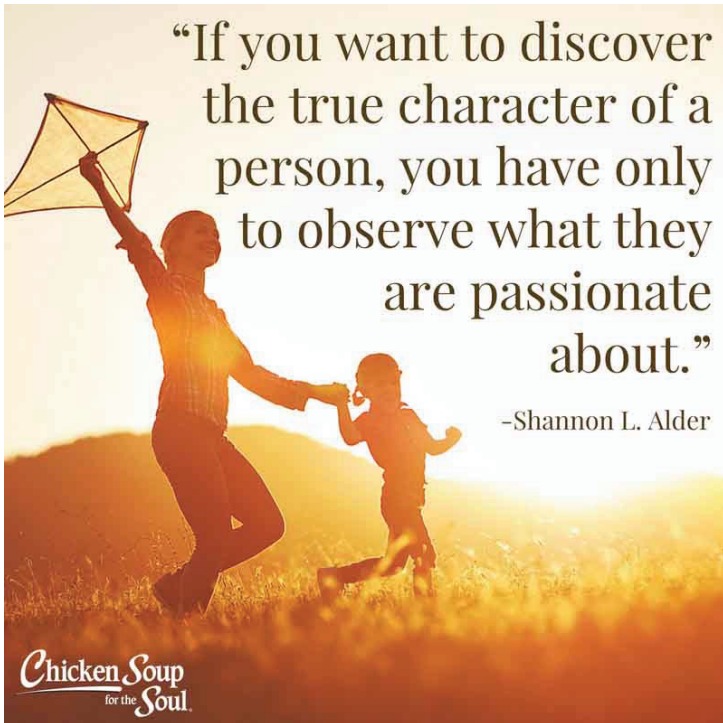


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 1 of 36



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Sperry Stump Removal Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Death Notice: Jake McKiver
- 2- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- Groton is Legion Region Champs photo
- 4- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 5- What's going on in State Government this week
- 7- SunDial Manor ad
- 8- Midwest Masonry ad
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- National Weather map
- 11 Today's Weather Almanac
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 14- News from the Associated Press

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

Death Notice: Jake McKiver

Jacky D. "Jake" McKiver, 66, of Groton passed away July 22, 2018 at Mayo Clinic Methodist Hospital in Rochester, MN.

Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright (@JordanWrightNFL)

The end of the offseason is almost upon us! There will be one more roster breakdown after this one, and the column after that will be a game preview for the Vikings' first preseason game. I don't know about you, but I can't wait for the season to start!

Last week we covered the cornerbacks on the Vikings' roster. This week, we focus on the last position group on the defense: safety. The Vikings have had some great safety play over the last few years, and this year looks to be no different. The Vikings didn't bring in any competition for the backup safety positions, so while the roster will likely look the same as it did last season, it will be fun to watch how the backups improve. Of course, it is always possible the Vikings move a cornerback to safety (Terence Newman?), but for now the Vikings have four safeties on the roster and that's how it will probably remain entering the 2018 season.

Starters

Harrison Smith is the best safety in the National Football League. There are many great safeties in the league, but Smith proved last year that he stands head and shoulders above the rest. Pro Football Focus gave him the highest grade they've ever given a safety (97.0). Not only is Smith one of the best in coverage, he also lines up in the box and can shut down the run or get to the quarterback. He is a Jack-of-all-trades and is perhaps the most important piece to Mike Zimmer's defense. Smith made the Pro Bowl for the third year in a row and was named 1st-team All-Pro by the Associated Press, Pro Football Writers, Pro Football Focus, and Sporting News.

Starting next to Smith is Andrew Sendejo. Many fans, myself included, have written Sendejo off in the past, but he continues to lock down a starting spot and doesn't appear to be in any danger of losing it. PFF gave him a grade of 86.8 last year, good for 12th best among safeties. He might take bad angles or miss a tackle occasionally, but for the most part he does his job well and is reliable, two things Zimmer needs for his defense to run at full strength.

Backups

Anthony (Ant) Harris was signed by the Vikings as an undrafted rookie in 2015. Over the past three seasons, Harris has played in 39 games (mostly on special teams) while also getting eight starts. PFF gave him a player grade of 81.4 last season, but he isn't ranked because he didn't play enough snaps to qualify. The Vikings re-signed him this offseason so he'll be around for at least one more season.

Jayron Kearse was drafted by the Vikings in the seventh round of the 2016 NFL draft. Over the past two seasons he has played in 31 games and has one start under his belt. He earned a 71.9 player grade by PFF, and while that might be an average grade according to their website, it is easily the lowest of any Vikings safety last year. Kearse has tons of potential and is the biggest safety on the Vikings roster, but he will need to show improvements if he wants to be anything more than a backup.

On a side note, I wanted to take a moment to send along my thoughts and prayers to the Sparano family. If you haven't heard, Vikings' offensive line coach Tony Sparano passed away at his house on Sunday. The number of players, coaches, and members of the media who are saddened by his passing truly shows how loved he was as a coach, mentor, friend, and family member. Sparano was 56-years young and will be sorely missed by everyone who was lucky enough to have known him. Rest in peace, Coach.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 3 of 36



Groton is Legion Region Champions

Back row: Coach Travis Kurth, Alex Morris, Darien Shabazz, Bennett Shabazz, Brandon Keith, Luke Thorson, Austin Jones, Peyton Johnson, Garret Schroeder, Wyatt Locke

Front row: Riley Thurston, Grady O'Neill, Hunter Schaller, Anthony Schinkel, Korbin Blackmun, Anthony Sippel, Coach Bary Keith. (Photo by Marjae Schinkel)

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Fighting for Farmers

It's been a tough few years for agriculture. Between a drought, hail, and low prices, net farm income has been cut in half the last four years.

The Farm Bill was designed to provide a safety net for our food supply during stretches like this. In 2014, we approved a five-year Farm Bill, which offered strong crop insurance and livestock disaster programs for producers. That legislation is now up for renewal, which we're making steady progress on.

The House's updated Farm Bill incorporates reforms I helped write to strengthen commodity programs. It also increases CRP acreage, updates the wetland determination process, and strengthens dairy policy. I've detailed many of these changes at noem.house.gov/FarmBill.

Because the Senate passed a separate version, we're in the process of merging the two documents into a final proposal, and I'm hopeful we'll be able to wrap up negotiations quickly.

The Farm Bill, however, is just one aspect of agriculture policy that we're closely monitoring. For years, China has exploited the American people, and they need to be held accountable for that. But in recent months, farmers and ranchers have been forced to bear the burden of retaliatory tariffs.

In July, I invited Scott VanderWal, a Volga-area farmer and president of the South Dakota Farm Bureau, to testify before Congress about the impact of China's trade and tariff threats. He explained: "We understand other countries, particularly China, have not played fairly, and we respect President Trump's desire to remedy those situations. The problem is, those countries know just where to punch us back in a dispute by targeting our agriculture products. Through no fault of our own, and unintentionally, our industry ends up being used for leverage."

I share these concerns and have personally expressed them to top administration officials and President Trump himself. In addition to phone calls and meetings, I wrote to President Trump this spring, warning that "All our hard-won gains in Farm Country are at serious risk of being wiped away because China is threatening retaliation against American farmers."

Especially given the national security risks that would come if another country controls our food supply, the administration must help provide a strong safety net for America's producers in the face of China's retaliatory actions. Along with Senators Rounds and Thune, I urged President Trump in July to make U.S. agriculture exports a priority with our trading partners around the world and explained how recent market uncertainty has already cost South Dakota producers hundreds of millions of dollars. Farmers and ranchers simply can't afford to be further entangled in global trade disputes.

While there were more than 200 rural congressional districts 50 years ago, just over 30 remain. There's no doubt that creates a disconnect in Congress. So few understand that most producers take a loan out each year, bury that money in the ground in the form of seed and fertilizer, and hope – not only for a good yield – but for the right market conditions at the right time. It's a tough business. But as a lifelong farmer and rancher, I get why folks do it and why we must fight for trade and agriculture policies that protect the safest, most reliable, and most abundant food supply in the world.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 5 of 36

What's going on in State Government this week

Public Meetings:

Tuesday, July 24, 8:30 – 11 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Electrical Commission will hold a meeting in Room 412 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave. To view the agenda, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=35>. For more information, call JJ Linn, Executive Director of the Electrical Commission at 605-773-3573.

Tuesday, July 24, 1 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Aeronautics Commission of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 48 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=5>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Wednesday, July 25, 9 a.m. CDT – The 9-1-1 Coordination Board meets via teleconference. A draft agenda is listed at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=2>. For more information, contact Shawnie Rechtenbaugh at 605-773-8145.

Wednesday, July 25, 1 p.m. CDT – The South Dakota Primary Care Task Force Oversight Committee will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <http://doh.sd.gov/PrimaryCare/>.

Thursday, July 26, 8 a.m. CDT, Pierre- The South Dakota Value Added Finance Authority will be holding a meeting at the Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=100>. For more information, please contact the Department of Agriculture at 605-773-5436.

Thursday, July 26, 9 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Transportation Commission of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 48 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=96>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Thursday, July 26, 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Workers' Compensation Advisory Council will hold a meeting at the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave., in the Sharpe Conference Room. For call-in information and meeting materials, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=107>.

Friday, July 27, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Cosmetology Commission will meet in the Lake Lewis and Clark Room at the Ramkota Hotel, 920 W. Sioux Ave. Meeting agenda and materials can be viewed at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=21>. If you have questions, please contact Kate Boyd at 605-773-6193.

Friday, July 27, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission will meet at the MacKay Building, Conference Room 3, 800 Governors Drive, in Pierre. A proposed agenda will be posted at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=79>.

Friday, July 27, 1 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Indian Education Advisory Council will meet at the MacKay Building in Conference Room 5, located at 800 Governors Dr., in Pierre. An agenda will be posted at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=200>.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 6 of 36

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, July 23, to Thursday, July 26: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, July 23:

- 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Lake Andes – 400 Main St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – 212 Main St. 605-280-4308
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton Sioux Tribe – 20 Main St. SW 605-280-4306

Tuesday, July 24:

- 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. CDT, Armour – 706 Braddock St. 605-280-4306
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Lake Andes – 400 Main St. 605-280-4306
- 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. CDT, Olivet – 140 Euclid 605-360-7819
- 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Tyndall – 300 W. 18th Ave. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Winner – 200 E. Third St. 605-280-4308

Thursday, July 26:

- 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – 200 E. Center St. 605-360-7819
- 12:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Pierre – 520 S. Pierre St. 605-280-4308

Tuesday, July 24 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, July 25 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Thursday, July 26 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT
Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

Tuesday, July 24, to Wednesday, July 25 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 7 of 36

enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

- Tuesday, July 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – At 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, July 25, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Yankton – At 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, July 24, to Wednesday, July 25 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, July 24, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – At the Spink County Court House, third floor. For more information during these hours, call 605-380-8930 and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, July 25, 1 – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At City Hall, 60 S. Main. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, July 25, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Webster – At the Day County Court House basement. For more information during these hours, call 605-380-8930 and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Thursday, July 26, 12:30 – 2 p.m. CDT, Brookings – Aramark will conduct walk-in interviews at Brookings Job Service, 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103, every Thursday through Aug. 30. For more information call 605-688-4350.



**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**

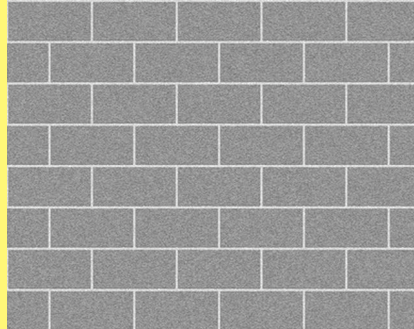
Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 8 of 36

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

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 9 of 36

Today in Weather History

July 23, 2007: High heat indices along with very little wind contributed to the deaths of over 2800 cattle in Brown, Spink, Day, and Marshall Counties. Most of the cattle deaths occurred on July 23rd. The high heat indices continued through the 25th with some more cattle deaths, but protective measures kept the death count down. Most of the cattle that died were on feedlots. The total loss was around 3 million dollars.

July 23, 2010: A United States record setting hailstone fell from a powerful supercell thunderstorm moving southeast across central South Dakota. The record setting hailstone fell near Vivian, South Dakota and measured 8 inches in diameter, 18.625 inches in circumference, and weighed 1.9375 pounds. This hailstone broke the previous United States record for diameter (7.0 inches - 22 June 2003 in Aurora, NE) and weight (1.67 pounds - 3 September 1970 in Coffeyville, KS). The Aurora, Nebraska hailstone will retain the record for circumference (18.75 inches). Several other stones of 6 inches or more in diameter were measured during the storm survey.

Along with the very large hail, damaging winds more than 70 mph along with an isolated tornado occurred. The large hail and high winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, and vehicles as it moved southeast across the region. Some of the hail went completely through car windshields, roofs, garages, and campers. The hail caused five minor injuries to motorists on Interstate 90 as it went through their windshields. A child was severely injured when the glass in the mini-van he was traveling was completely shattered by the large hail. The child suffered numerous cuts, many requiring stitches.

1788: Called the George Washington's Hurricane, this storm originated near Bermuda on the 19th before making landfall in Virginia. It passed directly over the Lower Chesapeake Bay and Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. This track is very similar to the track of the Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane of 1933. At Norfolk, winds increased at 5 p.m. on the 23rd with the wind originating from the northeast. At 12:30 a.m., the wind suddenly shifted to the south and "blew a perfect hurricane, tearing down chimneys, fences"...some corn was also leveled. Also, large trees were uprooted, and houses were moved from their foundations.








Port Royal and Hobb's Hole experienced a violent northeast gale which drove several vessels ashore. In Fredricksburg, great quantities of corn, tobacco, and fruit were destroyed. Houses and trees fell in great numbers across Northumberland, Lancaster, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties. Crops were destroyed, and many livestock perished in Lower Mathews County. Many plantations saw their houses leveled. Homes were flooded with water six feet deep... several inhabitants drowned.

Historical figures of the time logged the storm's antics. George Washington noted the sinking of the small ship Federalist and uprooted trees. Colonel James Madison, father of the future president, experienced the passing of great winds and rains near Orange. In Alexandria, damage to wheat, tobacco, and corn was "beyond description." The information above is from the Weather Prediction Center and noted American historian David Ludlum.

2011: Chicago set an all-time daily record rainfall when 6.86 inches fell during the early morning hours of Saturday, July 23, 2011, at O'Hare airport. The previous daily record was 6.64 inches set on September 13, 2008.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 10 of 36

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 82 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 74 °F

Pleasant Weather Conditions Today And Tonight

**Highs Today:
Upper 70s to Mid 80s**

**Lows Tonight:
50s to Low 60s**



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)

Updated: 7/23/2018 5:08 AM Central

Published on: 07/23/2018 at 5:13AM

Dry and seasonally mild temperatures are expected today and tonight. An increase in humidity on Tuesday will set the table for thunderstorm chances Tuesday night into Wednesday when the next cold front is forecast to move through the region.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 11 of 36

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 82.6 F at 3:17 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 65.9 F at 4:48 AM

High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 12:30 PM

Precip: 0.02

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1934

Record Low: 46° in 1980, 1949

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 60°F

Average Precip in July: 1.85

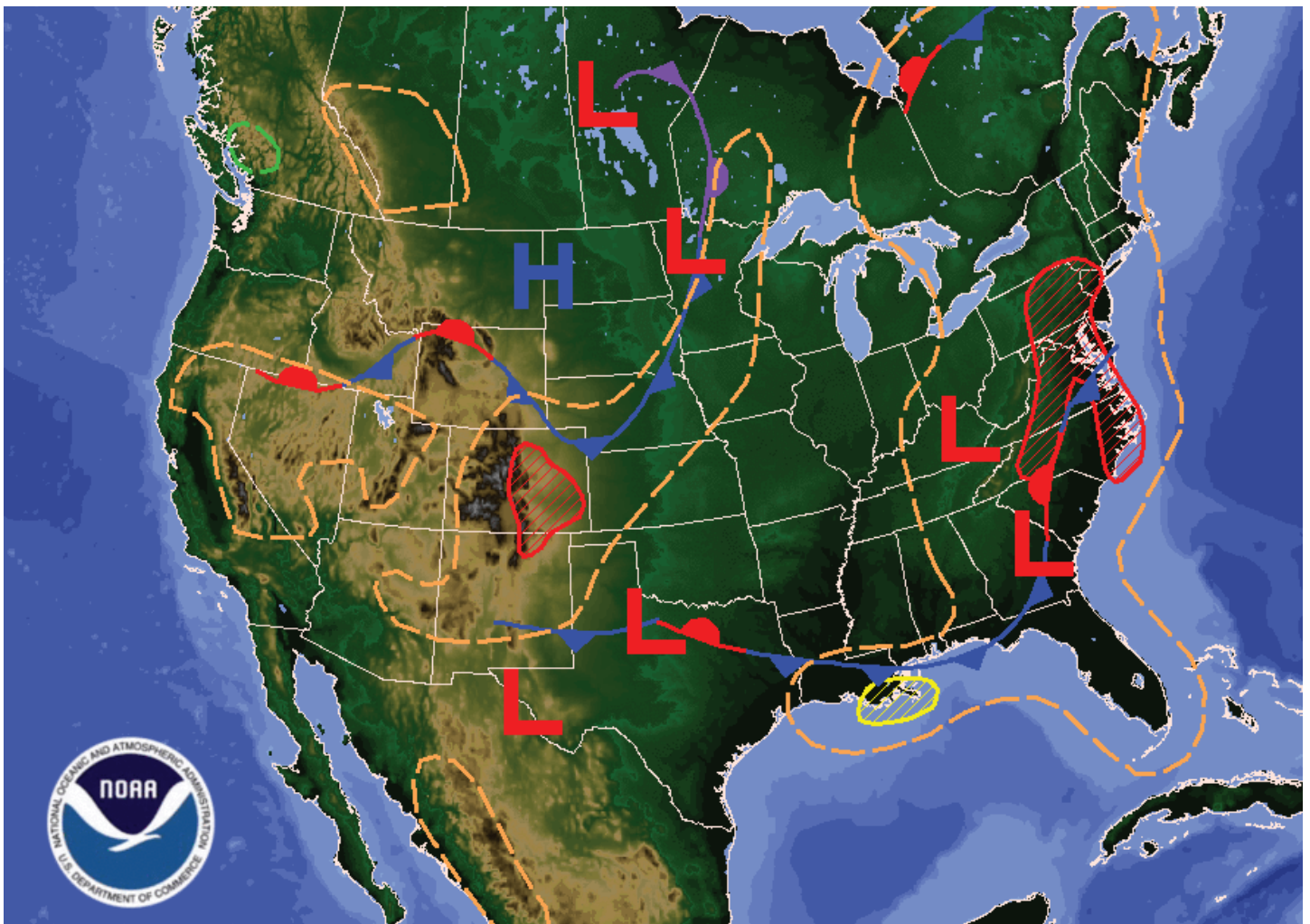
Precip to date in July: 3.84

Average Precip to date: 12.70

Precip Year to Date: 9.65

Sunset Tonight: 9:13 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:08 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jul 23, 2018, issued 4:48 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)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 12 of 36



HOW CLOSE IS NEAR?

Lord Moynihan of Leeds, England, was very highly respected for his brilliance and skills as a surgeon. He became so famous that other surgeons would travel great distances to observe him perform an operation. One day, after a long and difficult procedure, he was asked if he objected to the large group that had been watching him.

After thinking for a moment he said, "Well, it's like this: when I operate there are just three people in the room - the patient and myself."

"But that's only two. You said three. Who is the third person?" he was asked.

"The Lord," Lord Moynihan said.

The Psalmist once said, "Yet, You are near, Lord."

What might he have meant? Two things for certain.

We know that God is near us to guide us. Many ask the question, "Where am I going?" Perhaps it would be much better to ask, "Who am I following?" Our God has infallible wisdom, knows what is best for us and will meet our every need as long as we look to and depend on Him.

Secondly, we know that our God is near us to guard us. He walks before us and His angels surround us. No one and no thing can touch us without His permission. We have His Word "that in all things God is working for the good of those who love Him."

Surrendering all that we are and all that we have to Him is the first step for us to take if we want Him to be our Leader. After we do this, we will have His assurance that everything will work to our good and His glory.

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes that we may see You, our ears that we may hear You and our wills to obey You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:151 Yet you are near, Lord, and all your commands are true.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 13 of 36

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

Courts accepting PTSD as criminal defense

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Melissa Solorzano was terrified when her son told her he wanted to go into the military.

But it was his dream, so she and her husband supported him.

"There was no dissuading him," she said in a Minnehaha County courtroom last month. "That was what he wanted to do. He was more determined than ever."

When she spoke those words, her son, Garrett Michael Solorzano, was about to be sentenced to prison on a charge of first-degree manslaughter in the stabbing death of his wife, Jennie Lee Smith-Solorzano.

Solorzano in March pleaded guilty but mentally ill to the charge, with his attorneys claiming that post-traumatic stress disorder from his military service played a role in his actions.

Still, Judge Robin Houwman sentenced him to 150 years in prison, with 70 of those years suspended, adding there was no way to know for certain if it was PTSD, substance abuse or other factors led Solorzano to stab his wife six times in the neck and head as she slept in February 2016.

State and federal courts have more recently accepted PTSD as a method of criminal defense or claim of insanity, but that doesn't mean judges or juries are swayed, the Argus Leader reported. A case study by the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law found that defendants did not have more success in the court system with PTSD than with other mental disorders in insanity pleas.

"This is a failure of the system," Solorzano's public defender, Betsy Doyle, said at his sentencing.

Solorzano served in the military from February 2000 until his general discharge in 2012. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in 2010. Three medical professionals who evaluated Solorzano said he had PTSD at the time of the 2016 stabbing and during their evaluations throughout the case.

The defense rooted its argument in PTSD's power to affect almost every aspect of veterans' lives. Doyle argued that lack of intervention and oversight by medical providers and loved ones triggered a "perfect storm" that pushed him into abusing controlled substances. Solorzano tested positive for methamphetamine and other drugs hours after the stabbing was thought to have occurred.

Prosecutor Randy Sample countered that the brutal stabbing was too heinous to be justified by "wrapping him (Solorzano) in a flag" and blaming a stress disorder. He called such a defense an insult to other veterans who suffer from post-combat trauma, summing up his argument succinctly.

"PTSD is not an excuse to slaughter your spouse," he said.

'He always wanted to be in the military': Friends, family of Solorzano say honorable man was darkened by time in service

Solorzano, originally from Texas, came to South Dakota in 2012 after multiple attempts to get into Veterans Affairs hospitals closer to home were unsuccessful. He said he was told the wait time in South Dakota was much shorter than in Texas and its surrounding states.

Nearly two decades after Melissa Solorzano's son asked her to sign for him to enlist in the military at the age of 17, she sat on a witness stand, telling a judge and courtroom of how Garrett never could have stabbed his wife had he not been traumatized by his military service, which included a deployment in Iraq.

Garrett Solorzano was energetic, smart, social and reliable, friends and family testified at the sentencing hearing in June. He was someone who would stick up for the underdog and protect the bullied.

His family noticed the changes in his attitude after his first deployment.

He started to become sullen, negative and distant. The things he saw and orders he carried out haunted him. He saw friends die and held the hands of dying soldiers. An explosive device hit a vehicle he was in, giving him a traumatic brain injury. He was prescribed a high dosage of painkillers, his mother said, and he grew increasingly withdrawn and paranoid.

That's a common symptom of PTSD, said Summer Nelson, a clinical psychologist with the Sioux Falls

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 15 of 36

Veterans Affairs hospital. Though she couldn't speak directly about Solorzano's case or about veterans caught in the criminal justice system, she discussed the effects of PTSD and treatment possibilities.

"Someone's perspective on the world changes," Nelson said. "They think of themselves or others in the world differently. They were a happy-go-lucky person before, maybe now they're stuck in negative emotions or something, numb."

Melissa Solorzano and her husband learned of Garrett Solorzano's arrest through a Facebook message from Jennie Lee Smith-Solorzano's mother, Lee Ann Julian.

"I thought, 'That can't be true,'" Melissa said.

Garrett Solorzano was held at the Minnehaha County Jail after his arrest. His mother said his initial conversations with her were "gibberish" and didn't make sense. Over the two years he had been at the jail, receiving prescribed medicine under supervision, conversations with her grew more like they were before the stabbing, she said.

"(I saw) little glimmers of Garrett," she said. "I truly, truly know with help and rehabilitation, he can be a productive member of our society."

They aren't dangerous: Medical experts say PTSD is not an indicator of violence, and help is available. A sample from the U.S. population that excluded combat veterans found that PTSD was associated with a 7 percent increase of violence, compared to 3 percent of a chance of increased violence among people without PTSD, according to the National Center for PTSD.

The presence of violence in those with PTSD is similar to the prevalence of violence in people with other anxiety or depressive disorders, which ranges from 5 percent to 11.7 percent, the same study found.

The chance for violence is higher among those who abuse alcohol or substances, increasing by up to around 20 percent, according to the National Center for PTSD.

Jeremy Daniel, a psychiatric pharmacist who testified at Solorzano's sentencing, said PTSD is more likely to make a veteran suicidal, not homicidal. Substance abuse disorder is more likely to make someone violent.

A Walden University study released last year looked at a sampling of about 150 veterans. The study found that PTSD was not directly linked to a veteran being involved in the criminal justice system. Criminal behavior occurs in combat veterans whether or not they have PTSD, the study said, and that could be some turning to alternative coping measures.

Alexis Velazquez-Sanchez of Watertown cited PTSD as a defense last summer while facing charges of murder and manslaughter in the death of 17-year-old Jayden Harley.

Velazquez-Sanchez, who was twice deployed twice to Iraq, claimed that his stress disorder led him to kill Harley with a .45 caliber pistol during an argument that escalated into violence.

A mental health professional countered that Velazquez-Sanchez's psychiatric disorder "did not impair his judgment to the extent that he was incapable of knowing the wrongfulness of his act," and he was sentenced to up to 40 years in prison.

Nelson pointed out that positive results are possible for veterans with PTSD. There are treatments available, and she said four to five months of regular treatment can produce significant medical improvement. Treatment from Veterans Affairs includes techniques and tools to give to veterans to continue to practice after sessions are done.

Support from friends and family is another key component, she said.

"Sometimes the perception by friends and family is that it's just in their head and that they should just get over it," Nelson said. "That's not accurate. This is something where their recovery process has been interrupted and it's not their fault. There are effective treatments. There are things that can be done to help with that. It doesn't have to be a life sentence."

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

Woman convicted of murder sentenced to 25 years in prison

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge woman convicted of strangling another woman to death has been sentenced to 25 years in federal prison.

Twenty-five-year-old Elizabeth LeBeau was charged with second degree murder and accessory to second degree murder.

Authorities say LeBeau killed Emily Bluebird and then tried to cover up the crime by hiding the body.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken says LeBeau must serve three years of supervised release when she finishes her prison term.

South Dakota's 'Arc of Dreams' project delayed

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A \$1.8 million public art project in eastern South Dakota has been delayed three months.

The stainless steel Arc of Dreams was scheduled to be in place over the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls by July, The Argus Leader reported. The project's leadership now expects installation to be complete in October.

Work on the structure has taken more time than anticipated because of the its complexity, said Jim Clark, the project's director. Builders are making sure the structure's weight is evenly distributed.

"We want to make sure it gets done right," Clark said. "That takes time."

Project officials said work continues on the project mostly off-site, with the arc being constructed in a metalworks shop in Denver. Some on-site work has been completed, such as the construction of the foundation that will eventually support the arc.

"Those rods go deep into the bedrock to secure the sculpture," Clark said.

Sioux Falls' SculptureWalk began planning the arc in 2013. It is designed by artist Dale Lamphere. The sculpture will be 285-feet long and stand 70 feet above the water, and the site will feature a landscaped plaza on the western bank.

The sculpture is intended to be a tribute to those who dream and illustrates the uncertainty and risk of pursuing dreams, Clark said.

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

South Dakota wind farm nears completion

KIMBALL, S.D. (AP) — A nine-turbine wind farm in a South Dakota county along the Missouri River is nearing completion after about four months of construction.

The project in Brule County is being developed by New York-based Con Edison, which is also planning a similar project in Aurora County. Both projects are each expected to cost more than \$10 million, the Daily Republic reported.

"They had hearings on this, and there was absolutely no opposition at all," said Don Reinesch, a Brule County commissioner who owns land where part of the wind farm was built. "Now that they started building and they started going up, there's a little bit of discussion on it. It's not really negative, but people have their own feelings about them."

Wanzek Construction began assembling the last tower in Brule County on July 11. Each turbine generator will have the power output of about 2.3 megawatts when the project is completed. That makes the total power capacity of the wind farm at 20 megawatts, which is enough energy to power about 2,250 homes for a month.

Many individuals in nearby Kimball didn't know about the wind project's construction.

"I wasn't aware they were coming before, and then boom, they're here," said Anita Holan, Kimball's director of economic development.

The Davison County Commission voted down Con Edison's proposed wind farm project west of Mitchell

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 17 of 36

in April due to concerns about property rights and potentially decreased property values.

The projects in Brule and Aurora counties will connect to the NorthWestern Energy transmission system to power local facilities.

"The world is becoming more dependent on renewable energies," Reinesch said. "I think all in all, when people realize the benefit they are, that eases the pain, you might say."

Con Edison hopes to have both projects operating by November.

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

State Supreme Court returns stalking case to lower court

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court says a judge did not adequately explain why a Rapid City woman's Facebook complaints against her neighbor constituted stalking.

The Rapid City Journal reports that a judge in 2016 granted Sarah Thompson's request for a protection order against Wambli Bear Runner over Bear Runner's frequent antagonistic updates against Thompson. The two women had been dating the same man.

One of the posts read, "I'll forever be watching #your enemy unless I get an apology!"

The high court ruled that the circuit court did not show why Bear Runner's comments qualified as stalking. The case has been returned to the lower court.

South Dakota's law against stalking notes harassment can come through verbal, digital, electronic or even telegraphic communication.

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

Iran dismisses Trump's explosive threat to country's leader

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **WILL LESTER**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranians on Monday shrugged off the possibility that a bellicose exchange of words between President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart could escalate into military conflict, but expressed growing concern America's stepped-up sanctions could damage their fragile economy.

In his latest salvo, Trump tweeted late on Sunday that hostile threats from Iran could bring dire consequences.

This was after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani remarked earlier in the day that "American must understand well that peace with Iran is the mother of all peace and war with Iran is the mother of all wars."

Trump tweeted: "NEVER EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKE OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

Within hours, Iran's state-owned news agency IRNA dismissed the tweet, describing it as a "passive reaction" to Rouhani's remarks.

On Tehran streets, residents took the exchange in stride.

"Both America and Iran have threatened one another in different ways for several years," shrugged Mohsen Taheri, a 58-year-old publisher.

A headline on a local newspaper quoted Rouhani as saying: "Mr. Trump, do not play with the lion's tail."

Prominent Iranian political analyst Seed Leilaz downplayed the war of words, saying it was in his opinion "the storm before the calm."

Leilaz told The Associated Press he was not "worried about the remarks and tweets," and that "neither Iran, nor any other country is interested in escalating tensions in the region."

Citing harsh words the United States and North Korea had exchanged before the high-profile summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Leilaz said Trump and Kim got "closer" despite the warring words.

Trump's eruption on Twitter came after a week of heavy controversy about Russian meddling in the U.S. 2016 election, following the Helsinki summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 18 of 36

Meanwhile, the tweet was reverberating across the Mideast.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the U.S. president's "strong stance" after years in which the Iranian "regime was pampered by world powers."

Trump earlier this year pulled the U.S. out of the international deal meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon and ordered increased American sanctions, as well as threatening penalties for companies from other countries that continue to do business with Iran.

With the economic pressure, Trump said earlier this month that "at a certain point they're going to call me and say 'let's make a deal,' and we'll make a deal."

Iran has rejected talks with the U.S., and Rouhani has accused the U.S. of stoking an "economic war."

Rouhani also suggested Iran could immediately ramp up its production of uranium in response to U.S. pressure. Potentially that would escalate the very situation the nuclear deal sought to avoid — an Iran with a stockpile of enriched uranium that could lead to making atomic bombs.

Trump's tweet suggested he has little patience with the trading of hostile messages with Iran, using exceptionally strong language and writing the all-capitalized tweet.

"WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH. BE CAUTIOUS!" he wrote.

Another Tehran resident, Mehdi Naderi, fretted that the U.S. measures and his own government's policies are damaging the lives of the average Iranian.

"America is threatening the Iranian people with its sanctions and our government is doing the same with its incompetence and mismanagement," said the self-employed 35-year-old.

Trump has a history of firing off heated tweets that seem to quickly escalate long-standing disputes with leaders of nations at odds with the U.S.

In the case of North Korea, the public war of words cooled quickly and gradually led to the high profile summit and denuclearization talks. There has been little tangible progress in a global push to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons program since the historic Trump-Kim summit on June 12.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew to Pyongyang for follow-up talks earlier this month, but the two sides showed conflicting accounts of the talks. North's Foreign Ministry accused the United States of making "gangster-like" demands for its unilateral disarmament.

Some experts say Kim is using diplomacy as a way to win outside concessions and weaken U.S.-led international sanctions.

Many in Iran have expressed frustration that Trump has seemed willing to engage with North Korea, which has openly boasted of producing nuclear weapons, but not Iran, which signed the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Since Trump pulled out of the deal, other nations involved — Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China as well as the European Union — have reaffirmed their support for the deal and have been working to try and keep Iran on board.

"Iran is angry since Trump responded to Tehran's engagement diplomacy by pulling the U.S. out of the nuclear deal," Iranian lawmaker Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh told the AP.

He added, however, the war of words between the two presidents was to be expected, since official diplomatic relations between the two countries have been frozen for decades.

"They express themselves through speeches since diplomatic channels are closed," said Falahatpisheh who heads the influential parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy.

On Sunday in California, Pompeo was strongly critical of Iran, calling its religious leaders "hypocritical holy men" who amassed vast sums of wealth while allowing their people to suffer.

In the speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, Pompeo castigated Iran's political, judicial and military leaders, accusing several by name of participating in widespread corruption. He also said the government has "heartlessly repressed its own people's human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms."

He said despite poor treatment by their leaders, "the proud Iranian people are not staying silent about

their government's many abuses," Pompeo said.

"And the United States under President Trump will not stay silent either."

Lester reported from Washington. Associated Press writers David Rising in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, Aron Heller in Jerusalem and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Man firing into Toronto cafes shoots 14 people, killing 1

By **ROB GILLIES, Associated Press**

TORONTO (AP) — A man firing a handgun into restaurants and cafes as he walked along a Toronto street shot 14 people, killing one of them, before dying after an exchange of gunfire with police late Sunday, police said.

Police Chief Mark Saunders did not rule out terrorism as a motive in the shooting in the city's Greektown neighborhood.

"Other than the shooter we have a young lady that is deceased," the police chief said.

Saunders also said a girl aged 8 or 9 was in critical condition.

A video from one witness shows a man dressed in black clothes and a black hat walking quickly and firing three shots from the sidewalk into at least one shop or restaurant. Toronto's Greektown is a lively residential area with crowded Greek restaurants and cafes.

The condition of the other victims was not known yet, police spokesman Mark Pugash said.

Witnesses heard many shots and described the suspect walking past restaurants and cafes and patios on both sides of the street and firing into them.

John Tulloch said he and his brother had just gotten out of their car when he heard about 20 to 30 gunshots.

"We just ran. We saw people starting to run so we just ran," he said.

An army of police, paramedics and other first responders soon descended on the scene, while area residents, some in their pajamas, emerged from their homes to see what was happening.

Toronto Councillor Paula Fletcher told CP24 she heard that the gunman was emotionally disturbed.

"It's not gang related. It looks like someone who is very disturbed," Fletcher said.

Councillor Mary Fragedakis also said she heard the gunman was disturbed.

Fletcher said for this to happen in an area where families gather for dinner is a tragedy.

Mass shootings are rare in Canada's largest city.

"We were so use to living in a city where these things didn't happen," Toronto Mayor John Tory said. "But there are things that happen nowadays and they are just unspeakable."

This past weekend Toronto police deployed dozens of additional officers to deal with a recent spike in gun violence in the city. Tory said the city has a gun problem.

"Guns are too readily available to too many people," Tory said.

Police urged people to come forward with video or witness testimony.

The mass shooting comes a few months after a driver of a van plowed into pedestrians on a Toronto sidewalk, killing 10 people and injuring 14. Authorities have not disclosed a motive. But they have said the arrested driver, Alek Minassian, posted a message on social media referencing a misogynistic online community before the attack.

This story has been corrected to show that Saunders said the wounded girl was 8 or 9, not that she was 9.

Trump returns to Russia doubting after a week of walkbacks

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capping a week of drama, back tracking, a double negative and blistering statements from allies about his attitude toward Russian election interference, President Donald Trump on Sunday was back to referring to “a big hoax.”

Trump spent days trying to reassure the country that he accepts that the longtime foe interfered in the 2016 election after his public undermining of U.S. intelligence agencies in Helsinki while standing alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin. But Trump cast doubt once again in a Sunday tweet, diminishing at least the significance, if not the existence, of the interference and the U.S. investigation into Russia’s actions.

“So President Obama knew about Russia before the Election,” Trump tweeted. “Why didn’t he do something about it? Why didn’t he tell our campaign? Because it is all a big hoax, that’s why, and he thought Crooked Hillary was going to win!!!”

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was suggesting that the entire notion of Russian interference — U.S. intelligence agencies unanimously concur it took place and Trump reluctantly accepted their assessment amid the firestorm — was fraudulent, or just the investigation of potential collusion by Trump associates with Russian agents.

Either way, it appeared to keep alive a controversy that had separated Trump from aides and longtime political supporters and brought some of the most striking rebukes of his tenure in the Oval Office.

“The evidence is overwhelming and the president needs to say that and act like it,” said Republican Rep. Trey Gowdy, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, in an interview with “Fox News Sunday” aired hours before Trump’s tweet.

Two Trump associates, former national security adviser Mike Flynn and campaign foreign policy aide George Papadopoulos, pleaded guilty last year to charges brought by special counsel Robert Mueller alleging they had lied to the FBI about their Russia contacts.

Trump’s latest missive came hours after he asserted without evidence that newly released documents relating to the wiretapping of his onetime campaign adviser Carter Page “confirm with little doubt” that intelligence agencies misled the court that approved the warrant.

But lawmakers from both political parties said that the documents don’t show wrongdoing and that they even appear to undermine some previous claims by top Republicans on the basis for obtaining a warrant against Page.

Visible portions of the heavily redacted documents, released Saturday under the Freedom of Information Act, show the FBI telling the court that Page “has been collaborating and conspiring with the Russian government.” The agency also told the court that “the FBI believes Page has been the subject of targeted recruitment by the Russian government.”

The documents were part of officials’ application for a warrant to the secretive foreign intelligence surveillance court, which signed off on surveilling Page.

Trump tweeted Sunday on the documents: “As usual they are ridiculously heavily redacted but confirm with little doubt that the Department of ‘Justice’ and FBI misled the courts. Witch Hunt Rigged, a Scam!”

The release appears to undercut some of the contentions in a memo prepared by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Devin Nunes earlier this year. Nunes, R-Calif., and other Republicans had said that anti-Trump research in a dossier prepared by former British intelligence agent Christopher Steele and paid for by Democrats was used inappropriately to obtain the warrant on Page.

While the documents confirm that the FBI relied, in part, on information from Steele to obtain the initial warrant, they also show how the FBI informed the court of his likely motivation.

A page-long footnote in the warrant application lays out the FBI’s assessment of Steele’s history and the likely interest of his backer, adding that despite the political concern, the bureau believed at least some of his report to be “credible.”

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff of California, a ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said the documents detail “just why the FBI was so concerned that Carter Page might be acting as an agent

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 21 of 36

of a foreign power.”

“It was a solid application and renewals signed by four different judges appointed by three different Republican presidents,” Schiff said on ABC’s “This Week.”

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida also broke with Trump, saying he didn’t think the FBI did anything wrong in obtaining warrants against Page.

“I have a different view on this issue than the president and the White House,” Rubio said Sunday on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” “They did not spy on the campaign from anything and everything that I have seen. You have an individual here who has openly bragged about his ties to Russia and Russians.”

On Sunday, Page said on CNN’s “State of the Union”: “I’ve never been the agent of a foreign power.”

In a 2013 letter, Page had described himself as an “informal adviser” to the Kremlin but now said “it’s really spin” to call him an adviser.

Page has not been charged with a crime, but he has been interviewed by the FBI and congressional investigators about his ties to Russia. White House officials have argued that Page, announced by the president in early 2016 as a foreign policy adviser, played only a minor role in the Trump campaign.

The documents released Saturday include the FBI’s October 2016 request to surveil Page and several renewal applications. It marks the first time in the more than 40-year history of the highly secretive court that underlying documents for a warrant have been released.

With governor’s race, Georgia auditions as 2020 swing state

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Move over, Ohio. Make room, Florida and Pennsylvania. Georgia wants in on the swing-state action.

The state’s gubernatorial contest comes into greater focus Tuesday after Republicans choose between Brian Kemp, who is endorsed by President Donald Trump, and Casey Cagle, who is backed by the incumbent GOP governor. The victor in their party runoff will take on Democrat Stacey Abrams in her bid to become the first African-American woman elected governor in the U.S.

Abrams, a 44-year-old former state House leader, faces significant hurdles in a state that remains deeply conservative outside its metropolitan areas. No Democratic nominee for governor or U.S. Senate has carried the state since 1998. Bill Clinton was the last Democratic presidential candidate to win here — in 1992.

Yet in the last decade, GOP standard-bearers have typically garnered no more than 53 percent of the vote. Some Republicans say that margin isn’t enough as African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-Americans and white transplants become a larger share of the electorate. The themes that will likely dominate the general election campaign for governor, including immigration and race, will help determine whether Democrats can become consistently competitive in the Deep South after years of stinging defeats.

“This is a light-red state,” GOP pollster Mark Rountree said. “I don’t think Georgia will be a national afterthought for either side anymore” regardless of what happens in November, Rountree adds.

A close loss for Democrats will still be a loss. “There are no more moral victories in Georgia,” says Democratic consultant Tharon Johnson. It’s time for Democrats to capitalize on demographic changes and a “talented candidate” who should have plenty of campaign cash thanks to her national celebrity, he says.

Georgia’s potential evolution toward swing-state status comes at a critical time for Democrats. Gains in coastal and Sunbelt states — Virginia, North Carolina and potentially Arizona — could offset growing challenges for the party in the upper Midwest, where Trump shocked many Democrats in 2016 by sweeping a band of states that Hillary Clinton’s campaign had considered a “blue wall.”

Ohio and Iowa are of particular concern for Democrats long-term, given that Trump’s victory margin in both states neared double digits in 2016.

“These changes in states like Georgia aren’t occurring in a vacuum,” says Democratic pollster Zac McCrary. “The party cannot afford to get in a situation where their only path to 270 (electoral votes) has to include Ohio, so we need to bring a state like Georgia online as a possibility.”

That reality and Abrams’ candidacy have been enough to draw visits already from senators — and po-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 22 of 36

tential Democratic presidential candidates — Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who sought the Democratic nomination in 2016 and is considering a repeat bid, has also endorsed Abrams and told The Associated Press that he'd come to Georgia if Abrams asks.

Party interest spiked when Abrams won what initially was expected to be a competitive primary in May with 76 percent of the vote.

"I started getting a lot of calls then," recalls Johnson, the Democratic consultant. "Can she win? Can she win? they'd ask."

The question is whether Republicans can continue to rely on a large share of the white vote outside Georgia's cities to ensure victory.

"Predicting the tipping point is impossible ... but if Stacey just tells people what she thinks, the votes are out there," says Democrat Jason Carter, who is former President Jimmy Carter's grandson and ran for governor in 2014, losing by eight percentage points.

Since Carter's loss, which he notes came in a midterm that was bad for Democrats nationally, Democrats have flipped several state legislative seats in the northern suburbs of Atlanta. In 2016, despite losing by five percentage points statewide, Clinton led Trump in the populous suburban Atlanta counties of Cobb and Gwinnett. No Democratic presidential nominee had done that since Jimmy Carter, himself a former Georgia governor, in 1976.

Abrams acknowledges she must piece together suburban swing voters, urban liberals, young voters and nonwhites from the cities and rural areas. But she insists the way to do it isn't by shying away from liberal policy positions — something she says Georgia Democrats already tried in losing efforts.

So while she touts her deal-making with Republicans as a Democratic legislative leader, she unapologetically advocates expanding Medicaid insurance, enacting more stringent gun laws and spending more on education, job training and infrastructure. She criticizes Trump on immigration and other fronts, and she's expressed support for scrapping Confederate monuments around the state, including the depiction of Confederate leaders on Stone Mountain.

The state GOP and outside groups already have begun casting Abrams as an extremist, though most of her policy positions are not much different than Jason Carter's. But behind that rhetoric, even some Republicans say Abrams could be a bigger threat than previous nominees.

"You're going to get and give with Abrams," Rountree says, "but their moderate, retread, old-ideas approach hasn't worked. ... They're being smarter this time."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>.

Gunman in Trader Joe's standoff was feuding with grandmother

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A feud between a man and his grandmother over his girlfriend staying at the grandmother's home exploded into violence that ultimately led to him taking dozens of people hostage inside a Los Angeles supermarket, a relative said Sunday.

Investigators believe Gene Evin Atkins, 28, shot his grandmother several times and wounded his girlfriend at their South Los Angeles home on Saturday afternoon before he led police on a chase, while exchanging gunfire with officers, crashed into a pole outside the Trader Joe's in the city's Silver Lake section and ran inside.

Atkins was booked Sunday on suspicion of murder after an employee was killed as he ran into the supermarket, police said.

His cousin, Charlene Eglund, told The Associated Press that he had been arguing with his grandmother — who had raised him since he was 7 years old — "on and off for about two or three weeks" over his girlfriend staying at the elderly woman's home.

"She didn't want the girl over there anymore," Eglund said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 23 of 36

On Saturday, Atkins' grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Madison, 76, was walking back into the home and told her grandson "he needs to turn some of them TVs off" when he shot her, she said.

Egland said she heard about six gunshots before another cousin came running from the porch and shouted to Egland, "I think Gene shot my mama!"

The girlfriend was grazed in the head, police said.

Egland said she ran to call 911 and waited for an ambulance to arrive. At the same time, police said Atkins stole his grandmother's car and forced his girlfriend into the vehicle.

Officers tracked the car using a stolen-vehicle tracking system and tried to stop the man in Hollywood, but he refused to pull over, police said. During the chase, he fired at officers, shooting out the back window of his car.

More gunfire ensued before Atkins crashed into a pole outside the supermarket. The man exchanged gunfire with police again and that's when a 27-year-old Trader Joe's employee, Melyda Corado, was shot and killed, Police Chief Michel Moore said. Officers escorted the girlfriend from the vehicle.

Customers and employees frantically dove for cover and barricaded themselves inside storerooms and bathrooms as bullets fired by police shattered the store's glass doors.

As he heard gunfire, Sean Gerace, who was working in the back of the supermarket, grabbed several of his co-workers and the group made their way into an upstairs storage area. He grabbed a folding ladder and tossed it out a window, helping his colleagues escape to safety, he told KNBC-TV.

"I grabbed an emergency ladder, barricaded the hallway, grabbed a weapon, put the ladder out the window and just tried to get the attention of the SWAT officer," Gerace told the television station.

About three hours later, Atkins — who had been shot in the left arm — agreed to handcuff himself and walked out the front door, surrounded by four of the hostages. He was being held on \$2 million bail Sunday and it wasn't clear if he had an attorney to comment on the allegations.

A gun was found in the store, police said.

A 22-year-old woman was wounded by glass fragments and later took herself to a hospital, police said.

The Fire Department took six people to hospitals for non-life threatening conditions or injuries, police said.

Atkins' grandmother initially was taken to a hospital in critical condition and police said she had been shot seven times but Egland, who visited Madison at the hospital on Sunday, said she had only been shot three times, had undergone surgery and her condition was improving.

Atkins, who has two daughters, bounced between several jobs, including working as a security guard, but had been repeatedly fired, Egland said. His license to work as a security guard expired in November 2017, according to state records. It was not clear whether the particular license he possessed would have allowed him to legally carry a firearm.

His grandmother had also tried to help him find employment and "was just trying to make him do better," Egland said.

Atkins never grew violent toward his grandmother before, Egland said, but she started to grow concerned about him over the last several weeks because he seemed upset and distant.

"He didn't seem right to me," Egland said. "I'm just devastated."

On Sunday, grieving family members, co-workers and customers remembered Corado, the Trader Joe's worker, as lively, hardworking and always smiling. A makeshift memorial of flowers, candles and notes grew on the sidewalk outside of the store on Sunday.

"I'm sad to say she didn't make it. My baby sister. My world," her brother, Albert Corado said on Twitter.

Trader Joe's said the store — known by customers as a neighborhood hangout with great customer service — would remain closed for the foreseeable future to give their employees time to process and grieve.

"Yesterday marks the saddest day in Trader Joe's history as we mourn the loss of one our own," company spokeswoman Kenya Friend-Daniel said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with her family, and our Crew Members and customers who experienced this terrifying and unimaginable ordeal."

Associated Press writers Christopher Weber and Robert Jablon contributed to this report.

Boat accident survivors join hundreds at Branson memorial

BRANSON, Mo. (AP) — The 17 people killed when a tourist boat sank in a Missouri lake were remembered Sunday during a service attended by hundreds of people in the tourism community of Branson.

A church bell at Williams Chapel at College of the Ozarks chimed 17 times for those who died Thursday at Table Rock Lake.

More than a dozen survivors of the tragedy, along with their family and friends, filled the front pews of the church to organ music. Although a patrolman guarded their privacy, he allowed one attendee, Carmen Lawson, to deliver pink and red roses after the service to a family that lost nine loved ones.

"It was such a tragedy," said Lawson, 61, of Branson, who delivered the flowers. "I feel for the family."

Branson Mayor Karen Best recalled the desperate family members who turned to City Hall for information about their loved ones.

"We started putting faces with names. Those who were once strangers to us quickly became family," Best said. "They were a part of our community. And we did what families do. We held hands, we wept and we prayed together."

She praised the people who tried to save others from drowning, calling them "heroes who did everything in their power to save lives."

The service was held at the college near the site of the accident, which happened as winds approached hurricane strength. The city and college hosted the remembrance for the victims.

"Today we are all family," said College of the Ozarks President Jerry C. Davis. "We are here to comfort those who have been affected by this tragedy in so many, many ways."

Online fundraisers had raised more than \$400,000 for the Indiana family's funeral expenses by Sunday afternoon.

Others killed were from Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois.

During the closing benediction, Nixa Fire Chaplain Steve Martin said of the victims that while "most of them are visitors ... they are not strangers to us."

Ailing auto CEO Marchionne had multiple roles, no script

By COLLEEN BARRY, AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — Sergio Marchionne's achievements as one of the automotive world's most charismatic chief executives include the bold trans-Atlantic merger of Italian carmaker Fiat and U.S. No. 3 Chrysler after he restored both to health.

But Marchionne told analysts during a big presentation last month that his true legacy at Fiat Chrysler Automotive would be the culture of a corporation where "mediocrity is never, ever worth the trip."

The Italian-Canadian always insisted a replacement would come from the ranks of his hand-picked and tested team, managers who met his exacting standards. Asked if he planned to leave a script behind when he stepped down next year as planned, Marchionne said that wouldn't be necessary.

"There is no script or instructions. Instructions are institutional and temporary," he said. "FCA is a culture of leaders."

Marchionne, 66, was hastily replaced as CEO of Fiat Chrysler on Saturday after the company announced that his health had taken a turn for the worse following shoulder surgery last month in Zurich, Switzerland. Details of the complications and his condition were not disclosed, but the company said they prevented him from returning to work.

The head of Jeep and Ram, Mike Manley, was picked to replace Marchionne. The Briton was a key executive on Marchionne's team, growing the quintessentially American Jeep brand into a global marquee and giving it a belated foothold in China.

Fiat Chairman John Elkann, in a letter to Fiat's 236,000 employees Sunday, called Marchionne a "true, rare kind of leader" and lauded him as "the best CEO that anyone could ask for and to me personally, a true mentor, partner, close friend."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 25 of 36

Elkann, the 42-year-old heir of the Agnelli family that founded Fiat in 1899, remembered Marchionne coming to the Italian carmaker in 2004 at "one of the darkest moments" for the long-struggling company.

"It was his intellect, perseverance and leadership that saved Fiat," Elkann wrote in the letter. "He taught us to have the courage to challenge the status quo, to break with convention and go beyond the tried and tested."

The Fiat-Chrysler merger remains the crown jewel in the 14-year Marchionne era, an accomplishment built on a series of daring plays.

In 2005, the trained lawyer who studied philosophy demonstrated his deal-making skill by getting GM to pay \$2 billion to sever ties with Fiat as part of a failed cross-border tie-up. The money was pivotal to relaunching the failing carmaker.

Then in 2009, he secured a deal with a then-new U.S. President Barack Obama to take over bankrupt Chrysler without Fiat having to put a penny down in exchange for Fiat's small car technology.

Other essential corporate moves included the spin-off of the heavy industrial vehicle and truck maker CNH and of the Ferrari supercar maker. Both deals unlocked considerable shareholder value for Agnelli family heirs.

Analysts at Albert Bridge Capital calculated that the companies controlled by the Agnelli family's holding company grew in value from 6 billion euros at the start of Marchionne's tenure to over 60 billion euros today.

But his ambition to complete another big deal — a merger with American carmaker GM — was not realized. The failure ultimately made it easier for Marchionne to contemplate giving up day-to-day control of FCA after delivering 2018 earnings.

Marchionne also has been replaced as CEO of Ferrari and chairman of CNH Industrial. He had planned to update the financial community on his 5-year plan for the super sports car maker in September, which was expected to include details of how he envisioned transforming it to a luxury goods company beyond cars. That will fall to the new CEO, Louis Camilleri, a former manager at Philip Morris.

Fiat analyst Philippe Houchois of Jefferies Financial Group said Marchionne's departure would "test his cultural legacy sooner than expected." He predicted significant share price volatility for both FCA and Ferrari when markets resume trading Monday.

Houchois noted that other carmakers were reconsidering capital spending, in some ways echoing Marchionne's insistence that the industry needed to tackle the high cost of investment in new technologies.

"In our view, Mr. Marchionne's industry thinking cannot be overstated," Houchois said.

As part of his efforts to revamp Ferrari, Marchionne focused heavily on Formula One, arguing that more prestige for the racing side would increase the carmaker's value.

Ferrari manager Maurizio Arrivabene affirmed at the German Grand Prix in Hockenheim that the pair always worked together on strategy.

Mercedes CEO Dieter Zetsche, whose Mercedes team beat Ferrari on Sunday, said he was pained by the news of Marchionne's failing health.

"With Marchionne, I always had an excellent relationship of esteem and friendship that went beyond industrial realities," Zetsche told Italian racing magazine RMC Motori. "I always saw him as a great person."

G-20 calls for more dialogue on rising trade tensions

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO, Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The world's top financial officials called Sunday for more dialogue on trade disputes that threaten global economic growth, with one warning that differences remain and tensions could escalate further.

The two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 nations came as the United States clashes with China and other nations over trade, with the nations imposing tariffs on billions of dollars of the other's goods.

A final communique said that although the global economy remains strong, growth is becoming "less synchronized" and risks over the short and medium terms have increased.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 26 of 36

"These include rising financial vulnerabilities, heightened trade and geopolitical tensions, global imbalances, inequality and structurally weak growth, particularly in some advanced economies," the communique said. "We ... recognize the need to step up dialogue and actions to mitigate risks and enhance confidence."

On Friday, President Donald Trump renewed his threat to ultimately slap tariffs on a total of \$500 billion of imports from China — roughly equal to all the goods Beijing ships annually to the U.S. The White House has also itemized \$200 billion of additional Chinese imports that it said may be subject to tariffs.

The U.S. has also imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, including from Europe. China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey have counterpunched with taxes on U.S. goods. EU tariffs on American products include Harley-Davidson motorcycles, cranberries, peanut butter, playing cards and whiskey.

EU financial affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici warned that such disputes are a threat.

"Protectionism, I want to insist on that, is good for no one," Moscovici told reporters. "Trade wars are not easy ... they create no winners, only casualties."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin disputed that protectionism is the issue.

"People are trying to make this about the United States and protectionism. That's not the case at all," he said at a news conference. "This is about the United States wanting fair and free trade. ... We very much support the idea that trade is important for the global economy, but it's got to be on fair and reciprocal terms."

Mnuchin said there had been no "substantive discussions" with China about trade during the meeting. Asked what it would take to re-start talks with the Asian giant, he said, "Anytime that they want to sit down and negotiate meaningful changes, I and our team are available."

As the gathering wound up, Moscovici said differences of position remain despite talks.

"These meetings have been taking place in an international context which is very challenging. ... Trade tensions remain high and they threaten to escalate further," he said.

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has warned that a wave of tariffs could significantly harm the global economy, lowering growth by about 0.5 percent "in the worst-case scenario."

Mnuchin disagreed Sunday, saying that overall, the U.S. economy has not been harmed by the trade battles set off by Trump's get-tough policies. He acknowledged, however, that some individual sectors have been hurt and said U.S. officials are looking at ways to help them.

"We see some micro impacts where people, our counterparts, are targeting very, very specific items, in very specific communities," he said. "But from a macro standpoint, we do not yet see any significant impact on the economy."

So far, global markets have remained generally calm despite the U.S.-China trade war and the other trade conflicts.

But analysts say they expect Trump will impose more tariffs on China and potentially other key U.S. trading partners. With those nations almost certain to retaliate, the result could be higher prices for Americans, diminished export sales and a weaker U.S. economy by next year, they say.

Moscovici said the G-20 meeting had not been tense. He said that countries must remain "cool-headed and maintain a proper sense of perspective" and that the EU remains open to dialogue.

"That's why EU President Jean-Claude Juncker and EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom will meet with Trump" in Washington next week, he said. "We hope this meeting will be productive and successful."

Mnuchin said that the U.S. looks forward to those discussions.

The Group of 20 nations is composed of traditional economic powers such as the United States, Japan and Germany and emerging nations such as China, Brazil, India and Argentina.

Officials in Buenos Aires also discussed issues including the future of work and infrastructure for development, the international tax system and financial inclusion. It is the third of five meetings by finance ministers and central bankers scheduled in advance of a meeting of G-20 national leaders in Argentina to be held Nov. 30-Dec 1. Mnuchin said Trump plans to attend.

Associated Press writer Patricia Luna and AP video journalist Paul Byrne contributed to this report.

Judge, calm in court, takes hard line on splitting families

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw appeared conflicted in early May on whether to stop families from being separated at the border. He challenged the Trump administration to explain how families were getting a fair hearing guaranteed by the Constitution, but also expressed reluctance to get too deeply involved with immigration enforcement.

"There are so many (enforcement) decisions that have to be made, and each one is individual," he said in his calm, almost monotone voice. "How can the court issue such a blanket, overarching order telling the attorney general, either release or detain (families) together?"

Sabraw showed how more than seven weeks later in a blistering opinion faulting the administration and its "zero tolerance" policy for a "crisis" of its own making. He went well beyond the American Civil Liberties Union's initial request to halt family separation — which President Donald Trump effectively did on his own amid a backlash — by imposing a deadline of this Thursday to reunify more than 2,500 children with their families.

Unyielding insistence on meeting his deadline, displayed in a string of hearings he ordered for updates, has made the San Diego jurist a central figure in a drama that has captivated international audiences with emotional accounts of toddlers and teens being torn from their parents.

Circumstances changed dramatically after the ACLU sued the government in March on behalf of a Congolese woman and a Brazilian woman who were split from their children. Three days after the May hearing, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the zero tolerance policy on illegal entry was in full effect, leading to the separation of more than 2,300 children in five weeks.

Sabraw, writing in early June that the case could move forward, found the practice "arbitrarily tears at the sacred bond between parent and child." It was "brutal, offensive, and fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency."

David Martin, professor emeritus at the University of Virginia School of Law, said, "It's probably not the first judge who seemed more deferential and then got much more active when he or she thought the government was not being responsive or had taken a particularly objectionable stance. Childhood separation clearly had that kind of resonance."

"The intrusion into the family is so severe, the judicial reaction has been just like much of the public's reaction: 'This is an extraordinary step, you shouldn't have done it, you better fix it as quickly as possible,'" said Martin, a Homeland Security Department deputy general counsel under President Barack Obama.

Sabraw, 60, was born in San Rafael, near San Francisco, and raised in the Sacramento area. His father was stationed in Japan during the Korean War, where he met his mother.

The judge has said prejudice against Japanese growing up made their housing search difficult.

"In light of that experience, I was raised with a great awareness of prejudice," he told the North County Times newspaper in 2003. "No doubt, there were times when I was growing up that I felt different, and hurtful things occurred because of my race."

While studying at University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, he met his wife, Summer Stephan, who was elected San Diego County district attorney in June. He told the Federal Bar Association magazine in 2009 that his wife and three children, then teenagers, kept him "running from one activity to another, and grounded in all that is good and wonderful in life."

Republican President George W. Bush appointed Sabraw to the federal bench in 2003 after eight years as a state judge. By virtue of serving in San Diego, his caseload is heavy with immigration and other border-related crimes.

In 2010, he oversaw a settlement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over allegations that San Diego officials misled investors about city pension liabilities. In 2014, he favored Apple Inc. in a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 28 of 36

closely watched patent infringement case against the tech behemoth. In 2016, he sided with the state of California in refusing to block a law requiring school vaccinations.

Robert Carreido, a criminal defense attorney who estimates having 20 to 30 cases before the judge, was a little surprised how hard Sabraw came down on separating families because he hews pretty closely to the government's sentencing recommendations.

"He rarely will go above what we've negotiated (in plea agreements), but he doesn't usually go much lower than what the government recommends," Carreido said. "In my experience, I would consider him in the middle."

Sabraw's reputation for a calm, courteous demeanor and running an efficient calendar has been clear in his highest-profile case so far. He has kept hearings to about 90 minutes, telling attorneys he doesn't want to get too "in the weeds" on logistics of reunifying families.

"My general view is if the court has to raise its voice, or threaten sanction, then we've lost control," Sabraw told the Daily Journal, a Los Angeles legal publication, last year. "I never want to be in that position. Usually, almost always, court is almost like a place of worship."

His patience wore thin one Friday afternoon when the government submitted a plan to reunite children 5 and older that excluded DNA testing and other measures. The government said "truncated" vetting was needed to meet Sabraw's deadline, despite considerable risk to child safety.

The judge quickly summoned both sides to a conference call at 5:30 p.m. to say the plan misrepresented his instructions and was designed to pin blame on him if anything went wrong.

The government, which never showed serious consideration of an appeal, submitted a revised plan two days later that restored DNA testing if red flags arose. Jonathan White, a senior Health and Human Services Department official and the plan's architect, authoritatively answered questions in court the next day, prompting the judge to tell him he had "every confidence that you are the right person to do this."

The revised plan, he said, was a "great start to making a large number of reunifications happen very, very quickly."

Syrian White Helmets evacuated to Jordan through Israel

By SARAH EL DEEB and ARON HELLER, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Israeli military in coordination with its U.S. and European allies evacuated hundreds of Syrian rescue workers known as the White Helmets from near its volatile frontier with Syria, in a complex and first-of-a-kind operation.

The evacuees, who were hemmed in from one side by advancing hostile Syrian troops and from another by militants affiliated with the Islamic State group, were transported to Jordan, from where they are expected to be resettled in Europe and Canada in the coming weeks.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Sunday that 422 White Helmets volunteers were evacuated, instead of the initial 800 cleared for the operation.

Israel's military said the overnight operation was "an exceptional humanitarian gesture" at the request of the United States and European allies due to an "immediate threat to the (Syrians) lives." It posted a video online showing its soldiers handing out water bottles to the evacuees.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a separate video statement, said U.S. President Donald Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and others had asked him to help evacuate the group's members.

"These are people who saved lives and whose lives are now in danger. I authorized bringing them through Israel to other countries as an important humanitarian gesture," Netanyahu said.

The U.S. State Department welcomed the rescue of "these brave volunteers" and cited the United Nations, Israel and Jordan for helping with the operation.

The statement from spokeswoman Heather Nauert also called on Syria's government and its ally Russia "to abide by their commitments, end the violence, and protect all Syrian civilians, including humanitarians such as the White Helmets, in areas formerly part of the southwest de-escalation zone and throughout

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 29 of 36

Syria.”

Britain said the operation was possible due to the joint diplomatic efforts, hailing the efforts of the White Helmets volunteers to save lives in opposition areas.

Jeremy Hunt, U.K's foreign secretary, called the successful evacuation “fantastic news,” and thanked Israel and Jordan in a tweet for acting quickly following the request. The White Helmets, he said, “are the bravest of the brave and in a desperate situation this is at least one ray of hope.”

The members of the White Helmets and their families had been stranded along the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights following the Syrian government offensive in southwestern Syria which began in June.

Raed Saleh, head of the White Helmets, also known as the Syrian Civil Defense, said a number of volunteers and their families were evacuated from a dangerous, besieged area.

This was the first such Israeli intervention in Syria's lengthy civil war, now in its eighth year. Although it has sent aid into Syria and has provided medical treatment to thousands of Syrians who reached the Golan Heights frontier, the Israeli military said its actions did not reflect a change to Israel's non-intervention policy in Syria's war, where all the warring parties are considered hostile.

It was an unprecedented operation to provide protection and asylum to allies of Western nations in Syria's complex battlefield.

The White Helmets have enjoyed backing and received finances and training from the United States and other Western nations for years. Because of their work in opposition areas, where they were almost exclusively the only ones to offer rescue services in the face of the government military advances, they were considered public enemy number one by the Syrian government.

They offered services where state institutions and services are non-existent. Their facilities were targeted, and their volunteers hit in what became known as “double tap” attacks that drew the volunteers to areas of bombings only to hit them once on site.

The Syrian government, and Russia, have called the White Helmets “terrorists,” accused them of being “agents” for foreign powers, and of cooperating with radical insurgent groups. Both Moscow and Damascus have accused the White Helmets of staging rescue missions and chemical attacks to blame on the government.

On Sunday, Syrian state media kept up the campaign against the group, pointing out that Israel facilitated the evacuation, citing it as evidence that the group was collaborating with an enemy power. Syrian state TV al-Ikhbariya called the evacuation a “scandal.” The State News Agency SANA said “the secret” of the group had been revealed and their “role as an agent ended.”

Syrian lawmaker Khaled Abboud said that “foreign powers are pulling their agents out of the battlefield” because of the Syrian military victories that have quashed the “aggression” against Syria.

In a quick offensive, Syrian government forces, backed by Russian air forces, have been advancing from the east on areas held by the opposition in the strategic southwestern region that straddles the Jordanian border and the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel in 1967. They first seized the border with Jordan, squeezing the opposition in the center and progressively chipping away at areas the rebels held for years. For the first time since the war began in 2011, government forces regained positions along the disengagement line following a cease-fire deal with Israel in 1974.

This left the rebels and the White Helmets besieged by the government from one side, the sealed frontier with Israel, and by the group affiliated with the Islamic State group from the south.

Surrender deals were reached with the armed groups, allowing thousands to evacuate to the northern province of Idlib, where the opposition still holds sway. But one civil defense official, refusing to be identified by name for his safety, said the Russians refused to allow the White Helmets to be evacuated to the north.

The Associated Press first reported on Friday that U.S. officials were finalizing plans to evacuate several hundred Syrian civil defense workers and their families from southwest Syria as Russian-backed government forces closed in on the area along the Golan Heights frontier.

Evacuation plans were accelerated after last week's NATO summit in Brussels.

The evacuees are being assisted by the U.N. Refugee agency in Jordan pending international resettlement.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 30 of 36

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Mohammed al-Kayed, said the Syrians would remain in a closed area in Jordan for three months. Safadi, Jordan's foreign minister, said in a tweet that his government approved the evacuation after a pledge from Britain, Germany and Canada that the evacuees will be resettled in three months.

It is not clear if the White Helmets who have been previously evacuated to Idlib from other parts of Syria will receive similar treatment.

Since the offensive began, Jordan said it will not open its borders to the newly displaced Syrians. Jordan hosts at least 650,000 registered Syrian refugees, according to the U.N., but Amman says a similar number of undocumented Syrians are also in the kingdom. Some 300,000 have been displaced by the fighting, with only a few thousands opting for evacuation to Idlib, which is expected to be the target of the next government offensive.

Aron Lund, a Syria expert with the Century Foundation, said after the international community's funding and promoting the White Helmets for years, the evacuation should not be a surprise.

"It seems like simple moral math to me that when the uprising fails, they should try to get their guys out alive, with their families," he told AP in an email. "Had the international community done this much earlier and also offered safe haven to the rebel leaders they've been backing, they could have helped get irreconcilables out of the equation and reduce the amount of killing and destruction."

"All sides benefit from giving the losing team a safe exit," he said.

Separately Sunday, al-Ikhbariya TV quoted a military official as saying that a military post in the town of Masyaf in Hama province was hit by an Israeli airstrike. The area houses several defense ministry facilities.

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb reported this story in Beirut and AP writer Aron Heller reported from Jerusalem. AP writers Fares Akram and Omar Akour in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

Molinari survives wild day to win British Open

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP) — Francesco Molinari didn't get the loudest cheers for the best golf at British Open.

He was overlooked for so much of Sunday playing alongside Tiger Woods, who caused pure pandemonium at Carnoustie by taking the lead in the final round of a major for the first time in nine years.

Molinari settled for the best cheer of them all.

The last one.

Amid so much chaos — seven players atop the leaderboard, six of them still tied on the back nine — Molinari played a steady hand by going the entire weekend without a bogey and finishing with a 5-foot birdie putt that secured his place in history as Italy's first major champion.

"Clearly, in my group, the attention wasn't really on me, let's put it that way," Molinari said, the gleaming claret jug in front of him. "If someone was expecting a charge, they probably weren't expecting it from me. But it's been the same the whole of my career."

His charge was a 2-under 69 in the strongest wind of the week, the only player from the last four groups to break par.

Woods lost the lead with one bad swing that would have been even farther left of the 11th green had it not crashed into the fans, leading to double bogey. He followed that with a bogey and never caught up. He had to settle for a 71.

Jordan Spieth, tied for the lead in his bid to go back-to-back in the British Open, failed to make a single birdie and shot 76, his highest score Sunday in a major.

Kevin Chappell made two double bogeys, the last one on No. 17 that derailed his hopes. Kevin Kisner made his double bogey early. Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose each made a run with eagles on the par-5 14th hole, McIlroy with a 50-foot putt, Rose with a second shot that bounced off the base of the pin. They ran out of holes.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 31 of 36

Xander Schauffele, the last hope to keep alive the American streak of five straight majors, was one shot behind until he sent a long iron to the right of the 17th and failed to make a 15-foot putt for par.

Molinari clinched it with a driver that skirted the edge of a pot bunker, leaving him a lob wedge from 112 yards to 5 feet. He poured it in, raised his right fist and shook it lightly before slamming it for emphasis.

Then, he waited in the trailer to see if anyone could catch him. At one point, he went over to the practice green, but not to prepare for a playoff.

"I probably would have felt sick watching on TV," he said.

Molinari finished at 8-under 276, the lowest score in eight Opens at Carnoustie, the course where Jean Van de Velde threw away the British Open with a triple bogey on the last hole in 1999, where Pdraig Harrington twice hit into Barry Burn on the last hole to make double bogey and still won.

"Just disbelief, to be honest," the 35-year-old said. "To go the weekend bogey-free, it's unthinkable. Playing with Tiger was another challenge. But I felt really good this morning. I felt I was ready for the challenge."

Woods had every reason to believe he would cap a most improbable comeback from four back surgeries.

His red shirt blazing against the yellow grass of a dry Scottish summer, Woods hit driver into the wind on the par-4 fourth to set up birdie. Into the wind on the par-5 sixth, three deep bunkers to the right and out-of-bounds to the left, he got to the front of the green with a driver and a 3-wood for another birdie.

And just like the Woods of old, the players he was chasing started to collapse.

Spieth gambled with a shot to clear the burn on No. 6 and went into a gorse bush, making double bogey. Schauffele chopped up the next hole for double bogey.

Woods had the lead.

And then he lost it with two bad holes. Still in range, he couldn't get close enough for a birdie when it mattered. It was the first time since the 2007 U.S. Open that he trailed going into the final round of a major, had the lead and didn't win.

His anger over his mistakes was tempered by perspective, comparing it to Serena Williams losing in the finals at Wimbledon.

"The beginning of the year, if they'd have said, 'You're playing The Open Championship,' I would have said I'd be very lucky to do that. Serena and I are good friends. I'm sure she'll probably call me and talk to me about it because you've got to put things in perspective. ... I know that it's going to sting for a little bit here, but given where I was to where I'm at now, blessed."

It might sting even worse for Spieth. One day after a bogey-free round of 65 to share the lead, he had a birdie-free round at the worst time. His best chance was at the 14th, where he three-putted for par from about 40 feet.

"When you put yourself in position enough times, it goes your way sometimes, it doesn't go your way sometimes," Spieth said, who goes to the PGA Championship in three weeks for a chance at the career Grand Slam.

The victory adds to Molinari's best stretch of golf.

Now at a career-best No. 6 in the world, he has won three times and been runner-up twice in his last six tournaments. One of those was three weeks ago at the Quicken Loans National when he shot 62 in the final round and Woods, the tournament host, presented him the trophy.

This round wasn't flashy, and neither is Molinari. He saved par with 8-foot putts on the 12th and 13th, two of the most pivotal putts all day.

But not the most memorable.

"That putt on the last, I'll never forget," he said.

'Equalizer 2' squeaks past 'Mamma Mia 2' and takes top spot

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

In the battle of two very different sequels at the box office this weekend, Denzel Washington's action pic "The Equalizer 2" has narrowly won out over the ABBA jukebox musical "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again." Studios on Sunday estimate that the R-rated Denzel Washington joint grossed \$35.8 million from North

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 32 of 36

American theaters over the weekend. It's Washington's first ever sequel and the biggest opening of director Antoine Fuqua's career. The first "Equalizer," from 2014, opened similarly and went on to earn over \$190 million worldwide.

Second place went to Universal Pictures' "Mamma Mia 2," which took in \$34.4 million, a sum that was driven by an audience that was 83 percent female and 64 percent over the age of 25. The film brought back much of the original cast, like Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried and Pierce Brosnan, and added Cher, Andy Garcia and Lily James to the mix. Critics overall gave the sequel better marks than the first, which still went on to gross over \$600 million worldwide 10 years ago.

"We consider this a terrific opening," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "And knowing the audience for these types of films, we are going to have a very healthy run at the domestic and worldwide box office. This is a very fun, very uplifting movie that people need right now."

It's also a rare showdown of two star-driven films that succeeded in targeting two very different audiences.

"It's amazing how well-matched these contenders are," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "Both studios really did a great job of marketing each of these movies to their target audience. It's classic counter-programming."

Sequels powered the top six spots at the domestic box office this weekend and eight out of the top 10 overall. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" came in third with \$23.2 million in its second weekend, "Ant-Man and the Wasp" took fourth place with \$16.1 million in its third weekend, "Incredibles 2" landed in fifth with \$11.5 million, and "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" came in sixth with \$11 million.

The weekend's other big new opener, "Unfriended: Dark Web," also a sequel, scared up \$3.5 million for a ninth-place start. The only two originals in the top 10 were "Skyscraper" and "Sorry to Bother You."

"People are enjoying these films," said Dergarabedian. "It doesn't matter if there's a number after the title."

And yet there are still original films and documentaries making their own modest impact on the charts, including "Blindspotting," a buddy comedy with some serious themes about race and class starring Tony-winner Daveed Diggs that opened in 14 theaters and made an estimated \$332,500.

"Movies like 'Sorry to Bother You' and 'Blindspotting' are showing that in the summer people don't live by blockbusters alone," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "The Equalizer 2," \$35.8 million (\$3.3 million international).
2. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$34.4 million (\$42.4 million international).
3. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$23.2 million (\$37.7 million international).
4. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$16.1 million (\$21.6 million international).
5. "Incredibles 2," \$11.5 million (\$36.5 million international).
6. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$11 million (\$17.3 million international).
7. "Skyscraper," \$11 million (\$27.3 million international).
8. "The First Purge," \$5 million (\$8.9 million international).
9. "Unfriended: Dark Web," \$3.5 million.
10. "Sorry to Bother You," \$2.8 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$42.4 million.
2. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$37.7 million.
3. "Incredibles 2," \$36.5 million.
4. "Skyscraper," \$27.3 million.
5. "Dying to Survive," \$25.3 million.
6. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$21.6 million.
7. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$17.3 million.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 33 of 36

8. "Hidden Man," \$10.4 million.
9. "The First Purge," \$8.9 million.
10. "Animal Crackers," \$3.7 million.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lbahr>

In Arizona, liberals debate forgiving candidate's moderation

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and MELISSA DANIELS, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Democratic Rep. Kyrsten Sinema says Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency that some in her party are clamoring to abolish, is performing an "important function." She recently joined House Republicans to ease restrictions on banks. And she offered a decidedly nonpartisan comment on conservative Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court.

The third-term congresswoman has come a long way from her days as a Green Party activist as she tries to become the first Democrat to represent Arizona in the Senate in 30 years.

It's a notable strategy in an election year in which many Democrats see a path to victory by tapping into the outrage of the party's base in the Trump era. In neighboring Nevada, for instance, Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen is aiming to flip another GOP-held Senate seat and she seized on the high court vacancy to highlight the threat to abortion rights.

Some Arizona Democrats are frustrated that the 42-year-old Sinema hasn't taken similarly aggressive stances.

Ken Wixon, a lifelong Democrat, said he planned to back Sinema's Democratic opponent, Phoenix activist Deedra Abboud, in the Aug. 28 primary.

"I supported (Sinema) before, but she's too easily influenced," Wixon said after attending a recent political meeting in suburban Phoenix where Abboud spoke. "She seems to roll over too easily."

Sinema said her shift to the right is the result of learning to work with others in a hyper-partisan Congress.

"What I'm really proud of is my ability and willingness to learn and grow as a political leader," she told The Associated Press recently when asked if her moderate profile would turn off Democrats. "That's allowed me to learn new opinions and change as I've gotten new information."

Sinema is favored to win the primary and is seen as a competitive Democratic candidate in a general election that could hinge on how voters feel about President Donald Trump and his policies. That's why some Democrats are willing to back her even if her liberalism has limits.

"I have some serious questions," said Steven Slugocki, Democratic chairman in Maricopa County, Arizona's most populous. "That's not to say I won't support her. The alternative is far worse."

That alternative, to Slugocki, is any of the Republicans vying to succeed retiring, one-term Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, a persistent Trump critic. The GOP field includes former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a crusader against illegal immigration who was convicted for contempt of court related to racial profiling practices and later pardoned by Trump, and Kelli Ward, a state senator endorsed last year by former Trump adviser Steve Bannon.

The third GOP candidate, Rep. Martha McSally, has been viewed as a moderate in the vein of Arizona's senior GOP senator, John McCain. But as the primary approaches, she has sharpened her stance on immigration, removing her name as a co-sponsor of legislation backing a path to citizenship for some young

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 34 of 36

immigrants in the country illegally.

Immigration politics are central to Arizona's politics today.

In 2016, the influx of Latino voters contributed to Democrat Hillary Clinton's narrow loss to Trump here. Clinton lost Ohio, for instance, by nearly twice as much as she lost Arizona.

A Democratic victory in the Senate race would suggest the state could be up for grabs in 2020. Bill Clinton was the last Democratic presidential nominee to carry Arizona in 1996.

And yet Sinema remains controversial among Arizona Democrats.

She drew complaints among liberals last year as one of two dozen House Democrats to join majority Republicans backing a measure to sharply increase penalties for people deported more than three times, more sharply for those with a criminal record. Likewise, she was one of a handful of Democrats who backed a measure giving federal officials authority to detain and deport noncitizens who live in gang territory.

While Latino voter advocates groan at some of Sinema's positions, they note her support for allowing a path to citizenship for some young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children.

"The most important thing we can do right now is elect candidates who will serve as a check on Donald Trump," said Cristobal Alex, president of Latino Victory, a national political advocacy group active in several states this year. "She's the only viable choice for our community in this election."

One important sign of Sinema's viability, albeit with the election still more than three months away, is that she reported having more than \$5.3 million in her campaign account at the end of June. That's many times more than what Arpaio, McSally and Ward had. Recent polls also show Sinema leading all three Republican prospects in potential head-to-head contests.

Some Arizona Democrats acknowledge murmurs of discontent, but say Sinema reflects her politically-mixed southwest Phoenix-area district, home to Arizona State University in Tempe and Republican-leaning residential areas in Scottsdale and Chandler.

"There are some grumblings," said state Sen. Lela Alston, who served alongside her in the Legislature before Sinema's election to Congress in 2012. "While there are some individuals who would never vote for her, more say — even though they wish she was voting more to the left — they are going to embrace her candidacy, given their choices."

Sinema's little-known Democratic opponent, Abboud, said she thinks both candidates have a shot to get votes from moderates or disaffected Republicans.

"You have people that want something different," Abboud said. "They want to vote on their values."

Such grumblings boiled over in May when some Democrats in Pima County, which abuts the U.S. border with Mexico, proposed condemning some of Sinema's votes with the Republican majority. The motion was ultimately defeated, a sign that voters are seeking pragmatism, said Jo Holt, who leads the party in Pima County.

"Some of these folks on the left will say in one breath they don't like a vote she took, but that they'll support her because things in the country have gotten so bad," Holt said. "In another political environment, these votes might hurt her more."

Sinema's resilience has not been lost on some Republican operatives in Arizona, increasingly anxious about their party's chances of holding the seat.

"She has benefited from being able to stake out a centrist approach," said strategist Jon Seaton, "and really hasn't paid much of a price for it."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 23, the 204th day of 2018. There are 161 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 23, 1829, William Austin Burt received a patent for his "typographer," a forerunner of the typewriter.

On this date:

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 35 of 36

In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, New York, at age 63.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary presented a list of demands to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; Serbia's refusal to agree to the entire ultimatum led to the outbreak of World War I.

In 1945, French Marshal Henri Petain (ahn-REE' pay-TAN'), who had headed the pro-Axis Vichy (vee-shee) government during World War II, went on trial, charged with treason. (He was convicted and condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted to life in prison. On this date in 1951, Petain died in prison.)

In 1962, the first public TV transmissions over Telstar 1 took place during a special program featuring live shots beamed from the United States to Europe, and vice versa.

In 1967, five days of deadly rioting erupted in Detroit as an early morning police raid on an unlicensed bar resulted in a confrontation with local residents that escalated into violence that spread into other parts of the city; 43 people, mostly blacks, were killed.

In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Shin-Yi Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter.)

In 1984, Vanessa Williams became the first Miss America to resign her title, after nude photographs of her taken in 1982 were published in Penthouse magazine.

In 1986, Britain's Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1996, at the Atlanta Olympics, Kerri Strug made a heroic final vault despite torn ligaments in her left ankle as the U.S. women gymnasts clinched their first-ever Olympic team gold medal.

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan, the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace (JAH'-nee vur-SAH'-chee) and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 1999, space shuttle Columbia blasted off with the world's most powerful X-ray telescope and Eileen Collins, the first woman to command a U.S. space flight.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Dolly slammed into the South Texas coast with punishing rain and winds of 100 mph. Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama toured Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, laying a wreath in memory of the 6 million Jews who died. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met North Korea's top diplomat (Pak Ui Chun) in Singapore, ending a four-year hiatus in cabinet-level contacts between the two countries.

Five years ago: With a high-stakes showdown vote looming in the House, the White House and congressional backers of the National Security Agency's surveillance program warned that ending the massive collection of phone records from millions of Americans would put the nation at risk from another terrorist attack. (The next day, the House narrowly voted against halting the NSA program.)

One year ago: A tractor trailer was found in a Walmart parking lot in San Antonio, Texas, crammed with dozens of immigrants; ten died and many more were treated at a hospital for dehydration and heat stroke. (The driver, James Bradley Jr., was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty to transporting the immigrants resulting in death.) President Donald Trump tweeted that he has "complete power" to issue pardons. Jordan Spieth won the British Open for his third career major championship.

Today's Birthdays: Concert pianist Leon Fleisher (FLY'-shur) is 90. Retiring Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 82. Actor Ronny Cox is 80. Radio personality Don Imus is 78. Actor Larry Manetti is 75. Country singer Tony Joe White is 75. Rock singer David Essex is 71. Singer-songwriter John Hall is 70. Actress Belinda Montgomery is 68. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 68. Actress Edie McClurg is 67. Actress-writer Lydia Cornell is 65. Actor Woody Harrelson is 57. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 57. Actor Eriq La Salle is 56. Rock musician Yuval Gabay is 55. Rock musician Slash is 53. Actor Juan Pope is 51. Model-actress Stephanie Seymour is 50. Actress Charisma Carpenter is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sam Watters is 48. Country singer Alison Krauss is 47. Rhythm-and-blues

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 23, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 014 ~ 36 of 36

singer Dalvin DeGrate is 47. Rock musician Chad Gracey (Live) is 47. Actor-comedian Marlon Wayans is 46. Country singer Shannon Brown is 45. Actress Kathryn Hahn is 45. Retired MLB All-Star Nomar Garciaparra is 45. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 45. Actress Stephanie March is 44. Country musician David Pichette is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michelle Williams is 38. Actor Paul Wesley is 36. Actress Krysta Rodriguez is 34. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 29. Country musician Neil Perry is 28. Country singer Danielle Bradbery (TV: "The Voice") is 22.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference." — Juan Montalvo, Ecuadorean essayist and political writer (1832-1889).