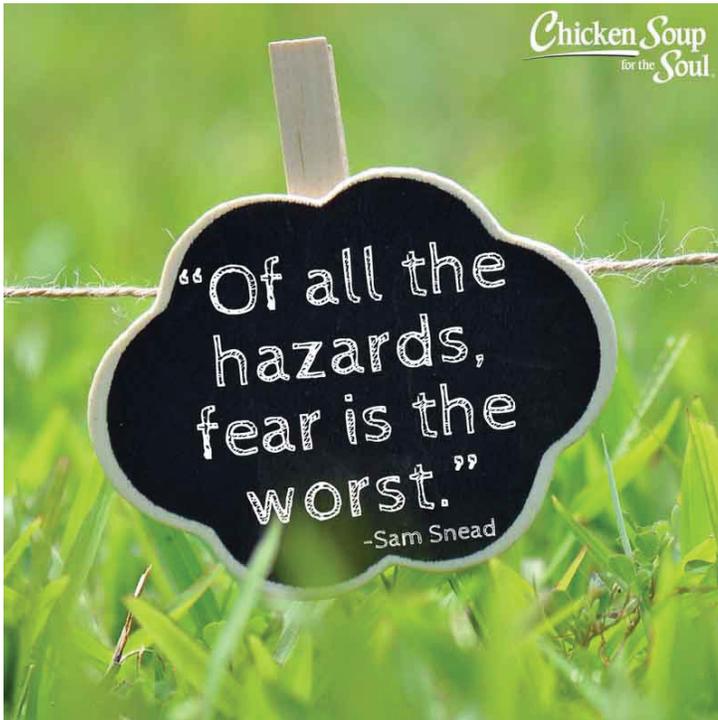


Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 1 of 47



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Groton Chiropractic Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Dairy Queen Help Wanted
- 1- School Help Wanted
- 2- Mahan has Yard of the Week
- 2- Hokana Auction Ad
- 3- Spring Coaches of the Year announced
- 4- Value Added Ag Center Day at SD State Fair Aug 30
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Today's Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Weather
- 7- National Weather map
- 7- Today's Weather Almanac
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 10- 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.

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



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.

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)



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 2 of 47



Yard of the Week

The Tom and Alesa Mahan yard at 503 N. Main St. has been chosen as this week's Yard of the Week by the members of the Groton Garden Club.

TIMED ONLINE 9445 State Line Road, Frederick, SD 57441

AUCTION

OPENS: TUES., AUG. 21 / CLOSSES: TUES., AUG. 28 ²⁰¹⁸

<p>TRACTORS 2003 Case STX440 4WD 2005 John Deere 8420 MFWD Allis Chalmers 7040 2WD</p> <p>COMBINE & HEADS 2009 John Deere 9770 STS 2006 John Deere 635 flex head 2009 John Deere 612C chopping corn head</p> <p>DRILL Great Plains grain drill, 20', 6" spacing, 3 pt., mounted gauge, rubber press wheels</p> <p>FERTILIZER CADDY Pattison CB1600 fertilizer caddy w/pump</p> <p>DISCS John Deere 235 disc Sunflower disc John Deere 712 disc chisel</p> <p>OTHER TILLAGE EQUIPMENT Landoll 7430 VT-Plus vertical tillage John Deere 726 mulch finisher Rite Way landroller, 42'</p>	<p>GRAIN CART & GRAVITY BOX Brent Avalanche 1084 grain cart Minnesota 260 gravity box</p> <p>TRUCK 2004 Freightliner Classic XL tri-axle flat top sleeper 60"</p> <p>TRAILERS 2013 Featherlite 8270 aluminum livestock trailer 2010 Timpette hopper bottom trailer 1996 Timpette hopper bottom trailer 1999 Doonan 502DB14 step deck trailer EZ-Trail 680 header trailer</p> <p>LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT 1993 IHC 4900 truck (3) Vern's creep feeders 150 bu. Wheel loader livestock water tank</p> <p>ATTACHMENTS MDS pallet forks for John Deere 840 loader Snow/silage bucket John Deere material bucket</p>	 <p>PREVIEW: August 13-28 from 8AM-5PM LOADOUT: Thursday, August 30 from 8AM-5PM</p> <p>TIRES & PARTS (4) Skid steer loader tires Landoll disc blades & bearings John Deere grill guard (10) John Deere suitcase weights</p>
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Complete terms, lot listings and photos at

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Randy Kath MN47-007



COLE & HOLY HOKANA | 701.210.0548

or Dave Krostue at Steffes, 218.779.6865 or Randy Kath at Steffes, 701.429.8894

Steffes Group, Inc. | 24400 MN Hwy 22 South, Litchfield, MN 55355 | 320.693.9371

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 3 of 47

Spring Coaches of the Year announced

Sioux Falls, SD – The South Dakota High School Coaches Association announces the Coach of the Year Awards for the Spring of 2018 (Other nominees listed below each winner):

Boys' Golf – Frank Cutler, Platte-Geddes

Tom Jansa, Sioux Falls O'Gorman; Nick Retella, Rapid City Stevens

Girls' Golf – Clark Gusso, Belle Fourche

Billie Jo Indahl, Burke/South Central; Tom Jansa, Sioux Falls O'Gorman

Tennis – Kerry Dilley, Pierre

JD Carrels, Aberdeen Roncalli; Scott Ewald, Watertown; Terry Grove, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Tom Krueger, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Pat Moller, Mitchell;

Boys' Track & Field – Rory Hermsen, Freeman Public

Scott Benson, St. Thomas More; Jim Jarovski, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Luke Vander Leest, Sioux Falls Christian

Girls' Track & Field – Bill Abell, Belle Fourche

Scott Benson, St. Thomas More; Rachelle DeBeer, Deubrook Area; Troy Sturgeon, Brandon Valley

Last year's winners:

Boys' Golf – Matt Pollock, Ipswich

Girls' Golf – Kim Zimmerman, Aberdeen Central

Tennis – Matt Termansen, Harrisburg

Boys' Track & Field – Jeff Larsen, Colman-Egan

Girls' Track & Field – Rachelle DeBeer, Deubrook Area

These coaches will be recognized at the annual awards banquet to be held at the Highland Conference Center in Mitchell on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 1:00 PM.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 4 of 47

Value Added Ag Center Day at SD State Fair Aug 30

YANKTON, S.D. – The Value Added Agriculture Development Center (VAADC) invites you to attend the 19th Annual Value Added Agriculture Center Day at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, SD on Thursday, August 30 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. South Dakota's value added agriculture industry will showcase 20 vendors including South Dakota Specialty Producers Association (SDSPA) members in the Day Sponsor Tent.

The VAADC helps create and expand agribusinesses that process commodities into products we use every day. Traditional crops & livestock are being used to make oil/meal (soybeans), grass-fed beef (cattle), pasta (wheat), and biopharmaceutical products (sheep). Non-traditional agribusinesses are processing wines/spirits/beers, white sorghum flour, fleece/wool and aquaculture grown food/livestock feed.

The SDSPA is partnering to feature hydroponically grown specialty crops, soap, lamb and goat meats, honey and honey products and flowers. Local food marketing will be highlighted with a farmers market and food hub booth. There will also be presentations on various local food topics and cooking demonstrations.

The presentation schedule is as follows: 10:00 a.m.- "Honey Bee Magic;" 10:30 a.m. "Goat Raising Tips 101;" 11:00 a.m.- "Field to Bottle;"- South Dakota Wines, Spirits & Beers;" 11:30 a.m. "Farm & Ranch Agritourism Opportunities;" 12 p.m. "Experience the Magic of Local Foods for Kids", and 2:00 p.m.- "Cooking Up Some Magic with South Dakota's Fresh Products" (Women's Building Kitchen).

Be sure to make time to walk through the Day Sponsor Tent to sample products from value added businesses and learn more about the innovative products being made here in South Dakota. Stop by at 3:00 p.m. to enjoy our Ice Cream Social brought to you in cooperation with Your South Dakota Dairy Producers.

Support from East River Electric Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, SD Bankers Association, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Farmers Union, SD Rural Electric Association, SD Soybean Research & Promotion Council, SD Wheat Commission and Agtegra make VAADC services possible to South Dakota farmers and ranchers.

Contact Cheri Rath, Executive Director of the Value Added Ag Development Center with questions at 605-224-9402.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 5 of 47

Today in Weather History

August 16, 1986: Thunderstorm winds gusted to 60 mph in Forestburg, in Sanborn County. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph uprooted trees and damaged buildings in the northern part of Hanson County. On several farms, barns, garages, silos, and small buildings were destroyed. The worst affected area was south of Epiphany where large steel sheds were damaged, and a roof was blown in.

1777: The Battle of Bennington, delayed a day by rain, was fought. The rain-delayed British reinforcements and allowed the Vermont Militia to arrive in time, enabling the Americans to win a victory by defeating two enemy forces, one at a time.

1909 - A dry spell began in San Bernardino County of southern California that lasted until the 6th of May in 1912, a stretch of 994 days! Another dry spell, lasting 767 days, then began in October of 1912. (The Weather Channel)

1916 - Altapass, NC, was deluged with 22.22 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Oklahoma to Wisconsin and Lower Michigan. Thunderstorms in central Illinois produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Springfield which toppled two large beer tents at the state fair injuring 58 persons. Thunderstorms also drenched Chicago IL with 2.90 inches of rain, making August 1987 their wettest month of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from North Dakota to Lower Michigan during the day. Nine tornadoes were sighted in North Dakota, and thunderstorms also produced hail three inches in diameter at Lakota ND, and wind gusts to 83 mph at Marais MI. Thirty-seven cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rockford IL with a reading of 104 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced golf ball size hail at La Junta CO, Intercanyon CO, and Custer SD. Afternoon thunderstorms over South Texas drenched Brownsville with 2.60 inches of rain. Fair skies allowed viewing of the late evening full lunar eclipse from the Great Lakes Region to the Northern and Central Plains Region, and across much of the western third of the country. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: One of the most destructive United States hurricanes of record started modestly as a tropical wave that emerged from the west coast of Africa on August 14. The wave spawned a tropical depression on August 16, which became Tropical Storm Andrew the next day.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 6 of 47

Today



Areas Fog
then Slight
Chance
Showers

High: 85 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 55 °F

Friday



Sunny

High: 88 °F

Friday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 61 °F

Saturday



Hot

High: 90 °F

Rest of the Work Week Forecast

- Today**
- Scattered Showers Mainly NE SD and WC MN. Patchy Morning Fog, Otherwise Partly Sunny.
 - Highs: 75-88°

Tonight

- Gradual Clearing and Cool With Light Winds.
- Lows: 53-62°

- Friday**
- Mostly Sunny & Very Warm With Light Winds.
 - Highs: 80-92°

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 8/16/2018 5:27 AM Central

Published on: 08/16/2018 at 5:29AM

A few showers are expected over northeast South Dakota, and west central Minnesota today, otherwise the rest of the region should be dry with patchy morning fog. Dry conditions are expected tonight and Friday.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 7 of 47

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.7 F at 4:26 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 55.7 F at 6:29 AM

High Gust: 13.0 Mph at 1:25 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1988

Record Low: 42° in 1897

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.17

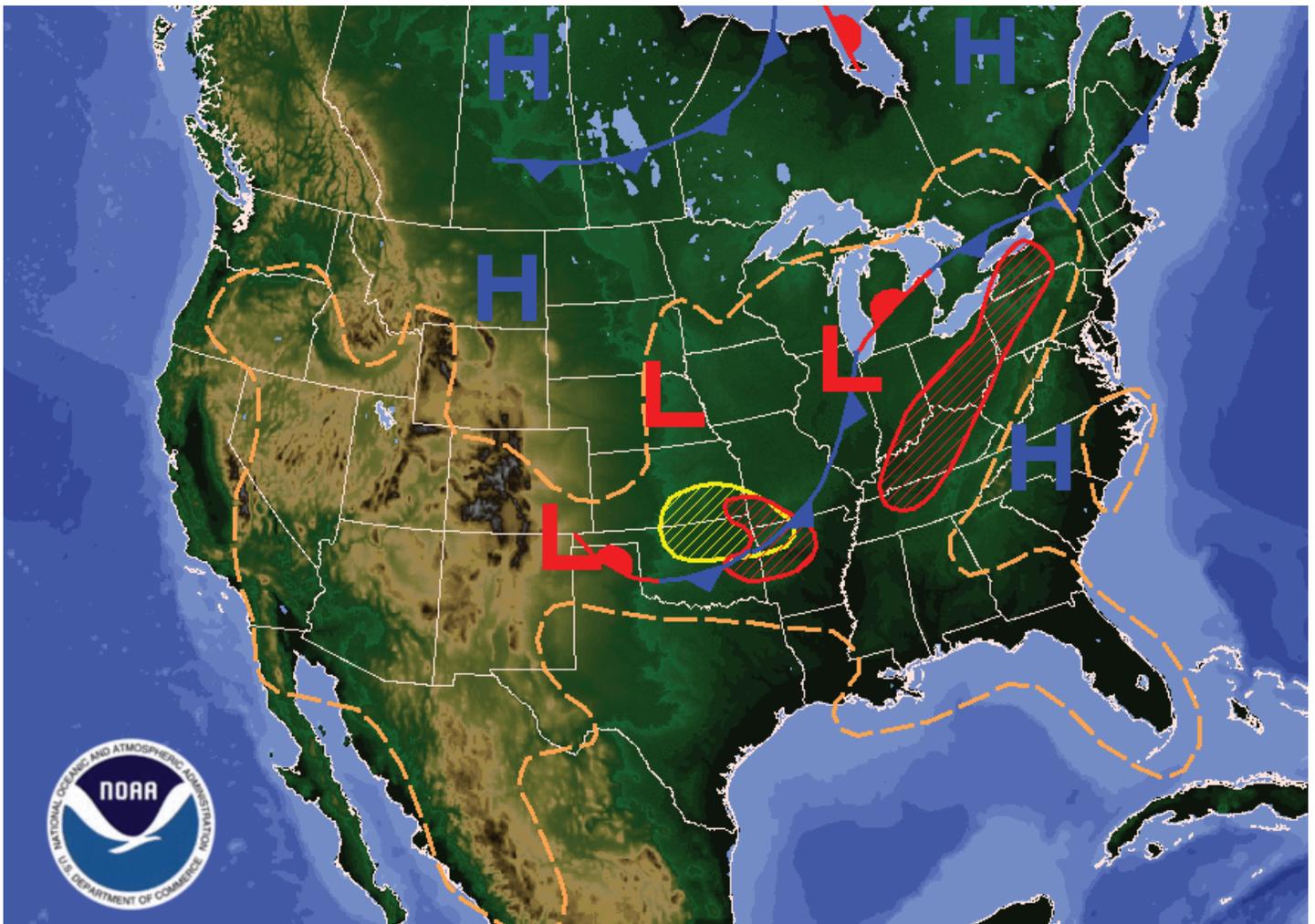
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 15.03

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:39 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:37 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Aug 16, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 8 of 47



LOOKING FOR HOPE?

His professors and fellow students recognized him as one of the most brilliant students on campus. He had the most when it came to worldly goods. From any vantage point, he seemed to have it all.

Early one morning while the campus was wrapped in silence, he jumped to his death from his room in the dorm. As his family went through the items left behind, they discovered a note that read, There is utterly no hope!

Hopelessness has many causes and few cures. Many, searching for some form of hope, turn to alcohol or other drugs. Others lose themselves in their work or search anxiously for a way out of their despair. Many seek relief by trying new experiences or adventures. Few, however, discover long-lasting results.

Hopelessness may come from unmet expectations, sorrow or grief. We all seem to want a life without a pile of problems. No one looks for tragedies as a form of entertainment. And, we rarely have an opportunity to pick our pain. Problems and pain, sorrow and grief, are as much a part of life as sunshine or rain, night or day.

Is there a sure source where everyone can find hope? The Psalmist believes there is. ...hope in the Lord; for with the Lord, there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.

Hoping is different from wishing. Wishing is a desire for something we don't have. Hope, on the other hand, is a gift from God and will give us confidence that He is with us and will fulfill every promise He has ever made. Hope will protect us and empower us to meet the dangers and disappointments of life.

Prayer: Lord, as long as we have You we have hope and know that Your unfailing love will guide us and guard us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 130:7 hope in the Lord; for with the Lord, there is unfailing love. His redemption overflows.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
05-06-09-11-24
(five, six, nine, eleven, twenty-four)
Estimated jackpot: \$193,000

Lotto America
06-09-29-32-36, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2
(six, nine, twenty-nine, thirty-two, thirty-six; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$6.34 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

Powerball
12-15-28-47-48, Powerball: 16, Power Play: 2
(twelve, fifteen, twenty-eight, forty-seven, forty-eight; Powerball: sixteen; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Iowa State QB Kempt embraces top job after long road to Ames

By LUKE MEREDITH, AP Sports Writer

AMES, Iowa (AP) — For the first time in a career spanning six seasons and three schools, Iowa State's Kyle Kempt will finally enter a campaign as a No. 1 quarterback.

Kempt and the Cyclones couldn't be happier about it.

Kempt, who turned around a remarkably unremarkable career in 2017 by throwing 15 touchdowns in eight starts and leading Iowa State to a bowl win, was awarded a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA in the offseason.

Kempt is finally getting fall workout repetitions with the rest of the starters, and he'll be behind center when the Cyclones (8-5 in 2017) host South Dakota State on Sept. 1.

"It's a lot different. It helps my confidence," Kempt said about being the starter. "I've really been building on it this summer, and it's really been a big help for me."

Kempt also enters the season as one of the top-ranked quarterbacks in the pass-happy Big 12.

That, in and of itself, remains one of the bigger surprises in program history.

Kempt's past has been a major story line since the day he led the Cyclones to a win at Oklahoma as a 31-point underdog in his first start last October. But that doesn't make it any less stunning that a guy once ranked as just the 71st prospect in his own state of Ohio — a player who rode the bench for two years at Oregon State before walking on at Iowa State — is now a centerpiece of a team many think can actually compete for a league title.

Kempt set the school record with a 66.3 percent completion rate a year ago, and credited the simple act of hitting the open man rather than looking for the big play as crucial to his success.

"You see the people in the (NFL), the guys with great arms and all that, they only last so long. Accuracy and decision making are the two traits that are going to carry you in the long run," Kempt said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 11 of 47

Kempt, whose years on the bench gave him a self-described "crisis of confidence," has taken the opportunity to be a starter seriously. He has put on 15 pounds since the end of last season, and quarterbacks coach Joel Gordon said Kempt was in the film room "every single day" this summer working on his craft.

"When he got done in the spring, it was clear that he's motivated and driven to get better," Gordon said. "He's a really mature guy, and everyone knows his story now. But he was in a lot of quarterback meetings where he wasn't the one where the questions were directed toward. He didn't let that faze him for a long time. So there was no doubt that we knew that this is a guy that's mature, he works at it really hard and, when he got his chance, he made the most of it."

One of the other reasons that Iowa State was so elated to get Kempt back was that the players behind him are about as inexperienced as can be.

Sophomore Zeb Noland, Kempt's backup, was 36-of-66 passing for 533 yards and two TDs a year ago, including a win in his only start over Baylor. Noland is the clear No. 2 ahead of freshmen Brock Purdy, Re-al Mitchell and Devon Moore, and he has joined Kempt for many of those film sessions.

"We're critical on each other because we trust each other," Noland said. "When you have a bad play, sometimes you hang your head a little bit. But when I or he can come off and have someone to talk to, I think that makes it (easier)."

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Sturgis motorcycle rally sees more than 500K vehicles

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — More than half a million vehicles rolled into the small western South Dakota city that hosts the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally this year, a jump from last year but well short of the crowds that flooded the area in 2015, according to the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

This year's traffic was sustained throughout the 10-day rally that ended Sunday in Sturgis, a town of about 6,900 people that swells with bikers each year, Sturgis City Manager Daniel Ainslie told the Rapid City Journal .

Increased advertising helped boost and maintain the rally crowd this year, Ainslie said. The ads targeted individuals who may not have attended the rally before or have only attended once. Rally organizers also focused on visitors within a 6-hour ride from Sturgis, Ainslie said.

"Based on what we're seeing from the demographics and from the traffic counts, that definitely worked," he said.

Data gathered from nine locations around the city show a nearly 8 percent increase in traffic over last year, which saw 469,100 vehicles. Ainslie said the number of vehicles at last year's rally started strong but fell off as the event progressed.

This year, the tally was 505,969 vehicles, which includes motorcycles, automobiles, trucks and motor homes. Still, the number was shy of the 2015 traffic, when 747,032 vehicles rolled into the city for the 75th annual rally.

Final attendance figures for this year will be determined at a post-rally summit in October, Ainslie said.

The final count will tally traffic in Sturgis and at Mount Rushmore, about 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) south, along with the number of motorcycles parked at key points and times in the city. Officials will also consider overall sales tax revenues and trash tonnage collected during the rally.

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

Rescuers free woman trapped under forklift in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rescuers have freed a woman who became trapped under a forklift in Rapid City. The Rapid City Fire Department was called Tuesday afternoon after a forklift tipped onto its side and trapped a woman underneath.

Workers were using the forklift to lift trusses onto the roof of a Habitat for Humanity house under con-

struction. The forklift tires slid in the mud, and the machine tripped onto its side. The woman who was trapped was working on the ground below the forklift.

The Rapid City Journal reports the Fire Department's technical rescue team freed the woman in about 30 minutes. She remained conscious and was talking to medical personnel throughout the rescue. She was taken to Rapid City Regional Hospital with serious injuries.

No one else was hurt.

\$1 million bond set in Sioux Falls park shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Bond is set at \$1 million for the man accused of a fatal shooting in Sioux Falls. Twenty-four-year-old Abraham Darsaw appeared in a Minnehaha County courtroom Tuesday. He's charged with second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter in a shooting at Falls Park Sunday that killed one man and injured another. Police say the shooting was the result of an argument at a barbecue.

Twenty-five-year-old Moses Cole died in surgery at the hospital. A 22-year-old man was critically injured. KELO-TV reports 18-year-old Essence Becker also appeared in court. She's charged with accessory to a felony with intent to harbor or conceal. Authorities say Darsaw went to Beck's apartment after the shooting.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Victim of Corson County crash identified

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified a woman killed in a weekend crash in Corson County.

The patrol said Wednesday 51-year-old Lorraine Iron Thunder, of McLaughlin, suffered fatal injuries when her car went off U.S. Highway 12 about 10 miles west of Mobridge and rolled in the ditch several times. She died at the scene shortly before 3 a.m. Saturday.

She was traveling alone.

Church sex scandal: Abuse victims want a full reckoning

By DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

Six Roman Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania joined the list this week of those around the U.S. that have been forced to face the ugly truth about child-molesting priests in their ranks.

But in dozens of other dioceses, there has been no reckoning, leading victims to wonder if the church will ever truly take responsibility or be held accountable.

"It happens everywhere, so it's not really so much a question of where has it happened, but instead, where has word gotten out, where is information about it accessible?" said Terry McKiernan, founder of BishopAccountability.org, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit group that tracks clergy sexual abuse cases.

Since the crisis exploded in Boston in 2002, dioceses around the country have dealt with similar revelations of widespread sexual abuse, with many of them forced to come clean by aggressive plaintiffs' attorneys, assertive prosecutors or relentless journalists.

In a few instances, namely in Tucson, Arizona, and Seattle, dioceses voluntarily named names.

Dioceses in Boston; Los Angeles; Seattle; Portland, Oregon; Denver; San Diego; Louisville, Kentucky; and Dallas have all paid multimillion-dollar settlements to victims. Fifteen dioceses and three Catholic religious orders have filed for bankruptcy to deal with thousands of lawsuits.

Still, only about 40 of the nearly 200 dioceses in the U.S. have released lists of priests accused of abusing children, and there have been only nine investigations by a prosecutor or grand jury of a Catholic diocese or archdiocese in the U.S., according to BishopAccountability.org.

In many of the dioceses that have been examined, the numbers have been staggering: in the six Pennsylvania dioceses, 300 abusive priests and more than 1,000 victims since the 1940s; in Boston, at least 250 priests and more than 500 victims.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 13 of 47

All told, U.S. bishops have acknowledged that more than 17,000 people nationwide have reported being molested by priests and others in the church going back to 1950.

Phil Saviano, a Massachusetts man who said he was sexually abused by a priest in 1960s beginning at age 11, said he hopes the grand jury report in Pennsylvania will prompt attorneys general in other states to conduct similar investigations. He said he doubts dioceses will release names unless forced to do so.

"My personal feeling is that none of them are going to come forward voluntarily. It's always going to take some pressure from the public, the parishioners or legal authorities," said Saviano, whose story was one of many exposed by The Boston Globe in its 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winning series and later in the Oscar-winning movie "Spotlight."

Mitchell Garabedian, a Boston lawyer who estimates he has represented 3,000 clergy sex abuse victims from around the world since the 1990s, said he has sent letters detailing about two dozen allegations of abuse against priests from dioceses in Michigan, Ohio and Rhode Island and received similar responses from all three.

"They say, 'We feel very sorry for your clients, but it's outside the statute of limitations,'" Garabedian said, adding, "The church knows there is no legal recourse, so the church says it will not act responsibly and will not act appropriately."

In many states, statutes of limitations allow people abused as children to file civil claims up until only age 21 or slightly older. In Massachusetts and other states hit hard by the crisis, those statutes were amended after the scandal erupted. But in many other states, the laws have remained unchanged.

The Pennsylvania grand jury said that in almost every case there, the statute of limitations for bringing criminal charges has run out.

Echoing what was discovered in Boston and other places, the grand jury report accused senior church officials of hushing up allegations against priests, in some cases by shuffling them from parish to parish.

In a statement, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People expressed sorrow over the Pennsylvania findings and said: "We are committed to work in determined ways so that such abuse cannot happen."

In recent years, the U.S. bishops have adopted widespread reforms, including mandatory criminal background checks for priests and lay employees, a requirement that abuse allegations be reported to law enforcement, the suspension of priests while they are being investigated, and permanent removal from ministry when accusations are substantiated.

The Rev. Thomas Reese, a Jesuit priest who is a senior analyst for the Religion News Service, noted such reforms but said the Pennsylvania grand jury report should be a "wake-up call" to other dioceses that they need to hire outside groups to do independent investigations, then must publish the results. But he said he is doubtful that will happen.

"A lot of bishops feel, 'Hey, that was done before I got here. I regret that it happened, I'm sorry that it happened, but we've changed, this is no longer happening under my watch because of the procedures we've put in place,'" Reese said.

"If they had just gotten all of the dirt out at the very beginning, all at the same time, then we wouldn't be suffering death by 1,000 cuts. It's just place after place, and frankly, it's the same story in every place."

Judge orders women to begin defense in Kim Jong Nam's murder

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP) — Two women on trial for the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half brother were told Thursday to make their defense after the judge found evidence of a "well-planned conspiracy," extending their murder trial until next year.

Indonesia's Siti Aisyah and Vietnam's Doan Thi Huong are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017.

High Court Judge Azmi Ariffin said there was inadequate proof to show it was a political assassination. He said he wasn't persuaded by defense argument that the women thought they were taking part in a prank

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 14 of 47

for a hidden-camera show. But enough evidence had been presented in the six-month trial to infer the women and four North Korean suspects at large had meticulously engaged in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill Kim "systemically," he said.

"I must therefore call upon them to enter their defense," the judge said after reading his ruling for more than two hours.

Indonesian Ambassador Rusdi Kirana told reporters outside the court that he was shocked by the decision but his government will abide by it.

In Huong's village in Vietnam, her family said they were sad to hear she was not acquitted. Her father, Doan Van Thanh, said he could not sleep last night, anxious to hear the ruling.

"I had hoped the court would announce that she is innocent but now we are really worried for her," he said. Huong's brother, Doan Van Binh, said the family hopes she will receive a fair trial.

Aisyah, 25, and Huong, 29, told the court they would testify under oath in their defense. Aisyah, who will be the first to take the stand when the trial resumes Nov. 1, later cried and was consoled by her lawyers and Indonesian officials. Huong was calm. The judge set hearing dates that extend until next February.

The women are accused of colluding with four North Korean suspects who fled the country the same morning Kim was killed. Aisyah and Huong are the only suspects in custody and face the death penalty if convicted.

According to the case presented so far, the four men known to Aisyah and Huong by code names recruited, trained and supplied the women with the banned chemical weapon that they smeared on Kim's face.

Airport security footage shown in court captured the moment of the attack and prosecutors also said the camera images linked the women to the four male suspects. Shortly after Kim arrived at the airport, Huong was seen approaching him, clasping her hands on his face from behind and then fleeing. Another blurred figure was also seen running away from Kim and a police investigator testified that it was Aisyah.

Kim died within two hours of the attack.

Defense lawyers have said the prosecution failed to show the two women had any intention to kill — key to establishing they are guilty of murder.

But the judge said their intention to kill can be inferred from targeting Kim's eyes, where the nerve agent would penetrate faster. He said evidence pointed to a "simultaneous act" by the women and that their subsequent hurrying to separate washrooms was not a "mere coincidence" but established their intention to cause Kim's death.

"There is no slightest doubt in my mind that it can be inferred that their desperate act of rushing to the toilet was solely for the purpose to decontaminate the poisonous VX on their hands," Azmi said. He said they seemed worried and tense before washing their hands, but relaxed afterward.

"The onus is on the accused to explain their conduct," he added.

Lawyers for the two women have said their clients were pawns in a political assassination with clear links to the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

The judge said the four North Koreans played a "substantial role" and were "part of the chain that led to the murder" of Kim. The defense has argued the real culprits are the four North Korean suspects and have pointed to an embassy employee who helped arrange their travel as evidence of embassy involvement.

Azmi said he "cannot rule out that this could be a political assassination," but found no concrete evidence of one.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's rule.

Trump pulls Brennan's clearance, links move to Russia probe

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump abruptly revoked the security clearance of ex-CIA Director John Brennan, an unprecedented act of retribution against a vocally critical former top U.S. official.

Later, in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump drew a direct connection between the Russia investigation and his decision, citing Brennan as among those he held responsible for the investigation.

"I call it the rigged witch hunt, (it) is a sham," Mr. Trump told the Journal, which posted its story on its website Wednesday night. "And these people led it!"

He added: "So I think it's something that had to be done."

That connection was not in a statement issued earlier Wednesday in which Trump denounced Brennan's criticism of him and spoke anxiously of "the risks posed by his erratic conduct and behavior." The president said he was fulfilling his "constitutional responsibility to protect the nation's classified information."

Trump also threatened to yank the clearances of a handful of individuals, including former top intelligence and law enforcement officials, as well as a current member of the Justice Department. All are critics of the president or are people whom Trump appears to believe are against him.

Trump's action against Brennan, critics and nonpartisan experts said, marked an unprecedented politicization of the federal government's security clearance process. It also was a clear escalation in Trump's battle with members of the U.S. intelligence community as the investigation into Russia election meddling and possible collusion and obstruction of justice continues.

And it came in the middle of the president's latest controversy — accusations of racism by former adviser Omarosa Manigault Newman and his bitter reaction to them. Trump's statement, distributed to reporters, was dated July 26, 2018, suggesting it could have been held and then released when needed to change a damaging subject. The White House later released a new version without the date.

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"I do believe that Mr. Trump decided to take this action, as he's done with others, to try to intimidate and suppress any criticism of him or his administration," he said, adding that he would not be deterred from speaking out.

Trump, his statement read by his press secretary, accused Brennan of having "leveraged his status as a former high-ranking official with access to highly sensitive information to make a series of unfounded and outrageous allegations, wild outbursts on the internet and television about this administration."

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In the Journal interview, Trump said he was prepared to yank Brennan's clearance last week but that it was too "hectic." The president was on an extended working vacation at his New Jersey golf club last week.

Brennan has indeed been deeply critical of Trump's conduct, calling his performance at a press conference last month with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Finland "nothing short of treasonous."

Brennan continued that criticism on Wednesday. "I've seen this type of behavior and actions on the part of foreign tyrants and despots and autocrats for many, many years during my CIA and national security career. I never, ever thought that I would see it here in the United States," he said.

Brennan said he had not heard from the CIA or the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that his security clearance was being revoked, but learned it when the White House announced it. There is no requirement that a president has to notify top intelligence officials of his plan to revoke a security clearance. "The president has the ultimate authority to decide who holds a security clearance," the ODNI said in a statement.

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Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 16 of 47

They include former FBI Director James Comey; James Clapper, the former director of national intelligence; former CIA Director Michael Hayden; former national security adviser Susan Rice; and Andrew McCabe, who served as Trump's deputy FBI director until he was fired in March.

Also on the list: fired FBI agent Peter Strzok, who was removed from the Russia investigation over anti-Trump text messages; former FBI lawyer Lisa Page, with whom Strzok exchanged messages; and senior Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, whom Trump recently accused on Twitter of "helping disgraced Christopher Steele 'find dirt on Trump.'"

Ohr was friends with Steele, the former British intelligence officer commissioned by an American political research firm to explore Trump's alleged ties with the Russian government. He is the only current government employee on the list.

At least two of the former officials, Comey and McCabe, do not currently have security clearances, and none of the eight receive intelligence briefings. Trump's concern apparently is that their former status gives special weight to their statements, both to Americans and foreign foes.

Former intelligence officials are also wondering how far Trump will go, according to a former senior intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity to share private conversations he's had with people who have worked in the field.

They said Trump has moved from threatening to revoke security clearances of former intelligence officials who have not been involved in the Russia investigation to former officials who did work on the probe. And they wonder if he will next choose to target those who currently work on the investigation, which Trump has called a "witch hunt."

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Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Trump's press secretary, insisted the White House wasn't targeting only Trump critics. But Trump did not order a review of the clearance held by former national security adviser Mike Flynn, who was fired from the White House for lying to Vice President Mike Pence about his conversations with Russian officials and later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

Democrats, and even some Republicans, lined up to denounce the president's move, with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., slamming it as a "stunning abuse of power." Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, warned that a "dangerous precedent" was being set by "politicizing the way we guard our national secrets just to punish the president's critics."

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House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., had previously dismissed Trump's threat as nothing more than presidential "trolling."

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann, Zeke Miller, Lisa Mascaro and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

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Prosecutor: Priests 'weaponized' the faith to abuse kids

By MARK SCOLFORO, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Roman Catholic priests across Pennsylvania used religious rituals, symbols of the faith and the threat of eternity in hell to groom, molest and rape children, a grand jury found, in what the state's top prosecutor called the "weaponization of faith."

An 884-page report on the statewide grand jury's investigation, released Tuesday, detailed how "predator priests" used the children's own religious faith and trust in them as religious leaders to victimize and then silence them.

One priest tied up a victim with rope in the confessional in a "praying position," the grand jury wrote. When the victim refused to perform sex, the angered priest used a 7-inch crucifix to sexually assault him, the report said.

Another victim recounted how a priest used a metal cross to beat him.

At a parish rectory, the report said, four of the priests made a boy strip and pose as Jesus on the cross while they took photos.

"He stated that all of them giggled and stated that the pictures would be used as a reference for new religious statues for the parishes," the jury wrote. Two of those priests later did jail time for sexually assaulting two altar boys.

Another priest told a boy he was fondling that it was OK because he was "an instrument of God."

Priests also found in the sacrament of confession the opportunity to perpetrate acts against children, the report said.

The investigation of six of Pennsylvania's eight dioceses— Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton — is the most extensive investigation of Catholic clergy abuse by any state, according to victims' advocates. More than 1,000 children — and possibly many more — were molested since the 1940s, the report said.

The dioceses represent about 1.7 million Catholics.

The Philadelphia Archdiocese and the Johnstown-Altoona Diocese were not included in the probe because they have been the subject of three previous scathing grand jury investigations.

Diocese leaders on Tuesday expressed sorrow for the victims and unveiled, for the first time, a list of priests accused of some sort of sexual misconduct.

"Predators in every diocese weaponized the Catholic faith and used it as a tool of their abuse," Attorney General Josh Shapiro said at a news conference Tuesday unveiling the grand jury's report, which documented allegations against 301 priests over seven decades.

Only two of the priests have been charged with crimes as a result of the grand jury investigation, though a number were prosecuted in years past. Over 100 have died, and many others have retired.

Church leaders say most of the offenses occurred some time in the past and note that major reforms were adopted starting in 2002 to safeguard children.

Terence McKiernan, president of the watchdog group BishopAccountability.org, said the ritualization of abuse was a fundamental part of how children were sexually exploited.

"Even when the Catholic rituals and doctrines are not specifically mobilized by the priest, they are in play," he said.

Threats of eternal damnation were not uncommon, the grand jury found. Priests told children they would "go to hell" if they told anyone what happened and "nobody would believe a lying child over a man of God's word."

One priest was quoted as telling altar boys they should serve naked beneath their cassocks "because God did not want any man-made clothes to be worn next to their skin during Mass," the jury wrote.

In one church, a priest told a boy who confided he had been gang-raped as a 7-year-old that he had to provide sex to get to heaven. He would then be molested for three years before the priest was transferred.

In a case highlighted on the day the grand jury report was made public, a priest rinsed a boy's mouth with holy water after abusing him.

The predator priests used any opportunity they could to molest children while they had them alone, the investigation found. Several priests used hypnosis during counseling sessions to manipulate their victims. Helping a priest grade papers in his rectory somehow became a session of nude weightlifting. One boy was abused when he went to collect his report card from school.

When a bishop asked the Vatican to remove a priest who used physical force and threats to abuse children, the bishop noted the priest "invoked the name of God to justify his actions against his victims while using their faith and the priesthood to manipulate them and secure their silence." Parishioners were never told why he was removed in 2006.

The grand jurors pointedly wrote that the investigation was not an attack on the faith, noting many are Catholics themselves.

"People of all faiths and of no faith want their children to be safe," the grand jurors wrote. "But we were presented with a conspicuous concentration of child sex abuse cases that have come from the church."

Jury to begin deliberating in Manafort financial fraud trial

By CHAD DAY, MATTHEW BARAKAT and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort lied to keep himself flush with cash for his luxurious lifestyle and lied some more to procure millions in bank loans when his income dropped off, prosecutors told jurors Wednesday in closing arguments at the former Trump campaign chairman's financial fraud trial. Jurors will begin deliberations Thursday.

In his defense, Manafort's attorneys told jurors to question the entirety of the prosecution's case as they sought to tarnish the credibility of Manafort's longtime protege — and government witness — Rick Gates.

The conflicting strategies played out over several hours of argument that capped nearly three weeks of testimony in the first courtroom test for special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. The verdict, now in the hands of 12 jurors, will provide a measure of the special counsel's ability to make charges stick.

And while the case doesn't involve allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination by the Trump campaign, it has been closely watched by President Donald Trump as he seeks to publicly undermine Mueller's probe through a barrage of attacks on Twitter and through his lawyers.

In the closing arguments, prosecutor Greg Andres said the government's case boils down to "Mr. Manafort and his lies."

"When you follow the trail of Mr. Manafort's money, it is littered with lies," Andres said as he made his final argument that the jury should find Manafort guilty of 18 felony counts.

Attorneys for Manafort, who is accused of tax evasion and bank fraud, spoke next, arguing against his guilt by saying he left the particulars of his finances to other people, including Gates.

Defense attorney Richard Westling noted that Manafort employed a team of accountants, bookkeepers and tax preparers, a fact he said showed his client wasn't trying to hide anything. Westling also painted the prosecutions' case as consisting of cherry-picked evidence that doesn't show jurors the full picture.

"None of the banks involved reported Manafort's activities as suspicious," he said, saying Manafort's dealings only drew scrutiny when Mueller's investigators started asking questions.

Westling questioned whether prosecutors had proven Manafort willfully violated the law, pointing to documents and emails that the defense lawyer said may well show numerical errors or sloppy bookkeeping or even false information on Manafort's tax returns but no overt fraud.

During the prosecution's arguments, jurors took notes as Manafort primarily directed his gaze at a computer screen where documents were shown. The screen showed emails written by Manafort that contained some of the most damning evidence that he was aware of the fraud and not simply a victim of underlings who managed his financial affairs.

Andres highlighted one email in which he said Manafort sent an inflated statement of his income to bank officers reviewing a loan application. He highlighted another in which Manafort acknowledged his control of one of more than 30 holding companies in Cyprus that prosecutors say he used to funnel more than

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 19 of 47

\$60 million he earned advising politicians in Ukraine.

Prosecutors say Manafort falsely declared some of that money to be loans rather than income to keep from paying taxes on it.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a loan is not income, and income is not a loan. You do not need to be a tax expert to understand this," Andres said.

The government says Manafort hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014. Then, after his money in Ukraine dried up, they allege, he defrauded banks by lying about his income on loan applications and concealing other financial information, such as mortgages.

Manafort chose not to testify or call any witnesses in his defense. His lawyers have tried to blame their client's financial mistakes on Gates, calling him a liar and philanderer.

Gates, who struck a plea deal with prosecutors, told jurors he helped conceal millions of dollars in foreign income and submitted fake mortgage and tax documents. He was also forced to admit embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and conducting an extramarital affair.

Andres said the government isn't asking jurors to like Gates or take everything he said at "face value." He said the testimony of other witnesses and the hundreds of documents are enough to convict Manafort on tax evasion and bank fraud charges.

"Does the fact that Mr. Gates had an affair 10 years ago make Mr. Manafort any less guilty?" Andres asked, noting that Manafort didn't choose a "Boy Scout" to aid a criminal scheme.

Referring to charts compiled by an IRS accounting specialist, Andres told jurors that Manafort declared only some of his foreign income on his federal income tax returns and repeatedly failed to disclose millions of dollars that streamed into the U.S. to pay for luxury items, services and property.

Andres said Manafort should have been well aware he was committing crime each time he signed tax and financial documents indicating that he had no foreign accounts to declare. "Mr. Manafort knew the law and he violated it anyway," Andres said.

In a brief rebuttal after defense arguments, Andres said the defense "wants to make this case about Rick Gates," but hasn't explained "the dozens of documents" Manafort's name is on.

The argument was in response to the arguments made by Manafort attorney Kevin Downing, who split the closing argument with Westling.

Downing told jurors that the government was so desperate to make a case against Manafort that it gave a sweetheart plea deal to Gates, and he would say whatever was necessary so it would not recommend he serve jail time.

"Mr. Gates, how he was able to get the deal he got, I have no idea," Downing said.

Several times during their arguments, Downing and Westling referred to the prosecution as the "office of special counsel" and suggested that Manafort was the victim of selective prosecution, an argument the judge had specifically ruled they couldn't make.

The move drew a quick objection outside the presence of the jurors by Andres. In response, Ellis attempted to repair any improper prejudice created by the defense attorneys, instructing jurors to put aside any argument about the government's motive in bringing the case.

Leaving the courthouse, Downing said he felt "very good" about Manafort's chances of being acquitted.

"Mr. Manafort was very happy with how things went today," Downing said.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Anne Flaherty contributed to this report.

Trump yanks ex-CIA chief's clearance, hitting vocal critic

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump abruptly revoked the security clearance of ex-CIA Director John Brennan on Wednesday, an unprecedented act of retribution against a vocally critical former top U.S. official.

Later, in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump drew a direct connection between the Russia

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 20 of 47

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"I call it the rigged witch hunt, (it) is a sham," Mr. Trump told the Journal, which posted its story on its website Wednesday night. "And these people led it!"

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And it came in the middle of the president's latest controversy — accusations of racism by former adviser Omarosa Manigault Newman and his bitter reaction to them. Trump's statement, distributed to reporters, was dated July 26, 2018, suggesting it could have been held and then released when needed to change a damaging subject. The White House later released a new version without the date.

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Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 21 of 47

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Man arrested after overdoses at downtown city park

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Forty-six people overdosed Wednesday at or near a Connecticut park from a suspected bad batch of "K2" synthetic marijuana, requiring paramedics to be stationed there to provide treatment, authorities said.

No deaths were reported, but officials said two people suffered life-threatening symptoms.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 22 of 47

Most of the overdoses were on the New Haven Green, a popular, historic downtown park that borders part of Yale University, and officials said they expected the overdose total to increase. Police said they arrested a man believed to be connected to at least some of the overdoses.

"Do not come down to the Green and purchase this K2," New Haven Police Chief Anthony Campbell told WVIT-TV. "It is taking people out very quickly, people having respiratory failure. Don't put your life in harm."

Paramedics and police officers remained at the park all day as more people fell ill. Some became unconscious and others vomited, authorities said. Emergency responders rushed to one victim as officials were giving a news conference nearby late Wednesday morning.

"We literally had people running around the Green providing treatment," said Rick Fontana, the city's emergency operations director.

Police did not immediately release the name of the man who was arrested, saying they were waiting for victims to positively identify him.

New Haven first responders were called to a similar overdose outbreak on the Green on July 4, when more than a dozen people were sick from synthetic marijuana. The city also saw more than a dozen synthetic marijuana overdoses in late January. No deaths were reported in either outbreak.

Synthetic marijuana, which generally is plant material sprayed with chemicals that mimic the high from real marijuana, has been blamed for overdoses across the country.

Officials said the blood of Wednesday's victims was being tested to see what exactly they ingested. Fontana said a widely used anti-opioid-overdose drug given to some victims at the park did not seem to be effective, but the same drug did help some patients recover when given in higher doses at hospitals.

Conditions of release not yet met for compound suspects

By MORGAN LEE, Associated Press

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — Three people accused of child abuse at a ramshackle desert compound remained jailed Wednesday as New Mexico authorities sought to satisfy the conditions of their release set by a judge.

Among other things, authorities must find safe living arrangements for the defendants before they can leave jail. They also must wear ankle monitors and have regular contact with their attorneys.

"The conditions for their release have not yet been met," Taos County spokesman Steve Fuhlendorf said Wednesday evening. He did not elaborate.

The legal proceedings against the suspects will be staged in Taos, a community rattled by threats against the judge who cleared the way for the suspects to be released.

Lawyer Marie Legrand Miller, who represents defendant Hujrah Wahhaj, said the release of her client is being delayed over concerns about safety.

She said the threats against the judge, heightened security at the courthouse and other factors are "giving people some pause in the community about what they are able and willing to do" to help her client.

"It has to be a safe release or she is safer in the jail," the lawyer said.

There are few Muslims in the city. The local mosque is a white, domed building the size of a two-car garage. Outside, a staircase winds around a cottonwood tree that serves as a makeshift minaret — though there are seldom calls to prayer.

The defendants, all members of an extended family, face charges of child abuse after authorities raided their remote compound near the Colorado border in early August. Eleven children were found living in what authorities described as filthy and dangerous conditions.

Authorities returned to the compound just days later to recover the remains of a small boy whose body had been wrapped in cloth and plastic and stashed in a tunnel dug on the property.

Taos County officials said security remained tight Wednesday at the courthouse because of the threats that followed the ruling by District Judge Sarah Backus.

Backus' decision came despite assertions by prosecutors that the group was training children to use firearms for an anti-government mission and should remain in jail pending trial.

In her written ruling, Backus said she was bound by an "extremely high standard of proof" and that

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 23 of 47

prosecutors failed to present clear and convincing evidence regarding dangers the defendants might pose to the community.

"From this meager evidence the court is requested by the state to surmise that these people are dangerous terrorists with a plot against the country or institutions. The court may not surmise, guess or assume," she wrote.

Citing state reforms, Backus had set bail for the defendants at \$20,000 with no upfront deposit — just a threat of a fine if defendants break condition of their release.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys referenced the group's Muslim faith during the hearing, but Backus wrote in her order that the court does not take into consideration faith when determining dangerousness.

Medical examiners have yet to determine conclusively whether the body found at the site outside Amalia was that of Abdul-ghani — the severely disabled, missing son of compound resident Siraj Ibn Wahhaj. Other relatives have said or told authorities that the remains are those of Abdul-ghani.

Wahhaj will remain in jail pending a warrant for his arrest issued in Georgia involving accusations that he abducted his son from the boy's mother in December and fled to New Mexico.

Another defendant, Jany Leveille, was transferred to the custody of federal immigration authorities. The 35-year-old native of Haiti is the mother of six children taken into state custody during the compound raid.

Leticia Zamarripa, a spokeswoman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said Leveille has been in the U.S. for more than 20 years after overstaying her non-immigrant visitor visa.

Defendants Lucas Morton, Subhannah Wahhaj and Hujrah Wahhaj were awaiting release.

Von Chelet Leveille said his sister and the rest of the group at the compound were misunderstood.

He disputed allegations that the children were being taught to commit school shootings. He said the two older children asked to be taught to shoot, and that the family's use of firearms was legal and innocent.

He also said the group went to the desert because they no longer wanted to live as American Muslims in a society mostly populated by non-Muslims.

US newsrooms to Trump: We're not enemies of the people

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's newsrooms are pushing back against President Donald Trump with a coordinated series of newspaper editorials condemning his attacks on "fake news" and suggestion that journalists are the enemy.

The Boston Globe invited newspapers across the country to stand up for the press with editorials on Thursday, and several began appearing online a day earlier. Nearly 350 news organizations have pledged to participate, according to Marjorie Pritchard, op-ed editor at the Globe.

In St. Louis, the Post-Dispatch called journalists "the truest of patriots ." The Chicago Sun-Times said it believed most Americans know that Trump is talking nonsense. The Fayetteville, N.C. Observer said it hoped Trump would stop, "but we're not holding our breath ."

"Rather, we hope all the president's supporters will recognize what he's doing — manipulating reality to get what he wants," the North Carolina newspaper said.

Some newspapers used history lessons to state their case. The Elizabethtown Advocate in Elizabethtown, Penn., for instance, compared free press in the United States to such rights promised but not delivered in the former Soviet Union.

The New York Times added a pitch.

"If you haven't already, please subscribe to your local papers," said the Times , whose opinion section also summarized other editorials across the country. "Praise them when you think they've done a good job and criticize them when you think they could do better. We're all in this together."

That last sentiment made some journalists skittish. The Wall Street Journal, which said it was not participating, noted in a column by James Freeman that the Globe's effort ran counter to the independence that editorial boards claim to seek. Freeman wrote that Trump has the right to free speech as much as his media adversaries.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 24 of 47

"While we agree that labeling journalists the 'enemy of the American people' and journalism 'fake news' is not only damaging to our industry but destructive to our democracy, a coordinated response from independent —dare we say 'mainstream'— news organizations feeds a narrative that we're somehow aligned against this Republican president," the Baltimore Sun wrote .

Still, the Sun supported the effort and also noted the deaths of five Capital Gazette staff members at the hands of a gunman in nearby Annapolis, Maryland.

The Radio Television Digital News Association, which represents more than 1,200 broadcasters and web sites, is also asking its members to point out that journalists are friends and neighbors doing important work holding government accountable.

"I want to make sure that it is positive," said Dan Shelley, the group's executive director. "We're shooting ourselves in the foot if we make this about attacking the president or attacking his supporters."

It remains unclear how much sway the effort will have. Newspaper editorial boards overwhelmingly opposed Trump's election in 2016. Polls show Republicans have grown more negative toward the news media in recent years: Pew Research Center said 85 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said in June 2017 that the news media has a negative effect on the country, up from 68 percent in 2010.

Still, newsrooms are trying to convince them otherwise.

"We are not the enemy," declared the Mercury News in San Jose, California.

Associated Press correspondents Hannah Fingerhut, Skip Foreman, Amanda Kell, Herb McCann and Juliet Williams contributed to this report.

'Manafort and his lies' at heart of case, prosecution argues

By **CHAD DAY, MATTHEW BARAKAT and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort lied to keep himself flush with cash for his luxurious lifestyle and lied some more to procure millions in bank loans when his income dropped off, prosecutors told jurors Wednesday in closing arguments at the former Trump campaign chairman's financial fraud trial. Jurors will begin deliberations Thursday.

In his defense, Manafort's attorneys told jurors to question the entirety of the prosecution's case as they sought to tarnish the credibility of Manafort's longtime protege — and government witness — Rick Gates.

The conflicting strategies played out over several hours of argument that capped nearly three weeks of testimony in the first courtroom test for special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. The verdict, now in the hands of 12 jurors, will provide a measure of the special counsel's ability to make charges stick.

And while the case doesn't involve allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination by the Trump campaign, it has been closely watched by President Donald Trump as he seeks to publicly undermine Mueller's probe through a barrage of attacks on Twitter and through his lawyers.

In the closing arguments, prosecutor Greg Andres said the government's case boils down to "Mr. Manafort and his lies."

"When you follow the trail of Mr. Manafort's money, it is littered with lies," Andres said as he made his final argument that the jury should find Manafort guilty of 18 felony counts.

Attorneys for Manafort, who is accused of tax evasion and bank fraud, spoke next, arguing against his guilt by saying he left the particulars of his finances to other people, including Gates.

Defense attorney Richard Westling noted that Manafort employed a team of accountants, bookkeepers and tax preparers, a fact he said showed his client wasn't trying to hide anything. Westling also painted the prosecutions' case as consisting of cherry-picked evidence that doesn't show jurors the full picture.

"None of the banks involved reported Manafort's activities as suspicious," he said, saying Manafort's dealings only drew scrutiny when Mueller's investigators started asking questions.

Westling questioned whether prosecutors had proven Manafort willfully violated the law, pointing to documents and emails that the defense lawyer said may well show numerical errors or sloppy bookkeeping or even false information on Manafort's tax returns but no overt fraud.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 25 of 47

During the prosecution's arguments, jurors took notes as Manafort primarily directed his gaze at a computer screen where documents were shown. The screen showed emails written by Manafort that contained some of the most damning evidence that he was aware of the fraud and not simply a victim of underlings who managed his financial affairs.

Andres highlighted one email in which he said Manafort sent an inflated statement of his income to bank officers reviewing a loan application. He highlighted another in which Manafort acknowledged his control of one of more than 30 holding companies in Cyprus that prosecutors say he used to funnel more than \$60 million he earned advising politicians in Ukraine.

Prosecutors say Manafort falsely declared some of that money to be loans rather than income to keep from paying taxes on it.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a loan is not income, and income is not a loan. You do not need to be a tax expert to understand this," Andres said.

The government says Manafort hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014. Then, after his money in Ukraine dried up, they allege, he defrauded banks by lying about his income on loan applications and concealing other financial information, such as mortgages.

Manafort chose not to testify or call any witnesses in his defense. His lawyers have tried to blame their client's financial mistakes on Gates, calling him a liar and philanderer.

Gates, who struck a plea deal with prosecutors, told jurors he helped conceal millions of dollars in foreign income and submitted fake mortgage and tax documents. He was also forced to admit embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and conducting an extramarital affair.

Andres said the government isn't asking jurors to like Gates or take everything he said at "face value." He said the testimony of other witnesses and the hundreds of documents are enough to convict Manafort on tax evasion and bank fraud charges.

"Does the fact that Mr. Gates had an affair 10 years ago make Mr. Manafort any less guilty?" Andres asked, noting that Manafort didn't choose a "Boy Scout" to aid a criminal scheme.

Referring to charts compiled by an IRS accounting specialist, Andres told jurors that Manafort declared only some of his foreign income on his federal income tax returns and repeatedly failed to disclose millions of dollars that streamed into the U.S. to pay for luxury items, services and property.

Andres said Manafort should have been well aware he was committing crime each time he signed tax and financial documents indicating that he had no foreign accounts to declare. "Mr. Manafort knew the law and he violated it anyway," Andres said.

In a brief rebuttal after defense arguments, Andres said the defense "wants to make this case about Rick Gates," but hasn't explained "the dozens of documents" Manafort's name is on.

The argument was in response to the arguments made by Manafort attorney Kevin Downing, who split the closing argument with Westling.

Downing told jurors that the government was so desperate to make a case against Manafort that it gave a sweetheart plea deal to Gates, and he would say whatever was necessary so it would not recommend he serve jail time.

"Mr. Gates, how he was able to get the deal he got, I have no idea," Downing said.

Several times during their arguments, Downing and Westling referred to the prosecution as the "office of special counsel" and suggested that Manafort was the victim of selective prosecution, an argument the judge had specifically ruled they couldn't make.

The move drew a quick objection outside the presence of the jurors by Andres. In response, Ellis attempted to repair any improper prejudice created by the defense attorneys, instructing jurors to put aside any argument about the government's motive in bringing the case.

Leaving the courthouse, Downing said he felt "very good" about Manafort's chances of being acquitted. "Mr. Manafort was very happy with how things went today," Downing said.

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick and Anne Flaherty contributed to this report.

US officials: Iraqi refugee was part of terror group

By DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A refugee from Iraq was arrested Wednesday in Northern California on a warrant alleging that he killed an Iraqi policeman while fighting for the Islamic State organization.

Omar Abdulsattar Ameen, 45, and other members of ISIS killed the officer after the town of Rawah, Iraq, fell to the Islamic State in June 2014, according to court documents.

He was arrested by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force at a Sacramento apartment building based on a warrant issued in May by an Iraqi federal court in Baghdad. U.S. officials plan to extradite him back to Iraq under a treaty with that nation, and he made his first appearance in federal court in Sacramento on Wednesday.

Ameen could face execution for the “organized killing by an armed group” according to Iraqi documents filed in U.S. federal court.

Prosecutors say Ameen entered the U.S. under a refugee program, eventually settling in Sacramento, and attempted to gain legal status in the United States.

He arrived in Turkey in 2012 and began applying to the U.S. for refugee status by claiming to be a victim of terrorism, according to a court document. He was granted refugee status in June 2014, but returned to Iraq to commit the slaying before traveling to the United States in November 2014, the document says.

The Trump administration has sharply criticized the Obama-era settlement program, questioning whether enough was done to weed out those with terrorist ties.

Officials said Ameen also kept secret his membership in two terrorist groups when he applied for a green card in the United States.

State Department and Department of Homeland Security officials did not immediately respond to questions about Ameen.

Benjamin Galloway, one of Ameen’s public defenders, said he had just 10 minutes to meet with his client prior to his initial federal court appearance Wednesday afternoon and attorneys hadn’t decided whether to contest that Ameen is in fact the man wanted by Iraqi authorities.

Ameen was identified by a witness to the slaying who viewed a series of photographs of ISIS members, according to the Iraqi documents.

The FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force has been investigating Ameen for filing fraudulent travel or immigration documents since 2016, according to a court filing. It says the FBI independently corroborated Ameen’s involvement with the terrorist organizations and participation in the slaying.

Ameen remained dressed in street clothing including a light blue T-shirt as he appeared in court handcuffed to a chain around his waist. U.S. Magistrate Judge Edmund Brennan ordered him detained until his next court appearance set for Monday, accepting prosecutors’ argument that Ameen is dangerous and a flight risk.

Prosecutors said in court filings that the release of an alleged member of a designated foreign terrorist organization would be a national security risk.

The Iraqi arrest warrant and extradition request say that Ameen entered his hometown of Rawah in the Anbar province of Iraq with a four-vehicle ISIS caravan and drove to the home of Ihsan Abdulhafiz Jasim, who had served with the Rawah Police Department. He and at least five other named suspects opened fire and the man shot back, but the documents allege that Ameen fatally shot the man in the chest as he lay on the ground.

The militants later claimed responsibility for the slaying on social media.

The FBI has interviewed at least eight witnesses who identify the Ameen family — including Ameen himself, his father, brothers, and paternal cousins — as affiliated with al Qaeda and ISIS, prosecutors said.

Court documents say Ameen’s family also aided al Qaeda in Rawah and that Ameen was a member of both al Qaeda in Iraq and ISIS. The documents allege that he did a number of things in support of the groups, including helping plant improvised bombs, transporting militants, soliciting funds and robbing supply trucks and kidnapping drivers on behalf of al Qaeda.

The FBI quotes one witness as saying Ameen's vehicle in 2005 was a Kia Sportage flying a black al Qaida flag with a cut-out roof and a machine gun mounted on the rear.

Associated Press journalist Sophia Bollag contributed to this story.

Italy hunts for blame in bridge collapse that killed 39

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO, COLLEEN BARRY and PAOLO SANTALUCIA, Associated Press**

GENOA, Italy (AP) — As more bodies were pulled Wednesday from a mountain of jagged concrete and twisted steel left by a highway bridge collapse that killed 39, prosecutors focused on possible design flaws and past maintenance of the heavily used span, and politicians squabbled over blame.

Motorists, meanwhile, recounted miraculous escapes and the horror of seeing others plunge over the edge.

As a second night descended on the site where part of the Morandi Bridge plunged some 45 meters (150 feet), Interior Minister Matteo Salvini declined to say how many people might still be buried in the debris where about 1,000 rescue workers searched for victims.

The collapse occurred about midday Tuesday, the eve of Italy's biggest summer holiday, when traffic was particularly busy on the 51-year-old span that links two highways — one leading to France, the other to Milan — from this northwestern port city.

Salvini declined to say how many people are still missing, and he added that trying to locate them was particularly difficult, due to the holiday.

"It's not easy to distinguish between who doesn't respond because they are on the other side of the world and turned off their phone to relax" on vacation, and "who's not responding because they are under the rubble," he said.

He said he hoped the death toll would not rise.

"Miracles are still possible," Salvini said.

Authorities urged the quick removal of tons of debris from a dry river bed so that the rubble doesn't create a makeshift dam if heavy rains fall in the flood-prone city on the Mediterranean.

Debris also must be cleared from railroad tracks, a vital link especially now that Genoa is largely cut in half by the loss of such a key artery, Premier Giuseppe Conte said.

Authorities worried about the stability of remaining large sections of the bridge, prompting a wider evacuation order and forcing about 630 people from nearby apartments, some practically in the shadow of the elevated highway. Firefighters went inside some of the vacated apartments briefly to retrieve documents and, in at least one home, pet cats.

Building a new bridge could require razing the evacuated buildings, said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Danilo Toninelli.

After leading an emergency Cabinet meeting in Genoa, Conte said there were 39 confirmed dead and 16 injured, including nine in serious condition. Three children were among those killed, Salvini said.

The dead included four French citizens traveling to a music festival and two Albanians.

Genoa Prosecutor Francesco Cozzi told reporters the investigation into the collapse was focused on human causes, specifically any possible design flaws in the bridge's construction or any inadequate maintenance.

He said he didn't know who might be responsible, but added: "It wasn't an accident."

Asked if authorities had any warning that the bridge could be dangerous, Cozzi indicated that no serious safety concerns had reached his office before the collapse.

Otherwise, "none of us would have driven over that highway 20 times a month, as we do," he said.

A 20 million-euro (\$22.7 million) project to upgrade the bridge's safety had already been approved, with public bids to be submitted by September. According to business daily *Il Sole*, improvement work would have involved two weight-bearing columns that support the bridge — including one that collapsed Tuesday.

The bridge, considered innovative when it opened in 1967 for its use of concrete around its cables, was long due for an upgrade, especially since it was more heavily trafficked than its designers had envisioned.

One expert, Antonio Brencich at the University of Genoa, had previously called the bridge "a failure of

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 28 of 47

engineering." Other engineers, noting its age, said corrosion and decades of wear-and-tear from weather also could have been factors in the collapse.

Italian politicians pointed fingers at possible culprits.

Conte said the government wouldn't wait until the investigation was completed to revoke the concession of a private company, Autostrade Per L'Italia, that operates many of the nation's toll highways. The next company would be held to "more stringent" rules for maintenance.

Residents near the bridge told RAI state TV they would hear maintenance work being done almost nightly.

Deputy Premier Luigi Di Maio, of the anti-business 5-Star Movement, alleged Autostrade's holding company took profits "instead of investing money for maintenance."

Toninelli, the transportation and infrastructure minister and another populist 5-Star leader, said his ministry had started procedures so Autostrade could be fined up to 150 million euros (\$170 million).

Still-dazed and shaken survivors recounted their close brush with death when the collapse of the 80-meter (260-foot) section of the span sent more than 30 cars and three trucks tumbling.

A French lawyer who was in a car with her husband and 3-year-old son said they were just coming onto the bridge when "we saw the pylon go completely to the right, and we realized what was happening."

The woman, who was identified only as Leonine, told broadcaster Francetvinfo that they tried to make a U-turn but were blocked by traffic.

"We saw a man running and making a sign to everyone to leave," she said. "We opened our doors, took our son out of his car seat," and then ran to a nearby tunnel.

One of the widely circulated images of the disaster was a green truck poised on the edge of the span.

A truck driver identified only as Idris who was behind that vehicle said it was saved only because of a motorist who tried to pass it moments earlier. The driver of the green truck apparently had to hit his brakes because of the passing car and was able to stop in time, he added.

"That truck driver is the luckiest in the world," Idris told Sky TG24. "He should have fallen in. ... He braked right where the bridge was broken."

The passing car plunged into the chasm, he added.

Idris also credited police for hustling 150-200 people off the bridge to the tunnel, then risking their own lives by going back onto the span to bring some of the vehicles to safety.

D'Emilio reported from Rome and Barry from Milan. Simone Somekh in Rome and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

Bishops accused of brushing off sexual abuse complaints

By **MARC LEVY** and **MARK SCOLFARO**, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A priest raped a 7-year-old girl while visiting her in the hospital after she had her tonsils removed. Another priest forced a 9-year-old boy into having oral sex, then rinsed out the youngster's mouth with holy water. One boy was forced to say confession to the priest who sexually abused him.

An estimated 300 Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania molested more than 1,000 children — and possibly many more — since the 1940s, according to a scathing Pennsylvania grand jury report released Tuesday that accused senior church officials, including the man who is now archbishop of Washington, D.C., of systematically covering up complaints.

The "real number" of victimized children and abusive priests might be higher since some secret church records were lost and some victims never came forward, the grand jury said in the report that is the largest of its kind in the United States.

U.S. bishops adopted widespread reforms in 2002 when clergy abuse became a national crisis for the church, including stricter requirements for reporting accusations to law enforcement and a streamlined process for removing clerics. But the grand jury said more changes are needed.

"Despite some institutional reform, individual leaders of the church have largely escaped public accountability," the grand jury wrote in the roughly 900-page report. "Priests were raping little boys and girls, and

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 29 of 47

the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing; they hid it all.”

Top church officials have mostly been protected, and many, including some named in the report, have been promoted, the grand jury said, concluding that “it is too early to close the book on the Catholic Church sex scandal.”

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, leader of the Washington Archdiocese, was accused in the report of helping to protect abusive priests when he was Pittsburgh’s bishop from 1988 to 2006.

Wuerl has disputed the allegations.

At a Mass held Wednesday in Washington on the feast of the Assumption of Mary, Wuerl did not address the accusations against himself, but urged parishioners not to lose confidence in the church over the “terrible plague” of abuse.

In nearly every case, the Pennsylvania grand jury said, prosecutors found that the statute of limitations has run out, meaning criminal charges cannot be filed. More than 100 of the priests are dead. Many others are retired or have been dismissed from the priesthood or put on leave.

Authorities charged just two as a result of the grand jury investigation, including a priest who has since pleaded guilty, though some of those named were prosecuted years ago.

The investigation of six of Pennsylvania’s eight dioceses— Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton — is the most extensive investigation of Catholic clergy abuse by any state, according to victims’ advocates. The dioceses represent about 1.7 million Catholics.

Until now, there have been nine investigations by a prosecutor or grand jury of a Catholic diocese or archdiocese in the U.S., according to the Massachusetts-based research and advocacy organization BishopAccountability.org.

“One thing this is going to do is put pressure on prosecutors elsewhere to take a look at what’s going on in their neck of the woods,” Terry McKiernan of BishopAccountability.org said.

The Philadelphia Archdiocese and the Johnstown-Altoona Diocese were not included in the probe because they have been the subject of three previous scathing grand jury investigations.

As church officials scrambled to defend themselves, the state attorney general’s office said its hotline for victims had lit up, fielding more than 150 calls within 24 hours of the report becoming public.

Calls to the hotline in 2016 spurred the grand jury investigation, and Attorney General Josh Shapiro said the investigation is still going on.

The grand jury heard from dozens of witnesses and reviewed more than a half-million pages of internal diocesan documents, including reports by bishops to Vatican officials about the allegations against priests.

The panel concluded that a succession of bishops and other diocesan leaders tried to shield the church from bad publicity and financial liability. They failed to report accused clergy to police, used confidentiality agreements to silence victims and sent priests to “treatment facilities,” which “laundered” the clergymen and “permitted hundreds of known offenders to return to ministry,” the report said.

The conspiracy of silence extended beyond church grounds: Police or prosecutors sometimes did not investigate allegations out of deference to church officials or brushed off complaints as outside the statute of limitations, the grand jury said.

A former Pennsylvania county prosecutor was fired Wednesday from his job as an attorney for a county youth services office after the report showed that, as Beaver County’s elected district attorney in the 1960s, he stopped an investigation into alleged child abuse by a priest to gain political favor from the Pittsburgh Diocese.

Diocese leaders responded Tuesday by expressing sorrow for the victims, stressing how they’ve changed and unveiling, for the first time, a list of priests accused of sexual misconduct.

James VanSickle of Pittsburgh, who testified he was sexually attacked in 1981 by a priest in the Erie Diocese, called the report’s release “a major victory to get our voice out there, to get our stories told.”

The report is still the subject of a legal battle, with the identities of some current and former clergy blacked out while the state Supreme Court weighs their requests to remain anonymous.

The report comes at a time of fresh scandal at the highest levels of the U.S. Catholic Church. Pope Francis

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 30 of 47

last month stripped 88-year-old Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of his title amid allegations that McCarrick had for years sexually abused boys and committed sexual misconduct with adult seminarians.

The findings echoed many earlier church investigations around the country that found widespread sexual abuse and attempts to conceal it. U.S. bishops have acknowledged that more than 17,000 people nationwide have reported being molested by priests and others in the church going back to 1950.

Associated Press writer Claudia Lauer and Michael Rubinkam in Pennsylvania contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Wuerl spoke at a Mass on Wednesday, not Thursday.

The grand jury report: <http://media-downloads.pacourts.us/InterimRedactedReportandResponses.pdf?cb=22148>

After Alex Jones timeout, Twitter CEO mulls deeper changes

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after Twitter gave right-wing conspiratorialist Alex Jones a weeklong timeout, CEO Jack Dorsey is mulling deeper changes to the social media service that might limit the spread of fake news, misinformation and hate speech.

Twitter joined other prominent tech companies in muzzling Jones, the founder of the Infowars site, who has used Twitter and other social outlets to spread false information. Twitter had resisted the move despite public pressure, but the holdout lasted less than two weeks.

"They seem to be reacting to the backlash they received when so many other companies in Silicon Valley ended up taking action," said Keegan Hankes, research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, who focuses on far right extremist propaganda online. "It's illustrative of a broader trend of reactive enforcement" by the companies, he added.

Then on Wednesday, Dorsey told the Washington Post that he is exploring changes to core elements of Twitter's service that could promote alternative perspectives in its timeline. The move could address falsehoods, conspiracy theories and other misinformation, and might also reduce online "echo chambers," in which users are exposed mostly to viewpoints they already agree with.

The CEO said the "most important thing that we can do" is to revisit the incentives Twitter uses to shape how people behave on the service. "Because they do express a point of view of what we want people to do — and I don't think they are correct anymore," he said Twitter later confirmed Dorsey's comments.

Dorsey said Twitter is also exploring ways to label automated accounts, known as "bots," which are often used to inflate follower counts or to amplify harassment or false accusations on the service. (Many bots also have benign uses.)

The executive told the Post that Twitter hasn't reconsidered its core incentives, designed to keep users engaged and interactive, in the dozen years of its existence. "We often turn to policy to fix a lot of these issues, but I think that is only treating surface-level symptoms that we are seeing," he said.

The situation with Jones may be illustrative. Late Tuesday, Twitter said it had "limited" Jones' personal account for seven days because he had violated the company's rules. Jones won't be able to tweet or retweet, though he will be able to browse Twitter. The company would not comment on what the offending post said.

But in a video posted Wednesday to the Twitter account for Infowars, Jones said the company suspended him and may shut him down completely because he violated its rules by posting a "video I shot last night saying (President Donald) Trump should do something about the censorship of the internet."

Later Wednesday, Twitter put the Infowars account on the same seven-day timeout as Jones, apparently for posting the same video.

Paul Joseph Watson, the editor-at-large for Infowars, posted a screenshot of a Twitter notice that said Jones had his account "temporarily limited" because he violated its rules against "targeted harassment of

someone, or (inciting) other people to do so.”

The video is no longer available on Twitter or Periscope, where Jones posted it. But it is still up elsewhere on the web. In it, Jones says people “need to have their battle rifles and everything ready at their bedsides and you got to be ready because the media is so disciplined in their deception.”

This punishment is light compared with that leveled by Apple, YouTube and Spotify, which permanently removed material Jones had published. Facebook, meanwhile, suspended him for 30 days and took down four of his pages, including two for Infowars.

Dorsey had originally defended his company’s decision not to ban Jones, tweeting that Jones “hasn’t violated our rules” but if he does “we’ll enforce.”

“We’re going to hold Jones to the same standard we hold to every account, not taking one-off actions to make us feel good in the short term, and adding fuel to new conspiracy theories,” Dorsey tweeted on Aug. 7, after the other companies took action against Jones.

The apparent change of heart reflects a Twitter still hanging onto its roots as a free-wheeling Wild West of the internet in an age where online words can have serious real-life consequences. Along with other social media companies, it is now grappling with how to enforce sometimes vague rules without appearing partisan and while leaning toward promoting, rather than curbing, free speech.

When deciding what the rules are and how to enforce them — especially when it comes to gray areas — they are up against both conservatives and liberals claiming bias and feeling silenced. There are also users who often just want to post about their daily lives, and even against their own employees, be they free speech absolutists or those who feel people like Jones do not deserve an online megaphone.

“The platforms cannot win because some constituency will be offended no matter what they do,” said Nathaniel Persily, a Stanford law professor.

Twitter, Hankes said, is either underequipped or unwilling to enforce its written rules, instead embracing the idea of an online free-speech utopia. But, he added, “the unchecked use of these platforms by bad actors does not make utopia.”

AP Technology Writer Michael Liedtke contributed to this article from San Francisco.

Victory offers Muslim candidate new platform to oppose Trump

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — President Donald Trump, meet Ilhan Omar.

Just two years ago, the Minnesota Democrat became the first Somali-American elected to a state legislature. Now she’s likely to become one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress. And she says one of her top priorities will be resisting the Trump administration, which would forbid her from entering the U.S. if she were attempting to immigrate today.

“I myself would have been part of the travel ban,” Omar said on the campaign trail.

Her victory in Tuesday’s Democratic primary for a House seat from the immigrant-rich Minneapolis area depended heavily on support from people who feel persecuted in Trump’s America and voters who empathize with them.

No Republican has won the heavily liberal district since 1962, making the primary the de facto election, though Omar will face Republican candidate Jennifer Zielinski in November.

Winning the seat will position her as a new national voice against administration policies. The seat opened up when Rep. Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to Congress, launched a last-minute bid for attorney general after serving six terms.

Omar’s victory over a crowded field marked the latest milestone in the meteoric political rise of a woman who spent her childhood in a Kenyan refugee camp and immigrated to the United States at age 12. She won her seat in the state House in 2016.

On Tuesday, she defeated two more experienced candidates — former House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher and state Sen. Patricia Torres Ray — as well as another Somali-American.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 32 of 47

During the campaign, Omar often addressed the country's divisions.

"There is a clear and dangerous crossroads to where our country finds itself," she told a group last month at a coffee shop. "You can see the politics of fear and scarcity that's led us to the current administration we have."

Omar was not giving interviews Wednesday, her campaign said.

Supporters cheered on the hijab-wearing candidate when she took the stage Tuesday night to claim victory. She recalled how she was just 8 when her family fled the civil war in Somalia and described what her win would have meant to that 8-year-old girl in the refugee camp.

"Today I still think about her, and I think about the kind of hope and optimism all of those 8-year-olds around the country and world get from seeing your beautiful faces elect and believe in someone like me," an emotional Omar told the jubilant crowd.

The other Muslim woman who is likely to join Congress in January is former Michigan state Rep. Rashida Tlaib, a Palestinian-American who won a Detroit-area Democratic primary last week and is running unopposed in November.

Tlaib came to Minneapolis to campaign for Omar at a Middle Eastern restaurant last weekend at an event that was disrupted by conservative provocateur Laura Loomer.

Energized by the anti-Muslim rhetoric of Trump and his supporters, as many as 90 Muslims have run for national or statewide offices in this election cycle, including at least 15 in Minnesota.

They include Mohamud Noor, who won Tuesday's primary in Omar's state House district and will likely become the first Somali-American man elected to the Legislature; Hodan Hassan, a woman who won in a neighboring legislative district; and Fardousa Jama, a woman who advanced to the general election in a Mankato City Council race.

"I think it sends a strong message for inclusion," Noor said Wednesday of the victories. "Our win didn't come just from the Somalis. We built a coalition, and that sends a message that people are sick and tired of the politics of fear. ... People want to include us in the political process, and they welcomed us into their homes."

The victories reverberated beyond Minnesota, Noor said.

"It's not just a celebration here. It's a global celebration. I've been getting calls from all over the world," he said, citing Somalia and countries of the Somali diaspora as far away as Australia.

Because Omar was in the Democratic minority in the Minnesota House, she has few legislative accomplishments. But she brought undeniable star power to the race, riding the fame from her history-making election to a spot on the cover of Time magazine. She also had a cameo in a recent Maroon 5 music video for "Girls Like You," a song that played through the loudspeakers as Omar entered her victory party.

Among those celebrating was Khalid Mohamed. The Star Tribune reported he wore an American flag draped around his shoulders while holding a Somali flag in hand.

"This is back home," the 25-year-old told the newspaper as he gestured to the small light blue flag with a white star. "And this is home now," he added, wrapping the U.S. flag tighter around his chest.

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: <http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw> .

Suicide bomber targets Shiite students in Kabul, killing 48

By RAHIM FAIEZ and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber struck a private education center in a Shiite neighborhood of Kabul on Wednesday where high school graduates were preparing for university entrance exams, killing 48 young men and women and leaving behind a scene of devastation and tragedy.

The bombing, blamed on the Islamic State group, was the latest assault on Afghanistan's Shiite community, which has increasingly been targeted by Sunni extremists who consider Shiites to be heretics.

It also showed how militants are still able to stage large-scale attacks, even in the heart of Kabul, and

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 33 of 47

underscored the struggles of the Afghan forces to provide security and stability on their own.

The attack comes amid a particularly bloody week in Afghanistan that has seen Taliban attacks kill scores of Afghan troops and civilians.

It was not immediately clear how the bomber managed to sneak into the building, used by the Shiite community as an education center, in the Dasht-i Barcha area of Kabul.

The spokesman for the public health ministry, Wahid Majroh, said 67 people were also wounded in the bombing and that the death toll — which steadily rose in the immediate aftermath of the bombing — could rise further. He did not say if all the victims were students and whether any of their teachers were also among the casualties.

Dawlat Hossain, father of 18-year-old student Fareba who had left her class just a few minutes before the bombing but was still inside the compound, was on his way to meet his daughter and started running when he heard the explosion.

Hossain recounted to The Associated Press how when he entered Fareba's classroom, he saw parts of human bodies all over student desks and benches.

"There was blood everywhere, all over the room, so scary and horrible," he said. After finding out that his daughter was safe, he helped move the wounded to hospitals.

Fareba was traumatized that so many of her friends were killed, but Hossain said she was lucky to be alive.

The explosion initially set off gunfire from Afghan guards in the area, leading to assumptions that there were more attackers involved, but officials later said all indications were that there was only one bomber.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Jawad Ghawari, a member of the city's Shiite clerical council, blamed IS, which has carried similar attacks on Shiites in the past, hitting mosques, schools and cultural centers. In the past two years, there were at least 13 attacks on the Shiite community in Kabul alone, he said.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the "terrorist" attack that "martyred and wounded the innocent" — students attending class — and ordered an investigation into the attack.

"By targeting educational and cultural centers, terrorists have clearly shown they are against all those Islamic principles (that strive) for both men and women to learn and study," Ghani said in a statement.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the bombing as a "heinous and cowardly terrorist attack," saying that it "underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice."

The head of the U.N. children's agency denounced the attack, saying it's "deplorable" that children continue to be hardest hit in the growing violence across Afghanistan.

"Children are not, and must never be the target of violence," said UNICEF's executive director Henrietta Fore.

Meanwhile, a Taliban assault on two adjacent checkpoints in northern Afghanistan late on Tuesday night killed at least 30 soldiers and policemen.

The attack took place in Baghlan province's Baghlan-I Markazi district, said Mohammad Safdar Mohseni, the head of the provincial council.

Dilawar Aymaq, a parliamentarian from Baghlan, said the attack targeted a military checkpoint and another manned by the so-called local police, militias recruited and paid by the Interior Ministry.

At least nine security forces were still missing and four others were wounded in the attack, said Abdul Hai Nemat, the governor of Baghlan. He said reinforcements have been dispatched to help recapture the checkpoints.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the assault.

Life was gradually returning to normal Wednesday in parts of the eastern city of Ghazni after a massive, days-long Taliban attack, though sporadic gunbattles was still underway in some neighborhoods.

The Taliban launched a coordinated offensive last Friday, overwhelming the city's defenses and capturing several neighborhoods. Afghan forces repelled the initial assault and in recent days have struggled to flush the insurgents out of residential areas where they are holed up.

The United States and NATO launched airstrikes and sent military advisers to aid Afghan forces as they

fight for the city, just 120 kilometers (75 miles) from the Afghan capital with a population of some 270,000 people.

At least 35 Ghazni civilians have been killed, said Arif Noori, a spokesman for the provincial governor. The wounded were still arriving at the city's only hospital, which has been overwhelmed by casualties, he added.

Hundreds of people have fled the fighting in Ghazni, which has also killed about 100 members of the Afghan security forces.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Taliban attacked a police checkpoint in the southern Zabul province early Wednesday, killing four policemen, according to the provincial police chief, Mustafa Mayar.

The Taliban have seized several districts across the country in recent years and carry out near-daily attacks targeting Afghan security forces. The assault on Ghazni was widely seen as a show of force ahead of possible peace talks with the U.S., which has been at war in Afghanistan for nearly 17 years.

Also Wednesday, six children were killed when they tinkered with an unexploded rocket shell, causing it to blow up, said Sarhadi Zwak, spokesman for the governor of the eastern Laghman province. The victims were girls, aged 10-12, who were gathering firewood, he said, blaming the Taliban.

Afghanistan is littered with unexploded ordnance left by decades of war. It is also plagued by roadside bombs planted by insurgents, which are usually intended for government officials or security forces, but often kill and maim civilians.

Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Officials remove special rules for gene therapy experiments

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**, AP Chief Medical Writer

U.S. health officials are eliminating special regulations for gene therapy experiments, saying that what was once exotic science is quickly becoming an established form of medical care with no extraordinary risks.

A special National Institutes of Health oversight panel will no longer review all gene therapy applications and will instead take on a broader advisory role, according to changes proposed Wednesday. The Food and Drug Administration will vet gene therapy experiments and products as it does with other treatments and drugs.

It's an extraordinary milestone for a field that has produced only a few approved treatments so far, and not all experts agree that it doesn't still need special precautions.

With gene editing and other frontiers looming, "this is not the right time to be making any moves based on the idea that we know what the risks are," said Stanford bioethicist Mildred Cho.

Gene therapy aims to attack the root cause of a problem by deleting, adding or altering DNA, the chemical code of life, rather than just treating symptoms that result from a genetic flaw.

When it was first proposed, there were so many safety worries and scientific unknowns that the NIH created a panel of independent scientists, called the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, or RAC, to assess each experiment and potential risks to patients. The risks were underscored in 1999, when a teen's death in a gene experiment put a chill on the field.

Since then, much has been learned about safety, and last year the FDA approved the nation's first gene therapies, for cancer and an inherited form of blindness.

It's time to let the FDA review gene therapy proposals on its own without duplicating regulatory efforts, the NIH's director, Dr. Francis Collins, and FDA chief Dr. Scott Gottlieb wrote Wednesday in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The proposed changes will go into effect after a public comment period.

More than 700 proposals for gene therapy are pending now, and "it seems reasonable to envision a day when gene therapy will be a mainstay of treatment for many diseases," they wrote. "The tools we use to address other areas of science are now well suited to gene therapy."

Several independent experts agreed.

"This is something the FDA has the tools to handle. I don't think this is somehow a massive deregula-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 35 of 47

tion," said Leigh Turner of the University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics. "We never want to become blasé or cavalier about gene therapy clinical trials. Careful scrutiny, whether by one body or two, is as important as ever."

Jeffrey Kahn, director of the Bioethics Institute at Johns Hopkins University, said the move is consistent with recommendations from the Institute of Medicine several years ago.

"We have mechanisms in place to protect patients," he said. "It doesn't need to be treated as a special case of clinical research any longer."

But Cho, who is a member of the RAC, said gene therapies are biologically complex treatments, and "we really don't understand how they work," in many cases. "There are miraculous recoveries and remissions that we haven't seen before but there also are very spectacular failures."

Important caveat: The rules in question govern gene therapies that alter DNA to treat diseases after someone is born — not altering embryos, eggs or sperm to make permanent changes that would be passed down through generations. That's prohibited under current rules.

"We need to strengthen rather than weaken the review apparatus if the FDA were to start to consider proposals" for that, said Marcy Darnovsky, executive director of the Center for Genetics and Society, a group that advocates for oversight and responsible use of biotechnologies.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP>.

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Republicans blast Pearl Jam poster of burning White House

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Republicans on Wednesday condemned a poster by Pearl Jam that shows the White House in flames and a bald eagle pecking at a skeleton they say is meant to depict President Donald Trump.

The National Republican Senate Committee compared it to the now-infamous photo of comedian Kathy Griffin holding a fake decapitated Trump head.

The rock group's Twitter account says the official poster from Monday's concert in Missoula, Montana, is a collaboration between bassist Jeff Ament and Bobby Brown, an artist also known as Bobby Draws Skulls.

The "Rock2Vote" concert aimed to encourage young people to vote in the November midterm elections and support Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, who is from Ament's hometown of Big Sandy.

Ament was unapologetic in an emailed statement Wednesday.

"The role of the artist is to make people think and feel, and the current administration has us thinking and feeling," Ament said in the statement. "I was the sole conceptualist of this poster, and I welcome all interpretations and discourse."

He ended the statement, "Love, from the First Amendment, Jeff Ament."

The poster shows Tester in a tractor flying over a burning Washington, D.C., framed by the letters "P" and "J," with smoke forming the word "Vote" in the background.

Several objects and people are in the foreground, including a skeleton with a full head of hair lying face down, an eagle pecking at the bones of its foot.

Tester's Republican opponent, Montana State Auditor Matt Rosendale, also is depicted with a crab claw for a hand and carrying a "Maryland" flag, a reference to Rosendale's native state.

The message from Ament accompanying the poster included the description: "D.C. burning. Tester Evel Knievel on tractor ... over the cesspool below. Russian money, golf courses, hookers? Maryland Matt. Stars and Stripes as flames."

Rosendale called the poster "disgusting and reprehensible" and called on Tester to "denounce this act of violence and blatant display of extremism."

The National Republican Senate Committee, which is supporting Rosendale's campaign, also blamed Tester

for not speaking out against the poster it called "gory." The committee compared it to other examples of public figures "encouraging violence" against Trump, like Griffin's photo.

Tester officials said the campaign had nothing to do with the poster.

"We never saw the poster before the show and we don't like it," Tester spokesman Chris Meagher said. "And we don't condone violence of any kind."

Ament told The Associated Press in April that the band wanted to use the Montana concert to support local advocacy groups, encourage voter participation and boost Tester's campaign. He said he believed that the political climate had become too divisive.

"Probably more than ever it's important to have a congressman that can sort of make people think less emotionally about some of these things," he said.

Church helped former priest accused of abuse get Disney job

By MARC LEVY, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A sweeping grand jury report into child sexual abuse in Roman Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania said church officials gave a former priest a positive reference to work at Disney World, even though they'd fielded at least one allegation about him sexually abusing a boy.

The ex-priest, Edward Ganster, left the priesthood in 1990, moved to the Orlando area and went on to work at Disney World before he died in 2014.

The report said Ganster worked at the theme park for 18 years. Ganster drove the train at the Magic Kingdom, according to an obituary in the Orlando Sentinel, which said Ganster worked there for 15 years.

Disney World did not respond to a request for information.

Ganster, who became a priest in 1971, was working at St. Joseph's Church in Easton in the late 1970s when a woman complained to a Monsignor that Ganster had gotten in bed with her 13-year-old son on an overnight trip and "hurt" him, the report said. The boy also told his mother that "something happened" in the confession booth, it said.

The Monsignor told her Ganster would be given counseling and Ganster was promptly reassigned, the report said.

About a decade later, Ganster was on sick leave at a Catholic mental health hospital as he sought to leave the priesthood and get married.

Ganster wrote the Diocese to say he would apply for a job at Disney World and wanted to use the Diocese as a reference, the report said.

Allentown's bishop, Thomas Welsh, wrote to Orlando's bishop that Ganster's problems were "partially sexual" and that he couldn't reassign him. A Monsignor separately assured Ganster that he would get a positive reference.

"I am quite sure that the Diocese will be able to give you a positive reference in regard to the work you did during your years of service here as a priest," the Monsignor wrote, according to the report.

A diocese spokesman, Matt Kerr, said he knows of no reference letter, or if one was written.

"That should not have happened," Kerr said. "It would not happen today."

More than a decade after Ganster left the priesthood, a man contacted the Allentown Diocese to report that Ganster had victimized him when he was 14 and an altar boy some two decades earlier, the report said.

Ganster fondled, groped and beat him repeatedly, once dragging him across a living room floor by his underwear and once beating him with a metal cross, the report said.

Years later, in 2015, the mother of another victim contacted the Allentown Diocese to report that Ganster abused her then 12-year-old son in 1977, the report said.

Not just land heat waves: Oceans are in hot water, too

By CHRISTINA LARSON, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even the oceans are breaking temperature records in this summer of heat waves. Off the San Diego coast, scientists earlier this month recorded all-time high seawater temperatures since daily measurements began in 1916.

“Just like we have heat waves on land, we also have heat waves in the ocean,” said Art Miller of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Between 1982 and 2016, the number of “marine heat waves” roughly doubled, and likely will become more common and intense as the planet warms, a study released Wednesday found. Prolonged periods of extreme heat in the oceans can damage kelp forests and coral reefs, and harm fish and other marine life.

“This trend will only further accelerate with global warming,” said Thomas Frolicher, a climate scientist at the University of Bern in Switzerland, who led the research.

His team defined marine heat waves as extreme events in which sea-surface temperatures exceeded the 99th percentile of measurements for a given location. Because oceans both absorb and release heat more slowly than air, most marine heat waves last for at least several days — and some for several weeks, said Frolicher.

“We knew that average temperatures were rising. What we haven’t focused on before is that the rise in the average comes at you in clumps of very hot days — a shock of several days or weeks of very high temperatures,” said Michael Oppenheimer, a Princeton University climate scientist who was not involved in the study.

Many sea critters have evolved to survive within a fairly narrow band of temperatures compared to creatures on land, and even incremental warming can be disruptive.

Some free-swimming sea animals like bat rays or lobsters may shift their routines. But stationary organisms like coral reefs and kelp forests “are in real peril,” said Michael Burrows, an ecologist at the Scottish Marine Institute, who was not part of the research.

In 2016 and 2017, persistent high ocean temperatures off eastern Australia killed off as much as half of the shallow water corals of the Great Barrier Reef — with significant consequences for other creatures dependent upon the reef.

“One in every four fish in the ocean lives in or around coral reefs,” said Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, a marine biologist at the University of Queensland. “So much of the ocean’s biodiversity depends upon a fairly small amount of the ocean floor.”

The latest study in *Nature* relied on satellite data and other records of sea-surface temperatures including from ships and buoys.

It didn’t include the recent record-breaking measurements off Scripps Pier in San Diego — which reached 79.5 degrees Fahrenheit on August 9 — but Frolicher and Miller said the event was an example of a marine heat wave.

Miller said he knew something was odd when he spotted a school of bat rays — which typically only congregate in pockets of warm water — swimming just off the pier earlier this month.

Changes in ocean circulation associated with warmer surface waters will likely mean decreased production of phytoplankton — the tiny organisms that form the basis of the marine food web, he said.

Marine biologists nicknamed a patch of persistent high temperatures in the Pacific Ocean between 2013 and 2016 “the Blob.” During that period, decreased phytoplankton production led to a cascading lack of food for many species, causing thousands of California sea lion pups to starve, said Miller, who had no role in the *Nature* study.

“We’ve repeatedly set new heat records. It’s not surprising, but it is shocking,” he said.

Follow AP Science Writer Christina Larson on Twitter at @larsonchristina .

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Black Americans aren't buying Omarosa's turn against Trump

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, Omarosa Manigault Newman stood at Donald Trump's side, making her deeply unpopular with African-Americans who see her as a sellout for aligning herself with a president who has hurled one insult after another at black people.

Her falling out with Trump and her decision to call him a racist as she sells her new book — and in turn, his calling her a "dog" — have not been enough for many African-Americans to invite her back to the family picnic.

Too little, too late, many said.

"Her tell-all mea culpa won't win her any brownie points with most blacks," said Earl Ofari Hutchinson, author of the book "Why Black Lives Do Matter." "Their loathing of Omarosa is virtually frozen in stone. She's still roundly lambasted as a two-bit opportunist, a racial sellout and an ego driven hustler."

Few in the black community immediately rushed to defend Manigault Newman after she wrote a book titled "Unhinged" about her time in the White House. It paints a damning picture of Trump, claiming without evidence that tapes exist of him using the N-word as he filmed "The Apprentice" reality series, on which she co-starred.

She has since stepped up her attacks on Trump as she promotes her book, telling The Associated Press on Tuesday that the president is "a racist, a misogynist, a bigot."

"I want to see this nation united as opposed to divided," she said. "I don't want to see a race war, as Donald Trump does."

The deep hostility that African-Americans harbor for Manigault Newman stems largely from her defense of the president or her public silence as he repeatedly attacked the American citizenship of former President Barack Obama; insulted various minority groups and described some African nations as "shithole" countries. He has also insulted prominent blacks like U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and NBA superstar LeBron James, said that "many sides" are to blame for the violence at last year's white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and ripped African-American athletes for protesting racial injustice.

As the highest-profile African-American on the White House staff, she pushed back on accusations that Trump was racist. She once told PBS' "Frontline," "Every critic, every detractor will have to bow down under President Trump."

In the book, Manigault Newman suggests she joined Trump's campaign — despite the misgivings she said she had about her longtime friend and mentor — after an arrangement to join Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign fell through and left her feeling spurned.

She writes that Trump and his campaign were "eager for my help" and she wanted to experience working on a campaign at a "high level." And, "since Trump had little chance of winning, it would be 'no harm, no foul' for me to have worked with the campaign for however long it lasted," she wrote.

She now says he "used" her, calling him a "con" who "has been masquerading as someone who is actually open to engaging with diverse communities" but is "truly a racist."

Trump ratcheted up his rhetoric against Manigault Newman on Tuesday. "When you give a crazed, crying lowlife a break, and give her a job at the White House, I guess it just didn't work out," Trump said. "Good work by General Kelly for quickly firing that dog!" John Kelly is the White House chief of staff.

Many condemned the president and his repeated attempts to compare minorities with animals, but there was little defense of Manigault Newman — unlike when Trump attacked NBA superstar LeBron James in recent weeks.

"We should not mistake anything that has happened here as to be Omarosa in any way purporting to be a benefit to the African-American community," said Aisha Moodie-Mills, a Democratic strategist.

More than 8 in 10 blacks said they thought Trump was racist in a February poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. More than 9 in 10 of African-Americans disapproved of how Trump is handling his job as president.

Manigault Newman has been associated with Trump for more than a decade.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 39 of 47

Minimal association with Trump, like taking a photograph with the president in the Oval Office, was enough for protesters to decry Historically Black Colleges and University presidents on their own campuses last year. Black ministers who met with Trump are being criticized by their colleagues and some by their congregations. Among the criticized is Darrell Scott, an African-American pastor from Ohio who declared "This is probably going be ... the most pro-black president that we've had in our lifetime."

Raynard Jackson, a black Republican who has worked on GOP presidential, gubernatorial and local campaigns, said Manigault Newman secretly recording Trump and other White House officials will make her a pariah in conservative circles as well.

"There is absolutely no way she can redeem herself. Who is going to trust her ever again?" Jackson said. "Recording someone under these circumstances is the political equivalent of spitting on a man."

Conservative commentator Armstrong Williams said he's known Manigault Newman since she was 19 and will always consider her a friend. But "Omarosa can't be trusted," he said. "There's an issue when you can't be trusted and can't be loyal."

As her feud with Trump intensified, Manigault Newman's relationship with the black community became the topic of many conversations among African-Americans, especially on social media. Some offered hope for Manigault Newman, however conditional.

If Omarosa "is the one to get some traction on people seeing how truly raggedy this administration is enough to take action... we should reconsider letting her get a to-go plate from the cookout. Someone can take it to her," tweeted Bari A. Williams, an Oakland lawyer and business operations executive.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Jesse J. Holland covers race and ethnicity for The Associated Press. Contact him at jholland@ap.org, on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/jessejholland>.

Turkey increases tariffs on some US goods, escalating feud

By SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey said Wednesday it is increasing tariffs on some U.S. products like cars, alcohol, and coal — a move that is unlikely to have much economic impact but highlights the deteriorating relations with the U.S. in a feud that has already helped trigger a currency crisis .

The Turkish government said tariffs on American cars will be doubled to 120 percent while those on alcoholic drinks will be hiked by the same rate to 140 percent. Overall, the duties will amount to \$533 million, a relatively small sum meant as retaliation for U.S. President Donald Trump's recent decision to double tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum.

The tariffs also come a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would boycott U.S. electronic goods, singling out iPhones. Though it was unclear how the boycott would be enforced or encouraged.

Beyond the bluster of the two world leaders, the spat between the NATO allies has exacerbated a financial storm in Turkey. International investors have been put off by the country's high levels of foreign debt and Erdogan's refusal to allow the central bank to raise interest rates to support the currency, as experts say it should.

The currency drop is particularly painful for Turkey because it has accumulated a high debt in foreign currencies.

The Turkish lira has dropped to a series of record lows in recent weeks, having fallen 37 percent so far this year. It recovered a bit, by 5 percent to around 6.05 lira per dollar Wednesday, after the government took steps to shore up the currency by reducing the daily limit in bank foreign currency swap transactions.

On Wednesday, Turkish officials said Qatar had pledged \$15 billion of direct investments for Turkey, in a bid to help Turkey's economy. The officials said Qatar's Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani pledged to "quickly implement" the investment package during a meeting with Erdogan in Ankara. The officials from Erdogan's office provided the information on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 40 of 47

Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin later confirmed the pledge on Twitter, saying: "Turkish-Qatari relations are based on solid foundations of true friendship and solidarity."

Also helping the Turkish currency were moves by Turkey to gain favor with European countries.

It decided to release two Greek soldiers from prison on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Turkey then freed Amnesty International's honorary chairman for Turkey, Taner Kilic, from prison pending the outcome of his trial on terror charges. And Erdogan held a phone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and planned to speak this week also with France's Emmanuel Macron.

Investors seemed to focus on this and underlying economic problems over the exchange of tariffs with the U.S., which analysts said was unlikely to cause serious pain.

Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, director of the German Marshall Fund's Ankara office, noted that Turkey buys just 0.5 percent of all U.S. exports and most of that is civilian aircraft and weapons.

"This is just a symbolic gesture," said Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, director of the German Marshall Fund's Ankara office. He said "So anything other than weapons purchases... would not hurt the United States."

It was unclear, meanwhile, whether the boycott of American electronics would be enforced in any way.

Apple has 22 percent of the smartphone market in Turkey, where 11.4 million units were sold last year, according to Ramazan Yavuz, research manager at IDC consultancy company.

Although preference for Apple products is strong, their already high prices are curbing demand, Yavuz said adding that the boycott "is expected to reduce Apple's performance in the country in the upcoming quarters."

Attention will turn Thursday to an address by the finance minister to foreign investors for clues on any change in economic policy.

Investors are looking for substantive economic policy changes by Erdogan — namely the acceptance of higher interest rates — whereas the president has so far reacted mainly by blaming foreign powers, particularly the United States, which he says is waging an "economic war."

Washington has imposed financial sanctions on two Turkish ministers and doubled steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey, as Trump tries to secure the release of Andrew Brunson, a 50-year-old American pastor being tried in Turkey on espionage and terrorism-related charges.

On Wednesday, a court rejected an appeal for Brunson's release from detention and for a travel ban against him to be lifted, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. A higher court however, was scheduled to review the appeal, the agency said.

Although he was released to home detention, Brunson faces a prison sentence of up to 35 years if he is convicted on both counts at the end of his ongoing trial.

The evangelical pastor, who is originally from Black Mountain, North Carolina, has lived in Turkey for 23 years and led the Izmir Resurrection Church.

A rising concern? After straws, balloons get more scrutiny

By CANDICE CHOI, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that plastic straws may be headed for extinction, could Americans' love of balloons be deflated?

The joyous celebration of releasing balloons into the air has long bothered environmentalists, who say the pieces that fall back to earth can be deadly to seabirds and turtles that eat them. So as companies vow to banish plastic straws, there are signs balloons will be among the products to get more scrutiny, even though they're a very small part of environmental pollution.

This year, college football powerhouse Clemson University is ending its tradition of releasing 10,000 balloons into the air before games, a move that's part of its sustainability efforts. In Virginia, a campaign that urges alternatives to balloon releases at weddings is expanding. And a town in Rhode Island outright banned the sale of all balloons earlier this year, citing the harm to marine life.

"There are all kinds of alternatives to balloons, a lot of ways to express yourself," says Kenneth Lacoste, first warden of New Shoreham, Rhode Island, who cites posters, piñatas and decorated paper.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 41 of 47

Following efforts to limit plastic bags, the push by environmentalists against straws has gained traction in recent months, partly because they're seen as unnecessary for most. Companies including Starbucks and Disney are promising to phase out plastic straws, which can be difficult to recycle because of their size and often end up as trash in the ocean. A handful of U.S. cities recently passed or are considering bans. And the push may bring attention to other items people may not have considered — like festive balloons.

"The issue of straws has really broadened the marine debris issue," says Emma Tonge of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. People might not realize balloons are a danger, she says, because of their "light and whimsical" image.

Balloons are not among the top 10 kinds of debris found in coastal cleanups, but Tongue says they're common and especially hazardous to marine animals, which can also get entangled in balloon strings.

Chelsea Rochman, an assistant professor of ecology at the University of Toronto, says people should think systemically about waste and pollution, but that efforts to bring attention to specific products shouldn't be dismissed as too minor.

"If we said that about everything, we wouldn't get anything done," she says.

Already, a few states restrict balloon releases to some extent, according to the Balloon Council, which represents the industry and advocates for the responsible handling of its products to "uphold the integrity of the professional balloon community." That means never releasing them into the air, and ensuring the strings have a weight tied to them so the balloons don't accidentally float away.

Lorna O'Hara, executive director of the Balloon Council, doesn't dispute that marine creatures might mistake balloons for jellyfish and eat them. But she says that doesn't mean balloons are necessarily causing their deaths.

Clean Virginia Waterways still thinks balloons can be harmful. Included in its report last year: A photo of a soaring bird with a deflated balloon trailing behind it.

The report addresses the "rising concern" of balloons, which also often use helium, a non-renewable resource. It notes the difficulty of changing a social norm and that even typing "congrats" in a Facebook post results in an animation of balloons. It even claims the media play a role and that some groups conduct balloon releases "just so reporters will cover the event."

"We don't want to say don't use them at all. We're saying just don't release them," says Laura McKay of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

Some states such as California ban balloon releases for other reasons. Pacific Gas & Electric, which serves northern and central California, says metallic balloons caused 203 power outages in the first five months of this year, up 22 percent from a year ago.

Lacoste thinks other towns, particularly those along the coasts, will also ban balloons as people become more aware of environmental issues. He notes that plastic bags were once seen as harmless, but many places now ban them.

Follow Candice Choi at www.twitter.com/candicechoi

Kansas governor concedes, says he will endorse GOP nominee

By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer says he will endorse Republican nominee for governor Kris Kobach after conceding in the state's GOP primary in a surprise announcement a week after their neck-and-neck finish threatened to send the race to a recount.

Colyer accepted defeat Tuesday evening after a review of some provisional ballots from most Kansas counties failed to find enough votes for him to overcome a deficit of 110 votes at the time the polls closed in the Aug. 7 primary, out of more than 311,000 votes initially counted. Kobach, who was endorsed by President Donald Trump, has seen his lead widen as the counting of provisional ballots continues into next week across the state.

"I've just had a conversation with the secretary of state and congratulated him on his success and re-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 42 of 47

peated my determination to keep this seat in Republican hands," Colyer said. "This election may be the closest in America. But the numbers are not there."

Trump tweeted his congratulations Wednesday morning, saying Kobach won "a tough race against a very fine opponent." He added: "Kris will win in November and be a great Governor."

Kobach, 52, has a national conservative following thanks to his strong stance against illegal immigration and his fervent defense of voter ID laws. He was vice chairman of the Trump administration's election-fraud commission, though the commission eventually found no evidence to support Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 presidential election. Kobach's voter fraud efforts also took a hit in June when a federal judge found the proof-of-citizenship voter registration law he championed was unconstitutional.

Colyer, by contrast, is far more low-key. The 58-year-old plastic surgeon from suburban Kansas City served as lieutenant governor for seven years and took over as governor in January, when Sam Brownback resigned to become ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

Kobach has been a lightning rod for controversy, and some Democrats believe their party has a better chance to capture the governor's seat with him as their Republican opponent instead of Colyer.

"Never in modern Kansas history has any major party's nominee for governor been viewed as poorly by everyday Kansans than Kris Kobach," said Ethan Corson, the executive director of the Kansas Democratic Party. "As the drawn-out Republican primary shows, even a significant number of Republican primary voters had and likely still have deep misgivings about the person now at the top of the GOP ticket."

Kobach will go against Democrat Laura Kelly, and is likely to face independent candidate Greg Orman, in the November general election in the decidedly conservative state. The bid from Orman, a Kansas City-area businessman who has launched what could become the most serious independent candidacy for governor since the 1930s, complicates Democrats' efforts to recapture the governor's office.

In a statement after Colyer's announcement, Kelly said Kansas families already suffered enough under former Gov. Brownback and that the state doesn't need someone like Kobach who has pledged to bring back the same policies.

"With Kris Kobach as Governor, Kansans get all the failed policies of Sam Brownback plus Kobach's unique brand of hyper-partisanship and self-promotion," Kelly said. "Quite simply, Kris Kobach is Sam Brownback on steroids, and that's the last thing that Kansans need right now."

Before becoming governor, Colyer was a loyal No. 2 to Brownback, even when budget problems that followed Brownback's aggressive income tax cuts caused his approval levels to plummet. Lawmakers in 2017 rolled back most of those cuts.

The disputed race between Colyer and Kobach was intense and prompted a lengthy county-by-county review of provisional ballots. The aftermath of the primary included both candidates challenging each other's legal interpretations, sending observers to monitor the vote count and raising the specter of lawsuits.

But in the end, Colyer and Lt. Gov. Tracey Mann said they are committed to supporting Republican nominee Kobach and helping him win in November.

"We will make sure the next governor is fully prepared and has our total cooperation in the peaceful transition of power," Colyer told reporters in Topeka. He left without taking questions.

Kobach said in a statement that he received a call from Colyer before Colyer's news conference where he conceded.

"He was incredibly gracious, and that meant a lot after such a hard-fought campaign," Kobach said. "I want to thank Gov. Jeff Colyer for a race well run. He was a worthy opponent, and I thank him sincerely for his service to the state of Kansas. I will work hard to advance our shared values, and I look forward to working with Gov. Colyer and all Republicans to keep Kansas red in November."

Colyer is the first Kansas governor to lose a primary since 1956, and the first nationally since Hawaii's Neil Abercrombie lost a Democratic primary in 2014.

Bob Beatty, a political scientist at Washburn University in Topeka, said there was still a small chance that a recount could have revealed something to change Colyer's chances, but the odds were very much against him. By conceding, Colyer has made it possible for him to run for another office in the future, Beatty said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 43 of 47

Both Kelly and Orman want to face Kobach in the fall, Beatty said, noting several polls showing Kobach weaker in the field than Colyer.

"Now that doesn't mean Kobach can't win," Beatty said. "Let's just say there might have been three parties tonight — Kobach, Orman and Kelly."

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: <http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw>

Dems pick 'firsts,' GOP goes for Trump fave in primaries

By STEVE PEOPLES and KYLE POTTER, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — In a night of firsts, Democrats in Vermont's primary chose the nation's first transgender gubernatorial nominee. In Minnesota, they picked a woman who would be the first Somali-American member of Congress. Connecticut Democrats nominated a candidate who could become the first black woman from the state to serve in Congress.

Democrats embraced diversity in Tuesday primaries, while Republicans in Minnesota rejected a familiar face of the GOP old guard in favor of a rising newcomer aligned with President Donald Trump.

But Minnesota Democrats also backed a national party leader who is facing accusations of domestic violence. He has denied the allegations, yet they threaten to undercut enthusiasm in his state and beyond.

On the other side, Trump tightened his grip on the modern-day Republican Party as the turbulent 2018 primary season lurched toward its finale. A one-time Trump critic, former two-term Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty lost a comeback attempt he was expected to win.

Trump fired off a celebratory tweet Wednesday, hailing "Great Republican election results" and adding "Red Wave!" He also endorsed a series of candidates in Wisconsin, including Bryan Steil who won the GOP primary for the House seat held by Speaker Paul Ryan and Leah Vukmir, who will face Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin in November.

All but 10 states picked their candidates for November's general election by the time the day's final votes were counted. While the full political battlefield isn't quite set, the stakes are clear: Democrats are working to topple Republican control of Congress and governors' offices across the nation.

Four states held primaries Tuesday: Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kansas' gubernatorial primary, which was held last week, was finalized when Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer conceded defeat.

In Minnesota, Republican County Commissioner Jeff Johnson defeated Pawlenty, who once called Trump "unhinged and unfit" and was hoping to regain his old post. In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker, endorsed just this week by Trump, won the right to seek a third term.

The president's pick for Kansas governor, Secretary of State Kris Kobach, scored a delayed victory against Colyer, who became the first incumbent governor to fall this season.

In Vermont, Democrat Christine Hallquist won the Democratic nomination in her quest to become the nation's first transgender governor. The former chief executive of Vermont Electric Cooperative bested a field of four Democrats that included a 14-year-old.

While she made history on Tuesday, Hallquist faces a difficult path to winning the governor's race. Republican incumbent Phil Scott remains more popular with Democrats than members of his own party in the solidly liberal state.

Vermont Democrats also nominated Sen. Bernie Sanders, who hasn't ruled out a second presidential run in 2020, for a third term in the Senate. The 76-year-old democratic socialist won the Democratic nomination, but he is expected to turn it down and run as an independent.

Democrats appeared particularly motivated in Wisconsin, where eight candidates lined up for the chance to take on Walker.

Walker's strong anti-union policies made him a villain to Democrats long before Trump's rise. State schools chief Tony Evers, who has clashed with Walker at times, won the Democratic nomination and will take on Walker this fall.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 44 of 47

Once a target of Trump criticism, Walker gained the president's endorsement in a tweet Monday night calling him "a tremendous Governor who has done incredible things for that Great State."

Trump also starred, informally at least, in Wisconsin's Senate primaries as Republicans try to deny Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin a second term.

Longtime state lawmaker Leah Vukmir, who was backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan, won the Republican primary, even after struggling to explain footage recently unearthed from 2016 in which she called Trump "offensive to everyone."

Tuesday's primaries served as a test of Democratic enthusiasm in the upper Midwest, a region that has long been associated with liberal politics but has been trending red. Trump won Wisconsin by less than 1 percentage point in 2016, becoming the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the state since 1984.

It was much the same in Minnesota, where Trump lost by less than 3 percentage points in a state that hasn't backed a Republican presidential contender since 1972.

Nearly twice as many Minnesota Democrats as Republicans cast ballots in their parties' respective gubernatorial primaries.

Pawlenty had been considered the heavy favorite in a two-person Republican contest for his old job. But he struggled to adapt to a GOP that had changed drastically since he left office in 2011 and flamed out early in a 2012 presidential bid.

The former two-term governor strained to live down his October 2016 comment that Trump was "unhinged and unfit for the presidency," remarks that incensed many Republican voters in Minnesota and beyond. Johnson, his underfunded opponent, circulated Pawlenty's critique far and wide, telling voters that he was a steadfast supporter of the president.

Johnson will face Democratic Rep. Tim Walz, who won a three-way race for his party's nomination.

Three Minnesota women won Senate nominations, including incumbent Democrats Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith.

Smith, who had been appointed to replace Democrat Al Franken, will face Republican state Sen. Karin Housley, ensuring a woman will hold the seat once held by Franken, who left Congress amid allegations of sexual misconduct toward women.

Nationwide, a record number of women are running this year for governor and Congress.

Meanwhile, a new scandal threatened to dampen Democratic enthusiasm.

Rep. Keith Ellison, the Democratic National Committee's deputy chairman, captured his party's nomination in the race to become the state's attorney general. That's after Ellison's candidacy was rocked by allegations over the weekend of domestic violence amid a broader national outcry against sexual misconduct by powerful men in business, entertainment and politics.

Ellison has denied a former girlfriend's allegations that he dragged her off a bed while screaming obscenities during a 2016 relationship she said was plagued by "narcissistic abuse."

Also in Minnesota, Democrat Ilhan Omar, the nation's first Somali-American legislator, won her party's congressional primary in the race to replace Ellison.

In Connecticut, Republican businessman Bob Stefanowski emerged from a field of five Republicans seeking to replace the unpopular outgoing governor, Democrat Dan Malloy. Former gubernatorial candidate Ned Lamont won the Democratic nomination.

Connecticut Democrats picked former teacher of the year, Jahana Hayes, to run for the seat being vacated by Rep. Elizabeth Etsy, who is leaving Congress after bungling sexual abuse claims levied against a former staffer. Hayes could become the first black woman from the state to serve in Congress.

Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

White House admits error for false claim on black employment

By ANNE FLAHERTY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House has acknowledged error in its false claim that President Donald Trump created three times as many jobs for African-Americans than President Barack Obama.

It was a rare admission of fault for an administration that frequently skews data and overstates economic gains.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on Twitter late Tuesday that she had been wrong earlier that day when she told reporters that Obama created only 195,000 jobs for African-Americans during his tenure compared with Trump's 700,000 new jobs in just two years.

The U.S. economy actually added about 3 million jobs for black workers during Obama's tenure, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"President Trump in his first year and a half has already tripled what President Obama did in eight years," she told reporters during a Tuesday press briefing.

But that assertion is false. Official statistics show black jobs went from 15.5 million when Obama took office in January 2008 to 18.4 million when he left in January 2017.

In fact, the most dramatic drop in black unemployment came during the Obama administration as the nation climbed out of a crippling recession. Unemployment of black workers fell from 16.8 percent in March 2010 to 7.8 percent in January 2017.

It is true that black workers under Trump have continued to see gains, reaching a record low of 5.9 percent in May. Still, black unemployment rate is now nearly double that of whites, which is 3.4 percent.

Sanders tweeted Tuesday: "Jobs numbers for Pres Trump and Pres Obama were correct, but the time frame for Pres Obama wasn't. I'm sorry for the mistake, but no apologies for the 700,000 jobs for African-Americans created under President Trump."

Sanders linked to a tweet by the White House Council of Economic Advisers, which claimed responsibility for the "miscommunication."

Sales boom in Walmart stores and surge online

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Walmart is raising its outlook for the year after beating all expectations for the second quarter and registering the strongest same-store sales growth in a decade.

Shares surged 7 percent before the opening bell Thursday.

The Bentonville, Arkansas, retailer had a loss of \$861 million, or 29 cents because of some sizeable investments. Adjusted for those one-time costs, however, per-share earnings were earnings were \$1.29 per share, easily topping Wall Street projections of \$1.21 per share, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Walmart Inc. posted revenue of \$128.03 billion, also beating projections.

Sales at existing stores jumped 4.5 percent and e-commerce sales grew 40 percent.

This story was generated by Automated Insights (<http://automatedinsights.com/ap>) using data from Zacks Investment Research. Access a Zacks stock report on WMT at <https://www.zacks.com/ap/WMT>

Asian stocks slide as investors fret over China's economy

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares fell Thursday after deepening worries about global economic growth, particularly in China, set off a rout on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 0.2 percent to 22,158.75 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong lost 0.6 percent to 27,155.66. The Shanghai Composite index sank 0.9 percent to 2,699.60. South Korea's Kospi reopened from a holiday and tumbled 1.0 percent to 2,236.89. Australia's S&P ASX 200 edged 0.1 percent lower to 6,323.20. Shares fell in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

WALL STREET'S SLIDE: Large technology companies such as Alibaba and Baidu of China and U.S. tech

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 46 of 47

giants including Facebook and Microsoft fell. The S&P 500 declined 0.8 percent to 2,818.37. Earlier it lost as much as 1.3 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 0.5 percent to 25,162.41. The Nasdaq composite dropped 1.2 percent to 7,774.12. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks sank 1.3 percent to 1,670.67.

TENCENT SURPRISE: An unexpected drop in profits for Chinese tech giant Tencent rattled investors, adding to recent concerns about the health of China's economy. Tencent, a gaming and messaging company, is the most valuable technology company in China. Jefferies & Co. analyst Karen Chan said Tencent's revenue was also disappointing, mostly because of weak results from its mobile gaming business. Tencent's stock fell 2.9 percent in Hong Kong on Thursday morning.

CHINA FACTOR: Earlier this week, reports on growth in factory output, consumer spending and retail sales in China were all slower than expected. But there was encouraging news in Beijing's announcement that it is sending a trade envoy to Washington, renewing efforts to resolve a worsening tariff dispute.

ANALYST'S VIEWPOINT: Emerging market shares are taking a pinch from weak commodities prices, Mizuho Bank said in a commentary. Apart from that, "China's moderating growth also adds further concern given that its potential weaker import demand could ripple through the supply chain and hit export-oriented economies."

COPPER SINKS: Copper tumbled 4.5 percent to \$2.56 a pound, its lowest price in more than a year. Copper is considered an important economic indicator because of its uses in construction and power generation, and copper futures have fallen more than 20 percent since they hit an annual high of \$3.30 a pound in early June.

TURKEY'S TROUBLES: Turkey's currency stabilized and rose after authorities sought to ease liquidity problems in the banking system. But Turkey imposed \$500 million in tariffs on U.S. goods as tensions between the countries increased. There is also no sign that Turkey's president will let the central bank raise interest rates, which economists say it should do urgently to support the currency. The Turkish ISE National 100 index slumped 3.4 after a gain of 0.8 percent Tuesday. Indexes in other emerging markets including Brazil and Russia skidded as well.

ENERGY: U.S. crude stabilized, adding 6 cents to \$65.07 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It sagged 3 percent to \$65.01 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, picked up 28 cents to \$71.04 per barrel. It had lost 2.3 percent to \$70.76 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.77 yen from 110.72 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1386 from \$1.1346.

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 Thursday, Aug. 16, the 228th day of 2018. There are 137 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 16, 1987, 156 people were killed when Northwest Airlines Flight 255 crashed while trying to take off from Detroit; the sole survivor was 4-year-old Cecelia Cichan (SHEE'-an).

On this date:

In 1812, Detroit fell to British and Indian forces in the War of 1812.

In 1858, a telegraphed message from Britain's Queen Victoria to President James Buchanan was transmitted over the recently laid trans-Atlantic cable.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued Proclamation 86, which prohibited the states of the Union from engaging in commercial trade with states that were in rebellion — i.e., the Confederacy.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 038 ~ 47 of 47

In 1920, Ray Chapman of the Cleveland Indians was struck in the head by a pitch thrown by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees; Chapman died the following morning.

In 1948, baseball legend Babe Ruth died in New York at age 53.

In 1954, Sports Illustrated was first published by Time Inc.

In 1956, Adlai E. Stevenson was nominated for president at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

In 1962, The Beatles fired their original drummer, Pete Best, replacing him with Ringo Starr.

In 1977, Elvis Presley died at his Graceland estate in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 42.

In 1987, people worldwide began a two-day celebration of the "harmonic convergence," which heralded what believers called the start of a new, purer age of humankind.

In 1991, Pope John Paul II began the first-ever papal visit to Hungary.

In 2003, Idi Amin, the former dictator of Uganda, died in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia; he was believed to have been about 80.

Ten years ago: At the Beijing Olympics, Michael Phelps touched the wall a hundredth of a second ahead of Serbia's Milorad Cavic (MEE'-loh-rahd KAH'-vihch) to win the 100-meter butterfly, giving Phelps his seventh gold medal of the Games, tying Mark Spitz's performance in the 1972 Munich Games. Usain (yoo-SAYN') Bolt of Jamaica ran the 100-meter dash in a stunning world-record time of 9.69 seconds. Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and actress Portia de Rossi were married at their Beverly Hills home.

Five years ago: In a spacewalk lasting seven hours and 29 minutes, Russian cosmonauts rigged cable outside the International Space Station for a new lab that was due to arrive in a few months.

One year ago: The University of Florida denied a request by white supremacist Richard Spencer to rent space on the campus for a September event. (The university later allowed Spencer to appear in October, saying it was legally obligated to allow the expression of many viewpoints.) President Donald Trump disbanded two White House business councils, amid criticism from CEOs for his remarks on the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann Blyth is 90. Actor Gary Clarke is 85. Actress Julie Newmar is 85. Actress-singer Ketty Lester is 84. Actor John Standing is 84. College Football Hall of Famer and NFL player Bill Glass is 83. Actress Anita Gillette is 82. Actress Carole Shelley is 79. Country singer Billy Joe Shaver is 79. Movie director Bruce Beresford is 78. Actor Bob Balaban is 73. Ballerina Suzanne Farrell is 73. Actress Lesley Ann Warren is 72. Rock singer-musician Joey Spampinato is 70. Actor Marshall Manesh is 68. Actor Reginald VelJohnson is 66. TV personality Kathie Lee Gifford is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer J.T. Taylor is 65. Movie director James Cameron is 64. Actor Jeff Perry is 63. Rock musician Tim Farriss (INXS) is 61. Actress Laura Innes is 61. Singer Madonna is 60. Actress Angela Bassett is 60. Actor Timothy Hutton is 58. Actor Steve Carell (kuh-REHL') is 56. Former tennis player Jimmy Arias is 54. Actor-singer Donovan Leitch is 51. Actor Andy Milder is 50. Actor Seth Peterson is 48. Country singer Emily Robison (The Dixie Chicks) is 46. Actor George Stults is 43. Singer Vanessa Carlton is 38. Actor Cam Gigandet is 36. Actress Agnes Bruckner is 33. Singer-musician Taylor Goldsmith (Dawes) is 33. Actress Cristin Milioti is 33. Actor Shawn Pyfrom is 32. Country singer Ashton Shepherd is 32. Actor Okieriete Onaodowan is 31. Country singer Dan Smyers (Dan & Shay) is 31. Actor Kevin G. Schmidt is 30. Actress Rumer Willis is 30. Actor Parker Young is 30. Rapper Young Thug is 27. Actor Cameron Monaghan is 25. Singer-pianist Greyson Chance is 21.

Thought for Today: "The most persistent threat to freedom, to the rights of Americans, is fear." — George Meany (born this date in 1894, died in 1980).