

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 1 of 24



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 1- Death Notice: Beverly Dorfschmidt
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Janice Fliehs photo with great-granddaughter
- 3- C&MA Summer Fest Service
- 3- Summer Fest Ad
- 4- Game, Fish and Parks Commission Awarded Commission of the Year
- 4- SunDial Manor ad
- 5- Midwest Masonry ad
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- National Weather map
- 8 Today's Weather Almanac
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 11 - News from the Associated Press

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

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

Death Notice: Beverly Dorfschmidt

Beverly Dorfschmidt, 91, of Groton passed away Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 2 of 24



Janice Flihs (right) is pictured with her great-granddaughter, Kennedy Ross, of Aberdeen at the Aberdeen Hub Area 4-H Rodeo held July 7th. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 3 of 24



welcome

Christian & Missionary Alliance

Groton, South Dakota

The Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church

will hold a Church Service at
Groton's 2nd Annual Summer Fest

July 22nd, 9am
Groton City Park

ALL ARE WELCOME!!
(bring a blanket or lawn chair)

Groton Lions Club Presents our 2nd Annual **SUMMER FEST**

Sunday, July 22, 2018

10:00am - 4:00pm

Groton City Park



Car Show, Music, Vendors,
Bounce Houses, Food, Drink
Vendors include: dōTERRA,
LuLaRoe, LipSense, and many more

*\$25 vendor fee can be mailed to
PO Box 373, Groton, SD 57445
Any questions, contact Topper at 397-7337
or email grotonlions@nvc.net*

Game, Fish and Parks Commission Awarded Commission of the Year

PIERRE, S.D. – The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) announced this week that the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission has been named Commission of the Year at their annual conference in Eugene, Oregon.

"In recent years, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has dealt with difficult, and at times, contentious issues beyond their normal duties of establishing rules and regulations governing parks, wildlife and fish resources on behalf of this state," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "The members of this commission provide an exemplary model of how progress can be made and how public trust can be increased through transparency and public engagement in the decision making process. Their willingness to face the crucial conversations head on and find platforms for all individuals to provide input is what makes them deserving of this honor."

The GFP Commission is highly engaged in the social science of managing the state's resources and opportunities. Nonresident waterfowl license allocations, deer license allocation and its drawing structure, nonmeandered waters as well as waterfowl refuge and boating restrictions are examples of highly polarized and diverse philosophical belief issues this eight member commission has addressed. Concurrently, the commission is moving forward with evaluating nonresident hunting, fishing and state park use, allocating opportunities and finding a balance between resident and nonresident desires.

"It is very humbling and satisfying to be recognized nationally for our work," said GFP commissioner Cathy Peterson of Salem. "The work that we do as a commission could not be done without the support, leadership and professionalism from the department staff who patiently provide knowledge and expertise on all issues we are faced with."

One of the primary responsibilities of the GFP Commission is to establish, adjust and remove administrative rules (regulations). In an attempt to be more responsive to the public's desire for regulation change, this commission has encouraged the public to bring forward petitions for desired changes. In the past two years, the GFP Commission has considered several petitions; some have been adopted and moved into the rule promulgation process and others have been denied. It's the commission's belief to be responsive to the public's interest for change which has resulted in a higher number of petitions. It is also their belief that these topics, often unpopular, deserve a public hearing and the opportunity for all sides to weigh in before making a decision.

"This is truly an honor to be part of a group receiving such high recognition," said GFP commissioner Doug Sharp of Watertown. "I want to express gratitude to the department secretary, Kelly Hepler, for submitting the nomination, but more importantly, for being the leader who has allowed these difficult issues to be discussed and managed through the teamwork of both the department and the commission."

To learn more about the GFP Commission, its members and their role in sustaining outdoor recreational opportunities of South Dakota's state parks, fisheries and wildlife through transparent decision making processes, visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/members/>.



**Sun Dial Manor in Bristol
is accepting applications for
full time and part time CNA's.
12 hr. shifts - days and nights
(SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)**

**DIETARY OPENINGS
Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts
(WITH SIGN ON BONUS)**

**For more information,
Call 605/492-3615**

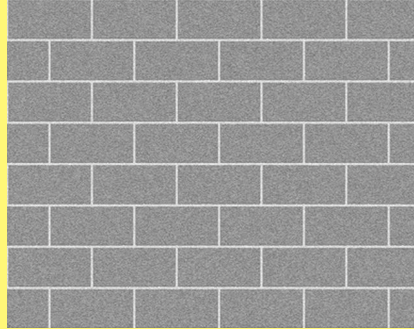
Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 5 of 24

MIDWEST MASONRY & CONCRETE PUMPING



**NEW OR REPLACED
SIDEWALK**



BLOCK WALLS



EGRESS WINDOWS



DRIVEWAY

BASEMENT FLOORS

STONE AND BRICK

WORK



GARAGE FLOORS

Call for a free quote

605/397-8383

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 6 of 24

Today in Weather History

July 19, 1933: An F2 tornado moved ESE from west of Tulare to 3 miles ENE of Hitchcock. About ten farms had damage, and several barns were destroyed.

July 19, 2010: Severe storms produced a wide swath of hail and high winds from northern Butte County, through southern Meade, eastern Pennington, Jackson, and Bennett Counties. Millions of dollars in crop damage was reported, along with some damage to homes and automobiles.

1886: The 1886 Atlanta Hurricane season was a very active year with ten hurricanes, seven of which struck the United States. During the evening hours of July 18th, a category 1 storm made landfall near Homosassa Springs, Florida. Damage was slight as the area was thinly inhabited. The hurricane weakened to tropical storm status south of Gainesville and emerged on the eastern side of Florida, south of Jacksonville during the morning hours of the 19th. This was the fourth hurricane to make landfall in the United States.

1960 - Cow Creek and Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, CA, reported morning lows of 102 degrees. The afternoon high at Greenland Ranch was 124 degrees, and the high at Cow Creek that afternoon was 126 degrees. The coolest low for the entire month for both locations was 82 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1974 - A severe thunderstorm with winds to 80 mph and up to two inches of rain washed out four to five foot deep sections of roadway in Lake Havasu City, AZ. Three persons in a station wagon died as it was carried 3000 feet down a wash by a ten foot wall of water. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of southwestern Pennsylvania. Some places receive more than twelve inches in a seven hour period. The heavy rains cause flash flooding along streams resulting in widespread severe damage. The cloudburst floods Johnstown with up to ten feet of water resulting in 76 deaths, countless injuries, and 424 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the western and the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Winnemucca, NV, with a reading of 33 degrees. Flagstaff AZ reported a record low of 34 degrees. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in New York State and New Jersey. High winds and hail two inches in diameter injured two persons and caused considerable damage to crops in the Pine Island area of central New York State. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced more than five inches of rain at Red Cloud, including two inches in fifteen minutes. Torrid temperatures continued over California, with record highs of 115 degrees at Red Bluff and 116 degrees at Redding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms in the Lower Mississippi Valley produced 5.50 inches of rain south of Alexander, AR, in just ninety minutes, and flash flooding which resulted claimed the life of one woman. Thunderstorms in Indiana produced 4.95 inches of rain in twelve hours east of Muncie. Eight cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees, and Phoenix, AZ, with a high of 116 degrees. The low that night at Phoenix of 93 degrees was the warmest of record for that location. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


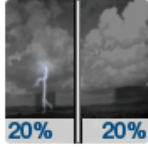



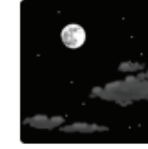

2005 - A severe heat wave gripped the region during early to mid-July. Las Vegas, NV tied their all-time record high temperature of 117 degrees, equalling the old record set on July 24, 1942.

2006 - The first of two severe thunderstorms hits the St. Louis area, causing the largest power outage in the city's history with over 570,000 people losing electricity.

2006: A derecho impacted a sellout crowd of almost 44,000 St. Louis Cardinals fans, packed into the new Busch Stadium. Winds of about 80 mph whirled around the St. Louis area, sending the fans running for shelter. The winds knocked out power and broke windows out of the press box. Nearly two minutes after the winds began at 100 mph, they stopped, and it started to rain. In all, about 30 people were injured at the stadium.

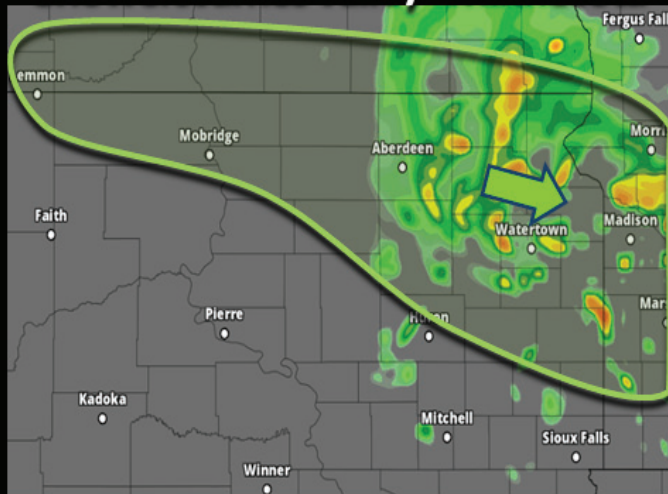
Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 7 of 24

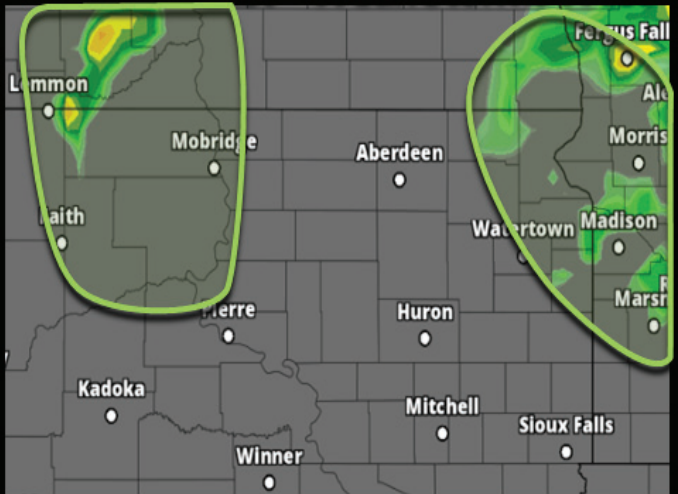
Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
 50%	 20% 20%					 20%
Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms and Patchy Fog	Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 76 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 82 °F

More Wet Weather Today - Highs 80s West/Central & 70s East

Morning Model Depiction
Showers James Valley - Minnesota



Afternoon Model Depiction
Showers East - Weak Storms West



 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 7/19/2018 6:06 AM Central

Published on: 07/19/2018 at 6:14AM

Low pressure continues to move over the eastern Dakotas with rain showers along and east of the James valley through the morning and early afternoon hours. Those showers will continue into Minnesota through the day as the low heads in that direction. An isolated afternoon storm or two is possible mainly across and west of the Missouri valley. Severe weather is not anticipated today.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 8 of 24

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.8 F at 3:13 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 63.9 F at 6:09 AM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 4:04 PM

Precip: 1.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1932

Record Low: 42° in 1900

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 60°F

Average Precip in July: 1.66

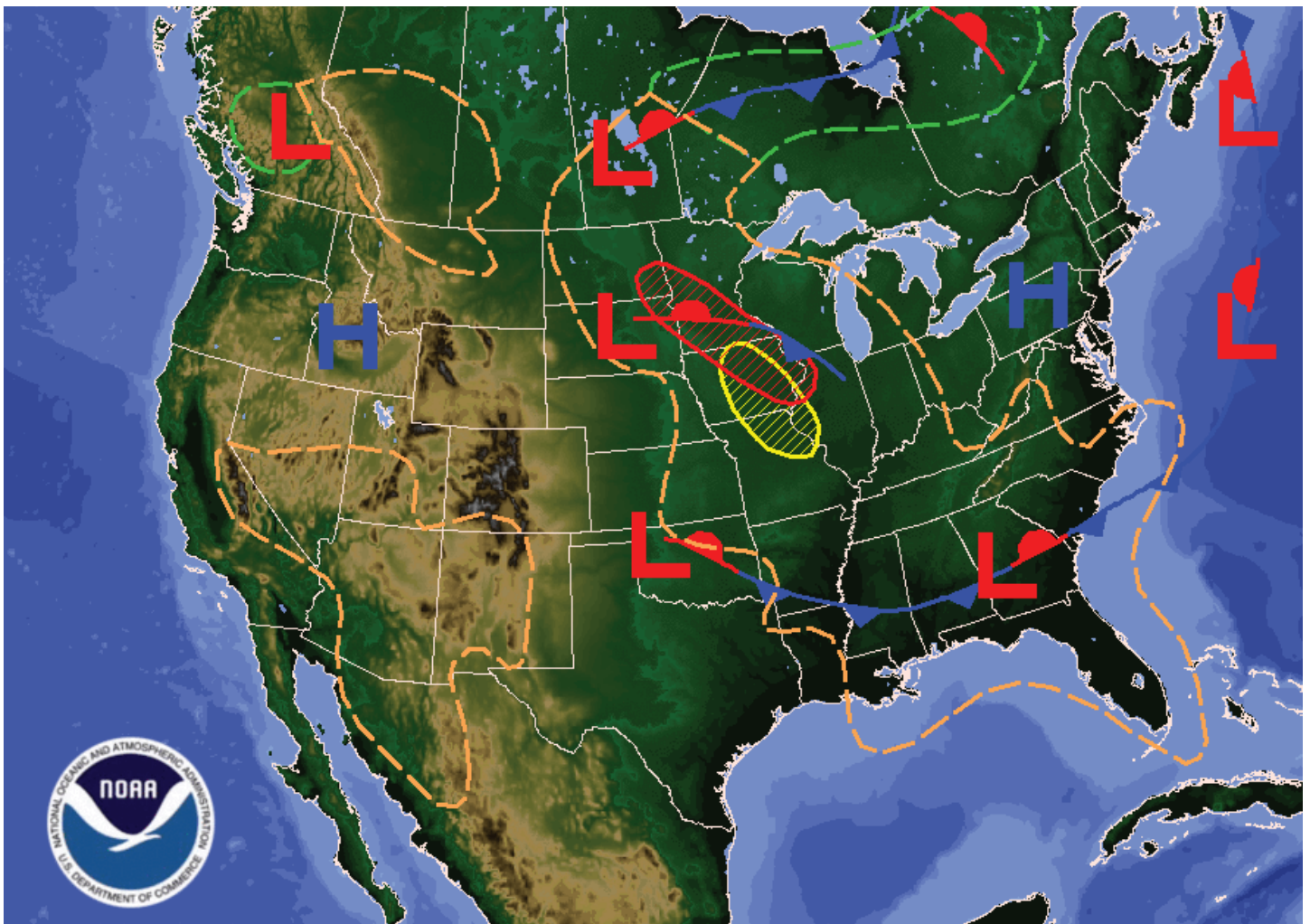
Precip to date in July: 3.74

Average Precip to date: 12.51

Precip Year to Date: 9.55

Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jul 19, 2018, issued 4:42 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)



NO BIG THING!

A famous watchmaker finished what he considered to be his masterpiece. Carefully, he placed it between two clocks that were much older, yet accurate, timekeepers.

The one on the left turned to it and said, "I'm sorry for you," it sighed. "You're ticking bravely now. But you'll be exhausted when you get through thirty-three million ticks this year."

"Thirty-three million ticks?" gasped the frightened clock. "I can't do that!" And it shook violently and stopped.

"Don't listen to such trash," said the clock on the right. "You've only got to take one tick at a time. There, now, isn't that better? Now, take another tick. And one more. Easy now. Again. Isn't that better?"

"Is that all?" asked the new clock. "That's easy. OK. Here I go!" And it started bravely once again - one tick at a time. At the end of the year it had made thirty-three million ticks with not one problem.

We do not need to worry about the next hour or day or week. Our Lord simply asks that we trust Him moment by moment - like the clock: one tick at a time.

The Psalmist talks about giving "understanding to the simple." Often we complicate our lives and become overwhelmed and depressed by looking at "thirty-three million ticks" rather than "one tick." We awaken in the morning and before we realize it have scheduled a month's worth of activities into those few morning hours.

Dwight Eisenhower once said, "We need to do things that are important, not urgent. Life can be simple."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to carefully separate the "need to dos" from the "want to dos" and live God-guided lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:130b it gives understanding to the simple.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 10 of 24

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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 11 of 24

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
10-19-20-28-32
(ten, nineteen, twenty, twenty-eight, thirty-two)
Estimated jackpot: \$126,000

Lotto America
01-05-08-11-32, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 2
(one, five, eight, eleven, thirty-two; Star Ball: six; ASB: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$5.05 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$422 million

Powerball
01-10-27-28-36, Powerball: 12, Power Play: 2
(one, ten, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, thirty-six; Powerball: twelve; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$110 million

Suspected Russian agent has ties to South Dakota businessman

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A conservative political operative who once worked on Pat Buchanan's 1992 presidential campaign and made an action movie with Jack Abramoff more recently helped arrange several speeches in South Dakota for a gun-rights activist suspected of being a covert Russian agent.

South Dakota businessman Paul Erickson in 2015 helped set up at least three events for accused Russian operative Maria Butina and formed a company with her in the state the following year. Butina, 29, was charged this week with being a covert Russian agent who gathered intelligence on American officials and political organizations and worked to establish back-channel lines of communications for the Kremlin.

In court papers filed Wednesday aimed at persuading a judge to keep Butina in custody, prosecutors accused her of using a personal relationship with an unnamed American political operative as part of her covert activities for Russia. That operative was identified only as 56-year-old "U.S. Person 1" in the court papers. The papers say officials believe Butina and U.S. Person 1 have lived together and been in a personal relationship.

Butina awaits trial on charges of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent for Russia. She pleaded not guilty Wednesday during a hearing in which U.S. Magistrate Deborah Robinson ordered her held in jail as the case moves forward, saying she was a flight risk.

Butina's attorney, Robert Driscoll, has called the allegations against her "overblown." Driscoll has said Butina was not an agent of the Russian Federation but was instead in the U.S. on a student visa, graduating from American University with a master's degree in international relations.

During the hearing, Driscoll disclosed that Butina had offered to assist the government in an unrelated fraud investigation into U.S. Person 1, which was led by the U.S. attorney's office in South Dakota.

The case against Butina raises questions about her connections to the 56-year-old Erickson, who hasn't

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 12 of 24

returned telephone messages this week from The Associated Press requesting comment. The paperwork filed to incorporate the company, Bridges, LLC, lists few details, but Erickson told McClatchy in 2017 that the now-delinquent company was created in case Butina needed financial help with her graduate studies.

The New York Times reported last year that Erickson in May 2016 emailed a Trump campaign adviser and offered to set up a back-channel meeting between Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Erickson in a February Rapid City Journal story cast doubt on the article, saying that "not all reports from the East are accurate."

In South Dakota, Butina spoke about freedom and entrepreneurship in 2015 at a Sioux Falls school, at the University of South Dakota and at a teenage Republican camp held in the Black Hills, all with Erickson's involvement.

Dusty Johnson, who is now South Dakota Republicans' U.S. House nominee, organized the teenage Republican summer camp in July 2015. Johnson told the AP on Wednesday that Erickson reached out with the opportunity to have Butina speak and appeared to staff her during the talk, holding up maps and helping her get oriented.

"I didn't talk to her beforehand, she gave her talk, she left, and I haven't talked to her since," said Johnson, adding that it appeared like Butina was on a broader speaking tour.

Johnson said he and Erickson were acquaintances from the University of South Dakota, but called Erickson "a bit of an enigma."

"He will have years where you don't hear from him, or don't hear about him from anybody, and then you might see him a couple times in a year," Johnson said.

A university spokeswoman said in a statement that two student groups and a civic leadership center hosted Butina as a guest lecturer on gun rights in Russia. About a dozen students attended the April 2015 pizza lunch to hear Butina, who came at the recommendation of Erickson.

The university isn't aware of any other speaker recommendations Erickson has made, according to the spokeswoman. The statement says Erickson briefly attended the university in the early 1980s, but later transferred to Yale University.

Erickson served as national treasurer of the College Republicans while at Yale, the Rapid City Journal reported. He graduated in 1984, got a law degree in 1988 from the University of Virginia and was executive producer of Abramoff's brainchild, "Red Scorpion," an anti-communist action film starring Dolph Lundgren.

Erickson worked in 1992 as national political director for Buchanan's unsuccessful campaign challenging President George H.W. Bush for the Republican nomination.

Erickson told the Journal that business success — primarily in real estate development — has paralleled his political adventures.

"I've enjoyed 33 years of wildly diverse business ventures all around the world in industries ranging from hotels to housing to entertainment to energy," he said, but declined to share examples.

Florida man sentenced to jail in fatal South Dakota crash

HURON, S.D. (AP) — A Florida man who pleaded guilty in a fatal crash in South Dakota has been sentenced to about three months in jail and fined \$4,000.

Authorities say 24-year-old Cedric Beauvil, of Miami, was driving a semitrailer that failed to stop at a highway intersection in Beadle County last November and crashed into a pickup truck driven by 18-year-old Kennedy Tomsha (TAHM'-shah), of Tulare. Tomsha died at a Huron hospital.

Beauvil pleaded guilty in May to second-degree manslaughter, and prosecutors dismissed several other charges. He was sentenced Tuesday.

KOKK radio reports that Beauvil also was ordered to give speeches at four high schools over the next three years on the subject of distracted driving.

US House hopeful for Alaska seat has never been to the state

By BECKY BOHRER, Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Carol Hafner is on the Democratic primary ballot for an Alaska U.S. House seat. She doesn't live in Alaska. In fact, she's never been to the state. Hafner, who listed New Jersey and South Dakota addresses in her candidate filing, says she's serious about running, though she doesn't plan to campaign in person.

Democratic officials are questioning her authenticity and political affiliation.

Under the U.S. Constitution, to serve in Congress one must meet age and citizenship requirements and inhabit the state at the time elected. Generally, Alaska candidates in such races are from the state. But not always.

In 2014, a New York man, who has run in other states, challenged then-U.S. Sen. Mark Begich in Alaska's Democratic primary and got crushed.

It happens elsewhere, too: In Wyoming, also in 2014, an Arizona man whose campaign consisted almost entirely of sock-puppet videos, won the Democratic nomination for U.S. House — unopposed — but lost to incumbent Republican Rep. Cynthia Lummis in the general election.

"You may have a right to run, doesn't mean you're going to be well-received, or it's going to be an easy campaign for you," said Jay Parmley, executive director of the state Democratic party. "If you're not from somewhere, that's a pretty tall order."

Hafner faces long odds and has focused her attention online, where she boasts a comparable number of Twitter followers to those of the highest-profile candidates: Democrat Dimitri Shein and independent Alyse Galvin. Independents who want Democratic support can run in the party primary.

Shein and Galvin have been campaigning and participating in spirited debates ahead of the Aug. 21 primary. Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young faces little-known opponents in his primary.

Hafner listed on her candidacy filing a home and mailing address in New Jersey. She also listed an address at a mail-drop location in South Dakota popular with RVers and others with more transient lifestyles as her campaign contact on Alaska's website listing of candidates. Public records show property and voter registration records for Hafner in New Jersey.

The New Jersey addresses match those used by Eric Hafner during a failed run as a Democrat in an Oregon U.S. House primary earlier this year, which caught the attention of Julie Olsen, an Anchorage Democratic party leader. She said she was worried that Eric Hafner had "hijacked" Carol Hafner's identity and created an online persona to file for office. Olsen supports Shein.

Hafner, 64, said Eric Hafner is her son. She said he also ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for a U.S. House seat in Hawaii in 2016. Efforts to reach him were unsuccessful.

The Associated Press reached out to Carol Hafner via the email listed as her campaign contact. She responded by phone.

Hafner said she travels extensively and considers South Dakota her base. She said she has been in New Jersey for a family illness but is "on my way out."

She felt compelled to run to share her perspective on the environment, including climate change, education, health care and other issues. Hafner said she was stunned that Alaskans have kept Young in office for 45 years.

"I want to do good in a place that I feel a kinship for," she said.

She said she's angry that Olsen has been "playing Nancy Drew" and questioning her run.

People must pull together to solve problems, Hafner said. "Don't lock me out just because I'm not a homeboy," she said, adding later: "You ought to be thankful that I care enough and I'm interested enough and passionate enough to want to make things better."

"I'm certainly permitted to do what I have done," she said.

The Division of Elections said challenges to Hafner's candidacy by Parmley and Olsen were received after the protest deadline passed. The division said Hafner properly filed to run, a process that includes submitting a \$100 filing fee, and it had no reason to question the veracity of her candidacy.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 14 of 24

Olsen said she'd like to see changes to the process, such as having a candidate file in person or provide a phone number or copy of their driver's license.

Kimberly Slone, of Wasilla, found out about Hafner by Googling candidates.

Slone said she sent Hafner via email questions about the Arctic National Wildlife and found that she opposes drilling there, as does Slone.

"I thought how audacious of her to run for election in Alaska," Slone said.

She donated to Hafner's campaign, but Slone said she's not sure who will get her vote. It doesn't matter to her if a candidate lives outside Alaska "as long as the candidate shows up to campaign and is knowledgeable about the state and will move here as required."

Suzanne Hudson, an antique shop owner in Juneau, said she hasn't been paying much attention to the race but bristled at the idea of an outsider weighing in on Alaska issues.

"If you don't live in the state and don't know what's going on personally, you should stay out of it, because you could be making a law or a rule that's going to really hurt a lot of people, even though it's your opinion that it's going to be better," she said.

Researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York and reporter Mead Gruver in Cheyenne, Wyoming, contributed to this report.

Search of Sioux Falls man's home finds bomb-making material

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say they discovered bomb-making materials when they arrested a Sioux Falls man suspected in recent burglaries.

Minnehaha County sheriff's authorities served a search warrant Tuesday at the apartment of 43-year-old Mark Einerwold and found compounds that, when mixed together, form an explosive.

KELO radio reports sheriff's Capt. Jason Gearman said authorities also found an improvised explosive device in Einerwold's vehicle and illegal firearms.

Gearman says authorities also found indications of "extreme hatred" for police and government.

Einerwold faces charges of two counts of possessing a controlled weapon, for a sawed-off shotgun and a silencer; burglary; damage to property; and possessing a destructive device.

The Argus Leader reports Einerwold appeared in court Wednesday and is being held on a \$200,000 cash-only bond with a condition of no weapons.

Bruce Springsteen surprises audience at Billy Joel concert

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen propped himself on top of Billy Joel's piano to sing a duet with The Piano Man, who was celebrating his 100th concert at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday night.

Joel told the energetic crowd he had a guest coming onstage who has won a Grammy, Oscar and Tony. Springsteen emerged, surprising the feverish and fanatic audience, who loudly cheered "BRUCE."

"Congratulations Billy on your 100th show," Springsteen yelled.

"Ready, Billy?" he asked, as Joel began to play while sitting at the piano.

Springsteen encouraged the crowd to cheer louder and then sang "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out." He jumped onto Joel's piano — making it on his second try — and sat on it while Joel played and the piano slowly spun. Springsteen then rocked his guitar for "Born to Run."

Joel, 69, and Springsteen, 68, hugged after their two-song performance, and The Boss kissed Joel on his head as he walked offstage.

A banner celebrating Joel's 100th performance at MSG rose to the ceiling near the top of the two-hour-plus concert. Joel started performing a monthly residency at the arena in 2014. No artist has performed at the famed venue more than Joel.

"Good evening to you New York City," said Joel, whose 2-year-old daughter, Della Rose Joel, sat on his lap. "I want to thank you all for coming to our show."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 15 of 24

Joel was excited throughout his set, going from piano to harmonica to guitar. He put on his sunglasses while he passionately sang "New York State of Mind" and twirled his microphone stand in the air and danced happily after singing "Uptown Girl."

He said he had to think of a special song to sing to celebrate his new milestone, and then performed "This Is the Time."

"Maybe it'll hit me later," he said of his new feat.

Earlier on Wednesday, Governor Andrew Cuomo proclaimed July 18, 2018, as "Billy Joel Day." Joel, who was born in the Bronx, first performed at MSG on December 14, 1978. His piano is on display in front of the venue.

After rescue, soccer boys pray for protection at Thai temple

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA, Associated Press

CHIANG RAI, Thailand (AP) — The youth soccer teammates rescued from a flooded cave began their first day back home with their families Thursday by going to a Buddhist temple to pray for protection from misfortunes.

Eleven of the boys and the Wild Boars coach knelt and pressed their hands in prayer to the tune of chanting monks at the ceremony meant to extend one's life and protect it from dangers. They were joined by relatives and friends at the Wat Pra That Doi Wao temple, overlooking Myanmar on Thailand's northern border.

Only one member was absent, Adul Sargon, who is not Buddhist.

The team has already said they would ordain as Buddhist novices to honor a former Thai navy SEAL diver who died in the cave while making preparations for their rescue.

On Wednesday evening, the boys and coach were released from hospital and spoke to the media for the first time since their ordeal, describing their surprise at seeing two British divers rising from muddy waters in the recesses of the cave. It would be another week before they were pulled out of the Tham Luang cave.

"We weren't sure if it was for real," 14-year-old Adul said. "So we stopped and listened. And it turned out to be true. I was shocked."

In one poignant and emotional moment at the news conference, a portrait was displayed of Saman Gunan, the Thai diver who died. One of the boys, 11-year-old Chanin "Titan" Vibulrungruang, the youngest of the group, covered his eyes as if wiping away a tear.

"I feel sad. And another thing is I'm really impressed with Sgt. Sam for sacrificing his life to let all 13 Wild Boars to be able to live our lives outside happily and normally," said Coach Ekapol "Ake" Chanthawong. "When we found out, everyone was sad. Extremely sad, like we were the cause of this, for making the sergeant's family sad and having to face problems."

The Wild Boars had entered the cave on June 23 for what was to be a relaxing excursion after soccer practice. But rain began, and water soon filled the cavern, cutting off their escape, and they huddled on a patch of dry ground deep inside the cave.

Ekapol said the trip was meant to last one hour, simply because "each of us wanted to see what was inside."

When the hour was up, they were pretty deep inside and already had swum through some flooded areas in the spirit of adventure. But in turning back, he discovered the way was not at all clear, and he swam ahead to scout the route, attaching a rope to himself so the boys could pull him back if necessary.

He said he had to be pulled out.

Ekapol said he told the boys: "We cannot go out this way. We have to find another way."

The boys told reporters of their reactions at that point.

"I felt scared. I was afraid I wouldn't get to go home and my mom would scold me," said Mongkol Boonpiam, 13, prompting laughter.

Ekarat Wongsukchan, 14, said they decided "to calm ourselves first, to try to fix the problem and find a way out. Be calm and not shocked."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 16 of 24

The group had taken no food with them and survived by drinking water that dripped from the cave walls, Ekapol said, adding that all the boys knew how to swim, which had been a concern for rescuers.

Titan said he tried hard not to think about food. "When I'm starving, I don't think of food otherwise it'd make me more hungry."

Adul said they were digging around the spot when they heard the voices and Ekapol called for silence.

He recounted how Ekapol told them to "quickly get down there, that's the sound of a person, or else they're going to pass on by, something like that."

But he said his teammate holding the flashlight was scared, so Adul told him "If you're not going to go, then I'll go."

"So I quickly took the flashlight, and quickly went down, and I greeted them, 'hello,'" Adul added.

Psychologists had vetted the journalists' questions in advance to avoid bringing up any aspects of the rescue that might disturb them. The dangers of the complicated operation, in which the boys were extracted in three separate missions with diving equipment and pulleys through the tight passageways, were not discussed.

Doctors said the 13 were physically and mentally healthy. Although they lost an average of 4 kilograms (9 pounds) during the more than two weeks they were trapped in the cave, they have since gained about 3 kilograms (6 1/2 pounds) on average since their rescue. They were treated for minor infections.

Asked what he had learned from their experience, 13-year-old Mongkol Boonpiam said he felt stronger. "I have more patience, endurance, tolerance," he said.

Adul said it had taught him "not to live life carelessly."

While many of the boys wanted to be pro soccer players when they grow up, at least four of them said they hope to become navy SEALs, so they could help others.

All expressed their apologies to their families.

"I wanted to apologize to my parents. I know that I will get yelled at by mom when I get home," said Pornchai Kamluang, 16.

Ekarat said sheepishly he wanted to apologize to his parents because while he told them he was going to a cave, he told them the wrong one.

"I told them I was going to Tham Khun Nam," he said. "I didn't tell them I went to Tham Luang. So I was wondering how they found us at the right cave."

This story has been corrected to show the quote about the diver who died was from the team coach, not one of the boys.

Russia slams proposal to question Trump summit translator

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian politicians are rallying behind Vladimir Putin and denouncing American suggestions that the translator at his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump be interrogated about what they discussed privately.

Russia's ambassador to the U.S., Anatoly Antonov, expressed hope Thursday that "the verbal agreements between Putin and Trump will be fulfilled." Russian officials worry that domestic turmoil in the U.S. will hamper potential future cooperation on Syria or arms control discussed at the summit.

Russian officials have shrugged off Trump's wildly contradictory accounts of what he said to Putin at Monday's summit.

They are angry however at proposals by U.S. lawmakers to question Trump's translator. Konstantin Kosachev, head of the upper house of parliament's foreign affairs committee, said Thursday the idea sets a dangerous precedent that threatens the "the whole idea of diplomacy," according to Russian news agencies.

Amid harsh criticism, Trump tries a tougher tone on Russia

By ZEKE MILLER, KEN THOMAS and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump spent a second day managing the political fallout from his widely criticized meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin, shifting stances and mopping up what the White House said were misstatements.

His toughness with the longtime American foe in question, Trump said Wednesday he told the Russian president face-to-face during Monday's summit to stay out of America's elections "and that's the way it's going to be."

That rhetoric marked a turnabout from Trump's first, upbeat description of his sit-down with Putin. Still, Trump backtracked on whether Russia is currently targeting U.S. elections. When asked the question Wednesday, he answered "no," a reply that put him sharply at odds with recent public warnings from his own intelligence chief.

Hours later, the White House stepped in to say Trump's answer wasn't what it appeared.

The zigzagging laid bare the White House's search for a path out of trouble that has dogged the administration's discussions of Russia from the start, but spiraled after Trump's trip to Helsinki. After days of criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, Trump — a politician who celebrates his brash political incorrectness — has appeared more sensitive than usual to outside opprobrium.

The scale of the bipartisan outcry at Trump's stance toward Putin has only been rivaled by his 2017 waffling over condemning white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"I let him know we can't have this," Trump told CBS News of his conversations with Putin. "We're not going to have it, and that's the way it's going to be."

Would he hold Putin personally responsible for further election interference? "I would, because he's in charge of the country."

The CBS interview came at the end of two days of shifting statements.

On Monday, Trump appeared to question the findings of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

His reservations, expressed 18 months into his presidency and as he stood standing next to Putin on foreign soil, prompted blistering criticism at home, even from prominent fellow Republicans.

On Tuesday, he delivered a scripted statement to "clarify" — his word — his remarks Monday. He said he misspoke by one word when he said he saw no reason to believe Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

On Wednesday, he was asked during a Cabinet meeting if Russia was still targeting the U.S., and he answered "no" without elaborating. That came just days after National Intelligence Director Dan Coats sounded an alarm, comparing the cyberthreat today to the way U.S. officials said before 9/11 that intelligence channels were "blinking red" with warning signs that a terror attack was imminent.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said later Wednesday that Trump actually was saying "no" to answering additional questions — even though he subsequently went on to address Russia.

"The president is wrong," GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said of Trump's one-word response. Told that Sanders had since clarified, she responded: "There's a walk-back of the walk-back of the walk-back of the walk-back? This is dizzying."

Trump has refined and sharpened his presentation in the two days since Helsinki.

At the news conference with Putin, he was asked if he would denounce what happened in 2016 and warn Putin never to do it again, and he did not directly answer. Instead, he went into a rambling response, including demands for investigation of Hillary Clinton's email server and his description of Putin's "extremely strong and powerful" denial of meddling.

Trump asserted Wednesday at the White House that no other American president has been as tough on Russia. He cited U.S. sanctions and the expulsion of alleged Russian spies from the U.S., telling reporters that Putin "understands it, and he's not happy about it."

The muddied waters have deepened critics' concerns that Trump is not taking threats to the U.S. elec-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 18 of 24

toral system seriously enough. Pressed on why Trump has repeatedly passed on opportunities to publicly condemn Putin's actions, Sanders suggested Trump was working to make the most of an "opportunity" for the two leaders to work together on shared interests.

One such opportunity is what Trump termed an "incredible offer" from Putin to allow the U.S. access to Russians accused of election hacking and other interference. In exchange, Putin wants Russian interviews of Americans accused by the Kremlin of unspecified crimes.

Sanders said Trump was still weighing the offer with his team, adding, "We've committed to nothing." Russian officials have said they want to interview Kremlin critics Bill Browder and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul.

McFaul tweeted Wednesday that he hoped the White House would denounce "this ridiculous request from Putin."

Lawmakers have urged Trump to reject the deal.

"We're going to make sure that Congress does everything it can to protect this country," said Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., who heads up the GOP's campaign arm.

A number of senators are swiftly signing on to a bipartisan bill from Sens. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., that would slap new sanctions on Russia or any other country caught posting ads, running fake news or otherwise interfering with election infrastructure.

Sanders called the legislation "hypothetical" and declined to say whether the president would back it.

Van Hollen said Trump "isn't willing to protect the integrity of our democracy in the United States, so Congress has to act."

Two other lawmakers, Sens. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and Chris Coons, D-Del., will try to force a vote Thursday on a resolution backing the intelligence community's findings that Russia interfered in the 2016 election and must be held accountable. A similar House vote Tuesday failed on a party-line vote.

The Republican chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, Richard Burr of South Carolina, said if Trump doubts that Russia would again try to intervene, "He needs to read the intelligence."

At the Hudson Institute think tank in Washington last Friday, Coats said, "We are not yet seeing the kind of electoral interference in specific states and voter data bases that we experienced in 2016; however, we fully realize that we are just one click on a keyboard away from a similar situation repeating itself."

His comments came the same day the Justice Department unveiled an indictment against 12 Russian military intelligence officers for their role in hacking Democratic groups during the 2016 campaign.

"The president was flat out wrong," Michael Morell, former deputy and acting director of the CIA said about Trump's remarks after the Cabinet meeting. "The Russians continue to interfere in our democracy. In fact, they never stopped."

Contrary to the U.S. government's fears leading up to the 2016 president election, hacking the nation's election infrastructure appeared to take a back seat to stealing and leaking salacious documents from the Democratic National Committee and House Democrats' campaign arm.

The success of the apparent dress rehearsal does not bode well for the upcoming election cycles in 2018 and 2020, as intelligence leaders have noted the ongoing and increasing threat by Russian hackers.

Federal officials ultimately determined that at least 18 states had their election systems targeted in some fashion, and possibly up to 21 found scanning of their networks for possible vulnerabilities, according to a report issued by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in May.

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann in Aspen, Colorado, and Tami Abdollah and Susannah George in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@ZekeJMiller> , Thomas at <http://twitter.com/@KThomasDC> , and Mascaro at <http://twitter.com/@LisaMascaro>

Mild breeze, fast course for start of British Open

By **DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer**

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP) — Sandy Lyle of Scotland sent a mid-iron rolling along the crusty turf of Carnoustie to start the 147th playing of the British Open.

Lyle was chosen to hit the opening tee shot Thursday morning under a gray sky off the North Sea. He won the Open in 1985. Also in the opening group was two-time major champion Martin Kaymer and Andy Sullivan. They faced a course that was more yellow than green because of the unusually dry summer in Scotland.

Carnoustie has been called "Car-Nasty" in recent Opens because it is considered the toughest links in the Open rotation. This year's championship was more of a mystery going into the first round. Fast conditions are difficult, but being so dry means the rough is thin and wispy.

FBI Director Wray says Russia continues to sow discord in US

By **DEB RIECHMANN and DESMOND BUTLER, Associated Press**

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — FBI Director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that Russia continues to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to "spin up" Americans on both sides of hot-button issues to sow discord in the United States.

Wray stood behind the intelligence agencies' assessment that Moscow meddled in the 2016 presidential election, dismissing Russian President Vladimir Putin's claim that his country was not involved.

"He's got his view. I can tell you what my view is," Wray said at the opening event of the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado. "The intelligence community's view has not changed. My view has not changed."

Wray spoke after a day of controversy in Washington over whether President Donald Trump accepts the intelligence agencies' assessment and whether he believes Moscow is continuing to try to influence American elections or threaten the nation's infrastructure.

Wray also dismissed Putin's offer to allow the U.S. access to 12 Russian military intelligence officers who have been indicted on charges of interfering in the election in return for being able to interview Americans the Kremlin has accused of unspecified crimes.

The White House said it was under consideration. Wray dismissed the offer.

"I never want to say never about anything," Wray said, "but it's certainly not high on our list of investigative techniques."

Much of the conversation with Wray, which was moderated by NBC's Lester Holt, focused on Russia.

"Russia continues to engage in malign influence operations to this day," Wray said.

He said that while U.S. officials have not yet seen an effort by Russia to target specific election systems, it is aggressively engaged in influence operations to sow discord and divisiveness in America. "To me, it's a threat that we need to take very serious and respond to with fierce determination," Wray said.

He said the Russians identify divisive issues, and through covert and overt operations, fake news and propaganda, they "spin people up on both sides of an issue and then kind of watch us go after each other."

Russia isn't the only country threatening the U.S., Wray said.

He said he thinks China, from a counterintelligence perspective, represents the broadest and most significant threat America faces. China wants to replace the United States as the most powerful economic engine in the world and is infiltrating American businesses to get an edge.

"We have economic espionage investigations in all 50 states" that can be traced back to China, Wray said. "It covers everything from corn seeds in Iowa to wind turbines in Massachusetts and everything in between."

"The volume of it. The pervasiveness of it. The significance of it is something that I think this country cannot underestimate."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 20 of 24

North Korea hasn't met its promise to return US war remains

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a month after North Korea pledged to immediately return some American war dead, the promise is unfulfilled.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who traveled to Pyongyang this month to press the North Koreans further, said Wednesday the return could begin "in the next couple of weeks." But it could take months or years to positively identify the bones as those of specific American servicemen.

In a joint statement at their Singapore summit, President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed to recovering the remains of prisoners of war and those missing in action decades after the Korean War — "including the immediate repatriation of those already identified."

That was more than a month ago, on June 12. Although Trump said eight days later that the repatriation had happened, it had not. It still has not. So, it was not "immediate," though the Stars and Stripes newspaper reported from South Korea on Tuesday that the North has agreed to transfer as many as 55 sets of remains next week. The Pentagon and the State Department declined to comment on any specifics promised by the North.

"We're making progress along the border to get the return of remains, a very important issue for those families," Pompeo said Wednesday at the White House. "I think in the next couple of weeks we'll have the first remains returned, that's the commitment, so progress certainly being made there."

Likely also to prove untrue is the part of the Trump-Kim statement that said the North had war remains "already identified." It apparently has bones and perhaps associated personal effects, but history shows that any remains handed over by the North are likely to be difficult to identify. In recent days the State Department has changed that phrase to "already collected," suggesting it realized the remains have not been identified.

"There are no missing Americans who have been 'already identified' by the DPRK (North Korea) to be repatriated," says Paul Cole, who has researched POW-MIA issues from the Korean War for decades and served for four years as a scientific fellow at the Pentagon's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. He said this element of the Singapore statement "reflects a near total ignorance of the role of science" in accounting for war dead.

There is even some doubt that any remains turned over would be of Americans. Trump admitted as much in a CBS News interview July 14.

"You know, remains are complicated," he said. "Some of the remains, they don't even know if they are remains."

That's a big step back from his false assertion June 20 in Duluth, Minnesota: "We got back our great fallen heroes, the remains sent back today, already 200 got sent back."

Richard Downes, whose father, Air Force Lt. Hal Downes, is among the Korean War missing, says hopes may have been raised too quickly.

"Yes, the Singapore statement overpromised," he said, "exacerbated by our hope that it was accurate."

Hope has long sustained Downes and thousands of other Americans who seek closure after decades of uncertainty about a relative missing from the war. The Pentagon says 7,699 U.S. servicemen are missing from Korea, including about 5,300 believed to be in the North. Downes, 70, was 3½ when his father's B-26 Invader went down on Jan. 13, 1952, northeast of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. His family was left to wonder about his fate. Downes is now executive director of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, which advocates for remains recovery.

The Singapore statement may yet prove to be an important breakthrough. Bringing its promise to fruition, however, is proving harder than Trump made it seem.

As Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies put it in a web essay last week, "What was supposed to be the easiest item on the United States-North Korea negotiations agenda — the return of Korean War soldiers' remains — is proving to be yet another sticking point."

Beyond the promised initial return of remains that the North may have been holding in storage for years, the State Department said Sunday the two sides have agreed to restart searches for burial locations of U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 21 of 24

war remains in North Korea. That effort was suspended by the U.S. in 2005. This raises another delicate issue to be negotiated: how much the U.S. would pay the North for this access. In the past it has paid millions, saying the money was "fair and reasonable compensation" for the North's help, not payment for bones or information.

In Fitzpatrick's view, the North has dangled the promise of war remains as bait to attain political objectives such as progress toward a peace treaty to replace the armistice agreement that ended the fighting on the Korean Peninsula in July 1953. The North sees this political objective as an essential element of ending what it calls Washington's hostile policy toward the North, which in turn is linked to its willingness to give up its nuclear weapons.

The Singapore summit was mainly about Trump's push to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. He said afterward there was no longer a nuclear threat from the North, though Kim agreed only to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," and no detailed plan has been worked out. On Tuesday, Trump seemed to reveal his own doubts about timing. He told reporters, "We have no rush for speed," adding, "We're just going through the process."

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

A Comic-Con without Marvel, HBO gives others a chance to pop

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Comic-Con fans know one thing to be true: Where there is fun, there's usually a line that precedes it. And hours before the annual pop culture convention officially kicked off Wednesday night in San Diego, there were lines everywhere — to get onto the convention floor to buy merchandise at the stroke of 6 p.m., to have the life scared out of them at the DC Universe Swamp Thing "experience," to gaze at pretty Laika characters, to get into a Hall H panel Thursday morning and even to take a photo with an Andrew Lincoln lookalike.

Over 130,000 pop culture devotees will come to San Diego's Gaslamp District for the annual four-day comic book convention Comic-Con, the big, bright and very heavily branded confab of costumed superfans and the corporate sponsors vying for their attention — and dollars.

Interested in dining at a working replica of the "Demolition Man" Taco Bell for the movie's 25th anniversary? Or witness a mock court-martial of Star Wars' Poe Dameron for leading a mutiny in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi"? How about a wine and beer tasting with Neil deGrasse Tyson? Or a "Ready Player One" experience with retro gaming stations and recreation of Room 237 from "The Shining"? If you like pop culture, it's highly likely there is something tailor-made for you at Comic-Con 2018.

"I'm blown away by everyone, everything," said first-time attendee Jeffrey Potts, of Los Angeles. "It's like an amusement park in the middle of town."

Right outside the convention center, across the train tracks, DC Universe has set up a massive space with props and costumes from various movies and tv shows in DC history, like the giant rubber ducky cart from "Batman Begins," and some elaborately-staged "experiences" like a menacing Harley Quinn-themed escape room in a paint-splattered asylum.

What started as a 300-person event in 1970 has evolved into a massive operation with events year-round. But San Diego Comic-Con is the marquee occasion. Tickets for four-day access plus preview night can set attendees back \$276, before hotel, travel costs, food and any souvenirs.

Loicia Ware, a San Diego resident who has been coming to Comic-Con for at least 10 years, likes to venture onto the convention center floor right when it opens Wednesday evening for preview night, heading straight for Artists Alley and Small Collections on the 460,000 square foot space. It allows her to focus on panels for the rest of the week.

As it has grown, attendees have come to expect a lot from Comic-Con, like exclusive merchandise on the convention center floor, newsy announcements from some of Hollywood's biggest studios, and screenings of anticipated films and television shows.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 22 of 24

This year Warner Bros. is coming armed with stars and footage from "Aquaman," "Shazam!," "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" and "The LEGO Movie 2"; Sony is hyping its Spider-Man spinoff "Venom"; and Universal Pictures will be teasing "Halloween" and M. Night Shyamalan's "Glass." On the television side, fans will get a glimpse of new "Doctor Who" star Jodie Whittaker and have a chance to check out "Star Trek: Discovery" and "Riverdale." And streaming services like Netflix and Hulu will be back with properties like Marvel's "Iron Fist" and the new J.J. Abrams-produced "Castle Rock," based on Stephen King stories.

But a few of the major players are conspicuously absent from Hall H, the 6,500-seat room in the San Diego Convention Center that boasts the highest-profile presentations and attracts an enthusiastic fan base willing to camp out overnight in line to secure a coveted seat — as of mid-day Wednesday there were at least 300 people already in line for panels that don't begin until Thursday morning. Those skipping this year include Marvel Studios, HBO ("Game of Thrones") and Star Wars.

"It's a huge deal when major properties like Marvel, Star Wars or HBO don't show up," says Germain Lussier, an entertainment reporter for io9/Gizmodo who has been attending the convention for 15 years. "For the past decade, Marvel Studios panels have consistently been the No. 1 most anticipated thing for movie fans at Comic-Con. Their panels never failed to disappoint with exclusive footage, huge news and big surprises."

Production schedules are more to blame than anything else, however. Lussier notes that each of the absent brands has a big (and intensely secretive) installment coming in 2019, including "Avengers 4," "Star Wars: Episode IX" and the final season of "Game of Thrones."

"Instead of showing up and disappointing fans, they're simply bowing out to not bolster expectations," he says.

Also, other brands and properties could benefit from an unusually open runway.

"Every year, there's always one or two things everyone is talking about. And if it's not 'Avengers 4' or 'Star Wars,' what's it going to be?" says Lussier. "I think this is a huge opportunity for Warner Bros. to steal every headline with major news and exciting footage."

___ Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbahr

White House, State at odds over Putin's interview proposal

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and the State Department are at odds over Russian President Vladimir Putin's offer to allow the U.S. access to Russians accused of election meddling in return for interviews of Americans accused by the Kremlin of unspecified crimes.

Even as the White House said the offer, made by Putin to President Donald Trump at their summit in Helsinki on Monday, was under consideration, the State Department called Russia's allegations against the Americans "absurd," suggesting that any questioning of them would not be countenanced by the U.S. The Russian claims against the Americans, including former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul, relate to allegations of fraud and corruption.

"The overall assertions that have come out of the Russian government are absolutely absurd: the fact that they want to question 11 American citizens and the assertions that the Russian government is making about those American citizens," spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters.

McFaul tweeted Wednesday: "I hope the White House corrects the record and denounces in categorical terms this ridiculous request from Putin. Not doing so creates moral equivalency between a legitimacy US indictment of Russian intelligence officers and a crazy, completely fabricated story invented by Putin."

Nauert noted that a U.S. federal court had already rejected Russia's charges regarding British businessman and vocal Kremlin critic Bill Browder. She said Russian authorities already know the U.S. position. Browder was a driving force behind a U.S. law targeting Russian officials over human rights abuses.

"We do not stand by those assertions that the Russian government makes," Nauert said. "The Prosecutor General in Russia is well aware that the United States has rejected Russian allegations in this regard."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 23 of 24

... We continue to urge Russian authorities to work with the U.S. Department of Justice to pursue those in Russia who in fact perpetrated the fraudulent scheme that Russia refers to that targeted not only Mr. Browder, but also his company and ... the Russian people as a whole."

FBI Director Christopher Wray was similarly dismissive. Speaking Wednesday at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado, he said Putin's offer was "not high on our list of investigative techniques."

Wray and Nauert's comments stood in sharp contrast to those of White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who held open the possibility that what Trump called "an incredible offer" is being weighed.

"The president's going to meet with his team, and we'll let you know when we have an announcement on that," she said, adding that neither Trump nor anyone else in the administration had committed to accepting the offer.

Asian stocks drift as investors await fresh moves on trade

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were drifting Thursday in mixed trading as investors awaited further moves in global trade disputes.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.2 percent to 22,839.59, while South Korea's Kospi shed 0.2 percent to 2,285.99. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.1 percent lower to 28,107.16 while the Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.3 percent to 2,777.41. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.3 percent to 6,265.00.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OUTLOOK: The Manila, Philippines-based Asian Development Bank issued a revised economic forecast for the region and for major industrial economies that kept mostly unchanged the estimates for growth it made in April, though it warned that trade tensions pose "a clear downside risk to the outlook for developing Asia." It forecast growth for the region at 6.0 percent in 2018 and 5.9 percent for 2019.

FED TESTIMONY: Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell wrapped up his semi-annual testimony to Congress about economic and monetary policy with an overall positive assessment. However, he warned that trade battles with China and higher U.S. tariffs on foreign products cause higher inflation that might require a change of strategy.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The tone is little changed from yesterday with earnings and the Fed relief carrying markets higher and providing positive leads for us here in Asia. That said, markets lack real conviction amid the waffling sentiment," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock indexes finished slightly higher Wednesday. The S&P 500 index rose 0.2 percent to 2,815.62. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.3 percent to 25,199.29. The Nasdaq composite finished nearly flat, losing 0.67 points to close at 7,854.44. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 0.3 percent to 1,691.87.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude added 12 cents to \$68.88 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract rose 1 percent to finish at \$68.76 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 6 cents to \$72.84 per barrel in London. It added 1 percent to settle at \$72.90 a barrel on Wednesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 112.70 yen from 112.85 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1647 from \$1.1638.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 19, the 200th day of 2018. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 19, 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 010 ~ 24 of 24

the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

On this date:

In 1553, King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen of England after pretender Lady Jane Grey was deposed.

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.

In 1848, a pioneering women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, New York.

In 1903, the first Tour de France was won by Maurice Garin.

In 1943, allied air forces raided Rome during World War II.

In 1944, the Democratic national convention convened in Chicago with the nomination of President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered a certainty.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.

In 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which suffered the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush joined former presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon at ceremonies dedicating the Nixon Library and Birthplace (since redesignated the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum) in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1992, anti-Mafia prosecutor Paolo Borsellino was killed along with five members of his security detail in a car bombing in Palermo, Sicily.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue."

Ten years ago: Democrat Barack Obama visited U.S. troops and met with officials in Afghanistan as part of a congressional fact-finding tour. The Indiana Fever defeated the New York Liberty 71-55 in the WNBA's first outdoor game, played at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Five years ago: In a rare and public reflection on race, President Barack Obama called on the nation to do some soul searching over the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of his shooter, George Zimmerman, saying the slain black teenager "could have been me 35 years ago." A Dallas woman plunged 75 feet to her death from a Six Flags Over Texas roller coaster when her safety restraint apparently failed.

One year ago: Sen. John McCain's office said the 80-year-old Arizona Republican and former presidential nominee had been diagnosed with a brain tumor, glioblastoma. President Donald Trump told The New York Times that he would have chosen someone else to be attorney general if he'd known that Jeff Sessions would recuse himself from the FBI probe into possible ties between Trump's campaign and Russia.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Helen Gallagher is 92. Country singer Sue Thompson is 92. Singer Vikki Carr is 78. Blues singer-musician Little Freddie King is 78. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 74. Actor George Dzundza is 73. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 72. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ilie Nastase is 72. Rock musician Brian May is 71. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 71. Actress Beverly Archer is 70. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 67. Actor Peter Barton is 62. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 58. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 58. Actor Campbell Scott is 57. Actor Anthony Edwards is 56. Country singer Kelly Shiver is 55. Actress Clea Lewis is 53. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 53. Country musician Jeremy Patterson is 48. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 47. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 47. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 44. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 42. Actress Erin Cummings is 41. TV chef Marcela Valladolid is 40. Actor Chris Sullivan ("This is Us") is 38. Actor Jared Padalecki is 36. Actor Trai Byers is 35. Actress Kaitlin Doubleday ("Nashville") is 34. Actor/comedian Dustin Ybarra is 32. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 28.

Thought for Today: "The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious ... the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science." — Albert Einstein (1879-1955).