picked up over 400 people from the Mediterranean on Monday, bringing the total number of rescued migrants to around 1,800 in just four days.

Macron has pushed for asylum demands to be processed in North Africa before the rickety boats attempt the crossing, but so far no country in the region has agreed to play host.

Algeria has expelled more than 13,000 migrants into the Sahara Desert since last May, forcing them to walk without food or water, according to an Associated Press investigation. And in Libya, which has turned back dozens of migrant boats, there have been complaints of rampant human rights abuses against migrants in detention.

On Tuesday, Austrian police staged a high-profile training exercise simulating an influx of migrants along its frontier with Slovenia to demonstrate how it would deal with such a crisis.

Hundreds of officers in heavy armor, backed by soldiers and Black Hawk helicopters flying overhead, performed a dry run for the media near Spielfeld, 175 kilometers (110 miles) south of Vienna. The town was a major crossing point for migrants in late 2015, but has hardly seen any arrivals recently.

The "migrants" were played by 200 Austrian police cadets, who chanted and rattled a metal fence, demanding to be let in.

Austria's top security official said the exercise was necessary and lawful, dismissing concerns at home and abroad.

"A state which, if things come to a head, can't protect its borders effectively, loses its credibility," Interior Minister Herbert Kickl told reporters. "I'm strongly determined that events like those in 2015 must never happen again."

"This has nothing to do with inhumanity, this isn't unlawful, this isn't indecent," he said. "This is what the law demands from us. It is what the people expect from us."

Kickl's far-right Freedom Party has pushed for a hard line against migrants for years and saw a surge in support following the 2015 migrant crisis, when thousands of people fleeing war and hardship in the Middle East and Africa poured through Europe's open borders daily, triggering a humanitarian and political crisis that has left deep divisions on the continent.

This summer's numbers come nowhere near the 2015-2016 migrant crisis, but German Chancellor Angela Merkel is under heavy pressure from conservative allies in Bavaria to turn away migrants who come through other European countries.

Merkel, whose decision to allow migrants stuck in Austria and Hungary to come to Germany was initially welcomed by voters, has warned that unilaterally closing borders could trigger a string of national measures by individual countries that would further divide Europe.

Speaking in Berlin, Merkel said most EU countries are more concerned about preventing migrants from illegally entering Europe in the first place.

Neighboring Slovenia protested the Austrian exercise, saying its own forces are already doing enough to protect the borders of the Schengen travel zone within which Europeans can travel freely without passports.

"I even see (the exercise) as somewhat provocative," Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar said Tuesday, according to the official STA news agency. Cerar said the number of migrants entering Austria from Slovenia has not increased and described his country as an "exemplary" protector of the Schengen border.

Meanwhile, Martin Sellner, who heads Austria's white nationalist Identitarian Movement, applauded the fact that authorities were using the same "#proborders" hashtag favored by his group to inform the public about the exercise.

Macron said that these were the battle lines being drawn in Europe, with migration at the center.

"We are not good at this subject, either in Europe or in France," he said. "But we have a society to lead."

Hinnant contributed from Paris. Associated Press writers Frank Jordans in Berlin, Jovana Gec in Belgrade, Frances d'Emilio in Rome and Philipp Jenne in Spielfeld, Austria, contributed to this report.

Trump threatens Harley-Davidson with tax punishment for move

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump sought Tuesday to avoid blame for Harley-Davidson's decision to move some motorcycle production overseas and threatened to tax the manufacturer "like never before!" as punishment for the planned production shift.

The Milwaukee-based company said Monday it came to its decision because of retaliatory tariffs it faces in an escalating trade dispute between the U.S. and the European Union. The company had no immediate response Tuesday to the president's assertions.

Trump warned the iconic American brand that any shift in production "will be the beginning of the end." "The Aura will be gone and they will be taxed like never before!" Trump said in one of several tweets Tuesday morning about Harley-Davidson. It was unclear what the president was referring to or how he could impose taxes on a single company.

Trump offered no clarity later in the day when he was asked about tariffs during a White House photo-op with Congress members.

"Harley-Davidson is using that as an excuse and I don't like that because I've been very good to Harley-Davidson and they used it as an excuse," he said in response. "And I think the people who ride Harleys aren't happy with Harley-Davidson and I wouldn't be either."

The president has held up the motorcycle maker as an example of a U.S. business harmed by trade barriers in other countries. But Harley-Davidson had warned last year against responding to foreign trade barriers with higher American tariffs, saying the levies could negatively impact sales.

The company reiterated Tuesday that it was moving some production of motorcycles destined for sale in the EU to its existing international facilities to "address the additional tariffs imposed by the EU." It did not respond directly to Trump.

Trump recently imposed steep tariffs on aluminum and steel imported from Canada, Mexico and Europe in his bid to level the trade playing field and reduce trade deficits between the U.S. and its trade partners. But those trade partners feel insulted by Trump and have decided to retaliate.

The U.S. and China are also volleying back and forth over tariffs.

Trump tweeted Tuesday that Harley-Davidson had already announced it was closing a Kansas City plant and moving those jobs to Thailand. But union officials are the ones who claimed the jobs were being shifted to Thailand. Harley-Davidson has denied a link between Kansas City and Thailand.

"That was long before Tariffs were announced," Trump said on Twitter. "Hence, they were just using Tariffs/Trade War as an excuse. Shows how unbalanced & unfair trade is, but we will fix it....."

Trump said he's getting other countries to reduce and eliminate tariffs and trade barriers, citing India as an example, and to open up markets.

Harley-Davidson executives met with Trump at the White House last year after Trump canceled a visit to the company's headquarters in Milwaukee because protests had been planned.

"When I had Harley-Davidson officials over to the White House, I chided them about tariffs in other countries, like India, being too high," Trump tweeted. "Companies are now coming back to America. Harley must know that they won't be able to sell back into U.S. without paying a big tax!"

Trump added that the administration is finishing a study on imposing tariffs on cars from the EU.

"A Harley-Davidson should never be built in another country-never!" Trump tweeted. "Their employees and customers are already very angry at them. If they move, watch, it will be the beginning of the end - they surrendered, they quit! The Aura will be gone and they will be taxed like never before!"

Republican Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, whose Wisconsin district includes Harley's plant in Menomonee

Falls, said the EU has a long history of abusive trade practices but urged Trump to address abuses without harming jobs in the U.S.

"It's unfortunate that such a strong Wisconsin company like Harley-Davidson has to bear the brunt of this trade dispute," Sensenbrenner said. "I understand that the President is a tough negotiator, but I urge him to consider a more targeted approach that protects American workers and businesses."

Associated Press writers Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, Steve Karnowski in Minneapolis and Laurie Kellman and Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

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Prince William visits Israel's Holocaust memorial

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prince William began his visit to Israel on Tuesday with an emotional tour of the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, a soccer game with Arab and Jewish youth and an introduction to Tel Aviv's vibrant start-up scene.

The prince is the first member of the British royal family to pay an official visit to Israel. Though the trip is being billed as non-political, the prince is meeting with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and visiting sites at the heart of the century-old conflict.

He started off the day with a visit to Yad Vashem, where he met with two survivors who escaped Nazi Germany for the safety of Britain.

"It has been a profoundly moving experience to visit Yad Vashem today," the prince wrote in the memorial's guestbook. "It is almost impossible to comprehend this appalling event in history. Every name, photograph and memory recorded here is a tragic reminder of the unimaginable human cost of the Holocaust and of the immense loss suffered by the Jewish people."

He noted with pride that his great-grandmother had been recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations, the highest honor Israel grants to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. Princess Alice hid three members of the Cohen family in her palace in Athens during the Nazi occupation of Greece in World War II. Thanks to her efforts, the Cohen family survived and today lives in France.

The princess died in 1969, and in 1988 her remains were brought to Jerusalem. Prince William plans to visit her gravesite later in the week as part of his tour of Jerusalem landmarks.

Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, who guided the Duke of Cambridge through the museum's exhibitions detailing Nazi Germany's genocide of 6 million Jews during World War II, said the prince was visibly moved as he stopped to inquire about various elements of the Holocaust.

"The theme that repeated itself throughout the entire visit was his wondering of what kind of deep hatred could have driven people to commit such horrific acts," Shalev told The Associated Press. "He kept saying: 'How did they get to such a place?' ... He really identified with the victims."

The hour-and-a-half visit included a ceremony in which he placed a wreath on a concrete slab containing the ashes of Holocaust victims and a brief meeting with a pair of survivors from the Kindertransport, a rescue effort for some 12,000 children who were sent from Germany to Britain on the eve of World War II.

Henry Foner, who was fostered by a Jewish family in Swansea, Wales, and later served overseas for the British Army, said it was like a fairy tale for a refugee child like himself to meet a member of the royal family eight decades after the country rescued him.

"I'm very grateful to Britain because it saved my life, it's as simple as that," said Foner, 86. "It was as if he knew us, he knew the background and he made us feel so at home. It's as if you had met a friend you hadn't seen in a while."

Three decades of British rule between the two world wars helped establish some of the fault lines of today's Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Britain's withdrawal in 1948 led to the eventual establishment of Israel and Jordan, where the prince kicked off the five-day Mideast tour on Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 38 of 42

For the 36-year-old William, second in line to the throne, it marks a high-profile visit that could burnish his international credentials.

After Yad Vashem, he met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara, accompanied by descendants of the Cohen family Princess Alice had saved. An Associated Press journalist was prevented from covering the meeting after Israeli security agents questioned him about his religion and ethnic background.

Later, President Reuven Rivlin told the prince about his childhood in Jerusalem living under the British mandate and asked him to deliver a "message of peace" to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whom the prince will meet later in the week.

The Palestinians are also eager to welcome the prince, hoping his visit will give them a boost as they struggle with a Trump administration they consider biased toward Israel.

The prince will try to deftly dodge politics as he later visits east Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed in a move not internationally recognized. Israel considers east Jerusalem, home to holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, as an inseparable part of its capital. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as their future capital.

Ahead of the visit, the prince caused a stir in Israel when the royal itinerary described east Jerusalem, including the Old City, as part of the "Occupied Palestinian Territories."

The prince presented Rivlin, an avid football fan, with a jersey of his favorite Premier League team, Liverpool, and expressed how eager he was to dive into his first visit to the Holy Land.

"I'm really looking forward to getting to meet as many Israelis as possible and understand Israeli history and Israeli culture," the prince said. "I'm very much looking forward to really absorbing and understanding the different issues."

William then departed for coastal Tel Aviv to attend a soccer match of young Jewish and Arab players run by the Peres Peace Center.

Wearing a light blue shirt, dark blue pants and blue Nike sneakers with a yellow logo, the prince scored two out of three penalty kicks against a 13-year-old goalkeeper. He then met the mayor of Tel Aviv and together they hit the beach, where the prince chatted up tanned volleyball players.

The prince wrapped up the busy day with a reception held by the British ambassador that included demonstrations by Israeli tech startups and which was attended by Israeli celebrities, politicians and other public figures.

"In the past century the people of the Middle East have suffered great sadness and loss. Never has hope and reconciliation been more needed," he told the crowd, after wishing everyone a good evening, in Hebrew.

Follow Heller at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

Protests in Iran as Rouhani says US wants 'economic war'

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Angry protesters in Iran's capital held a third day of demonstrations on Tuesday over the country's anemic economy as President Hassan Rouhani told the nation that it faces an "economic war" with the United States following America's pullout from the nuclear deal.

While online videos showed demonstrators again confronting police on Tehran's streets and alleyways, the protests looked far smaller than those on Monday, when security forces fired tear gas on crowds in front of parliament.

Earlier on Monday, demonstrators forced the temporary closure of Tehran's Grand Bazaar and on Sunday, protests forced two major shopping centers for mobile phones and electronics to close in Tehran.

Rage persists over the plunging of the Iranian rial to 90,000 to the dollar — double the government rate of 42,000 rials to \$1 — as people watch their savings dwindle and shopkeepers hold onto some goods, uncertain of their true value.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 39 of 42

Part of the economic uncertainty comes from President Donald Trump's decision to pull America out of the nuclear deal and re-impose sanctions on Iran, even though other world powers have pledged to stand by the accord.

Similar economic protests roiled Iran and spread to some 75 cities and towns at the end of last year, becoming the largest demonstrations in the country since the months-long rallies following the 2009 disputed presidential election. The protests in late December and early January saw at least 25 people killed and nearly 5,000 arrested, but took place largely in Iran's provinces rather than in the capital, Tehran.

These latest protests have hit Iranian commercial areas, including the sprawling, historic warrens of Tehran's Grand Bazaar, the home of conservative merchants who backed the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution and overthrow of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It remains unclear who is leading these protests, though analysts say hard-liners wanting to challenge Rouhani likely sparked the demonstrations at the end of last year.

On Tuesday, witnesses described a noticeable presence of riot police on the capital's streets. Official reports and comments also were slim in Iran's state-controlled media, though Prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said the "main provocateurs" of Monday's protests were arrested. He did not elaborate on the number of people detained.

The state-run IRNA news agency euphemistically referred to one incident Tuesday in which the city's metro line was temporarily shut down near the Grand Bazaar, saying it happened "because of some people gathered there."

On Tuesday morning, Rouhani addressed a meeting of judges that included the head of the country's judiciary and parliament. While a relative moderate within Iran's theocratic government, Rouhani struck a hard line himself against America.

"We are fighting against the United States, it wants to make an economic war," the president said. "The U.S. cannot defeat our nation; our enemies are not able to force us to their knees."

That's a far cry from the optimism shared by Rouhani and other Iranians when the 2015 nuclear deal was enacted between Iran and six world powers, including America. Iran agreed to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

But that deal came under Barack Obama's administration. Trump, who campaigned on a promise of tearing up the deal, pulled America out of the deal in May. The ensuing turmoil has seen international firms and oil companies back away from their own billion-dollar deals with Iran.

Rouhani's own power within Iran's government appears to be waning, with some openly calling for military officials to lead the country.

Iran also has suggested it could immediately ramp up its production of uranium in response to the U.S. pullout, potentially escalating the very situation the nuclear deal sought to avoid — having an Iran with a stockpile of highly enriched uranium that it could use to build atomic bombs.

Tehran has long denied wanting to build nuclear weapons, despite fears from the West and the United Nations.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, speaking at the same event as Rouhani, appeared to directly criticize his administration.

"The government hasn't done enough to confront the economic problems," the conservative politician said, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Meanwhile, a senior State Department official said the Trump administration is pushing U.S. allies to completely eliminate their oil imports from Iran by November.

The official also said the U.S. is working with other Middle East countries to increase production so the global oil supply is not harmed. The official wasn't authorized to be identified by name and briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Also Tuesday, Iran's former hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad urged Trump in an open letter published on his website, mehremardom.ir, to change his approach to Iran, stressing that Trump's "violent methods" only target the Iranian people.

He also urged for "honest talks" between the two nations, which Ahmadinejad said would be of interest to both. The former Iranian president had sent his first letter to Trump in February 2017, appealing on the U.S. leader to take a more "humane" look at Iran.

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this story.

Global markets subdued as trade concerns linger

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Global markets were subdued on Wednesday as jitters over trade conflicts between the world's largest economies lingered. Oil prices extended their gains as the U.S. pushed other countries to cut oil imports from Iran.

KEEPING SCORE: Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 percent at 7,559 while Germany's DAX edged up 0.1 percent to 12,250. France's CAC 40 was 0.2 percent higher at 5,291. Futures augured losses on Wall Street. S&P futures dropped 0.4 percent and Dow futures declined 0.5 percent.

ASIA'S DAY: Chinese stocks were the biggest losers, with the Shanghai Composite Index sinking 1.1 percent to 2,813.18. The index is the worst performer among major markets this year, losing 14 percent since the start of this year. Hong Kong's Hang Seng tumbled 1.8 percent to 28,356.26. Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.3 percent to 22,271.77 and South Korea's Kospi dropped 0.4 percent to 2,342.03. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 edged down less than 0.1 percent to 6,195.90. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and other Southeast Asian markets were mostly lower.

CHINESE BEARS: China's market benchmark has tumbled into bear territory as trade tensions with Washington spook investors. The Shanghai Composite Index's closing Tuesday was just over 20 percent below its Jan. 24 peak. The South China Morning Post newspaper in Hong Kong noted that has wiped out \$1.6 trillion in stock value — bigger than Canada's annual economic output. The biggest decliners have included telecoms and tech companies that might be hurt by U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed restrictions on access to U.S. markets and technology. Analysts said a combination of factors such as jitters over trade conflicts, Beijing's move to tighten liquidity and signs of growth momentum losing steam also contributed to the sell-off.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "To a large extent, the Chinese market is one driven by speculation," said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore. "With sentiment rolling over itself of late, particularly over the escalating trade tensions that seem to have no end, it should be of little surprise to find the market crumbling."

CHINA-US TRADE: China announced a tariff cut for imported soybeans and some other grains from Asian countries in a possible measure to replace U.S. supplies in the event Beijing's trade dispute with Washington escalates. Beijing has announced plans to hike tariffs on U.S. soybeans, for which China is the biggest export market, in response to Trump's threat of import duty increases on Chinese goods. The tariff on soybeans will be cut by half to 1.5 percent effective July 1 and those on some other crops such as rapeseed will fall from as much as 9 percent to as low as zero.

THE QUOTE: Wendy Liu, Nomura's head of China equity research, said some agreement on U.S.-China trade before the U.S. mid-term election was anticipated and the Chinese stock market was forecast to calm down during the summer earnings season. But for the moment, "with lack of visibility on the U.S.-China trade conflict and some renewed concerns over growth outlook, few are willing to step in and step up right away."

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 52 cents to \$71.05 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 62 cents to \$76.93 per barrel in London. Trump, who withdrew the U.S. from an Iran nuclear deal in May, is reportedly pushing foreign nations to cut their oil imports from the country to zero by November, when sanctions on Iran's energy sector will kick in again.

Currencies: The dollar fell to 109.93 yen from 110.03 yen. The euro weakened to \$1.1623 from \$1.1646.

____ Joe McDonald contributed to this report from Beijing.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 41 of 42

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 27, the 178th day of 2018. There are 187 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 27, 1846, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

On this date:

In 1787, English historian Edward Gibbon completed work on his six-volume work, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.

In 1905, the Industrial Workers of the World was founded in Chicago.

In 1922, the first Newberry Medal, recognizing excellence in children's literature, was awarded to "The Story of Mankind" by Hendrik Willem van Loon.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg from the Germans.

In 1957, Hurricane Audrey slammed into coastal Louisiana and Texas as a Category 4 storm; the official death toll from the storm was placed at 390, although a variety of state, federal and local sources have estimated the number of fatalities at between 400 and 600.

In 1966, the Gothic soap opera "Dark Shadows" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon opened an official visit to the Soviet Union.

In 1985, the legendary Route 66, which originally stretched from Chicago to Santa Monica, California, passed into history as officials decertified the road.

In 1988, at least 56 people were killed when a commuter train ran into a stationary train at the Gare de Lyon terminal in Paris. In 1988, Mike Tyson retained the undisputed heavyweight crown as he knocked out Michael Spinks 91 seconds into the first round of a championship fight in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1990, NASA announced that a flaw in the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope was preventing the instrument from achieving optimum focus. (The problem was traced to a mirror that had not been ground to exact specifications; corrective optics were later installed to fix the problem.)

In 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black jurist to sit on the nation's highest court, announced his retirement. (His departure led to the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas to succeed him.)

Ten years ago: North Korea destroyed the most visible symbol of its nuclear weapons program, the cooling tower at its main atomic reactor at Yongbyon. (However, North Korea announced in September 2008 that it was restoring its nuclear facilities.) In Zimbabwe, roaming bands of government supporters heckled, harassed or threatened people into voting in a runoff election in which President Robert Mugabe (moo-GAH'-bay) was the only candidate.

Five years ago: The Senate passed, 68-32, comprehensive legislation offering the hope of citizenship to millions of immigrants living illegally in America's shadows; however, the measure became stalled in the GOP-led House. President Barack Obama visited Senegal, where he urged African leaders to extend equal rights to gays and lesbians but was bluntly rebuked by Senegal's president, Macky Sall, who said his country "still isn't ready" to decriminalize homosexuality. Kevin Rudd was sworn in as Australian prime minister a day after toppling rival Julia Gillard.

One year ago: A new and highly virulent outbreak of malicious data-scrambling software began causing mass disruption across the world, hitting Europe — and Ukraine — especially hard.

Today's Birthdays: Business executive Ross Perot is 88. Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is 80. Singer-musician Bruce Johnston (The Beach Boys) is 76. Fashion designer Vera Wang is 69. Actress Julia Duffy is 67. Actress Isabelle Adjani is 63. Country singer Lorrie Morgan is 59. Actor Brian Drillinger is 58. Writer-producer-director J.J. Abrams is 52. Former Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., is 50. Olympic gold and bronze medal figure skater Viktor Petrenko is 49. Actor Edward "Grapevine" Fordham Jr. is 48. TV personality Jo Frost is 48. Actor Yancey Arias is 47. Actor Christian Kane is 44. Actor Tobey Maguire is 43. Rock singer

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 348 ~ 42 of 42

Bernhoft is 42. Gospel singer Leigh Nash is 42. Christian rock singer Zach Williams is 40. Musician Chris Eldridge (Punch Brothers) is 36. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) is 34. Actor Drake Bell is 32. Actor Sam Claflin is 32. Actress India de Beaufort is 31. Actor Ed Westwick is 31. Actor Matthew Lewis (Film: "Harry Potter"; TV: "Ripper Street") is 29. Actress Madylin Sweeten is 27. Pop singer Lauren Jauregui (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 22. Actor Chandler Riggs is 19.

Thought for Today: "It is no simple matter to pause in the midst of one's maturity, when life is full of function, to examine what are the principles which control that functioning." — Pearl S. Buck, American author (1892-1973).