

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 1 of 58

**“Love makes the world go round, but chocolate makes the trip worthwhile.”**



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Dairy Queen Help Wanted
- 1- School Help Wanted
- 2- Yard of the Week
- 2- Vold Consignment Auction Ad
- 3- Call 811 before you dig
- 4- Summer 2018 is an Active Year for Carpenter Ants
- 5- Groton Care School Supply Drive
- 6- Bridge program pits S.D. counties against each other for limited money
- 10- Weekly Drought Monitor
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Today's Forecast
- 13- Yesterday's Weather
- 13- National Weather map
- 13- Today's Weather Almanac
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 16- 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.



## Mosquito Control Tonight

The City of Groton will be doing mosquito control this evening, starting between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Oven Fresh Sandwiches    Hot Desserts    Snack Melts  
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

## Janitor Wanted

The Groton Area School District has immediate openings for a full or part-time custodian. Position includes great benefits package. Apply at the Groton Area School District Office – 406 N 2nd Street. (0808.0823)



## Help Wanted

Dairy Queen in Groton has openings for part-time team members – day hours during the school year and can be year round, if desired. Flexible scheduling. Stop in to apply. 11 East Hwy 12, Groton, SD.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 2 of 58



The Jeremy and Samantha Weber house on State Street has been chosen as this week's Yard of the Week.

## CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

**Sat. Aug. 18, 2018 10:00 am**

Location: Trucks-N-Tractors, 14089 434th Ave., Webster, SD 57274

Now taking Consignments – Watch Website & Next Week's Forum for Sale Bill. Tractors, Combines/Heads, Payloaders/Skidsteers, Semis/Trailers, Vehicles/ATVs, Planting/Haying/Spraying/Augers, Construction Equipment, Fencing.

*To consign your equipment, call our office at 605-448-0048 or Bill Jensen 605-848-0943*

*Don Wolter 605-881-6789*

**VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY**

[voldrealty.com](http://voldrealty.com) [voldauctions@ag4bid.com](mailto:voldauctions@ag4bid.com)



## Call 811 Before You Dig

As summer continues to wind down and you look to finish any last-minute projects before the chill of winter sets in, please remember to call 811 before digging.

Every hour, more than six damages to buried utilities occur because someone chose to dig without first calling 811 to have underground utility lines marked.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

The depth of utility lines can vary for many reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

As your public power providers, Heartland and the city of Groton care about your safety and urge you to call at least 48 hours before you dig.

Visit [/www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) for more information about 811 and safe digging practices.



## Summer 2018 is an Active Year for Carpenter Ants

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Throughout summer 2018, SDSU Extension staff have received numerous reports of carpenter ant activity.

"The concern with carpenter ants is that they can become a structural pest if they nest in homes or other buildings," said Patrick Wagner, SDSU Extension entomology field specialist.

So far, Wagner said nearly all of the reported cases have been identified as the same species, *Camponotus pennsylvanicus*, commonly known as the black carpenter ant (Figure 1).

### How to identify carpenter ants?

Carpenter ants can be distinguished from other ants based on a few characteristics:

Most carpenter ants are quite large, ranging in size from 3/8 to 1/2 of an inch long. They also have dark-colored bodies that are either uniformly black or black and red.

Carpenter ants have a uniquely shaped thorax, which is the body segment directly behind the head. Most ants have an indentation on the top of the thorax, whereas on carpenter ants, the top of the thorax is smooth and even (Figure 1).

Carpenter ants have only one node or peak on the pedicel or the thin segment connecting the thorax and abdomen.

"It is important to understand that, unlike termites, carpenter ants do not eat wood," Wagner said. "However, they will burrow through and displace wood as they build their colonies."

One of the main signs of carpenter ant activity is seeing piles of wood dust showing up near dead trees or wood structures (Figure 2).

"Carpenter ants prefer to nest in wood that has been softened by moisture," he said of locations like tree stumps, rotting logs and damp wood in and around buildings. "It is likely that the wet summer experienced throughout much of South Dakota has been favorable for carpenter ants, resulting in their increased activity."

### Management

The best management for carpenter ants is to prevent an infestation from occurring in the first place. Below, Wagner outlines some prevention tips:

Allow good air circulation in homes and other buildings to prevent moisture build up.



Courtesy of iGrow.org

**Figure 1. Top view of a black carpenter ant (*Camponotus pennsylvanicus*).**



Courtesy of Edward H. Holsten, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

**(Figure 2) Wooden landscape timbers with piles of wood dust on the ground around them.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 5 of 58

If there is wood with water damage, replace it if possible.

Remove rotting tree stumps, logs, and wood piles (i.e., firewood) from around buildings. Carpenter ants often migrate indoors from these areas, so it is best to keep them far away from the exterior walls.

"If you suspect a carpenter ant infestation, immediate treatment is recommended," Wagner said. "However, keep in mind that seeing a few carpenter ants indoors does not mean that their nest is also indoors.

One option is to use perimeter sprays which form an insecticide barrier that kills the ants on contact. Wagner explained that this will prevent accidental invasions and also limit populations from making it indoors.

However, these products are only effective for a limited amount of time and fail to eliminate the ants at the source.

Setting out poison ant baits, either granular or liquid, is usually more effective.

"Ants not only consume the bait, but also take it back to their nest and feed it to the rest of the colony," he said.

Ant baits are relatively inexpensive and may be applied either directly or inside specially designed ant traps.

There are a variety of other alternative methods such as using a mixture of boric acid and sugar as poison bait, or sprinkling diatomaceous earth near the nest to kill ants on contact.

For severe infestations, it may be wise to hire a professional pest control company to evaluate and treat the situation.

If you have questions or concerns regarding carpenter ants, please contact your nearest SDSU Extension entomologist for more information. A complete listing can be found at [www.iGrow.org](http://www.iGrow.org) under the Field Staff icon.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE



**GROTON CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER  
HAS BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT! STARTING  
AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> THRU AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> WE WILL BE  
COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT THE  
FACILITY TO GIVE TO THE GROTON AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT.**



## Bridge program pits S.D. counties against each other for limited money

By Brenda Wade Schmidt, South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota's counties and cities are making progress in the overwhelming task of repairing and replacing hundreds of deteriorating bridges.

But the competition for state grant money that helps with costs is increasingly aggressive, in some cases pitting counties with more money against those who have little in the application process.

In the three years since state lawmakers approved the Bridge Improvement Grant, or BIG, program, the program has given counties and cities \$27 million for engineering, preservation and replacement projects. The \$9 million allocated each of those years increases to \$15 million for the 2019 grants with applications due starting this month.

So far, the grants have helped pay for 20 new bridges, 40 repaired bridges and preliminary engineering and other work on 95 other projects. The money has been spent in 41 of the state's 66 counties, including most counties in the eastern part of the state.

But with more than 1,000 bridges qualifying for replacement and repair, the state program has just started to have an effect.

"This is a very small step in the direction of trying to address those needs. Unfortunately, the need is far, far greater than we have funding for," said Doug Kinniburgh, engineering supervisor for local government assistance programs with the state Department of Transportation.

In order to qualify for grants, counties must have a wheel tax and a five-year highway and bridge improvement plan.

The grants are allocated based on a points system that weighs the condition of the bridges, whether the county is charging the maximum wheel tax and if the structures are heavily traveled, serving multiple locations, for example.

The more counties are willing to pay toward the project, the higher their score will be -- sometimes a tough expense for smaller counties.

The points system doesn't take into account how much money a county has on hand nor how many bridges it has that need work.

Senate Bill 1, approved in 2015, dedicated \$7 million from license plate fees and non-commercial vehicle fees plus potentially \$8 million in gas taxes for \$15 million a year, but this next year will be the first time that the program has been funded at that level.

Nearly 20 percent of bridges in need of repair

In 2015, the year that the program was approved, one in five of South Dakota bridges were falling apart and in need of repair, according to the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, which released numbers for each state that year. In South Dakota, 1,174 bridges out of 5,872 statewide were considered structurally deficient, indicating they were in poor or worsening condition but not necessarily unsafe.

Earlier this year, 19 percent of the state's bridges were still listed in that category, according to the same agency's updated report.

Depending on geography and age of the bridges, some counties have more structures to submit for grant consideration. In eastern South Dakota, where the Big Sioux River meanders near the state's border, counties typically have a bridge every mile, and many have outlived their life expectancies.

In Grant County in northeastern South Dakota, Highway Superintendent Kerwin Schultz has a list of 169 inspected bridges, meaning they are at least 20 feet in length. Another 40 aren't inspected because they are smaller. His county ranks near the top for overall number of bridges, but has had its own crews maintain and replace what they can.

"Of the 66 counties, we're the only county in the state with an actual bridge crew," he said.



# Graton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 7 of 58

Since 1997, Grant County has replaced about 103 structures.

That county crew can't take on the bigger bridges or those that span fast-moving water however, and Grant County has received some help - \$1.33 million - from the BIG program.

"Grant County certainly is one of our counties that has a very, very high number of structures on their system. The needs are certainly higher," Kinniburgh said.

But getting help under the BIG program is not easy. Schultz hopes to compete for more grant money to help his county, but to do so, Grant County likely will have to pay a higher percentage of the costs itself, essentially upping its share to score higher on the points-based awards system, he said.

"It's kind of a learning experience for everyone. The biggest way to gain more points would be to go plans-ready or up your percentage," Schultz said. "I think we intend to kind of go that direction in the future."

Having plans ready means the county would essentially spend more in the bid process to get that piece done ahead of time or it could put more than the minimum 20 percent matching money toward the total cost of a project for a better shot at the grant.

In Deuel County, spending more to get the grants doesn't sit well with Jamie Hintz, highway superintendent. He has 41 bridges to fix and hopes to get two qualified for grants in the next round.

Both are on farm-to-market roads along school bus and mail routes. One was built in 1906, an historic pony truss structure that spans a creek through the picturesque Hidewood Valley east of Interstate 29. The other is just a half mile away, a proximity that Hintz hopes helps keep the price down because both could be done by one contractor.

He knows the county likely will need to pay more than 20 percent of the projects or it won't make the cut. At 35 percent, Deuel County would have to come up with \$130,000 for its share.

"The only way we're able to do anything is to offer more from our percentage," Hintz said.

Some counties successful in grant program

Nearby Brookings County has already figured out that competitive edge, winning \$3.5 million in grants. The county tops the state in the amount of money it has received and is close to tapping out its eligibility for a maximum of \$4 million in three years, the state's Kinniburgh said.

Brookings County is followed by Davison County with \$2.78 million in grants and Hughes with \$2.47 million.

Brookings County won three grants to replace its worst bridges that had load limit restrictions on them.

Bids will go out for those projects soon -- two on Highway 77 south of Brookings and one on the Moody County line. It's an expensive process.

"We have 15 bridges over the Sioux River in Brookings County, for example. Each one of them is a very sizeable structure," said Dick Birk, highway superintendent. "It kind of gave us relief as opposed to being totally strapped."

To get the money, Brookings County put more of its own money toward the bill, pledging a 50-50 split with the state instead of the minimum 80-20. While that wasn't painless because of the amount the county had to pitch in, it has been worth it, Birk said.

"Without that added money, it would be safe to say it would have put a very significant load on our annual budget," he said. "It would have been a real thorn in the old process to come up with the money ourselves."

For a \$1.4 million grant, the county offered a 20 percent match. For the other two, it offered to pay half, adding up to matching money of \$1.27 million, he said.

Some are critical of the counties that increase the percent of a project they will pay in an attempt to get higher points and outbid other counties. Bird isn't bothered by the criticism.

"We paid for two bridges, and we get one free," he said. "It wasn't like we cheated a lot of people out of projects either."

The county has a long list of other projects with big needs, too, and plans to continue applying for help.

"After this first go around, I think we'll have the worst of the worst corrected," he said, in appreciation of the BIG program. "It did work out for us because it was absolutely necessary."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 8 of 58

Moody County also earned a BIG grant of \$1.4 million with engineering and architectural fees included for a \$2.1 million project. The work involved a bridge, three miles east of Interstate 29 at the Ward exit that failed in May of 2016, closing it to all traffic. Work is underway this summer and expected to be completed in early November, meaning local farmers will have spent at least three harvests without direct routes to haul their crops.

The county agreed to pay 40 percent of the cost, a sizable amount in a county budget that approaches \$6 million annually.

The bridge is one of several in that county that are being replaced. But if Moody County can qualify for some BIG money for the large projects across the Big Sioux River, it will be able to handle the smaller projects itself, said Rick Veldkamp, a Moody County commissioner.

"We have several bridges across the river which are all in that \$2 million range. By ourselves, we can't handle that. If we didn't have the BIG program to help us with those big ticket items, we couldn't catch up," he said.

Minnehaha County, the most populous and the one with the most bridges has received very little grant money under the program, but is making progress on its bridge repairs by using fees it collects. In 2017, it was awarded a grant for \$42,600 for engineering fees for a bridge near Valley Springs, the only money it has received through BIG.

"We do not compete well. Our bridges are in too good of condition to compete. We don't let them get bad enough to get a grant," said Shannon Schultz, assistant highway superintendent. The county is making gains on its list of bridges needing attention. "We are able to replace three to five bridges a year which is a little bit quicker than bridges are being posted (added to the list)."

Posted bridges -- Minnehaha has 24 of them -- aren't dangerous, he said. They just have a lower legal load limit prohibiting heavier vehicles and equipment. "There are some counties that have bridges in much worse condition than us."

With more population, Minnehaha County is the only county in the state that uses its user fees and license plate fees for repairs without needing to dip into its general fund.

But is also has more traffic on its roads and bridges, something it takes in stride for now.

"From our point of view, those counties that need the money, need it. We have a little bit of money flowing through our program," Shannon Schultz said.

Counties off the list

Eight South Dakota counties can't participate in BIG because they haven't enacted a wheel tax.

Pennington County, with 134 structures, has tried to implement one, but voters haven't agreed. The other seven counties without one are Buffalo, Hand, Harding, Hyde, Jones, McPherson and Oglala Lakota.

"That has been a very controversial issue," said Kinniburgh with the state DOT. "Their need is pretty high as well."

Cities can participate, even though they don't have the ability to implement a wheel tax, and Rapid City has been awarded money under BIG while the county cannot apply.

More than two-thirds of the counties have received some money under BIG, Kinniburgh said, in defense of the application process.

"This is a very upfront, objective type process. It's not intended for us to have a lot of subjectivity on DOT's behalf," he said. "We are pretty happy with it. The way the process is set up, each year we do need to update and bring the procedures and the rules in front of our commission to review and approve."

He doesn't anticipate any modifications based on size and geography when it comes to how counties receive grants. But the program will continue to be reviewed each year. The \$4 million limit over three years for any one county also helps disperse the money to more places, he said.

So far, the points system under the application process is working, he said. "We did not want someone to come in there and dominate the program," Kinniburgh said.

A look at a state map confirms that BIG money is being spent all over the state, including in smaller populated counties such as Marshall, Day and Butte and cities, including Aberdeen and Parkston.

"I think we're getting a pretty good spread," Kinniburgh said. "We've got a pretty good mixture of both



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 9 of 58

rural and urban settings.”

Concern about keeping up

Back in sparsely-populated Deuel County, the solution to the failing bridges there and across the state is money. Hintz with the county highway department worries that the more rural, sparsely traveled areas won't be able to keep up, he said.

“It's only obvious the way it was set up that traffic counts were going to be a big part of that. I understand that. But then what are you going to do back in the ag areas?” he asked. Most of the counties with smaller populations don't have the kind of money that is needed to get ahead of the problem.

For now, the county does the best it can to switch out old bridges with cement box culverts or other types of culverts if the span is less than 20 feet, essentially a less expensive way to keep the structure in place. Several bridges, including the two at the top of his priority list to fix, are weight restricted.

“With the money we have, it's a react and fix,” he said. “We're waiting for them to cave in because we don't have time.”

This story was reported by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at [www.sdnewswatch.org](http://www.sdnewswatch.org).

## South Dakota BIG Program

2016

100 applications for \$17.3 million

Preliminary engineering grants: 40 for \$0.9 million

Preservation grants: 14 for \$4 million

Replacement grants: 5 for \$4.1 million

Awarded to 5 cities and 27 counties

2017

110 applications for \$21.23 million

Preliminary engineering grants: 29 for \$0.9 million

Preservation grants: 17 for \$3 million

Replacement grants: 7 for \$5.1 million

Awarded to 2 cities and 33 counties

2018

88 applications for \$18.7 million

Preliminary engineering grants: 26 for \$0.99 million

Preservation grants: 9 for \$2.65 million

Replacement grants: 8 for \$5.33 million Awarded to 4 cities and 21 counties

Total: 298 applications for \$57.23 million

Preliminary engineering grants: 95 for \$2.79 million

Preservation grants: 40 for \$9.65 million

Replacement grants: 20 for \$14.53 million Awarded to 11 cities and 81 counties\*

Source: South Dakota Bridge Improvement Grant program

\*The number of cities and counties counts each time a city or county gets a grant and some have received multiple.

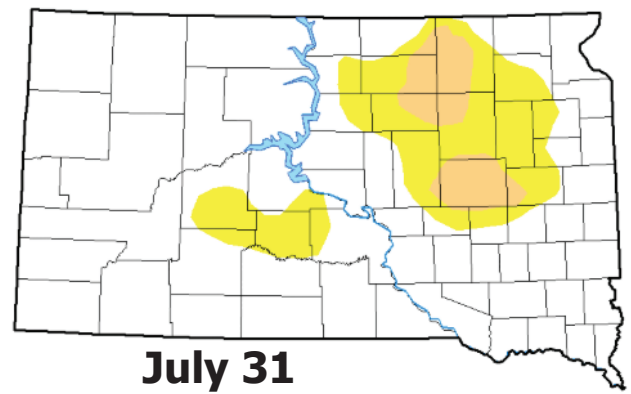
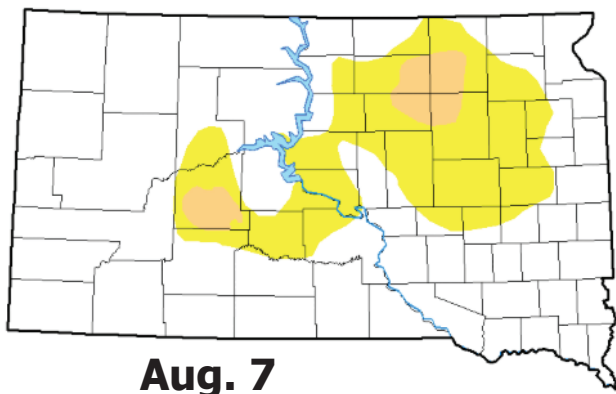
# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 10 of 58

## Weekly Drought Monitor

### Drought Classification

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



Moisture deficits have been slowly increasing in northern parts of this region for the past several weeks. However, significant deficits are patchy and relatively short-term in nature, so only modest D0 and D1 expansion was brought into the drier parts of the Dakotas. Severe to exceptional drought is limited to southern parts of this region, primarily in south-central through western Colorado and parts of central and eastern Kansas. Drought conditions were essentially unchanged here, save for some small, spotty areas of improvement in eastern Kansas. Between these two areas, across southeastern Colorado and western Kansas, above-normal rainfall has been the rule for the past few months. 90-day rainfall totaled 4 to locally 10 inches more than normal here. To wit, broadscale improvement was assessed, eliminating dryness in much of southwestern Kansas, and leaving moderate to severe drought covering most of southeastern Colorado.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 11 of 58

## Today in Weather History

August 10, 1886: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from 10 miles northwest of Aberdeen. This massive tornado destroyed four homes and a dozen barns. This is the earliest significant tornado on record for Brown County.

August 10, 2007: Several supercell thunderstorms developed along a frontal boundary during the evening bringing large hail, damaging winds, along with a couple of tornadoes. An EF0 tornado touched down north of Timber Lake with no damage reported. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly north of Trail City with no damage occurring. Wakpala, in Corson County, and Mobridge saw golf ball sized hail. The hail broke some windows and damaged the siding on several houses in the Mobridge area.

1884: An earthquake, centered near New York City and registering a magnitude 5.5, hit the region a little after 2 PM. The tremor made houses shake, chimneys fall, and residents wonder what the heck was going on, according to a New York Times article two days later. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the USGS.

1856: A hurricane destroyed Isle Dernieres or Last Island, a pleasure resort south-southwest of New Orleans on this day. The highest points of the island were under five feet of water. The resort hotel was destroyed, along with the island's gambling establishments. Over 200 people perished, and the island lost all its vegetation and split in half. Only one cow remained on the island after the catastrophe. The Last Island is now only a haven for pelicans and other sea birds. The steamer Nautilus foundered during the storm. The lone survivor clung to a bale of cotton and washed ashore sometime later.

1882 - Sandusky OH noted a four minute snow squall during the morning, frost was reported in the suburbs of Chicago, and a killing frost was reported at Cresco IA. (The Weather Channel)

1898 - The temperature at Pendleton OR climbed all the way to 119 degrees at set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1924 - Colorado's deadliest tornado killed a woman and nine children in one house along its twenty-mile path east southeast of Thurman. Mennonite men had left the farm to provide possible aid, as the 200-yard wide storm was first seen while far away.(The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature soared to 114 degrees at Plain Dealing, LA, and reached 120 degrees at Ozark AR, to establish record highs for those two states. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Hurricane Allen came ashore above Brownsville, TX, dropping fifteen inches of rain near San Antonio, and up to 20 inches in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Tidal flooding occurred along the South Texas coast. Hurricane Allen packed winds to 150 mph, and also spawned twenty-nine tornadoes. Total damage from the storm was estimated at 750 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the southeastern U.S. Ten cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date. Macon GA hit 101 degrees. A tropical depression deluged southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana with torrential rains. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Citizens of Bluefield, WV, where the Chamber of Commerce provides free lemonade on days when the temperature warms into the 90s, were able to celebrate their record high of 90 degrees. Eight other cities also reported record high temperatures for the date, including Bismarck ND with a reading of 102 degrees.(The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirty-eight cities in the south central and southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 48 degrees, and Victoria TX with a low of 63 degrees. Oklahoma City OK reported a record cool afternoon high of 71 degrees, and the daily high of 64 degrees at Raleigh NC established a record for August. In Arizona, a record sixty-four day streak of 100 degree days at Phoenix came to an end.(The National Weather Summary)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 12 of 58

Today

Tonight

Saturday

Saturday  
Night

Sunday



Patchy Smoke

Patchy Smoke

Patchy Smoke

Patchy Smoke

Patchy Smoke

High: 95 °F

Low: 62 °F

High: 95 °F

Low: 67 °F

High: 94 °F

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
	<b>Breezy</b>	<b>Breezy</b>	<b>Breezy</b>
Hazy	Hazy	Hazy	
<b>Highs:</b> Upper 80s east 100+ Central SD	<b>Morning Lows:</b> Low - Mid 60s <b>Highs:</b> Upper 80s east 100+ Central SD	<b>Morning Lows:</b> Mid - Upper 60s <b>Highs:</b> Upper 80s east 100+ Central SD	<b>Morning Lows:</b> Mid - Upper 60s <b>Highs:</b> Upper 80s to Mid 90s
<p><b>Increasing Fire Danger Due To Heat – Low Humidity – Winds</b></p> <p><b>FIRE DANGER</b></p>			
<p><b>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE</b> OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</p>		<p>Updated: 8/10/2018 4:37 AM Central</p>	

Published on: 08/10/2018 at 4:45AM

Fires in Canada and the western US will be responsible for continued hazy conditions. Additionally, we remain under a dome of hot and dry air that will result in increasingly dry conditions. As winds become more breezy Saturday - Sunday - Monday, we can anticipate an increasing fire weather threat for our area. A front moves through late Monday bringing temperatures back to average.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 13 of 58

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 86.9 F at 4:54 PM**

**Heat Index: 89 at 3:23 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 61.6 F at 6:47 AM**

**High Gust: 10.0 Mph at 1:32 PM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 106° in 1947**

**Record Low: 42° in 1985, 1982**

**Average High: 83°F**

**Average Low: 58°F**

**Average Precip in Aug: 0.71**

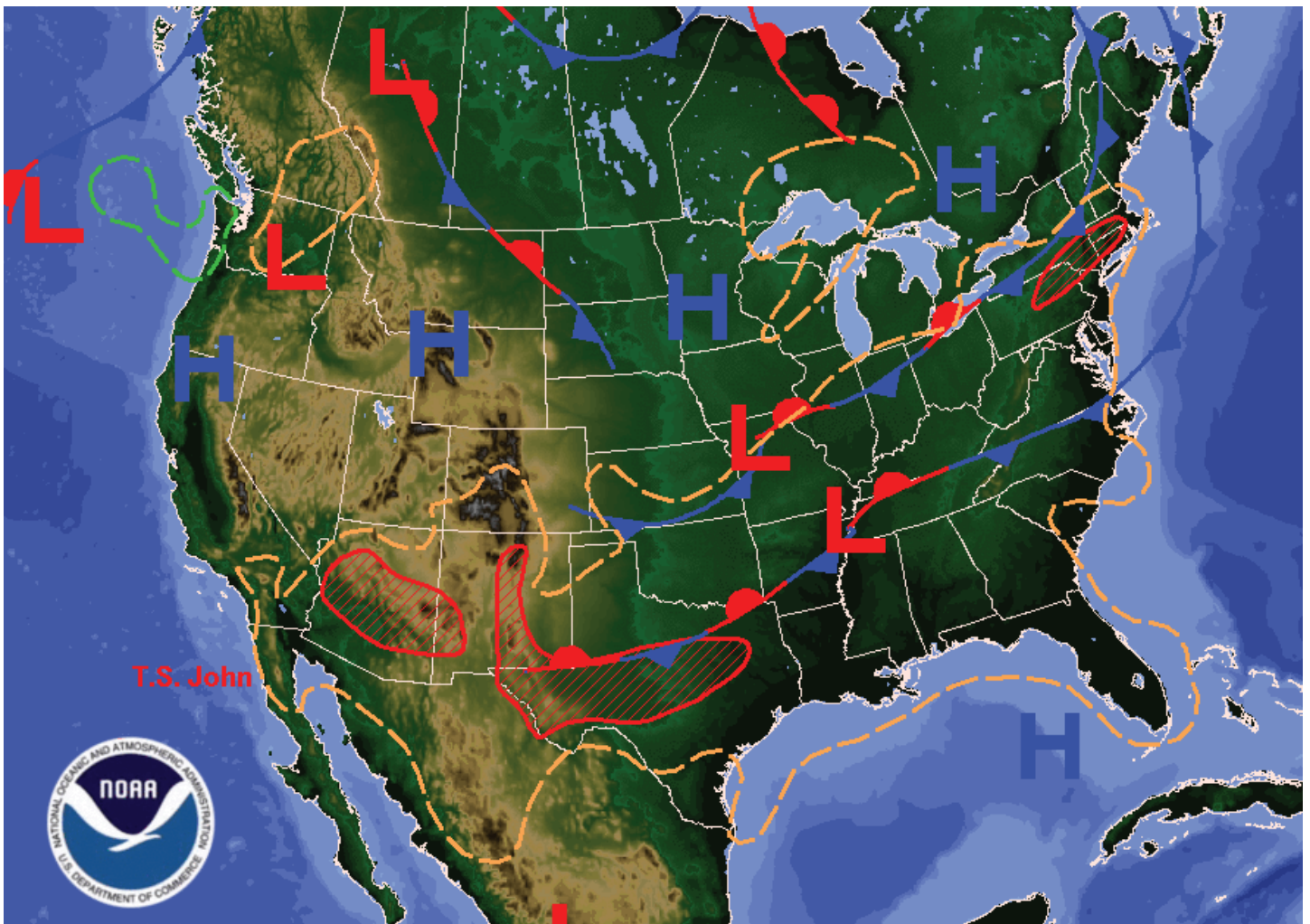
**Precip to date in Aug: 0.25**

**Average Precip to date: 14.57**

**Precip Year to Date: 10.14**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:49 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:30 a.m.**



T.S. John



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Aug 10, 2018, issued 4:53 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 14 of 58



## **SLEEP! A THOUGHTFUL GIFT FROM GOD**

Sleep - restful and peaceful sleep - is a nourishing and comforting gift from God.

Researchers who have studied the sleep patterns of humans have discovered that if we are awake for more than twenty-four hours, we do not act normally. Our recall of things that happened in the past fails and response time to events that are going on around us slows down tremendously. People who are normally gentle and slow to wrath become irritable and abusive when they are denied their normal amount of sleep.

Some who have difficulty in going to sleep resort to pills. Often the cure is harmful, ending up in a habit that leads to an addiction. Another problem is alertness: the reaction time required to respond to a life or death decision may result in tragedy. We all need a certain amount of sleep to function normally and meet the requirements of life.

The best, most nourishing sleep comes from God. In Psalm 127:2 we read, for He grants sleep to those whom He loves!

In His Word, we discover that God loves everyone. But, there seems to be a special love for those who have accepted His Son as their Savior and enthroned Him as Lord. Their sins are forgiven, and their relationship with God is as He has designed it to be. They can rest peacefully in His love.

And, consider this: When we toss and turn and have a difficult time enjoying a peaceful sleep, it may be the Holy Spirit urging us to quote Bible verses and pray.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to find our peace and rest in the goodness of Your grace and the depth of Your love. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 127:2 It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 15 of 58

## 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)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 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

### Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

#### Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Aug. 9

##### No need to rush online sales tax bill

Why did the governor feel the need to call a special session to — according to his chief of staff — “expedite implementation” of online sales tax collections?

Does an emergency exist that merits a special session on Sept. 12? Why can't state lawmakers consider legislation in January, which is fewer than five months away? Is there a fiscal time bomb ticking that has been withheld from the public and media?

That seems unlikely, however, given the recent report from Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who because of term limits can't seek re-election in November.

In mid-July, he hailed the news that the state ended fiscal year 2018 with a \$16.9 million surplus. The additional money was quickly transferred to the state's budget reserves, which now total \$176.4 million.

Without a clear need for an immediate infusion of new revenue, it seems a special session is a waste of taxpayer money. But then it's just the taxpayers' money, and state government is apparently eager to get its hands on more of it as soon as possible for reasons not disclosed in Tuesday's announcement of a special session.

All that can be accomplished in a one-day session is to put a rubber stamp on what the governor wants. Committee hearings likely won't be held and the public certainly won't be heard. The governor has already stated he wants to start collecting the additional revenue from state residents beginning Oct. 1.

The governor also did not say what the state wants to do with its windfall after prevailing before the U.S. Supreme Court in *South Dakota v. Wayfair*.

Will it be used to reduce property taxes as the governor of Nebraska has said he wants to do in his state? How about more money for education, health care, roads or workforce development?

The only plan the state has to address the infusion of revenue was approved in 2016 as lawmakers debated increasing the sales tax by a half-cent to boost teacher pay. The amendment by Jeff Partridge of Rapid City requires that the state sales tax, now at 4.5 percent, be reduced by a tenth of a percentage point for every \$20 million collected by the online sales tax.

Even that plan, however, did not benefit from much discussion as the debate primarily revolved around whether the lowest-paid teachers in the nation deserved a pay raise or not.

While the legislation that Daugaard proposes next month will likely be approved by the Republican majority in the Legislature, it shouldn't mean the discussion is over. Instead, it should be considered the beginning as online sales tax revenue will rise in the future and everyone has a stake in that.

The use of the new revenue should be a campaign issue for the candidates for governor as well as all contested races in the Legislature. It needs to be debated by lawmakers in the next legislative session. The people — the taxpayers — need to be heard as well before this new revenue is earmarked or claimed by special interests. The discussion needs to be held in the context of what is best for all residents of South Dakota.

The state's victory in the Supreme Court amounts to a windfall for the state, but it is yet to be seen if that will be the case for taxpayers. The next governor needs to recognize that and open the doors to a robust and open discussion about the best future use of millions of dollars of sales tax revenue that will flow for years to come.

---

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 17 of 58

## American News, Aberdeen, Aug. 8

### Good news, on water and on the grill

The catch-of-the-day is good news, courtesy of South Dakotans reeling in success and inspiration:

— A 26-year-old fisherman from Groton reeled in one of the biggest catches of the summer. Zack Kirsch caught enough big walleyes to earn the top amateur award at the Cabela's National Walleye Tour event on Devils Lake in North Dakota. Fish on.

— Speaking of fishing, what started as an English project is now Bruns Tackle. That is an area business that specializes in walleye spinners and miscellaneous lead fishing weights.

Walker Bruns, 18, a graduate of Ellendale (N.D.) High School, has been running his own business for three years. His original assignment was to create a mock business complete with legitimate prices and a full business plan.

But Bruns took it a step further, learning how to make his own tackle, then making some for family and friends, and eventually others. That is pure awesome on his, his teacher's, and his school's part.

— Kudos as well to the fine folks at Bergen Lutheran Church in rural Bristol. Proceeds from their annual threshing bee stayed in the community when they donated them to neighboring Westside Wesleyan Church. That Bristol church was devastated by a July 20 fire.

— Mosquitoes have not seemed to have been much of a problem in Aberdeen this summer. So a tip of the hat to those who control such pests, because you know we would be screaming, editorially speaking, for relief if the population was going uncontrolled.

— Tiny houses continue to make their way into our area. We like it as options for affordable housing are always welcome.

— Let the good South Dakota folks at Freeman (population 1,308) be an inspiration to us all.

The community 35 miles north of Yankton is in the heart of chislic country. They came up with the idea of hosting the South Dakota Chislic Festival. Hoping for hundreds, the first one recently drew thousands. The second one for next summer is already being planned.

The lesson is even the smallest of ideas — and meats — may turn out to the biggest successes.

— South Dakota is fortunate to have generous health organizations such as Sanford and Avera. The list of ways they help us in this state are endless, and today, it is Avera's turn in the spotlight.

Avera Health and the University of South Dakota have partnered to form what officials are calling a "history-making scholarship" to bring more Native Americans into the medical career field.

The Avera Health American Indian Scholarship Program Fund will provide \$24,000 over four years for Native American students who are enrolled members of federally recognized tribes in South Dakota or the upper Midwest and who are enrolled at USD's Sanford School of Medicine.

"This is a population we need to work very closely with to encourage participation, not only in med school, but coming back to South Dakota to practice medicine," said Bob Sutton, Avera Health president and CEO. "It will build pathways to enhance health care in some of the most vulnerable parts of the nation."

We couldn't agree more.

## The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Aug. 6

### Hisses and cheers

CHEERS to Mitchell School District's summer lunch program, which expanded this summer and saw more people utilize the service.

Approximately 17,000 lunches and 7,700 breakfasts were distributed this year. The program, which serves healthy food, grew for another year.

We love this summer option for students and adults, as it ensures everyone can get a good meal for a fair price. We hope school officials continue to find ways to improve an already great program.

HISSES to the wicked weather that rolled through southeastern South Dakota late Saturday night into Sunday morning.

Yikes, there were some loud cracks of thunder and shots of lightning with the severe weather — even



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 18 of 58

some hail that pelted the Mitchell region along with a 67 mph wind gust. Luckily, this storm didn't have any areas of flash flooding and no major damage reported. We only heard of some downed tree branches.

Southwest of Mitchell there was a tornado warning issued, and that always leaves us remembering the powerful tornadoes that smacked Delmont in 2015 and Wessington Springs in 2014.

Let's hope we can get through another summer without major damage from a storm.

CHEERS to the Mitchell Post 18 Legion baseball team, which for the second straight year took runner-up at the state tournament.

We applaud Mitchell's players, parents and coaches for another successful year. While a state title wasn't in order this season, second place is a heck of a great year.

Headed up by coach Luke Norden, Post 18 is consistently competitive. We applaud the team for its never-say-die attitude at the state tournament.

HISSES to the news that more mosquitoes are around the city this year, mostly due in large part to the wet weather we've had.

It's hard to complain about all the great rain we've had this year, but if there's one downfall it's that moisture helps those pesky little mosquitoes so much. That also means a heightened risk of West Nile virus.

While there still is plenty of mosquito season left, we remind everyone to apply bug repellent often when outdoors.

## **South Dakota officials unveil new school safety tip program**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota law enforcement and school officials have unveiled an anonymous text messaging program aimed at improving school safety.

Attorney General Marty Jackley and other officials announced Thursday the implementation of the new school-safety element of Project Stand Up. The texting program available across South Dakota lets people submit tips as part of a coordinated effort between districts and law enforcement.

The original Project Stand Up launched in 2017 and allows people to anonymously text authorities tips about illegal drug use. Jackley says the safe schools component of the project will help school officials and law enforcement "better protect our children."

Associated School Boards of South Dakota Executive Director Wade Pogany says it will offer districts an additional component to improve safety in school buildings.

## **Judge: South Dakota can pursue case against western town**

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled the state can move forward with efforts to challenge the incorporation of a western South Dakota town that started as a campground for motorcyclists.

Fourth Circuit Judge Gordon Swanson denied a motion Tuesday filed by the town of Buffalo Chip to dismiss the court challenge, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

Swanson ruled that the state "beyond a doubt has the authority to establish and enforce procedures for the creation and operation of government subdivisions."

The legal fight has lingered more than two years with opposition from nearby Sturgis, whose annual motorcycle rally brings hundreds of thousands of people to the area. The state Supreme Court has even weighed in, saying that any action to challenge the town's incorporation must be brought by the state.

South Dakota is challenging that Buffalo Chip was improperly formed because it had fewer than 100 legal residents or 30 voters at the time it was incorporated. Census information shows Buffalo Chip didn't meet the threshold outlined in the 2015 law. The threshold has since changed to 100 legal residents and 45 registered voters.

Buffalo Chip officials have argued that the area had more than 30 voters.

The state's hired attorney to oversee the case, James Moore, can now continue to bring action against the town.

## South Dakota to see busy weekend for rodeos

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Officials with the South Dakota Rodeo Association say this weekend is the busiest of the year for rodeos.

A rodeo is held somewhere in South Dakota almost every weekend from the end of May through mid-September, The Daily Republic reported . This weekend, rodeos are planned in Lower Brule, Faith, Martin and Scotland.

The events are gaining in popularity and participation, according to association officials. The association sanctioned 31 rodeos this year, an increase of two events compared to last year.

"There is no question that the sport of rodeo is growing in South Dakota, and the small towns that host rodeos are a big part of that growth," said Dave Marone, the association's president.

Small towns put a lot of work into making rodeos successful, said Merretta Anderson, the association's executive secretary. The events provide an economic boost to areas through gas, lodging or concessions sales, Anderson said.

"It's a sport that is really embedded in these communities, and it's been a part of communities for over 50 years," Anderson said.

The small southern South Dakota town of Burke has seen a large amount of growth in spectator attendance, said Billie Sutton, the Democratic candidate for governor and the former president of the Burke Stampede Rodeo.

"In terms of fan base alone, the town of Burke continues to see triple the amount of its population in the three days we host our rodeo here," he said.

The association has an annual average of about 500 association memberships for people who compete in the events, Anderson said.

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

## Authorities ID victims of 2 fatal crashes at Sturgis Rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified victims of two fatal crashes related to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in western South Dakota.

Fifty-six-year-old James Barbier, of Aurora, Colorado, died Saturday afternoon in a motorcycle crash on U.S. Highway 85 near Cheyenne Crossing.

Fifty-three-year-old Craig Carrell, of Sioux City, Iowa, also died Saturday, in a utility terrain vehicle crash near Deadwood.

Two other men have died in motorcycle crashes, one Tuesday near Piedmont and one Wednesday near Blackhawk. Neither victim was immediately identified.

The annual event in South Dakota's Black Hills draws hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. This year's rally started last Friday and runs through Sunday.

Late-night crash in Hughes County kills 19-year-old man

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A single-vehicle crash in Hughes County has killed a 19-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man lost control of his car on a road northeast of Pierre and it rolled in the ditch.

He was pronounced dead at the scene about 11:45 p.m. Wednesday. His name wasn't immediately released.

## Dakotans experience wildfire haze, air quality issues

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (AP) — Residents in the Dakotas are experiencing lower air quality and seeing some hazy skies because of the ongoing wildfires in the western part of the United States and Canada.

The National Weather Service in Bismarck says those smoky skies will stick around heading into the weekend. Meteorologist Janine Vining says that could change when a weak cold front arrives Sunday or

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 20 of 58

Monday.

Vining tells KQDJ the low air quality will be coupled with some hot summer days heading into the weekend with estimates of up to 100 degrees in some parts of the state.

Vining encourages individuals who may have breathing problems to limit their time outside with the current conditions. She says the smoke may also reduce driving visibility.

Information from: KQDJ-AM, <http://www.newsdakota.com/kqdj-1400am>

## **White House Thanksgiving turkey to come from South Dakota**

HURON, S.D. (AP) — The White House's annual Thanksgiving turkey for the first time is set to come from South Dakota.

KELO-AM reports that the finalist turkeys are getting fattened up in a special facility at a Beadle County farm. South Dakota Poultry Industries Association executive director David Zeman says the birds are getting fed by hand.

Zeman says the farm's location isn't being publicized to make sure crowds don't come to gawk. The best two turkeys will be taken in November to Washington for President Donald Trump.

Information from: KELO-AM, <http://www.keloam.com>

## **South Dakota winter wheat harvest nearing completion**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The winter wheat harvest in South Dakota is nearing completion, and the spring wheat harvest is about halfway done.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 90 percent of the winter wheat is in the bin, along with 52 percent of the spring wheat. Both crops are ahead of the average pace.

The majority of most crops in South Dakota remain rated mostly in fair or good condition.

Topsoil moisture supplies statewide are rated 71 percent adequate to surplus, with 66 percent of subsoil moisture in those categories. Both percentages are down over the week.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are mostly rated fair or good.

## **South Dakota, Wisconsin to meet on gridiron in 2024**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota has scheduled a football game against Wisconsin in 2024.

USD plays in the Football Championship Subdivision, while Wisconsin is a Big Ten program in the upper-tier Football Bowl Subdivision.

The game is scheduled for Sept. 21, 2024, in Madison Wisconsin. The Coyotes and Badgers last played in 2011. They also met in 1975.

South Dakota has faced at least one FBS foe every season since 2010, with victories against Minnesota in 2010 and Bowling Green last year.

Future opponents include Kansas State this season, Oklahoma next year, Iowa State in 2020, Kansas in 2021 and Missouri in 2022.

## **Crash on I-29 in Codington County kills 39-year-old man**

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash on Interstate 29 in Codington County killed a 39-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man was driving a car that went into the median and crashed into a pillar supporting an overpass north of Watertown.

He was pronounced dead at the scene about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. His name was not immediately released.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 21 of 58

88 pounds of cocaine seized in South Dakota traffic bust  
SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a traffic stop in western South Dakota yielded 88 pounds of cocaine worth more than \$1 million on the street.

Court documents say a Highway Patrol officer stopped a vehicle for a U.S. Highway 85 traffic violation on Aug. 2 near Spearfish, and found two suitcases in the trunk with the drugs.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports two women from Canada were arrested on drug charges. Authorities allege they were taking the drugs from California to Fargo, North Dakota.

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

## Rebuilding mosques priority for devout on quake-hit Lombok

By ANDI JATMIKO, Associated Press

TANJUNG, Indonesia (AP) — On Indonesia's earthquake-devastated Lombok island, people are reeling as they mourn more than 300 dead and sleep in makeshift shelters, but foremost in the minds of some is rebuilding the collapsed mosques that were the heart of their communities.

Dozens of villagers in Tanjung district prayed in a field Friday in front of their former mosque and made plans for a replacement.

"We are very sad because our mosque we loved very much is now destroyed," said Sunarto, a worshipper, holding back tears. "Our imam, who is our leader, also died in the mosque."

The magnitude 7.0 quake on Sunday killed at least 321 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 68,000 homes. Some 270,000 people are homeless or otherwise displaced.

It also upended daily religious life, with 15 mosques collapsing and 50 musholla or prayer rooms damaged.

Like most of Indonesia, Lombok is majority Muslim. A minority on the island practice Hinduism, a legacy of its historical domination by Hindu Balinese kingdoms.

Sunarto, who uses one name, said hearing the call to prayer and being observant will help villagers rebuild from the disaster.

"Our mission in our meeting with villagers is to talk about how we are going to build a temporary mosque so that the voice of Quranic verse will continue to reverberate in our village," he said.

Lombok was hit by three big quakes in little more than a week. A magnitude 5.9 aftershock on Thursday injured more than two dozen people, damaged buildings and caused a landslide that buried four people. On July 29, the first of the quakes killed 16 people.

A field hospital in Tanjung, one of the hard-hit districts in north Lombok, was still treating patients Friday because hospitals are damaged or overwhelmed.

Medic Ainun Kharima said head injuries caused by collapsing buildings were a big cause of deaths.

"Many patients here have broken bones and we handle it as much as possible because the hospital is damaged, impossible to do surgery and treat patients with severe injuries," she said.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

## Firefighters battle to curb wildfire before winds return

By RINGO H.W. CHIU and AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. (AP) — Aircraft turned hillsides red with retardant as homeowners wet their houses with garden hoses in a battle to contain an arson wildfire, which prompted evacuation orders for more than 20,000 people south of Los Angeles.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency Thursday night for Orange and Riverside counties as a four-day-old fire carved its way along ridges and hillsides of the Cleveland National Forest.

Brown's proclamation said thousands of homes were threatened by the fire in the foothills above Lake Elsinore and nearby communities and ordered state agencies to help local governments.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 22 of 58

Firefighters planned to work through the night to gain ground against the blaze before the expected Friday afternoon return of blustery winds that might drive the flames to new ferocity.

A resident of Holy Jim Canyon in the forest was scheduled for a court hearing Friday on charges that he deliberately set the fire.

Forrest Clark, 51, is charged with arson and other crimes and could face life in prison if convicted. It wasn't immediately known if he had a lawyer.

Michael Milligan, chief of the Holy Jim Volunteer Fire Department, has told the Orange County Register that Clark had a decade-long feud with neighbors and sent him threatening emails last week, including one that said, "this place will burn." Ironically, his cabin was the only one in the canyon to survive the flames, the newspaper reported.

As flames raged closer to foothill homes on Thursday, some residents ignoring evacuation orders stood in driveways or on top of roofs and used garden hoses to wet down their property as smoke billowed around them.

Joe Rodriguez, 38, used a power washer on his patio in the McVicker Canyon Park neighborhood.

"Until this thing is barking at my door, I'm going to stick with it," he told the San Bernardino Sun.

Firefighters fought a desperate battle as huge flames came within yards of some homes, feeding on dense, dry chaparral and propelled by 20-mph (30-kph) gusts. They want to encircle the fire before it can devour neighborhoods and take lives, as gigantic fires still burning in Northern California have done.

"Our main focus this afternoon was getting everyone out safely," said Thanh Nguyen, a spokesman for the crews battling the Holy Fire.

Phil Williams, 57, stayed near his home in Brookstone Ranch, an unincorporated community of about 5,000 people. His family and pets evacuated along with most of his neighbors but as a member of the local water district, he stayed to help out.

Late Thursday night, he described seeing 70-foot-tall (21-meter) flames creeping within 150 yards of his large yard.

"It's all tinder and as soon as the flames hit it, it's gone," he said. "You can hear the fire coming. It truly does roar."

Williams, who had cut back brush around the home, said he planned to "wait for the sun's up, see what's left. Not much more than you can do."

"If I didn't do a good enough job, I'll just rebuild," he said. "It's only sticks."

Although the fire — named for the canyon where it started — destroyed a dozen cabins after breaking out Monday, fire crews were able to prevent further losses but the fire was still virtually uncontrolled as its growth nullified progress in corralling it.

Wind speeds and temperatures dropped as night fell but gusty winds could pick up again Friday afternoon, the National Weather Service warned.

Meanwhile, two major wildfires — one called the Mendocino Complex Fire that is the largest in California history — were burning more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Sacramento.

Crews turned a corner and achieved 51 percent containment of the Mendocino Complex — actually twin fires that are being fought together. The fire destroyed more than 100 homes and has blackened an area about the size of the city of Los Angeles.

In the Redding area, the year's deadliest fire was nearly half surrounded and was burning into remote and rugged forest land but grass, brush and trees there are so dry from years of drought and recent heat that the potential remained for the fire to grow, state fire officials said.

The Carr Fire, as it's called, killed six people, including two firefighters, and burned more than 1,000 homes. Two other people — a state fire heavy equipment mechanic assigned to the fire and a utility worker trying to restore power near the fire— have died in car accidents.

The fires all grew explosively in the past two weeks as winds whipped the flames through forest and rural areas full of timber and brush that is bone-dry from years of drought and a summer of record-breaking heat.

Air quality has been another casualty of the fires. A smoky haze stretches from the foothills of the Sierra

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 23 of 58

Nevada mountain range to Sacramento and hovers over the San Francisco Bay Area, with most major population centers in between suffering air quality that's considered dangerous for children, the elderly and people with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

The smoke even drifted as far east as Salt Lake City in Utah.

The sheer size of the fires is numbing in a state that is still reeling from enormous blazes last year and has yet to hit its historically most dangerous months.

Firefighters had almost contained a huge fire near Yosemite National Park.

—  
Amanda Myers reported from Los Angeles. AP journalists Michael Balsamo and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

## Officials: Taliban try to take Afghan city, kill at least 14

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban fighters tried to overrun a provincial capital in Afghanistan early on Friday, hiding inside homes before slipping into city streets in the night to attack security forces and killing at least 14 policemen before being pushed back, officials said.

The overnight attack in the southeastern city of Ghazni, the capital of a province with the same name, also wounded at least 20 members of the security forces, said Baz Mohammad Hemat, the administrator of the Ghazni city hospital.

The city was in lockdown and fighting continued throughout most of the day Friday, with sporadic bursts of gunfire from Taliban fighters who had hunkered down in elevated positions inside Ghazni from which they were shooting, some residents said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear for their safety.

An Afghan military helicopter crash landed in the city during the daytime fighting, and four Afghan soldiers on board were injured, one critically, said Mohammad Radmanish, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense. He said it was not clear if the helicopter had been hit.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a Taliban attack Thursday night in western Herat province left six policemen dead in the district of Obe, said the governor's spokesman there, Gelani Farhad.

The brazen assaults by the Taliban, who have been gaining more ground in their annual spring offensive and who have shrugged off the government's latest offers of a cease-fire and negotiations, underscore the difficulties Afghan forces face in battling the relentless insurgency on their own in efforts to end the nearly 17-year war.

The Ghazni attack began around 2 a.m. with intense gunbattles raging and fires burning in several shops in the city's residential areas, provincial police chief Farid Ahmad Mashal told The Associated Press.

After repulsing the daring assault, police conducted house-to-house searches for any remaining Taliban fighters. An investigation was also underway on how the insurgents had managed to infiltrate so deep into the city, barely 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Hemat, the hospital administrator, said two wounded civilians were also brought to the hospital but that the city was shut down and that ambulances were not being sent out.

Mashal said there were more than 100 other casualties but he could not give a breakdown of the dead and wounded. Most of the casualties were Taliban, he said.

Several bodies of dead Taliban fighters remained on the street after government forces pushed the insurgents from Ghazni, the police chief said. Bodies of 39 Taliban fighters were recovered from under a bridge on the southern edge of the city.

Airstrikes called in to quash the offensive also killed dozens of Taliban, Mashal said. Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish said the army had helped the police and that the city was brought under control of government forces.

Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said American forces and U.S. attack helicopters had assisted Afghan troops in pushing back the Taliban during the night's multiple attacks in Ghazni.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 24 of 58

"U.S. forces responded with close-air support and conducted one drone strike," O'Donnell said.

By midday Friday, O'Donnell said that fighting was continuing inside Ghazni, prompting the U.S. forces to return American attack helicopters and fighter jets to the area after they were initially pulled back.

"It is a show of presence," he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed parts of Ghazni had been seized and scores of people killed. There was no Taliban comment on the Herat attack that killed six policemen at a district checkpoint.

After dawn Friday, Ghazni's residents were staying indoors and all shops in the city remained closed. The road from Kabul to Afghanistan's southern provinces was also closed because it runs through Ghazni.

The insurgents have stepped up attacks across the country since NATO and the United States formally ended their combat mission in 2014, and have seized control of several districts. U.S. and NATO forces remain in Afghanistan mainly in a supporting and training role.

Separately from the Taliban, an Islamic State affiliate has also carried out dozens of deadly attacks in recent years, mainly targeting security forces and minority Shiites.

Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## Father recalls compound suspect as high-strung, not radical

By **STEPHEN R. GROVES** and **MORGAN LEE**, Associated Press

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — At a remote New Mexico outpost, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj and others who came to the area with him last year were by local authorities' accounts "extremist of the Muslim belief" who trained youth to use fire arms and carry out future school shootings.

Yet for the 40-year-old's father, a Muslim cleric who leads a well-known New York City mosque, the son he knew before losing touch with him in the past year was not "radical." He may have been "high-strung," but the father never believed his son was extreme enough to kill anyone.

And the imam's two daughters — 38-year-old Hujrah Wahhaj and 35-year-old Subhannah Wahhaj, who had lived at the compound too — were the "sweetest kinds of people," he said. One was a public speaker, and the other a writer.

"This doesn't seem like them. We know them," their father Siraj Wahhaj, who shares a name with his son, said Thursday in New York. "Muslims all over the world, those who know him, they said this is strange."

The three siblings and two other adults have been charged with child abuse stemming from the alleged neglect of the 11 children found living on a squalid compound on the outskirts of tiny Amalia, New Mexico. All five are being jailed without bail in New Mexico.

A man at the compound, Lucas Morton, also is facing a count of "harboring a felon" on accusations he refused to tell authorities the younger Siraj Wahhaj's location when authorities raided the compound.

Wahhaj, whom authorities say was eventually found armed with multiple firearms, including an assault rifle, is wanted on a warrant in Georgia in the disappearance of his son.

Prosecutors said Abdul-ghani Wahhaj was 3 years old when he was snatched from his mother in December in Jonesboro, Georgia, near Atlanta.

A warrant says the father at some point told his wife he wanted to perform an exorcism on the boy, who suffers seizures and requires constant attention because of a lack of oxygen and blood flow at birth.

The elder Wahhaj said he did not know anything about his son wanting to perform an exorcism on the boy. But he said his son and one of his daughters had become "overly concerned" with the idea of people becoming possessed.

A search for the child led authorities to the compound. However, Abdul-ghani was not among the 11 children rescued last week.

A second search of the acreage Monday — which would have been Abdul-ghani's birthday — uncovered the remains of a small boy that a state medical examiner is working to identify.

The imam said he learned from other family members that the boy whose body was found on the prop-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 25 of 58

erty is his grandson, but authorities have not confirmed that.

In an interview with WSB-TV in Atlanta, the boy's mother also called for "justice" as she described how her life had been taken from her after her son was abducted by his father. She said that was out of character for him.

She and Siraj Ibn Wahhaj had been married almost 14 years, and she said he disappeared after saying he was taking the boy to a park.

"I wasn't able to save my son," she told the television station.

The elder Siraj Wahhaj echoed her call for justice for his grandson.

"Whoever is responsible, then that person should be held accountable," Wahhaj said.

The imam said the 11 children removed from the site are either his biological grandchildren, or a part of his family through marriage. He added that Morton is his son-in-law, and 35-year-old Janie Leveille is his daughter-in-law.

The imam describe his family as large and tight-knit, adding that it was out of character for his children to have broken off direct contact with them since family ties are important in the Muslim faith.

Speaking at his Brooklyn mosque, the elder Wahhaj said he didn't understand why his son had taken the family and disappeared into the desert, but suggested a psychiatric disorder was to blame.

"I don't know what his thinking was," the grandfather said. "Because to do something as extreme as this, it doesn't make sense."

The imam's mosque has attracted a number of radicals over the years, including a man who later helped bomb the World Trade Center in 1993.

The mosque was founded in a neighborhood that, at the time, was plagued with drug violence, and got press attention in the 1980s for organizing nighttime anti-drug patrols intended to improve public safety.

The imam said he learned his son, who had worked as a security guard in New York City in the past, was licensed to carry firearms, and that his weapons were registered.

Prosecutors have filed no charges in response to accusations they outlined in court documents this week that children at the compound were being trained with firearms to commit school shootings. That claim came from a foster parent of one of the 11 children removed from the compound who reported the allegation to authorities.

The elder Wahhaj said he had no knowledge of any such training.

"It sounds crazy. But I don't know," he said. "I make no judgments yet because we don't know."

Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe said the FBI put the New Mexico compound under surveillance in recent months that included photographs of the compound and interviews.

He said the images were shared with the mother of Abdul-ghani, but she did not spot her son, and the photographs never indicated the father was at the compound, leaving the sheriff without the information he needed to obtain a search warrant.

That changed when Georgia authorities received word that children inside the compound were starving, Hogrefe said.

The elder Wahhaj said the tip came to law enforcement through him. He said he was able to learn their whereabouts from a note that his daughter, one of the five adults at the site, sent to a man in Atlanta saying they were starving and asking for food.

That man then notified Wahhaj, who said he decided to send food and contact police.

---

Groves reported from New York. Associated Press writers Brinley Hineman in Atlanta and Mary Hudetz in Albuquerque, N.M., contributed to this report.

## **Prosecutors to rest case at Manafort financial fraud trial**

**By ERIC TUCKER, STEPHEN BRAUN and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — After three days of dramatic and sometimes salacious testimony in the trial of Paul Manafort, prosecutors returned to the nuts and bolts of their case against the former Trump campaign



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 26 of 58

chairman as they sought to show he obtained millions of dollars in bank loans under false pretenses.

Attorneys for special counsel Robert Mueller also got a rare, and narrow, acknowledgment from U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III that he likely erred when he angrily confronted them a day earlier over whether he had allowed a witness to watch the trial.

The judge's comments and testimony about Manafort's loans came Thursday, during the eighth day of his trial, as prosecutors began presenting the bulk of their bank fraud case after spending days largely on tax evasion allegations. Prosecutors say they expect to rest their case Friday.

On Thursday, a group of bank employees told jurors about discrepancies and outright falsehoods contained on Manafort's loan applications.

Melinda James, a Citizens Bank mortgage loan assistant, testified that Manafort told the bank that a New York City property would be used as a second residence, but she found it listed as a rental on a real estate website. That distinction matters because banks regard loans for rental, or investment, properties as riskier and may impose restrictions, including on how much money they're willing to lend.

Jurors saw an email from Manafort to his son-in-law, Jeffrey Yohai, in which he advised him that an appraiser was looking to schedule a visit to the property.

"Remember, he believes that you and Jessica are living there," Manafort wrote in the email, referencing his daughter.

Airbnb executive Darin Evenson also told jurors that one of Manafort's New York City properties was offered as a rental through much of 2015 and 2016 — a direct contradiction of the documents the longtime political consultant submitted to obtain a \$3.4 million loan.

Manafort also asserted on a loan application that he did not have a mortgage on a separate New York property, even though he actually did, and signed paperwork indicating he understood that he could face criminal penalties for providing false information to the bank.

The prosecution has called more than 20 witnesses, including Manafort's longtime deputy Rick Gates, and introduced a trove of documentary evidence as they've sought to prove Manafort defrauded banks and concealed millions of dollars in offshore bank accounts from the IRS. But along the way they've not only faced an aggressive defense team but a combative relationship with Ellis.

The judge has subjected the prosecution to repeated tongue-lashings over the pace of their questioning, their large amount of trial exhibits and even their facial expressions. But on Thursday, Ellis told jurors he went overboard when he erupted at prosecutors a day earlier for allowing an expert witness to remain in the courtroom during the trial.

"Put aside my criticism," Ellis said, adding, "This robe doesn't make me anything other than human."

Prosecutors had asked Ellis to tell the jury that he made an error in admonishing them during the Wednesday testimony of IRS agent Michael Welch.

Ellis had heatedly confronted prosecutor Uzo Asonye, saying he hadn't authorized Welch to watch the entirety of the trial. Witnesses are usually excluded from watching unless allowed by the judge.

But in their filing, prosecutors attached a transcript showing that in fact Ellis had approved the request a week before. They said his outburst prejudiced the jury by suggesting they had acted improperly and could undermine Welch's testimony.

"The Court's sharp reprimand of government counsel in front of the jury on August 8 was therefore erroneous," prosecutors wrote. "And, while mistakes are a natural part of the trial process, the mistake here prejudiced the government by conveying to the jury that the government had acted improperly and had violated court rules or procedures."

Welch had told jurors that Manafort didn't report at least \$16 million on his tax returns between 2010 and 2014. He also said Manafort should have reported multiple foreign bank accounts to the IRS in those years.

On Thursday, they also asked Ellis to seal portions of a bench conversation during Gates' testimony because "substantive evidence" in an ongoing investigation was discussed. Prosecutors didn't elaborate, but one bench conference came after Manafort's defense team tried to question Gates about whether he had discussed his work on the Trump campaign with Mueller's team.

The judge agreed Thursday night to seal the portion of the sidebar.

Neither Manafort nor Gates was charged in connection with their Trump campaign work, but the special counsel continues to investigate Russian election interference and any ties to associates of the president.

Thursday's testimony was devoid of some of the drama of recent days, when Gates was confronted about having embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and was forced to admit on the witness stand to an extramarital affair.

Read the Mueller team's filing regarding the judge's scolding: <http://apne.ws/FPSP7vk>

Read the Mueller team's filing regarding an ongoing investigation: <http://apne.ws/PpO0wgB>

## Tense calm, cease-fire follows another Hamas-Israel flare-up

By IAN DEITCH, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Gaza's militant Islamic Hamas rulers and Israel appeared to be honoring a cease-fire Friday that ended two days of an intense flare-up in violence amid efforts by neighboring Egypt to negotiate between the two sides.

Israel's military said that no rockets were fired from Gaza at Israel overnight and it conducted no airstrikes in Gaza against Hamas targets. Israel's government hasn't confirmed the truce.

Hamas' Al Aqsa TV channel reported late Thursday that the Egyptian-brokered deal has taken hold "on the basis of mutual calm." It was the third such truce in recent weeks.

However, the deal did not seem to address the deeper issues that have prevented the bitter enemies from reaching a longer cease-fire arrangement.

Gaza militants fired some 200 rockets at Israel and the Israeli military carried out a similar number of airstrikes in Gaza in this latest round of violence.

Also Friday, the Israeli military lifted restrictive recommendations for residents of some areas in southern Israel that it had set amid the Palestinian bombing, including suggestion to avoid open areas and beaches. "Following a security assessment," residents can resume their daily routine, the military said.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007. In this week's fighting, the Palestinian Health Ministry said three Palestinians were killed. Israeli officials said seven people were wounded by rocket or mortar fire on the Israeli side.

Israel and Hamas have come close to serious conflict in recent weeks after four months of violence along Gaza's border.

Hamas has led weekly border protests aimed in part at drawing attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas took control of Gaza. Large turnout at the protests has also been driven by widespread desperation in Gaza, amid worsening conditions linked to the blockade. Power is on for just a few hours a day, unemployment has sky-rocketed and poverty is widening.

Israel has also been battling almost daily airborne arson attacks from Gaza caused by kites and balloons rigged with incendiary devices flown across the border that have sparked large fires that destroyed forests, burned crops and killed wildlife and livestock.

Over the past four months, 163 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, including at least 120 protesters, according to the Gaza Health Ministry and a local rights group. An Israeli soldier was killed by a Gaza sniper during this same period.

Israel says it is defending its border and accuses Hamas, a group sworn to its destruction, of using the protests as cover for attempts to breach the border fence and attack civilians and soldiers. Palestinians have thrown explosive devices and opened fire at forces along the border in numerous instances over the past few months, the military says. But the high casualty rate among mainly unarmed protesters has drawn international criticism.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 28 of 58

## Several games see players demonstrate during national anthem

By The Associated Press

Player demonstrations took place during the national anthem at several early NFL preseason games Thursday night.

In Philadelphia, Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins and cornerback De'Vante Bausby raised their fists during the anthem, and defensive end Chris Long placed his arm around Jenkins' shoulder. Jenkins had stopped his demonstration last December.

Defensive end Michael Bennett walked out of the tunnel during the anthem and walked toward the bench while it played. It appeared all the Steelers stood.

"Everybody is waiting for what the league is going to do," Jenkins said. "We won't let it stop what we stand for. I was very encouraged last year with the direction and that obviously took a different turn.

"I think it's important to utilize the platform as we can because for whatever reason, we have framed this demonstration in a negative light, and often players have to defend why we feel the need to fight for everyday Americans, and in actuality we're doing the right thing."

At Miami, Dolphins receivers Kenny Stills and Albert Wilson and defensive end Robert Quinn protested during the anthem. Stills and Wilson kneeled behind teammates lined up standing along the sideline. Quinn stood and raised his right fist. There were no apparent protests by the Buccaneers.

"As a black man in this world, I've got an obligation to raise awareness," Quinn said. "If no one wants to live in unity, that's why we're in the situation we're in."

Stills kneeled during the anthem during the 2016-17 seasons and has been vocal discussing social injustice issues that inspired the protest movement by NFL players.

Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, a leader of the movement, tweeted support for Stills and Wilson.

"My brother @kstill continued his protest of systemic oppression tonight by taking a knee," the tweet said. "Albert Wilson joined him in protest. Stay strong brothers!"

And in Seattle, three Seahawks players ran into the team's locker room prior to the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Defensive linemen Branden Jackson and Quinton Jefferson, and offensive lineman Duane Brown left the field following team introductions and before the start of the anthem. They returned to the sideline immediately after it concluded. All three were among a group of Seattle players that sat during the anthem last season.

Brown and Jefferson said they intend to continue the action all season. Seattle coach Pete Carroll said the team discussed the topic and decided to support individual decisions. Brown said he didn't believe there had been much progress made from the demonstrations of last season.

"Everyone was clear on my decision and understands and supports it," Brown said. "We all have different realities in this country and they understand my perspective. We're all on good terms."

In Jacksonville, four Jaguars remained in the locker room during the national anthem, and team officials said it would be up to the players to explain why they weren't on the field. Cornerback Jalen Ramsey, linebacker Telvin Smith, and running backs Leonard Fournette and T.J. Yeldon joined teammates on the sideline after the anthem.

"As a man, I got certain beliefs," said Smith, who wore "Salute the Service" cleats. "You know what I mean? This is not going to become a distraction, and Jacksonville's not going to become a distraction for this team. I got beliefs. I did what I did. I don't know if it's going to be every week, can't answer if it's going to be every week.

"But as a man I've got to stand for something. I love my team, I'm dedicated to my teammates, and that's what we're talking about. I did what I did. It was love. I hope people see it and respect it. I respect views."

At Baltimore, both teams stood, but while most of the Ravens lined up shoulder to shoulder on the sideline, second-year linebacker Tim Williams stood alone in front of the bench with his back toward the field.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 29 of 58

All of the players on each team at New England appeared to stand for the national anthem, some bowing their heads and others placing their hands on their hearts. The Patriots observed a moment of silence beforehand for Weymouth, Massachusetts, police officer Michael Chesna, who was killed last month in the line of duty.

The league and the players' union have yet to announce a policy for this season regarding demonstrations during the anthem after the league initially ordered everyone to stand on the sideline when "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played, or remain in the locker room.

"The NFL has been engaged in constructive discussions with the NFL Players Association regarding the anthem and issues of equality and social justice that are of concern to many Americans," league spokesman Brian McCarthy said in an email.

"While those discussions continue, the NFL has agreed to delay implementing or enforcing any club work rules that could result in players being disciplined for their conduct during the performance of the anthem.

"Meanwhile, there has been no change in the NFL's policy regarding the national anthem. The anthem will continue to be played before every game, and all player and non-player personnel on the field at that time are expected to stand during the presentation of the flag and performance of the anthem. Personnel who do not wish to do so can choose to remain in the locker room.

"We remain committed to working with the players to identify solutions and to continue making progress on important social issues affecting our communities."

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFLfootball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Governor's demand pushes Kobach out of Kansas vote count

By JOHN HANNA, AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach said Thursday that he will remove himself from the further counting of votes while his Republican primary battle with Gov. Jeff Colyer hangs in the balance, describing it as a "symbolic" step in response to a public demand from Colyer.

The governor publicly accused Kobach, the state's top elections official, of giving county election officials information about the handling of yet-uncounted ballots "inconsistent with Kansas law." He demanded in a letter to Kobach that Kobach stop advising county officials and have the state's attorney general do it instead.

The close contest between the embattled governor and a conservative lightning rod took another acrimonious turn as Kobach's already tiny lead shrunk from 191 votes to just 121 out of 311,000 ballots cast, after two counties reported discrepancies between their tallies and what Kobach's office reported on its website.

Kobach needled Colyer in a Fox Business network appearance Thursday evening, saying it would be "pointless" to remove himself from the process because the state's 105 counties handle the counting of ballots but he might do so just to make Colyer "feel good."

But a little more than an hour later, questioned on CNN, Kobach said: "I said, 'Of course, if he wants me to, I would,'" and he has said, 'OK, I do want you to,' so I will."

The counting is not complete because state law says mail-in ballots that are postmarked Tuesday can be accepted by the counties as late as Friday. And county officials still must review perhaps several thousand provisional ballots, given to voters at the polls when their eligibility is in question. They have until Aug. 20 to finish.

Colyer released his letter to Kobach after his campaign announced that it had set up a "voting integrity" hotline and urged people to report their complaints about the election. Colyer spokesman Kendall Marr said it received "countless" reports, adding that he personally knows of several dozen.

"It has come to my attention that your office is giving advice to county election officials — as recently as a conference call yesterday — and you are making public statements on national television which are inconsistent with Kansas law and may serve to suppress the vote in the ongoing primary election process,"



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 30 of 58

Colyer said in his letter to Kobach.

In the letter, Colyer questioned whether Kobach was advising counties not to count some mail-in ballots, including those with missing or unreadable postmarks, even if they arrived by Friday. He also said he heard reports that some unaffiliated voters — who by law can declare an affiliation at the polls and vote in a primary — were given provisional ballots instead of the regular ballots they were due.

And Colyer wrote that circumstances “obviously increase the likelihood that one of the candidates may seek a recount, or even the possibility of litigation.”

Kobach, a vocal advocate of tough immigration and voter identification policies, advised Trump’s campaign in 2016 and the White House afterward and served as vice chairman of Trump’s now disbanded commission on election fraud. Trump tweeted his endorsement of Kobach on Monday, less than 24 hours before polls opened.

But Kobach’s no-apology, hard-right conservatism has alienated even some fellow Republicans, and Colyer has sought to project a more mild-mannered, steadier style.

As secretary of state, Kobach sets rules, gives county officials guidance and appoints election commissioners in the state’s four most populous counties. Kobach spokeswoman Danedri Herbert said he would respond to Colyer’s letter Friday.

Kobach told reporters Wednesday that he knew of no significant reports of irregularities in Tuesday’s primaries, outside of long delays in reporting results from the state’s most populous county. There, Johnson County in the Kansas City area, results were delayed by problems with uploading data from new voting machines.

But the totals for the GOP primary for the governor’s race in at least two counties posted on the secretary of state’s website did not match the totals from the counties themselves.

First, in Thomas County in the state’s northwest corner, the final, unofficial results posted on the secretary of state’s website show Kobach winning there with 466 votes to Colyer’s 422. But the tally posted by the Thomas County clerk’s office shows Colyer with 522 votes, or 100 votes more, a number the clerk confirmed to The Associated Press on Thursday.

Bryan Caskey, state elections director, said county officials pointed out the discrepancy Thursday following a routine request for a postelection check of the numbers to counties by the secretary of state’s office.

“This is a routine part of the process,” Caskey said. “This is why we emphasize that election-night results are unofficial.”

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms said it’s possible that her handwriting on the tally sheet faxed to the secretary of state’s office was bad enough in the rush of primary-night business that the number for Colyer wasn’t clear. But a copy she provided to the AP showed that the number for Colyer is unambiguously “522.”

“They just misread it,” she told the AP.

On CNN, Kobach suggested the mistake was among the kind of “keystroke errors” that happen routinely and are caught later.

And in Haskell County, elections officials said they had not initially reported returns from one precinct. Once those votes were added, the net result was a gain of 30 votes.

---

Follow John Hanna on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

---

Sign up for “Politics in Focus,” a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP’s best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <https://bit.ly/2ICER3D>

## Tennessee carries out its 1st execution in nearly a decade

By JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee carried out the execution Thursday of a man condemned for the 1985 rape and murder of a 7-year-old girl, marking the first time the state has applied the death penalty in nearly a decade.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 31 of 58

Inmate Billy Ray Irick, 59, received a three-drug injection at a maximum-security prison in Nashville and was pronounced dead at 7:48 p.m., authorities said. He was convicted in 1986 in the death of Paula Dyer, a Knoxville girl he was babysitting.

The blinds between a witness room and the execution chamber were opened at 7:26 p.m. and Irick could be seen through glass windows strapped to a gurney, an IV stuck in his arm and leading back through the wall to a room hidden by a mirror-window, where someone administered the drugs. Asked if he had any words before the chemicals began flowing, Irick at first appeared to sigh and say "no." But then he said, "I just want to say I'm really sorry and that, that's it."

Then the execution proceeded. A minute later, his eyes closed. Snoring and heavy breathing were heard. At 7:34 p.m., there was coughing, huffing and deep breaths. An attendant began yelling "Billy" and checked the inmate and grabbed his shoulder, but there didn't seem to be any reaction. Minutes later, Irick let out a cough or choking sound, as his face turned dark purple. Then he appeared to stop making noise and was soon after pronounced dead.

Hours earlier Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for the execution, denying Irick's request for a stay. But Justice Sonia Sotomayor issued a blistering dissent, recounting details from a recent state court trial of a case brought by inmates contesting Tennessee's execution drugs.

Irick's attorney, Gene Shiles, said his client was stoic in his last hours and accepted what would happen with "a lot of grace." Irick ordered up a burger, onion rings and a soft drink for his last meal, and spoke with chaplains, Shiles said.

It was the first execution in Tennessee since December 2009, when inmate Cecil Johnson received a lethal injection for the 1980 killings of three people during a Nashville convenience store robbery. Since then, the state has endured legal challenges and difficulties finding execution chemicals, including its previous drug, pentobarbital.

On Monday, the state Supreme Court also had refused to block Irick's execution, saying the lawsuit filed by inmates involving the execution drugs wasn't likely to succeed. That case is continuing in a state appeals court.

In a ruling late last month, Davidson County Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle wrote that attorneys for 33 death row inmates, including Irick, didn't prove that there is a substantially less painful means to carry out an execution or that the drugs the state planned on using would cause the inmate to be tortured to death.

Tennessee's execution protocol called for use of midazolam as a sedative, the muscle-relaxer vecuronium bromide and then potassium chloride to stop the heart.

At question is whether midazolam is actually effective in rendering someone unconscious and unable to feel pain from the other two drugs. Federal public defender Kelley Henry said at trial that inmates were tortured to death, feeling like they were suffocating, drowning, and utterly confused.

Henry said in a statement Thursday night that witness observations suggest the midazolam didn't render Irick fully unconscious, and those accounts were "indicative of pulmonary edema" from the drug.

Attorneys for the state have said the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the use of midazolam in a three-drug series. Once Irick was dead, Attorney General Herbert Slatery said justice was delayed too long for the little girl killed and her family.

A small group of the victim's family members watched in a separate viewing room. They opted against speaking at a news conference afterward.

"I hope tonight's lawful execution in some way eases the heartache Paula's family has lived with and brings a degree of closure to a chapter of their lives that has been indescribably difficult," Slatery said in the statement.

In Nevada, the drug company Alvogen has sued to block use of midazolam in a stalled execution. Tennessee is one of 15 states siding with the state of Nevada against the company, though Tennessee is planning to use a version of the drug that is compounded, not directly purchased from a manufacturer.

Supporters and opponents of the death penalty turned out Thursday evening in places around the state.

The Tennessean newspaper reported death penalty opponents gathered around Tennessee in several churches and outside the prison before the execution. About 50 protesters were outside the prison, while

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 32 of 58

others who support the death penalty also showed up as authorities kept the two groups apart.

The execution comes a week after Pope Francis revealed new Catholic church teaching that deems the death penalty "inadmissible" under all circumstances.

Prior to the pope's emboldened stance against the death penalty, three Catholic bishops in Tennessee wrote Gov. Bill Haslam, telling him that "the death penalty contributes to the growing disrespect for human life."

Haslam declined on Monday to intervene in Irick's case.

## Flames inch close to California homes as thousands evacuate

By AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An intentionally set wildfire grew perilously close to homes in Southern California on Thursday as evacuation orders expanded to more than 20,000 residents, though some homeowners stayed behind to fend off the flames themselves.

Firefighters fought a desperate battle to stop the Holy Fire from reaching homes as the blaze surged through the Cleveland National Forest above the city of Lake Elsinore and its surrounding communities. They were trying to keep the flames from devouring neighborhoods and taking lives, as gigantic fires still burning in Northern California have done.

"Our main focus this afternoon was getting everyone out safely," said Thanh Nguyen, a spokesman for the crews battling the Holy Fire.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Orange and Riverside counties because the fire threatened thousands of homes. The proclamation directs state agencies to provide help to local governments.

As flames raged closer, some residents ignoring evacuation orders stood in driveways or on top of roofs and used garden hoses to keep their homes wet and to fight the flames as smoke billowed around them.

Joe Rodriguez was using a power washer to wet down his patio in the McVicker Canyon Park neighborhood on Thursday morning.

Although the neighborhood is under an evacuation order, the 38-year-old Rodriguez told the San Bernardino Sun that he decided to stay to help save his home.

"Until this thing is barking at my door, I'm going to stick with it," he said.

He said a line of fire retardant dropped on the hill above his house has so far checked the fire's advance, along with helicopter water drops.

Rodriguez's wife and two daughters evacuated.

Lake Elsinore Mayor Natasha Johnson and her family were among the families evacuating Thursday, Councilman Bob Magee said at a community meeting about the fire.

Earlier in the day, Johnson told residents in a video posted on Twitter to stay vigilant and listen to evacuation orders.

"Stay safe," she said as smoke billowed behind her. "God bless."

Magee told residents at the community meeting to follow the mayor's example and listen to evacuation warnings and orders.

"I also want to remind you not to panic," he said. "We are in great hands, the best in the world.

"Pray for our town. Pray for our people," he said.

Fire crews worked in 100-plus-degree (38 Celsius) heat. Aircraft dumped bright pink lines of fire retardant to wall off the fire from homes. The 16-square-mile (41-square-kilometer) blaze was only 5 percent contained.

The fire is named for Holy Jim Canyon, where it erupted Monday and burned a dozen cabins.

A resident of the canyon, 51-year-old Forrest Gordon Clark, was charged Thursday with arson and other crimes that could send him to prison for life.

Clark refused to go to court Thursday and his arraignment was postponed to Friday. It's unclear whether he has an attorney.

Winds gusting to nearly 20 mph (32 kph) at times drove the fire through dense chaparral on the foothill

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 33 of 58

slopes and along ridgetops, sending up an enormous column of smoke that smeared the sky for miles around.

The fire threatened communities near the inland resort of Lake Elsinore in Riverside County, about 70 miles (113 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles.

Hot temperatures, erratic and gusty winds, and tinder-dry vegetation are the same conditions that caused wildfires in Northern California to explode into deadly conflagrations in the space of two weeks.

North of San Francisco, fire crews continued progress in corralling the twin fires known as the Mendocino Complex. Since starting on July 27, the fires — which are being fought together as a single incident — have destroyed more than 100 homes near Clear Lake and become the largest fire in recorded state history.

The area burned by the blaze is now larger than the cities of Los Angeles. The fires were 51 percent contained.

In the Redding area, the year's deadliest fire was nearly half surrounded and was burning into remote and rugged forest land but grass, brush and trees there are so dry from years of drought and recent heat that the potential remained for the fire to grow, state fire officials said.

The Carr Fire, as it's called, killed six people, including two firefighters, and burned more than 1,000 homes. Two other people — a state fire heavy equipment mechanic assigned to the fire and a utility worker trying to restore power near the fire— have died in car accidents.

Michael Balsamo and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

## Prosecutors shift focus to fraud charges in Manafort trial

By ERIC TUCKER, STEPHEN BRAUN and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — After three days of dramatic and sometimes salacious testimony in the trial of Paul Manafort, prosecutors returned Thursday to the nuts and bolts of their case against the former Trump campaign chairman as they sought to show he obtained millions of dollars in bank loans under false pretenses.

Attorneys for special counsel Robert Mueller also got a rare, and narrow, acknowledgment from U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III that he likely erred when he angrily confronted them a day earlier over whether he had allowed a witness to watch the trial.

The judge's comments and testimony about Manafort's loans came during the eighth day of his trial as prosecutors began presenting the bulk of their bank fraud case after spending days largely on tax evasion allegations. Prosecutors say they expect to rest their case Friday.

On Thursday, a group of bank employees told jurors about discrepancies and outright falsehoods contained on Manafort's loan applications.

Melinda James, a Citizens Bank mortgage loan assistant, testified that Manafort told the bank that a New York City property would be used as a second residence, but she found it listed as a rental on a real estate website. That distinction matters because banks regard loans for rental, or investment, properties as riskier and may impose restrictions, including on how much money they're willing to lend.

Jurors saw an email from Manafort to his son-in-law, Jeffrey Yohai, in which he advised him that an appraiser was looking to schedule a visit to the property.

"Remember, he believes that you and Jessica are living there," Manafort wrote in the email, referencing his daughter.

Airbnb executive Darin Evenson also told jurors that one of Manafort's New York City properties was offered as a rental through much of 2015 and 2016 — a direct contradiction of the documents the longtime political consultant submitted to obtain a \$3.4 million loan.

Manafort also asserted on a loan application that he did not have a mortgage on a separate New York property, even though he actually did, and signed paperwork indicating he understood that he could face criminal penalties for providing false information to the bank.

The prosecution has called more than 20 witnesses, including Manafort's longtime deputy Rick Gates,



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 34 of 58

and introduced a trove of documentary evidence as they've sought to prove Manafort defrauded banks and concealed millions of dollars in offshore bank accounts from the IRS. But along the way they've not only faced an aggressive defense team but a combative relationship with Ellis.

The judge has subjected the prosecution to repeated tongue-lashings over the pace of their questioning, their large amount of trial exhibits and even their facial expressions. But on Thursday, Ellis told jurors he went overboard when he erupted at prosecutors a day earlier for allowing an expert witness to remain in the courtroom during the trial.

"Put aside my criticism," Ellis said, adding, "This robe doesn't make me anything other than human."

Prosecutors had asked Ellis to tell the jury that he made an error in admonishing them during the Wednesday testimony of IRS agent Michael Welch.

Ellis had heatedly confronted prosecutor Uzo Asonye, saying he hadn't authorized Welch to watch the entirety of the trial. Witnesses are usually excluded from watching unless allowed by the judge.

But in their filing, prosecutors attached a transcript showing that in fact Ellis had approved the request a week before. They said his outburst prejudiced the jury by suggesting they had acted improperly and could undermine Welch's testimony.

"The Court's sharp reprimand of government counsel in front of the jury on August 8 was therefore erroneous," prosecutors wrote. "And, while mistakes are a natural part of the trial process, the mistake here prejudiced the government by conveying to the jury that the government had acted improperly and had violated court rules or procedures."

Welch had told jurors that Manafort didn't report at least \$16 million on his tax returns between 2010 and 2014. He also said Manafort should have reported multiple foreign bank accounts to the IRS in those years.

On Thursday, they also asked Ellis to seal portions of a bench conversation during Gates's testimony because "substantive evidence" in an ongoing investigation was discussed. Prosecutors didn't elaborate, but one bench conference came after Manafort's defense team tried to question Gates about whether he had discussed his work on the Trump campaign with Mueller's team.

The judge agreed Thursday night to seal the portion of the sidebar.

Neither Manafort nor Gates was charged in connection with their Trump campaign work, but the special counsel continues to investigate Russian election interference and any ties to associates of the president.

Thursday's testimony was devoid of some of the drama of recent days, when Gates was confronted about having embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and was forced to admit on the witness stand to an extramarital affair.

---

Read the Mueller team's filing regarding the judge's scolding: <http://apne.ws/FPSP7vk>

Read the Mueller team's filing regarding an ongoing investigation: <http://apne.ws/PpO0wgB>

## Outdoor fun dwindles as smoky haze hangs over California

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A dull haze and the faint smell of smoke from distant blazes have blanketed many California cities for two weeks, forcing summer campers to stay inside, obscuring normally bright skylines and leaving cars covered with ash.

Smoky air from blowing winds is nothing new in California, but air quality experts say it's rare for the dirty air to linger for so long, a reality of ever-larger fires that take longer to extinguish.

The haze stretches from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range to Sacramento and hovers over the San Francisco Bay Area, with most major population centers in between suffering air quality that's considered dangerous for children, the elderly and people with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

Kaela Baylis of Sacramento used to take her nearly 2-year-old son outside twice a day but has only gone in the morning the last 10 days.

"He asks to go outside a lot in the afternoon," she said Wednesday as they strolled through a park.

Two major wildfires — one called the Mendocino Complex Fire that is the largest in California history

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 35 of 58

— are burning more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Sacramento and another huge fire near Yosemite National Park is a little farther to the southeast.

Firefighters made significant progress against the Mendocino Complex for the first time Wednesday but said the blazes will likely persist through September.

The fires have combined to produce unhealthy air that has drifted as far east as Salt Lake City, 450 miles (725 kilometers) away.

The skies there were so murky that residents couldn't even see the nearby mountain range that hovers over the valley earlier this week. Utah air quality officials warned children and seniors to limit time outside.

The skies cleared a bit Wednesday in Utah's capital city, but more smoke is expected to blow in over the weekend, National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Rogowski said.

Thursday marked the Sacramento region's 14th straight "Spare the Air" day, when people are encouraged not to drive and add further pollutants to the air — the longest stretch since at least 2001.

A similar warning is effect in the San Francisco Bay Area, and air quality experts in California's Central Valley and areas southeast of Los Angeles are warning residents to limit outdoor exposure because of wildfires.

John and Rosalie Gonzales strolled through a Sacramento park on Wednesday with their toddler granddaughter, whom they were visiting. For the last few days at their home in the San Francisco Bay Area community of Albany, they have awakened to ash on their cars from the Mendocino Complex Fire.

That was a rarity until a few years ago, before California began experiencing more unusually large wildfires, they said.

"It doesn't seem like it's sustainable to have this happening year after year after year," she said.

A day earlier, dozens of summer campers sat inside watching a movie at a Sacramento YMCA.

"Normally that doesn't happen on a regular day at camp," said Jay Lowden, president of the YMCA for a nine-county region that serves more than 700 kids weekly at 13 summer camps.

His counselors monitor the air quality on a daily basis, and Lowden said he may cancel a planned family camp this weekend in the foothills because of the smoke.

Sac United, a competitive youth soccer club, has canceled four practices in the past two weeks because of poor air quality. High school sports teams are being similarly conscious of dangerous air as practices get underway.

Sacramento residents have taken to Twitter to share photos of a dark gray sky hanging over the Capitol and a city skyline difficult to make out. The smell of smoke has even slipped into downtown office buildings.

"It was horrible; I've never seen anything like it before," Mayor Darrell Steinberg said of Monday's afternoon haze.

Lori Kobza, spokeswoman for the Sacramento Air Quality Management District, said it's hard to predict when things will improve because of the unpredictability of the fires and the winds.

Because the city is located in a valley, it's easier for smoky air to get trapped when high pressure systems blow in, making Sacramento like a smoke-filled bowl that's had a lid placed tightly on top.

"We're all trapped in it," Kobza said.

---

Associated Press writer Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

---

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

## **Destructive Indonesian quake leaves injured waiting for help**

**By TODD PITMAN and NINIEK KARMINI, Associated Press**

KAYANGAN, Indonesia (AP) — Falling rubble instantly paralyzed Mary Andoni from the waist down when Indonesia was shaken by one of its deadliest earthquakes in years. But there was nobody in her destroyed village to get her the help she needed. There were too many other injured and dead.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 36 of 58

"It was overwhelming," Andoni's 35-year-old brother-in-law, Ilham, said of the chaotic aftermath of Sunday's magnitude 7.0 earthquake on the island of Lombok. "There was no way to get her out."

On Thursday, paramedics finally evacuated Andoni to a hospital in the city of Mataram. But her experience underscores the challenges facing this devastated region: Four days after the earthquake killed hundreds of people and displaced 270,000 more, injured survivors in remote areas cut off by landslides and broken bridges are still emerging from the ruined countryside, struggling to reach the doctors they desperately need.

And the crisis hasn't ended.

Lombok has been hit by over 300 aftershocks, including a 5.9 magnitude tremor on Thursday that brought down more buildings and injured 24 more people, authorities said. In northern Lombok, some people leaped from their vehicles on a traffic-jammed road when the aftershock hit, while an elderly woman standing in the back of a pickup truck wailed "God is Great." At a Mataram hospital, about a dozen people were being treated while fearful staff moved patients outside.

At a first aid station in Kayangan that was set up under a sprawling tent because of the threat of more quakes, Dr. Mohammad Akbar said medical staff were combing the region with an ambulance to locate injured people.

By 3 p.m., he said, they had found and treated 40 people with broken bones, cuts and bruises. Many were also dehydrated.

"They're all stuck in isolated areas with little or no transport," Akbar said. "They're too weak to get here on their own, so we need to go to them."

Akbar said paramedics were treating infections caused by traumatic wounds, and they were reaching some victims too late. One 3-year-old girl, he said, had been found with a wounded foot that had turned pale blue after being untended for three days. Doctors at another hospital on Lombok had to amputate it.

Because the nearest hospital — an hour's drive away in Tanjung — was wrecked by the quake, Akbar's aid station is referring patients to an Indonesian naval ship now docked at an empty port on the coast.

Navy Col. Andi Abdullah, an orthopedic surgeon stationed on the huge gray vessel, said military doctors had received 46 survivors so far, and performed surgery on 16.

Two of the ship's wards were filled by patients lying on stretchers with IV drips in their arms. Outside, in the hallways, family members who accompanied them sat barefoot on mats, staring blankly at the ship's walls.

"Their physical wounds are easy to treat. But their psychological wounds are much harder to heal, especially for those who lost loved ones," Abdallah said.

"When we ask 'what happened to you?' most of them break down. ... They find it very hard to describe what they went through. They have no words."

Abdallah said several of the patients had waited to seek medical help because they had run high into the hills fearing the quake would spawn a tsunami, and stayed there for days.

One of them, a 45-year-old woman named Supisah, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, said her leg had been shattered by a collapsing wall. After a villager helped carry her to higher ground, she did not make it back down until Wednesday.

In Kopang Daya, injured villagers also got their first proper treatment Thursday after medics arrived with a portable X-ray machine and other supplies. They tended to an elderly woman with an injured face and hips who had been knocked over by her grandson as they scrambled from their house.

Kayangan appears to be one of Lombok's hardest-hit areas. Associated Press journalists who visited Thursday saw kilometer after kilometer (mile after mile) of homes by the road that were completely flattened. One family had put down mats and mattresses on a cleared rectangle to sleep on; towering around them were piles of broken wood and shards of concrete, the crushed remains of their home.

Akbar's aid station is the only one in the vicinity, and it's more than half an hour drive away.

One 9-year-old girl who had been brought there by her father closed her eyes and screamed in pain as the paramedic wrapped white gauze around a pair of splints that ran the length of her broken leg.

"Does it hurt, is this too tight?" the medical worker asked.

"It hurts," the girl replied, gripping her pink shirt. "It hurts so much."

Andoni, the woman who was paralyzed in the quake, lay on an adjacent bed waiting for an ambulance to take her to Mataram.

Her brother-in-law said he found her buried from the head down in the rubble of her home on Sunday night. She had saved her 5-month-old daughter's life by cradling her against her breast as concrete smashed into her back, likely fracturing her spine.

The extent of her injuries was unclear, and Ilham said their village — Pakmayong — was consumed by chaotic scenes. Several people helped him carry Andoni on a blanket that acted as a stretcher to an open field where they stayed for days.

"There were so many wounded, they all needed help," said Ilham, who also helped bury the bodies of three of his neighbors. "Everybody was in shock."

The day after the quake, they ate nothing, then survived two more days by eating cassava. Then, on Thursday, an ambulance showed up to take Andoni to the clinic in Kayangan.

"It's been horrible, like doomsday," Ilham said after she left. "The local government can't handle this on its own. They need help, too."

---

Associated Press journalists Andi Jatmiko in Tanjung, Indonesia, and Firdia Lisnawati in Mataram, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

## Court orders ban on harmful pesticide, says EPA violated law

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court ruled Thursday that the Trump administration endangered public health by keeping a widely used pesticide on the market despite extensive scientific evidence that even tiny levels of exposure can harm babies' brains.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to remove chlorpyrifos from sale in the United States within 60 days.

A coalition of farmworkers and environmental groups sued last year after then-EPA chief Scott Pruitt reversed an Obama-era effort to ban chlorpyrifos, which is widely sprayed on citrus fruit, apples and other crops. The attorneys general for several states joined the case against EPA, including California, New York and Massachusetts.

In a split decision, the court said Thursday that Pruitt, a Republican forced to resign earlier this summer amid ethics scandals, violated federal law by ignoring the conclusions of agency scientists that chlorpyrifos is harmful.

"The panel held that there was no justification for the EPA's decision in its 2017 order to maintain a tolerance for chlorpyrifos in the face of scientific evidence that its residue on food causes neurodevelopmental damage to children," Judge Jed S. Rakoff wrote in the court's opinion.

Michael Abboud, spokesman for acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, said the agency was reviewing the decision, but it had been unable to "fully evaluate the pesticide using the best available, transparent science."

EPA could potentially appeal to the Supreme Court since one member of the three-judge panel dissented from the majority ruling.

Environmental groups and public health advocates celebrated the court's action as a major success.

"Some things are too sacred to play politics with, and our kids top the list," said Erik Olson, senior director of health and food at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "The court has made it clear that children's health must come before powerful polluters. This is a victory for parents everywhere who want to feed their kids fruits and veggies without fear it's harming their brains or poisoning communities."

The attorneys general of California and New York also claimed victory.

"This is one more example of how then-EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt skirted the law and endangered the health of our children — in this case, all because he refused to curb pesticide levels found in food,"



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 38 of 58

Attorney General Xavier Becerra of California said in a statement.

Chlorpyrifos was created by Dow Chemical Co. in the 1960s. It remains among the most widely used agricultural pesticides in the United States, with the chemical giant selling about 5 million pounds domestically each year through its subsidiary Dow AgroSciences.

Gregg Schmidt, a spokesman for Dow, said chlorpyrifos is a critical pest management tool used in countries around the world.

"We will continue to support the growers who need this important product," Schmidt said.

Chlorpyrifos belongs to a family of organophosphate pesticides that are chemically similar to a nerve gas developed by Nazi Germany before World War II.

As a result of its wide use as a pesticide over the past four decades, traces of chlorpyrifos are commonly found in sources of drinking water. A 2012 study at the University of California at Berkeley found that 87 percent of umbilical-cord blood samples tested from newborn babies contained detectable levels of the pesticide.

Under pressure from federal regulators, Dow voluntarily withdrew chlorpyrifos for use as a home insecticide in 2000. EPA also placed "no-spray" buffer zones around sensitive sites, such as schools, in 2012.

In October 2015, the Obama administration proposed banning the pesticide's use on food. A risk assessment memo issued by nine EPA scientists concluded: "There is a breadth of information available on the potential adverse neurodevelopmental effects in infants and children as a result of prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos."

Federal law requires EPA to ensure that pesticides used on food in the United States are safe for human consumption — especially children, who are typically far more sensitive to the negative effects of poisons.

Shortly after his appointment by President Donald Trump in 2017, Pruitt announced he was revering the Obama administration effort to ban chlorpyrifos, adopting Dow's position that the science showing chlorpyrifos is harmful was inconclusive and flawed.

The Associated Press reported in June 2017 that Pruitt announced his agency's reversal on chlorpyrifos just 20 days after his official schedule showed a meeting with Dow CEO Andrew Liveris. At the time, Liveris headed a White House manufacturing working group, and his company had written a \$1 million check to help underwrite Trump's inaugural festivities.

Following AP's report, then-EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said that March 9, 2017, meeting on Pruitt's schedule never happened. Bowman said the two men had instead shared only a "brief introduction in passing" while attending the same industry conference at a Houston hotel and that they never discussed chlorpyrifos.

However, internal EPA emails released earlier this year following a public records lawsuit filed by The Sierra Club suggest the two men shared more than a quick handshake.

Little more than a week after the conference and before Pruitt announced his decision, the EPA chief's scheduler reached out to Liveris' executive assistant to schedule a follow-up meeting.

"Hope this email finds you well!" wrote Sydney Hupp, Pruitt's assistant, on March 20, 2017. "I am reaching out today about setting up a meeting to continue the discussion between Dow Chemical and Administrator Scott Pruitt. My apologies for the delay in getting this email into you — it has been a crazy time over here!"

Subsequent emails show Hupp and Liveris' office discussing several potential dates that the Dow CEO might come to Pruitt's office at EPA headquarters, but it is not clear from the documents whether the two men ever linked up.

Liveris announced his retirement from Dow in March of this year.

Pruitt resigned July 6 amid more than a dozen ethics investigations focused on such issues as outsized security spending, first-class flights and a sweetheart condo lease for a Capitol Hill condo linked to an energy lobbyist.

Bowman, who left EPA in May to work for GOP Sen. Joni Ernest of Iowa, declined to comment on her earlier characterization of the March 2017 interaction between Pruitt and Liveris or what "discussion" the internal email was referring to.

"I don't work for EPA anymore," Bowman said.

Current EPA spokesman James Hewitt said, "We stand by our statement from last year."

Follow Associated Press investigative reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

## Abortion activists vow to press fight despite Argentina loss

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** and **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**, Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Women's groups across Latin America vowed to keep fighting for a right to abortion despite the Argentine Senate's rejection of a bill early Thursday that would have legalized the procedure in Pope Francis' home country.

There were even expectations that the conservative government might now move to decriminalize abortions following the wave of demonstrations by feminist groups that pushed the legislation before Congress.

Senators debated for more than 15 hours before voting 38-31 in the early hours of Thursday against the measure, which would have allowed abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Anti-abortion forces celebrated blocking the legislation, which had already passed the Chamber of Deputies in June, and they remain strong in this predominantly Roman Catholic region, even as the church has lost influence due to secularization and an avalanche of sex abuse scandals.

But the grassroots movement behind the legislation was buoyed by coming closer than ever to achieving approval for abortion and activists vowed to keep pressing to expand women's reproductive rights.

"We were sad that abortion will continue to be clandestine in Argentina and will produce more deaths, but we left happy and proud of the fight that we're carrying through," said Marina Cardelli, a member of the Feminist Wave group. "We won because we looked at each other eye-to-eye and we realized how strong we are, and that abortion will eventually be legal."

Indeed, conservative President Mauricio Macri, who had promised to sign the legislation if it passed Congress even though he opposes abortion, said after the Senate's vote that the debate will continue.

"We've shown that we have matured as a society, and that we can debate with the depth and seriousness that all Argentines expected ... and democracy won," Macri said.

A legalization bill cannot be debated again until next year, but Macri's government is expected to include a provision to decriminalize abortion when it introduces legislation later this month for overhauling the penal code. Although that would not legalize the practice, it is seen as a compromise solution.

Maria Jose Benitez, a student who backed the campaign against legalization, said government could do more to help women financially and psychologically during pregnancy.

"The state needs to be present with vulnerable women so they don't have to reach the point of an abortion. ... After that the baby can be given up for adoption," Benitez said.

In recent years, Argentina has been at the forefront of social movements in the region. In 2010, it became the first country in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriage. More recently, the Ni Una Menos, or Not One Less, movement that was created in Argentina to fight violence against women has grown into a global phenomenon.

"Fortunately, women are gaining spaces and we've been learning from those spaces that they're demanding," said Gustavo Bayley, a tattoo artist wearing the abortion movement's green handkerchief on his arm. "It's the beginning of revolutions."

International human rights and women's groups closely followed the campaign, and figures such as U.S. actress Susan Sarandon and "The Handmaid's Tale" author Margaret Atwood supported the cause.

"This is a wave," said Claudia Dides, director of Miles, a Chilean non-governmental group that supports sexual and reproductive rights. "It not only influenced Chile, because we're close (to neighboring Argentina), but all of Latin America, and countries in Africa and Europe."

Efforts to ease or tighten abortion restrictions have repeatedly emerged across Latin America in recent years as socially conservative countries grapple with shifting views on once-taboo issues. Chile last year became the last nation in South America to drop a ban on abortions in all cases, though several countries

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 40 of 58

in Central America still have absolute prohibitions.

Demonstrations in support of the Argentine abortion measure were held in countries across the region as Argentina's senators debated.

"This is obviously a setback," said Ima Guirola of the Women Studies Institute, a group in El Salvador. But she said legalization advocates will still campaign in her country, which is one of the few in the world to ban abortion under all circumstances.

Under current Argentine law, abortion is allowed only in cases of rape or a risk to a woman's health. The Health Ministry estimated in 2016 that the country sees as many as a half million clandestine abortions each year. Activists estimated 3,030 women have died of illegal abortions since 1983 and framed the issue as a health matter.

The Catholic Church and others, including some physicians groups, strongly opposed the legislation, arguing it would violate Argentine law that guarantees life from the moment of conception.

"It's not about religious beliefs but about a humanitarian reason," Cardinal Mario Poli, the archbishop of Buenos Aires, told churchgoers at a "Mass for Life" held Wednesday night during the Senate debate. "Caring for life is the first human right and the duty of the state."

Pope Francis this year denounced abortion as the "white glove" equivalent of the Nazi-era eugenics program and urged families "to accept the children that God gives them."

In Brazil, which is home to the world's largest population of Catholics as well as fast-growing evangelical faiths, abortion is illegal, with three exceptions: if a woman is raped, pregnancy puts her life in danger, or the fetus is brain-dead. But the Supreme Federal Tribunal recently held an extraordinary session to hear arguments on whether to allow elective abortions during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Rosangela Talib, a coordinator for Catholics for Choice, a leading advocate in Brazil for reproductive rights, said the defeat in Argentina will not deter the fight to decriminalize abortion.

"The bill may not have been approved now, but it will be in the future," Talib said.

---

Associated Press writers Eva Vergara in Chile, Marcos Aleman in El Salvador and Peter Prengaman and Stan Lehman in Brazil contributed to this report.

## Member of Congress, member of corporate board? It's allowed

By **RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The indictment of Rep. Chris Collins on insider trading charges is drawing new attention to the freedom members of Congress have to serve on corporate boards or to buy and sell stock in industries they're responsible for overseeing.

Collins, a New York Republican, has denied any wrongdoing stemming from his involvement with Innate Immunotherapeutics Limited, a biotechnology company based in Sydney, Australia. He was Innate's largest shareholder, holding nearly 17 percent of its shares. He also was a member of the company's board of directors — an arrangement that itself isn't a violation of the law. Yet it's a connection that can create the potential for conflicts of interest.

Members of Congress are not prohibited from serving on corporate boards as long as they don't receive any compensation for doing so.

The thinking behind this exception, which doesn't extend to top-level executive branch officials, is to ensure that lawmakers aren't prevented from accepting positions on the boards of charities or other philanthropic organizations, according to Craig Holman of the nonpartisan advocacy group Public Citizen.

Holman, who lobbies in Washington for stricter government ethics and lobbying rules, noted that lawmakers are often privy to sensitive information before it becomes public. That makes the opportunity for insider trading "very prevalent," he said.

"My own office was stunned" by Collins' position, said Holman. "Really, they can sit on a board of directors?"

Government ethics lawyer Kathleen Clark said another downside of permitting members of Congress to

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 41 of 58

be on corporate boards is that they may feel a sense of loyalty to the business, spurring them to share information with the company they obtained through government service.

Clark, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis, also challenged the notion that service on non-commercial organizations is inherently altruistic and doesn't come with potential conflicts of interest. Even nonprofits can have an interest in seeing particular legislation passed, she said.

"In almost every situation, the ethics standards members of Congress impose on themselves are more lax than what they require of high-level executive branch officials," Clark said.

Stan Brand, senior counsel at the Washington law firm Akin Gump and former general counsel to the House, said the strength of the laws against insider trading should allay fears about corporate board service by lawmakers. It's irrelevant whether members serve on boards, he said. It's what they do with sensitive information that counts.

Brand said the potential distraction of being on a corporate board should be a bigger concern.

"Being a member of Congress is supposed to be a full-time job," he said.

Two New York lawmakers, Democrat Kathleen Rice and Republican Tom Reed, announced Thursday they plan to introduce legislation that would update House rules to prohibit members from serving on the boards of publicly held companies.

"There should never be a doubt in the public's mind to lead them to think their Representative could be corrupted or incriminated because of their stake or position in a private company," Rice and Reed said in a joint statement.

It's difficult to know how many lawmakers have board positions. Each member of Congress files a financial disclosure report each year, but there's no central database where that information is available.

Collins was arrested Wednesday and charged with conspiracy, securities fraud, wire fraud and making false statements to the FBI. Parallel charges were filed against two other people, including Collins' son.

Prosecutors say Rep. Collins got an email from Innate's CEO while attending a picnic last year at the White House that said a trial of a drug the company developed to treat multiple sclerosis was a clinical failure. They said Collins told his son, who then dumped his stock in the company before the trial results were announced publicly. Several other people also benefited from the inside information.

A law known as the STOCK Act and signed into law by President Barack Obama in April 2012 prevents members of Congress "from trading stocks based on nonpublic information they gleaned on Capitol Hill," according to a White House fact sheet issued at the time. The law also required that members of Congress report certain "investment transactions" within 45 days of making the trade.

But, according to a report Holman issued last year, the law's primary goal was to reduce insider trading by members of Congress, "not reduce stock trading per se."

Public Citizen compiled a database of stock trading activity by U.S. senators three years before the law's passage and three years after. It found that "many individual senators continue to be very active in the stock market and often trade stocks in businesses that they oversee in their official capacity."

For example, the report said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., traded hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of stock in energy infrastructure businesses while he was a member of the Senate Banking Committee. And Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., traded in natural resources and precious metal stock while on a subcommittee that oversees these industries.

Tom Price, who was President Donald Trump's first secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, also came under scrutiny for his purchases of Innate stock while he was a Republican member of Congress from Georgia.

---

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

---

This story corrects the party identification of Rep. Tom Reed. He is a Republican.



## Yemen rebels say Saudi coalition airstrike in north kills 50

By AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — An airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels hit a bus driving in a busy market in northern Yemen on Thursday, killing least 50 people including children and wounding 77, Yemen's rebel-run Al Masirah TV said citing rebel Health Ministry figures.

The Saudi-led coalition, meanwhile, said it targeted the rebels, known as Houthis, who had fired a missile at the kingdom's south on Wednesday, killing one person who was a Yemeni resident in the area.

Al Masirah TV aired dramatic images of wounded children, their clothes and schoolbags covered with blood as they lay on hospital stretchers. The International Committee of the Red Cross said on Twitter that its team at an ICRC supported hospital in Saada received the bodies of 29 children, all under 15 years old. It also received 48 wounded people, including 30 children, it said.

The attack took place in the Dahyan market in Saada province, a Houthi stronghold. The province lies along the border with Saudi Arabia. The bus was ferrying local civilians, including many children, according to Yemeni tribal leaders who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

There was no breakdown in the casualties and it was not immediately clear how many of the victims were on the bus itself and how many were pedestrians in the immediate area around it. It was also unclear if there were other airstrikes in the area.

Col. Turki al-Malki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, said the attack in Saada targeted the rebels who had fired a missile at the kingdom's south, killing one person and wounding 11 others. The coalition said Wednesday's projectile, fired toward the southwestern Saudi city of Jizan, was intercepted and destroyed but its fragments caused the casualties.

The statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, also said the missile was launched "deliberately to target residential and populated areas."

Al-Malki insisted Thursday's attack carried out in Saada is a "legitimate military action" and is "in accordance with international humanitarian law and customs." He also accused the Houthis of recruiting children and using them in the battlefields to cover for their actions.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the coalition air strike and called on all parties to spare civilians and "to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack," U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

The secretary-general "calls for an independent and prompt investigation into this incident" and urgently renews his call for a negotiated solution to the Yemen conflict, Haq said.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said U.S. officials can't confirm all the details about the attack, but are concerned about reports of civilian deaths.

"We call on the Saudi-led coalition to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident," Nauert said. "We take all credible accounts of civilian casualties very seriously."

Saudi Arabia backs Yemen's internationally recognized government and has been at war with the Houthis since March 2015. The rebels control much of northern Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa.

"Scores killed, even more injured, most under the age of ten," the head of the ICRC in Yemen, Johannes Bruwer, said on his Twitter account, adding that the ICRC in Yemen is "sending additional supplies to hospitals to cope with the influx."

Later on Thursday, airstrikes hit the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and sounds of the blasts reverberated across the city's southern and western neighborhoods. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties in those strikes.

Yemen's stalemated, three-year war has killed over 10,000 people, badly damaged Yemen's infrastructure and crippled its health system. The coalition faces widespread international criticism for its airstrikes in Yemen that kill civilians.

Impoverished Yemen, on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is now in the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 22.2 million people in need of assistance.

Last week, Yemeni medical officials said the coalition conducted airstrikes in the rebel-held port city of Hodeida, killing at least 28 people and wounding 70. But the coalition denied carrying out any attacks in the city, saying it follows a "strict and transparent approach based on the rules international law."

The fight for the port of Hodeida, a key lifeline for supplies and aid for Yemen's population on the brink of starvation, has become the latest battleground in the devastating war.

The Iran-aligned Houthis regularly fire into Saudi Arabia and have targeted its capital, Riyadh, with ballistic missiles. They say their missile attacks on the kingdom are in retaliation for air raids on Yemen by the Western-backed coalition.

The U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, has been pushing to bring the warring parties to restart peace talks. He recently announced plans to invite Yemen's warring parties to Geneva on Sept. 6 to hold the first round of consultations.

---

Associated Press writer Menna Zaki in Cairo contributed to this report.

## **Pence outlines US Space Force plan for 'next battlefield'**

**By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pointing to growing threats and competition from Russia and China, the White House on Thursday announced ambitious plans to create the U.S. Space Force as a sixth, separate military warfighting service by 2020.

The proposal taps into the American public's long fascination with space — but with a military focus. The plan faces daunting hurdles and requires congressional approval. Military leaders and experts have questioned the wisdom of launching an expensive, bureaucratic new service branch.

Vice President Mike Pence announced the new force during a Pentagon speech, fleshing out an idea that President Donald Trump has extolled in recent months as he vowed to ensure American dominance in space. Pence described space as a domain that was once peaceful and uncontested but has now become crowded and adversarial.

"Now the time has come to write the next great chapter in the history of our armed forces, to prepare for the next battlefield where America's best and bravest will be called to deter and defeat a new generation of threats to our people, to our nation," Pence said.

Trump marked Pence's announcement with a tweet: "Space Force all the way!"

Pence portrayed the change as a response to foes' potential aggression rather than any offensive U.S. military effort.

Citing Russia and China, he said that for years U.S. adversaries have "pursued weapons to jam, blind and disable our navigation and communication satellites via electronic attacks from the ground."

"As their actions make clear, our adversaries have transformed space into a warfighting domain already, and the United States will not shrink from this challenge," he said.

In June, the president directed the Pentagon to create a "separate but equal" space force, a complicated and expensive move that could take years to gain Congress' approval and become operational. On Thursday, Pence said the administration will work with Congress on the plan and will outline a budget next year. The last time the U.S. created a new uniformed military service was in 1947, when the Air Force was launched after World War II. It joined the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has endorsed steps to reorganize the military's space-warfighting forces and create a new command, but he previously opposed launching an expensive new service. A new branch of the military would require layers of bureaucracy, military and civilian leaders, uniforms, equipment and an expansive support structure.

Asked about the cost, Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan told reporters the Pentagon doesn't have a number yet but will when the legislative proposal is finished by the end of the year.

"I would assume it's billions," he said. Shanahan said Mattis' opposition to a separate service last year was rooted in concerns about spending more on overhead while under strict budget caps — implying that

those worries may not be as great now.

Deborah James, who served as Air Force secretary for the final three years of the Obama administration, estimated it would be five to 10 years before a separate service would be fully formed.

"Eventually, it'll settle out, but you will go through years of thrashing. And is that thrashing going to slow your momentum or is it going to help you achieve your goals and address the real challenges that we have on our plate?" she said at Brookings Institution last week. "I don't think so. I don't. I wouldn't vote in favor of it."

The military's role in space has been under scrutiny because the United States is increasingly reliant on orbiting satellites that are difficult to protect. Satellites provide communications, navigation, intelligence and other services vital to the military and the national economy.

U.S. intelligence agencies reported earlier this year that Russia and China were pursuing "nondestructive and destructive" anti-satellite weapons for use during a future war. And there are growing worries about cyberattacks that could target satellite technology, potentially leaving troops in combat without electronic communications or navigation abilities.

The Pentagon proposal delivered to Congress on Thursday lays out plans to consolidate U.S. warfighting space forces and make organizational changes to boost the acquisition and development of technologies.

It says the department will establish a Space Command to develop warfighting operations, a Space Development Agency to more quickly identify and develop new technologies, a Space Operations Force of leaders and fighters and a new support structure. In the second phase, the Pentagon would combine all the components into the new sixth branch of service.

In the meantime, the Space Command would be led by a four-star general, and Pence said a new high-level civilian post — assistant defense secretary for space — would also be created.

"We are glad that the Pentagon is finally taking these steps in enhancing our space strength," Reps. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., and Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., leaders of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, said in a statement. They said the Pentagon report was the start of a "multi-year process that we think will result in a safer, stronger America."

Much of the military's current space power is wielded by the Air Force Space Command, which has its headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The command has about 38,000 personnel and operates 185 military satellite systems, including the Global Positioning System and communications and weather satellites. It also oversees Air Force cyberwarfare.

Under the new plan, space elements that are now scattered across the department would be gathered under one command, which Pence said would better ensure integration across the military.

---

Associated Press Radio correspondent Sagar Meghani in Washington and writers Robert Burns in Washington and Dan Elliott in Colorado contributed to this report.

## **Kavanaugh's Bush White House role emerges in new documents**

**By LISA MASCARO and MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first documents from Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's time in George W. Bush's White House were released Thursday as the Senate begins to review the judge's unusually lengthy public record for confirmation hearings this fall.

The 5,700 pages from Kavanaugh's time in the White House counsel's office, a slim fraction of those available, were posted on the Senate Judiciary Committee's website after being compiled by a lawyer representing the former president as part of the GOP's expedited review process.

But Democrats and others scrutinizing President Donald Trump's nominee quickly cried foul, saying Republicans are "cherry-picking" from the initial cache of 125,000 Bush documents and skirting traditional procedures.

Kavanaugh's five years working for Bush, as a White House counsel and the staff secretary, are the subject of a fierce dispute between Senate Republicans and Democrats about the scope of documents

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 45 of 58

being made available. The battle over the paper trail has come to dominate the debate over confirming the 53-year-old appellate judge to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The first download of thousands of papers Thursday is being pored over by activists and media organizations for insight into Kavanaugh's legal thinking. But it's unclear how revealing the papers will be. One of the initial pages was a discussion of lunch plans.

The records cast light on Kavanaugh's role when he served in the White House counsel's office. Documents regarding the selection of judicial nominees show he took an interest in news and editorial coverage of Democratic resistance to some of Bush's early nominees to appellate judgeships.

"This was great," Kavanaugh wrote in a July 8, 2001, email that included a copy of a Washington Post column by Benjamin Wittes, then a member of the editorial board, making the case that "the ideological stakes in the appointment of lower court judges should not be overstated." Wittes has emerged as a prominent Trump critic.

Another email carried the heading, "Good editorial in Chicago Tribune," and included a piece calling on the Senate to act on Bush's judicial nominations "without undue delay."

One topic Democrats have been particularly interested in reviewing has been the Bush-era detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects. Kavanaugh testified at his appeals court confirmation hearing in 2006 that he "was not involved and am not involved in the questions about the rules governing detention of combatants."

Among the emails released Thursday was one from November 19, 2001, in which he said he would be "happy to help" in preparing then-Attorney General John Ashcroft to respond to questions about a Justice Department policy that allowed investigators to monitor phone calls and mail between some terrorist suspects and their defense lawyers without a court order.

A week later, the Justice Department provided Kavanaugh information about the monitoring in which it said that 13 inmates — none related to the investigation of the Sept. 11 attacks — were having their conversations with lawyers listened to.

The email was written before the administration began detaining people at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. But it is sure to fuel Democratic suspicions that he was more deeply involved in terror policy than he let on during his 2006 hearing.

The records also contain fleeting, and decidedly tame, glimpses of the budding relationship between Kavanaugh and his future wife, Ashley Estes, who was serving as a secretary to the president. Kavanaugh has said their first date was on the night before the September 11 attacks.

Estes asked Kavanaugh in an email on March 27, 2002, "what time do you get off today and are you up for dinner, etc. or no?" Kavanaugh replied a minute later, "yes on dinner; not sure on time off, but should be 7:30ish, maybe earlier."

Kavanaugh's extensive time in public service means there's a long, voluminous record of documents spanning his time at the Bush White House, his work on Kenneth Starr's team investigating President Bill Clinton and his judicial career.

The National Archives and Records Administration is screening nearly 1 million pages related to Kavanaugh's time in the White House to make sure none of the material is subject to executive privilege under the Presidential Records Act. It says the review will not be completed until the end of October.

Once Kavanaugh became the nominee, Senate Republicans launched a separate operation to more quickly start obtaining the White House documents directly from Bush's team.

Sen. Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, has promised the most transparent process yet. Already, the panel has posted thousands of other documents related to Kavanaugh, including his questionnaire and his more than 300 court cases as an appellate judge.

But Democrats complain that Bush's lawyer has been able to selectively review and release the White House documents on an expedited basis without full oversight from the Archives.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said the GOP's unusual process of tapping Bush's lawyer, Bill Burck, to conduct an initial review and release of the documents is a conflict. Democrats complain that



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 46 of 58

Republicans are only reviewing paperwork from Kavanaugh's work in the counsel's office, but they also want records from his three years as staff secretary, where he touched almost every paper that reached Bush's desk. Burck worked under Kavanaugh at the Bush White House.

"We are seeing layer after layer of unprecedented secrecy in what is quickly becoming the least transparent nominations process in history," Schumer said.

Republicans are eager to confirm Kavanaugh this fall, before the November midterm elections, to deliver on a top Trump priority.

Because Republicans hold a majority in the Senate, confirmation is likely, But with the Senate narrowly divided 51-49, they cannot afford a defection in their ranks if all Democrats vote no. Dates have not yet been set for Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings.

Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko in Washington contributed to this report.

## Hamas says Gaza cease-fire reached with Israel

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Gaza's Hamas rulers said late Thursday that a truce had been reached with Israel, ending an intense two-day burst of violence that had pushed the region closer to war. But the deal did not appear to address the deeper issues that have prevented the bitter enemies from reaching a longer cease-fire arrangement.

Hamas' Al Aqsa TV channel reported late Thursday that the Egyptian-brokered deal has taken hold "on the basis of mutual calm." It said the deal was mediated by Egypt and other unidentified regional players.

A senior Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the agreement merely ended the latest round of violence, in which Gaza militants fired some 200 rockets at Israel and the Israeli military carried out a similar number of airstrikes in Gaza. He said Egypt, which often serves as a mediator between the sides, would continue the more difficult task of brokering a long-term cease-fire.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter with the media, denied a deal had been reached. But early Friday, the situation in Gaza appeared quiet.

The Hamas announcement came shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Security Cabinet ordered the army to take unspecified "strong action" against Gaza militants as the military reinforced units along the border.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007. In this week's fighting, the Palestinian Health Ministry said three Palestinians, including a pregnant woman and her 1-year-old daughter and a Hamas militant, were killed in separate airstrikes. Israeli officials said seven people were wounded by rocket or mortar fire on the Israeli side.

At times, Thursday's fighting resembled the 2014 war. In Israel, air raid sirens warning of incoming rocket fire wailed in southern Israel overnight and throughout the day, sending families scrambling into bomb shelters, canceling outdoor summer cultural events and forcing summer camps indoors. The Israeli air force, meanwhile, pounded targets across Gaza.

A Palestinian rocket struck the southern city of Beersheba late in the afternoon, landing in an open area. It was the first time a rocket had hit the city since the 2014 war.

Shortly after, an Israeli airstrike flattened the five-story cultural center in the Shati refugee camp, a crowded neighborhood of Gaza City. The airstrike set off a powerful explosion and sent a huge plume of black smoke into the air, causing crowds to scream in panic. Medical officials said at least seven bystanders were wounded.

The building is home to a popular theater and exhibits plays and other shows on a daily basis. An Egyptian-Palestinian cultural society also has an office in the building.

"The deliberate targeting of a cultural center with airstrikes and destruction ... is a barbaric act," said Hazem Qassem, a Hamas spokesman. He said the destruction of the Egyptian cultural office was "an

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 47 of 58

Israeli attempt to sabotage" the Egyptian cease-fire efforts.

The Israeli military said the building served as a Palestinian military installation. Hamas' Interior Ministry, including its secret police, has offices in an adjacent site, but those offices were not hit.

Despite the animosity, the enemies have signaled, through their contacts with Egypt, that they want to avoid another war. Reaching a deal, however, will likely require major concession on both sides.

Hamas is demanding the lifting of an Israeli-Egyptian border blockade that has devastated Gaza's economy, while Israel wants an end to rocket fire, as well as recent border protests and launches of incendiary balloons, and the return of the remains of two dead soldiers and two Israelis believed to be alive and held by Hamas.

Israel is believed to be offering an easing, but not an end, to the blockade.

Gaza's Health Ministry identified those killed in the airstrikes as 23-year-old Enas Khamash and her daughter Bayan, as well as a Hamas fighter, Ali Ghandour.

Kamal Khamash, the woman's brother-in-law, said the family was asleep when the projectile hit the house, and that her husband had been critically wounded. "This is a blatant crime and Israel is responsible for it," he said.

In southern Israel, two Thai laborers were among the seven wounded, and rockets damaged buildings in the cities of Sderot and Ashkelon. The military said it intercepted some 30 rockets, while most of the others landed in open areas.

At the United Nations, Israel's ambassador, Danny Danon, urged the secretary-general and U.N. Security Council to condemn Hamas militants for what he called "the unprovoked terrorist attack" on southern Israel.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said U.S. officials were concerned by the situation in Gaza.

"Overall, we condemn the launching of missile attacks into Israel, and call for an end to the destructive violence. We've seen reports that 180 or so rocket attacks have taken place, shot from Gaza into Israel, and we fully support Israel's right to defend itself, and to take actions to prevent provocations of that nature," Nauert said.

Tension along the Israel-Gaza border has escalated since late March, when Hamas launched what have become regular mass protests along Israel's perimeter fence with Gaza. The protests have been aimed in part at trying to break the blockade.

Israel and Hamas have engaged in several bouts of fighting over the past month. The latest round erupted Tuesday, when the Israeli military struck a Hamas military post in Gaza after it said militants fired on Israeli troops on the border. Hamas said two of its fighters were killed after taking part in a gunfire parade inside a militant camp.

Hamas officials said the group waited a day to retaliate until a group of senior leaders visiting from abroad had left the territory. The delegation was in Gaza to discuss the cease-fire efforts with local leaders.

Over the past four months, 163 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, including at least 120 protesters, according to the Gaza Health Ministry and a local rights group. An Israeli soldier was killed by a Gaza sniper during this period.

Israel says it has been defending its sovereign border against infiltration attempts by Hamas. But it has come under heavy international criticism for its frequent use of force against unarmed protesters.

---

Associated Press writers Mohammad Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, and Fares Akram in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

## Meet the newest US citizens: Melania Trump's parents

By MICHAEL R. SISK, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — First lady Melania Trump's parents were sworn in as U.S. citizens on Thursday, completing a legal path to citizenship that their son-in-law has suggested eliminating.

Viktor and Amalija Knavs, both in their 70s, took the citizenship oath at a private ceremony in New York

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 48 of 58

City. The Slovenian immigrants, a former car dealer and textile factory worker, had been living in the U.S. as permanent residents.

The Knaveses slipped in and out of a side entrance at a Manhattan federal building flanked by Department of Homeland Security police. Some workers inside didn't know what was going on. The couple said little, other than Viktor telling a reporter "thank you" when asked how they felt about becoming Americans.

The Knaveses' lawyer said they had "travailed a wonderful journey."

Lawyer Michael Wildes said the Knaveses applied for citizenship on their own and didn't get any special treatment. He confirmed that Melania Trump sponsored their green cards. Her husband, President Donald Trump, has proposed ending most family-based immigration, which he refers to as "chain migration."

"This golden experiment, these doors that are in America, remain hinged open to beautiful people as they have today," Wildes said after the ceremony.

Amid a bitter debate over immigration — particularly the Trump administration's separation of children from families crossing the border illegally — Wildes said the Knaveses' attaining citizenship was "an example of it going right."

Melania Trump, who has been vacationing with her husband in Bedminster, New Jersey, did not accompany her parents.

Her spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, declined to comment. She said the first lady's parents "are not part of the administration and deserve privacy."

Along with targeting illegal immigration, President Donald Trump has proposed sharply curbing legal immigration.

The Republican president proposed replacing most family-based immigration with a skills-based system after an attempted bombing by a Bangladeshi immigrant in New York last December. He also called for eliminating a visa lottery program for people from countries under-represented in the U.S.

The plan, which Trump reiterated last week at a Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania rally, would limit immigrants like his wife to sponsoring only their spouses and underage children to join them in the U.S. — not their parents, adult children or siblings.

Experts estimate those measures, so far resisted by Congress, would cut legal immigration into the U.S. nearly in half.

Wildes wouldn't say how long the Knaveses have lived in the U.S. Under the law, permanent residents must live in the country for at least five years before applying for citizenship.

The Knaveses' citizenship ceremony was kept hush-hush around the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building.

Security guards and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services workers in offices adorned with President Trump's portrait said they were unaware of anyone being sworn in there on Thursday. New citizens are normally minted on Fridays, they said, and often the ceremonies are held at the federal courthouse across the street.

The Knaveses raised Melania, born Melanija, in the rural industrial town of Sevnica while Slovenia was under Communist rule.

She attended high school in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, and changed her name to Melania Knauss when she started modeling.

She settled in New York in 1996 and met Trump two years later. They married in 2005.

Viktor Knave is 74, two years older than his son-in-law. Amalija is 73.

Trump hasn't commented or tweeted about his in-laws' newfound citizenship.

Around the same time the Knaveses were completing the ceremony, he was tweeting his rage about the ongoing Russia probe ("an illegally brought Rigged Witch Hunt") and his excitement about plans for a sixth branch of the military ("Space Force all the way!").

---

Follow Mike Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## School massacre relatives want school board ousted

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — The parents and spouses of the Florida high school massacre's victims called Thursday for the ouster of their county's school board, saying the members haven't done enough to bolster security before students return to class next week.

Tony Montalto, president of Stand With Parkland, the group the families formed after the Feb. 14 attack, pointed at a press conference to the Broward County school district's decision to abort an internal investigation into the Feb. 14 shooting and to delay installing metal detectors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where his 14-year-old daughter Gina, 13 other students and three staff members died.

"The constant reversals of policy decisions continue to leave our county's students and teachers at risk and clearly show that there is no unified plan to keep them safe," Montalto said. "The modern plague of mass shootings in America's schools forced school districts, administrators and law enforcement across the country to carefully study the lessons of tragedies like Columbine and Sandy Hook. Many acted quickly to protect students and teachers ... In Broward County there has been no sense of urgency."

Two parents of victims are running for the board in the Aug. 28 election where five of the nine seats will be decided.

The district said in a statement Thursday saying it's "understandable that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas families feel frustrated," but the district has made progress. Superintendent Robert Runcie has said police officers or armed guards will be at all 234 district schools starting Wednesday.

After the shooting, Florida became the first state to require all public schools have a police officer, armed guard or armed staff member present when open. An Associated Press survey of the state's 67 districts found many are struggling to hire enough police officers or guards to cover all schools and, like Broward, are turning to sheriff's offices and police departments to temporarily fill gaps.

Runcie has said the internal investigation was halted because it conflicted with the work of the state commission that's investigating the shooting and that logistical problems at Stoneman Douglas delayed installation of metal detectors.

"There is no fast, easy fix and there is no roadmap. The District has dealt with the shock and trauma of the shooting, managing the aftermath of the tragedy and a variety of ongoing investigations, as it continues to evaluate new and effective ways to enhance safety and security throughout the school system," the statement said.

But those explanations have done little to mollify the victims' family members, who crowded around a podium Thursday during a break in a meeting of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission. Those who spoke tore into the board and some tore into Runcie.

"The leadership in place is not the right leadership for the times — they are failing," said Fred Guttenberg, whose 14-year-old daughter Jaime was killed.

April Schentrup, who was an elementary school principal in the district when her 16-year-old daughter Carmen died at Stoneman Douglas, said "leadership matters."

"When we have leaders who wait to have others do their job for them, ask others to do their investigation, ask others to take roles that they should take on their own — that is not the leadership we need," said Schentrup, whom Runcie appointed to be the district's director of safety and security in June.

The Stoneman Douglas commission, meanwhile, heard Thursday from a crime analyst who said there's no personality profile that can predict campus shooters.

Analyst Nevin Smith said the FBI, Secret Service and other researchers who have examined school shootings over the past 20 years agree that no such profile exists. He told the commission that school officials instead should focus on individual student's behavior. He said his study of the 46 U.S. school attacks over the last 20 years showed that almost all were well-planned and that in 81 percent of the cases at least one outsider knew of the attack in advance and in 59 percent, two or more did.

In the Stoneman Douglas case, officials say law enforcement was told the 19-year-old suspect Nikolas Cruz, a former Stoneman Douglas student, had posted photos online of weapons and had threatened to



attack a school.

The commission held a closed door session Thursday to discuss Cruz's educational, mental-health and medical records. Under federal law, those are private.

Cruz is jailed on 17 first-degree murder charges. His attorneys have said he would plead guilty in exchange for a sentence of life in prison without parole. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

## **Estonia halts NATO air drills after jet misfires missile**

**By JARI TANNER, Associated Press**

HELSINKI (AP) — Estonia's defense minister has ordered a halt to NATO air exercises in Estonia pending an investigation after a missile was accidentally fired over the Baltic country's airspace by a Spanish fighter jet on a military exercise this week.

The air-to-air missile that was erroneously launched Tuesday over southern Estonia has not been found, but no people were reported injured or killed by the misfiring, Defense Minister Juri Luik said Thursday.

"The Spanish defense minister has apologized and expressed deep regret," Luik said at a news conference in the Estonian capital of Tallinn, adding that the commander of the Spanish Armed Forces apologized as well.

Estonian Prime Minister Juri Ratas spoke with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday, expressing Estonia's concern over the "serious incident."

The AMRAAM-type missile has a range of up to 100 kilometers (62 miles.) It may have crashed into a remote nature reserve in the eastern Jogeve region, not far from Estonia's border with Russia, or triggered its built-in self-destruct mode and exploded in midair, Luik said.

The Eurofighter Typhoon jet belonging to the Spanish Air Force was part of NATO's Baltic air-policing mission based in Lithuania and was carrying air-to-air missiles containing up to 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of explosives.

While Luik urged Spain to conduct a thorough investigation, he also launched an internal review of the safety regulations for arranging military air exercises in the tiny NATO nation of 1.3 million.

Until the completion of that review "I have suspended all NATO exercises in the Estonian airspace," he said.

Luik reaffirmed Estonia's trust in NATO's Baltic air mission, which started in 2004 as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined the military alliance. The three former Soviet republics don't possess fighter jets of their own.

The air policing is carried out from NATO's bases in Siauliai, Lithuania, and Amari, Estonia. French, Portuguese and Spanish fighter jets are currently in charge of the rotating four-month mission.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Thursday the Estonian missile incident showed that NATO's air drills are security risks for the region.

"What happened is yet another vivid demonstration of the fact that NATO's actions, including in the Baltic states, pose extra risks to security rather than improving it," Zakharova told reporters.

## **History shared but unreconciled in city's Confederate statue**

**By JAY REEVES, Associated Press**

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) — In 1906, when aging, white Confederate veterans of the Civil War and black ex-slaves still lived on the old plantations of the Deep South, two very different celebrations were afoot in this city known even then as a beacon of black empowerment.

Tuskegee Institute, founded to educate Southern blacks whose families had lived in bondage for generations, was saluting its 25th anniversary.

Meanwhile, area whites were preparing to dedicate a monument to rebel soldiers in a downtown park set aside exclusively for white people.

Flash forward to today and that same Confederate monument still stands in the same park, both of them

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 51 of 58

owned by a Confederate heritage group. They sit in the heart of a poor, black-controlled town of 9,800 people that's less than 3 percent white.

Students from what's now Tuskegee University once tried and failed to tear down the old gray statue, which has since become a target for vandals. But critics who want it gone aren't optimistic about removing it, even as similar monuments come down nationwide.

"I think it would probably take a bomb to get it down," said Dyann Robinson, president of the Tuskegee Historic Preservation Commission.

The story of how such a monument could be erected and still remain in place a century later offers lessons in just how hard it can be to confront a shared history that still divides a nation.

---

In 1860, before the Civil War began, Census records show 1,020 white people owned 18,176 black people in Macon County, where Tuskegee sits. The enslaved were mostly kept uneducated. Schooling became nearly as big a need as food and shelter once the fighting stopped in 1865.

Established by the Alabama Legislature through the joint work of a freed slave and a former slave owner, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute was founded in 1881, according to the school's official history. Booker T. Washington built it into a leading institution for educating blacks. To this day, it remains a leading historically black university.

By the time of Tuskegee's 25th anniversary, Washington was widely acclaimed for advocating practical education, character building and hard work to lift blacks from the poverty of the postwar South. William Howard Taft, who would become U.S. president a few years later, attended the celebration; so did industrialist and donor Andrew Carnegie.

Coverage of the anniversary festivities in *The Tuskegee News*, a white-owned newspaper, emphasized that blacks needed to get along with the whites who had near total control in the old Confederate states.

"Every address from northerner, or southerner, and black gave forth the unmistakable tribute to the value, yea, the absolute necessity of the southern negro doing all in his power to merit the confidence and friendly cooperation of the southern white man ...," the paper reported on its front page.

---

Meanwhile, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, composed of female descendants of Confederate veterans, was erecting monuments glorifying the "lost cause" of the South all over the region in the early 1900s. The women of the Tuskegee chapter planned one for their town.

They staged a musical performance and a chrysanthemum show to raise money for a Confederate statue, according to *Tuskegee News* accounts. Then, two months after the Tuskegee Institute anniversary, leaders of the white-controlled county government gave the United Daughters the main downtown square to serve as a "park for white people" around a memorial to Macon County's Confederate veterans, city records show.

The monument, which included the inscribed admonition to "honor the brave," finally was dedicated on Oct. 6, 1909. The *Montgomery Advertiser* called the ceremony "one of the largest masses of white people ever before witnessed in Tuskegee." Confederate flags waved and 13 young women were dressed in crimson and white to represent the Confederate states.

Newspaper stories from the time don't say whether any blacks attended the event, which included a parade through town, but they most certainly were around. Macon County was around 82 percent black at the time, Census records show, although Jim Crow laws kept whites in firm political control.

The nation's first black combat pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen, trained in the town in the 1940s, but not until the 1960s did the civil rights movement start changing political dynamics.

---

Blacks were first elected to office in Tuskegee in 1964, but whites still controlled most of Alabama. Frustrated after an all-white jury in another county acquitted a white man accused of murder in the shooting death of a civil rights worker, blacks took out their anger on the Confederate monument in 1966.

A crowd described in news reports as Tuskegee students converged downtown after jurors acquitted white gas station attendant Marvin Segrest in the killing of black Navy veteran and civil rights worker Samuel L. Younge Jr., who was gunned down after asking to use a whites-only bathroom. It took only 70

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 52 of 58

minutes or so for jurors to side with Segrest.

On a night when rocks flew through windows around the town square, demonstrators went after the Confederate monument.

Simuel Schutz Jr., a friend of Younge who participated in the demonstration, said protesters attached a chain or rope to the monument in a bid to pull it down, but failed.

"We didn't have a vehicle to topple it that night and that's why it's still there," said Schutz, 72, now a contractor in Trenton, New Jersey.

But protesters did have spray paint. The next morning, the soldier atop the monument had a yellow stripe down its back with the words "black power" scrawled on the base in black paint.

First elected mayor in 1972, Johnny Ford said he tried to have the monument relocated after taking office and again in 2015. Both efforts failed, as did a few similar attempts during the intervening years.

"Whites oppose moving it and older blacks didn't want to for fear of upsetting race relations," said Ford, now out of office after serving more than three decades both as mayor and a state representative from the area.

For some, the statue is just part of the city's landscape and isn't much of an issue.

"It's just part of Tuskegee, part of its history," said Kelvin Stephens, a black man who works in a computer shop across a street from the memorial.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy still owns the square where the monument stands, and they don't plan to remove it.

"It is a wonderful addition to the downtown area and has been there for over 100 years, and the United Daughters see no reason for it to change," said a letter to the city by an attorney for the group, Richard L. Wyatt.

The 2-acre (0.81-hectare) square has been open to everyone for years despite records that show it was supposed to be for only whites originally. Community members of all colors regularly gather on the green for events including the upcoming All Macon County Day, an annual event that will include hip-hop and rap music.

The city cuts the grass on the square and trims the rose bushes around the monument, but the United Daughters are in charge of the statue itself, officials said.

A United Daughters newsletter posted online shows the Tuskegee chapter faded away in 2001 only to be reactivated with eight members in 2014. A member of the United Daughters, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic in town, said the chapter was revived in large part to protect and maintain the memorial.

The few members still in town cleaned the statue after vandals tagged it with spray paint about three years ago, Wyatt said in an interview, but they've yet to remove black paint that stains the gray stone following a similar incident in October. No one was charged in the vandalism.

The United Daughters member said the group decided against cleaning the statue after the latest incident out of fear it would only be repeated. "We started to but we decided to just let sleeping dogs lie," she said.

Mayor Lawrence F. Haygood Jr. has said he understands why some people want the statue gone, but there are no moves afoot to remove it as the one-year anniversary approaches of a deadly confrontation over a Confederate monument in Charlottesville, Virginia.

It's unclear whether anything can be done anyway, since Alabama legislators passed a law last year banning the removal or alteration of sites including Confederate monuments.

In Birmingham, city officials built a wooden box around a 52-foot (15.85-meter)-tall obelisk that was erected to honor Confederate veterans in 1905 in a downtown park, and the state sued to enforce the law. A judge's upcoming ruling could clarify whether cities like Tuskegee can do anything about memorials that some find offensive and others revere.

In the meantime, Tuskegee's stone Confederate stands in the middle of a nearly all-black city, the butt of his musket resting near the feet and the hands gripping the barrel.

"It's just there in town like it's always been," said the mayor.

Associated Press news researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

For the complete AP coverage marking one year since the rally in Charlottesville, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/CharlottesvilleAYearLater> .

## **Puerto Rico: 1,400 died from hurricane but toll still at 64**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico is estimating in a report to Congress that Hurricane Maria killed more than 1,400 people, though an island official said Thursday that the confirmed toll remains frozen at 64 pending a scientific review due out soon.

The government, relying on updated statistics it first reported in June, said in a report to Congress detailing a \$139 billion reconstruction plan that there were 1,427 more deaths from September to December 2017 than the average for the same time period over the previous four years.

The territory's government said that the additional deaths resulted from the effects of a storm that led to a "cascading failures" in infrastructure across the island of 3.3 million people.

The administration of Gov. Ricardo Rossello stopped updating its official death toll months ago and ordered an investigation amid reports that the number was substantially undercounted. Public Safety Department Secretary Hector Pesquera said the new total will reflect the findings of the investigation, which is expected in the coming weeks.

The figure of more than 1,400, Pesquera said, "is simple math" based on the number of excess deaths. "This is not the official number of deaths attributable to Hurricane Maria," he said.

Hurricane Maria, which came just two weeks after Hurricane Irma passed near enough to cause damage to the island, knocked out power and water across Puerto Rico and caused widespread flooding that left many sick and elderly people unable to get medical treatment.

"The hurricanes' devastating effects on people's health and safety cannot be overstated," the government said in the report seeking assistance from Congress to help rebuild an island that was already struggling from a deep economic crisis at the time of the storm.

In the weeks after the storm, Puerto Rican officials said the storm directly caused 64 deaths, many in landslides or flooding. But they have also said that more people likely died due to indirect effects of the powerful storm. "We always anticipated that this number would increase as more official studies were conducted," Pesquera said.

The government commissioned an independent epidemiological study by George Washington University and the Milken Institute of Public Health that is due in coming weeks.

The use of the higher death toll in the report to Congress was first reported Thursday by The New York Times.

Most of the deaths occurred not in the initial storm on Sept. 20, but in the ensuing days and weeks when the island-wide electricity outage and roads blocked by downed power lines and other debris made it difficult to move around and emergency services were stretched beyond their capabilities.

Government agencies have used various methods to count storm deaths over the years, with authorities generally trying to sort them into direct and indirect to include people whose deaths are tied to a natural disaster without necessarily being obviously caused by it.

New York Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, who was born in Puerto Rico, has called for legislation that would establish federal standards for death counts after disaster. "It has been tragically clear for some time that the devastation from Irma and Maria was many magnitudes worse than the official death toll suggested," she said.



## Oklahoma teen to serve 5 life terms for killing family

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A 19-year-old Oklahoma man convicted of stabbing his parents and three siblings to death was sentenced Thursday to five life terms in prison to run consecutively, meaning that even with the possibility of parole he likely won't ever be released.

Michael Bever was 16 years old in 2015 when prosecutors say he and his older brother, Robert Bever, killed their mother, father, two younger brothers and 5-year-old sister at their suburban Tulsa home. Two other sisters survived the attack.

Robert Bever, who was 18 at the time of the killings, pleaded guilty in 2016 and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Michael Bever was convicted in May of five counts of first-degree murder.

The jury also convicted Michael Bever of one count of assault and battery with intent to kill for wounding his then-13-year-old sister, who survived the attack. A 2-year-old sister was unharmed. On Thursday, Bever was sentenced to 28 years in prison for the assault on his 13-year-old sister, in addition to the five life sentences.

Authorities have never revealed the teens' motives in the slayings.

Neighbors said the children were all home-schooled and that their parents kept them on a tight leash, forbidding them from mingling with neighbors or playing with kids outside the family.

Following the attack, Robert Bever told police his parents beat him. He said his father once dragged him upstairs because he left a light on and his mother slapped him so hard it left a mark. He described to police how he planned to murder his parents and siblings and that he hoped killing them would bring him fame.

Defense attorneys argued that Michael Bever was led astray by his older brother, and Robert Bever testified that he wanted to take responsibility for all of the killings.

Prosecutors, who urged the judge to award a no-parole sentence ahead of Thursday's hearing, argued that Michael Bever was a willing participant in the gruesome killings and that he should be locked up for the rest of his life. The sentencing Thursday effectively achieves that.

Life sentences are considered 45 years for parole purposes in Oklahoma, and inmates must serve 85 percent of each sentence before technically being eligible for parole. Calculated consecutively, Bever's sentences total 253 years and he must serve 85 percent, or 215 years, before he reaches parole eligibility.

Bever's defense attorneys said they plan to appeal his sentences.

## Merger cancellation pushes Rite Aid into uncertain future

By TOM MURPHY, AP Health Writer

Rite Aid shares plunged Thursday as the company headed into an uncertain future after calling off its merger with the grocer Albertsons.

Analysts and retail insiders questioned the drugstore chain's prospects after it ended a planned takeover by Albertsons before Rite Aid shareholders could vote on it. That vote also faced shaky prospects due to opposition from shareholders and influential proxy advisory firms.

Rite Aid Chairman and CEO John Standley said in a prepared statement that his company would continue to "build momentum" for big parts of its business like its renovated stores, expanded pharmacy services and its customer loyalty program. Rite Aid also said its board will consider governance changes, although it did not elaborate.

The company also has a pharmacy benefit management, or PBM, operation that runs prescription drug coverage and diversifies its business. But Rite Aid is down to around 2,500 stores mostly on the East and West coasts after selling nearly 2,000 to bigger rival Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. And it doesn't operate one of the nation's largest PBMs like another competitor, CVS Health Corp.

Rite Aid Corp. has neither "the scale nor the balance sheet to compete with much larger and well-capitalized rivals," Moody's Vice President Mickey Chadha said in an email.

The Camp Hill, Pennsylvania-based company has struggled with high debt levels and tough competition, as narrowing drugstore networks have pushed customers away from its stores. Earlier this week, it chopped its fiscal 2019 forecast because generic drug pricing also wasn't shaping up how it expected in

April, when it first laid out expectations.

A deal with the owner of Safeway and other grocery brands would have helped Rite Aid by creating food and drugstore combinations, and it would have given the chain better access to financial markets for things like opening new stores or improving existing ones, said Burt P. Flickinger III, managing director of the retail consultant Strategic Resource Group. Flickinger has worked with both companies.

He said Rite Aid needs a large investment to help shift its store inventory toward more health and beauty products, like Walgreens and CVS have done, and away from low-margin items like cigarettes that also are prime shoplifting targets.

Flickinger said the Albertsons deal may have been “the last, best, and final opportunity for Rite Aid’s longer term viability.”

Privately held Albertsons Cos., based in Boise, Idaho, was offering either a share of its stock and \$1.83 in cash or slightly more than one Albertsons share for every 10 Rite Aid shares. But that offer attracted widespread opposition.

One of Rite Aid’s biggest shareholders, Highfields Capital Management, said that deal was “in the best interests of Albertsons and Rite Aid management, but not Rite Aid shareholders.” The investment firm said in June that it would vote its roughly 47 million shares against the deal.

Two prominent shareholder advisory firms — Glass Lewis & Co. and Institutional Shareholder Services — also recommended no votes. Glass Lewis said the deal was “not critical to Rite Aid’s viability” and provided no meaningful premium to investors.

ISS, meanwhile, said it was concerned that the deal would introduce a new set of risks from the grocery business.

Walgreens also had tried unsuccessfully to buy all of Rite Aid in a deal that fell apart last year after encountering regulatory resistance. The Deerfield, Illinois, company then settled for buying a portion of Rite Aid’s stores for about \$4.38 billion.

Shares of Rite Aid fell 11.5 percent to close Thursday at \$1.54, the stock’s worst sell-off in a year.

Follow Tom Murphy on Twitter: @thpmurphy

## Uber faces new roadblock in New York on its way to IPO

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Uber will have to navigate around a new regulatory pothole in New York on an already bumpy road to its initial public offering of stock next year.

New York City is imposing a one-year moratorium on ride-hailing licenses in Uber’s largest U.S. market, raising the specter that other cities may adopt similar crackdowns as they try to ease traffic congestion.

If that were to happen, it would be more difficult for Uber to boost its revenue and reverse its history of uninterrupted losses. That, in turn, would affect the price that investors are willing to pay for Uber’s stock in the IPO that the San Francisco company plans to make next year.

“This can be viewed as a negative outcome for ride-hailing companies,” said Rohit Kulkarni, managing director of SharesPost, a firm that tracks privately held companies such as Uber.

The attempt to rein in ride-hailing companies in New York is the latest challenge to confront Uber during nearly two years of turmoil.

Among other things, Uber has been rocked by revelations of a culture poisoned by a pattern of sexual harassment and other abuses that included a yearlong cover-up of a major computer break-in and the use of duplicitous software to thwart government regulators. Uber brought in a new CEO, Dara Khosrowshahi, nearly a year ago to clean things up.

Investors who have poured money into Uber leading up to the IPO have valued it at \$62 billion. That lofty assessment reflects how dramatically the 9-year-old company has transformed the way people get around since it introduced the concept of using a smartphone app to summon a driver using their own car to pick them up.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 56 of 58

Millions of people around the world now drive and ride through Uber's apps, growth that was spurred in large part because the company hasn't had to deal with the same strict regulations and government bureaucracy as taxi cabs.

But that has been changing in recent years as more cities around the world try to balance the popularity of ride-hailing services with traffic management, safety concerns and demands to protect the long-regulated taxi industry.

Last year, London kicked Uber out of its city, but that ban was lifted earlier this year by a magistrate. Even so, Uber was only given a 15-month permit to operate instead of the five-year license it wanted.

"Essentially, we are seeing more regulation of a platform that hadn't been in its early years," said Gartner analyst Mike Ramsey. "And I think people who have been investing in the platform are coming to that realization."

For its part, Uber is trying to make a case that New York City is heading in the wrong direction by curtailing the growth of ride-hailing services to control traffic. It believes charging more for rides during times of bad congestion is a better solution, something it says it intends to do in New York.

New York's moratorium on new ride-hailing licenses could give Uber and its rival, Lyft, more leverage to raise their prices if the restrictions cause demand to outstrip the supply of cars available to pick up riders, Kulkarni said.

Other high-profile companies have thrived while dealing with regulatory challenges and uncertainty. Most notably, e-commerce leader Amazon.com was locked in a long-running battle over when and where it should collect sales taxes on online purchases for more than a decade before the U.S. Supreme Court finally resolved the issue in June.

Amazon is now valued at \$925 billion, second only to Apple.

## Asian shares slip despite upbeat Japanese economic data

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were lower in Asia on Friday, tracking losses on Wall Street, despite the release of data showing Japan's economy resumed its longtime expansion in the last quarter.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.7 percent to 22,444.10 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gave up 0.5 percent to 28,473.94. The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.1 percent to 2,790.53 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 declined 0.2 percent to 6,287.70. India's Sensex fell 0.2 percent to 37,944.19. Shares were lower in Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore but rose in Indonesia.

JAPAN GDP: The economy expanded at a 1.9 percent annual pace in April-June, the government reported. Quarterly growth was 0.5 percent, following a 0.2 percent contraction in the first quarter of the year. The recovery was driven mainly by better-than-expected domestic demand, analysts said.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "While GDP started expanding again in the second quarter, growth isn't as vigorous as last year. With the economy running into capacity constraints, we think that activity will remain sluggish for now," Marcel Thieli of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. indexes stood stock-still for the third consecutive day Thursday as gains for retailers were canceled out by losses for banks and other companies. The S&P 500 edged 0.1 percent lower to 2,853.58. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.3 percent to 25,509.23, while the Nasdaq composite inched higher, adding 3.46 points to 7,891.78, notching its eighth gain in a row. The Russell 2000, an index of smaller companies, added 4.01 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,690.89.

TRIBUNE-SINCLAIR: Tribune Media withdrew from its planned sale to Sinclair Broadcasting and said it will sue Sinclair for breach of contract. Both stocks had plunged in mid-July when the Federal Communications Commission expressed major concerns about the deal. Tribune rose 2.9 percent to \$34.60 and Sinclair added 2.6 percent to \$27.80.

TESLA TUMBLES: Electric car maker Tesla sank 4.8 percent to \$352.45. The stock surged 11 percent Tuesday, mostly because CEO Elon Musk tweeted that he was considering taking Tesla private. The Wall Street Journal has reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission has opened an inquiry into the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 57 of 58

wording and the method of Musk's announcement, while Bloomberg News reported that the SEC had started an inquiry even before the tweet.

**ENERGY:** Crude prices have stabilized after dropping 3 percent at midweek. Benchmark U.S. crude oil picked up 6 cents to \$66.87 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dipped 0.2 percent to \$66.81 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, added 14 cents to \$72.21 a barrel. It lost 0.3 percent to \$72.07 per barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar fell to 110.78 yen from 111.09 yen after the report of strong second-quarter growth data. The euro fell to \$1.1519 from \$1.1526.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay contributed. He can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 10, the 222nd day of 2018. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 10, 1792, during the French Revolution, mobs in Paris attacked the Tuileries (TWEE'-luh-reez) Palace, where King Louis XVI resided. (The king was later arrested, put on trial for treason, and executed.)

On this date:

In 1821, Missouri became the 24th state.

In 1846, President James K. Polk signed a measure establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

In 1861, Confederate forces routed Union troops in the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, the first major engagement of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River.

In 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio at his summer home on the Canadian island of Campobello.

In 1949, the National Military Establishment was renamed the Department of Defense.

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actress Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1975, television personality David Frost announced he had purchased the exclusive rights to interview former President Richard Nixon.

In 1977, postal employee David Berkowitz was arrested in Yonkers, New York, accused of being "Son of Sam," the gunman who killed six people and wounded seven others in the New York City area. (Berkowitz is serving six consecutive 25-years-to-life sentences.)

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a measure providing \$20,000 payments to still-living Japanese-Americans who were interned by their government during World War II.

In 1991, nine Buddhists were found slain at their temple outside Phoenix, Arizona. (Two teen-agers were later arrested; one was sentenced to life in prison, while the other received 281 years.)

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2006, British authorities announced they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up 10 aircraft heading to the U.S. using explosives smuggled in hand luggage.

Ten years ago: At the Beijing Olympics, Michael Phelps began his long march toward eight gold medals by winning the 400-meter individual medley in 4:03.84 — smashing his own world record. The U.S. women's 400-meter freestyle relay team, anchored by 41-year-old Dara Torres, took the silver behind the Netherlands. Stephanie Rice of Australia won the gold in the women's 400-meter individual medley in a world record time of 4:29.45. Pádraig Harrington rallied from three shots behind to win the PGA Championship in Bloomfield Township, Mich. Soul crooner Isaac Hayes, 65, died in Memphis, Tenn.

Five years ago: In an address at the Disabled American Veterans' convention in Orlando, Florida, President Barack Obama assured disabled veterans that his administration was making progress on reducing



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 10, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 032 ~ 58 of 58

a backlog of disability claims. A harrowing weeklong search for a missing California teenager ended when FBI agents rescued 16-year-old Hannah Anderson and shot and killed 40-year-old James Lee DiMaggio at a campsite deep in the Idaho wilderness. (Authorities say in addition to kidnapping Hannah, DiMaggio killed her brother and mother at his home east of San Diego.) Singer Edyie Gorme, 84, died in Las Vegas.

One year ago: President Donald Trump, continuing his criticism of Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell following the failed effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, suggested that McConnell might have to rethink his future as majority leader unless he could deliver on Trump's legislative priorities on health care, taxes and infrastructure. North Korea's military described as a "load of nonsense" Trump's warning that the North would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Rhonda Fleming is 95. Singer Ronnie Spector is 75. Actor James Reynolds is 72. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 71. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 69. Singer Patti Austin is 68. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 66. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 64. Actress Rosanna Arquette is 59. Actor Antonio Banderas is 58. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 57. Singer Julia Fordham is 56. Journalist-blogger Andrew Sullivan is 55. Actor Chris Caldovino is 55. Singer Neneh Cherry is 54. Singer Aaron Hall is 54. Boxer Riddick Bowe is 51. Actor Sean Blakemore is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 51. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 50. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 47. Actress Angie Harmon is 46. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 45. Actor-turned-lawyer Craig Kirkwood is 44. Actress JoAnna Garcia Swisher is 39. Singer Cary Ann Hearst (Shovels & Rope) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nikki Bratcher (Divine) is 38. Actor Aaron Staton is 38. Actor Ryan Eggold is 34. Actor Charley Koontz is 31. Actor Lucas Till is 28. Reality TV star Kylie Jenner is 21.

Thought for Today: "It is easier to make a saint out of a libertine than out of a prig." — George Santayana, Spanish-born philosopher (1863-1952).