

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 1 of 44

**“Clear clutter.
Make space
for you.”**

-Magdalena Vandenberg



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Dairy Queen Help Wanted
- 1- School Help Wanted
- 2- City Council Story
- 2- Hokana Auction Ad
- 3- Groton Insurance Agency changes owners
- 4- Day of Giving encourages focus on community arts
- 5- Getting hose ready for fire trucks
- 5- School Calendar
- 6- Schools Open Across South Dakota This Week – Motorists Urged to Pay Extra Attention
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- National Weather map
- 9- Today's Weather Almanac
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Harry Implement

“Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!”



(605) 395-6421

Ferney



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)



Extension given to jail

Topper Tastad came before the council to ask for an extension on the work for the jail building. His request for an extension from September 30 to November 30 was granted. He said the tuck-pointing of the outside will be done by then.

The 2019 budget was reviewed and given first reading. Taken out of the budget were: Hoop barn for storage of salt sand, \$23,000; Rubber paint for the pool building floor, \$3,700, be done this fall and taken out of this year's budget; Handicap bathroom at the park, \$15,000; Mower for the park, shop and pool, \$7,500; Pull type roller packer, \$8,000; reduced amounts were: Refrigerator for community center reduced from \$1,000 to \$500; Baseball Donation reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000; Chip seal project reduced from \$110,000 to \$50,000; West side street project from \$500,000 to \$475,000 in anticipation of lower than expected bids; water tower fund reduced from \$100,000 to \$75,000; Web Water down by \$10,000; and \$7,000 out of baseball and \$10,000 out of pool. Not reflected in the budget but considered was the city's health insurance plan. A new plan could save the city \$30,000 a year plus save the employees hundreds of dollars a year.

The September meeting dates will be September 10 and September 24.

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 Timpfe hopper bottom trailer 1996 Timpfe 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>
---	---	---

Complete terms, lot listings and photos at

SteffesGroup.com

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



Clint and Audrey Jacobson (left) hand the "keys" of their business over to the new owner, JR Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Insurance Agency changes owners

The Property and Casualty portion of the long standing Jacobson Agency of Groton is changing hands from the current owners to the new owner. Clint and Audrey Jacobson are retiring from the property and casualty business effective September 1, 2018. The new owner will be J.R. Johnson of Groton. He will be taking over on the first of September this year and it will be named Farmers Union Insurance, and will still represent all of the current companies and carriers that are presently represented. The office phone number, fax and address will remain the same and the new email will be j.r.johnson@nvc.net.

While it is hard to step down from this and after starting here on June 1, 1983, Clint Jacobson said, "35 years is a good run for anyone. We have thoroughly enjoyed our work and the many, many friends and clients which we have dealt with over the years.

"We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your business and support. We are ready for this part of our journey through whatever life offers."

The new owner does not come to this position unprepared. JR Johnson has been in the banking business for many years prior to entering the insurance business about five years ago. "We sincerely hope that you and the members of the community will continue to support JR and his family as you have ours," Clint said. "It isn't often that you get an agent of JR's age that has a background like his. Groton is very fortunate to have such a young man pursue this business in Groton along with the knowledge and enthusiasm that he possesses. We earnestly wish him all of the best with this new endeavor."

Clint and Audrey Jacobson will retain the life insurance part of their business as well as the real estate portion.

JR is a GHS graduate and is married to Paula, who is a special education teacher for North Central Special Ed Coop and teacher for special needs in Groton's pre-school. They have two children, Ryder, age 10, and Asher, age seven. They live in Groton.

Day of Giving encourages focus on community arts

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

The South Dakota Day of Giving is a new statewide program launched to promote local philanthropy across the state. Led by South Dakota Gives, the program enables local nonprofits—including community arts councils—to get involved in this new campaign and leverage the marketing around the event to promote the work being done at the community level.

For the first time ever, nonprofits and communities from across the state are uniting to celebrate generosity in South Dakota. All the details are available at www.southdakotagives.org, including ways for arts councils and community groups to get involved. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate in South Dakota Day of Giving on #GivingTuesday, November 27, 2018. The plan is to come together to raise as much money as possible in one 24-hour period.

If your local arts council is a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, or if you have a working relationship with another nonprofit group providing services to your hometown, you are eligible to take advantage of the excitement surrounding the South Dakota Day of Giving. Nonprofit groups that register will be listed on the South Dakota Gives website and will be eligible for prize money.

Arts South Dakota has already signed up to participate in the Day of Giving, and you can, too! Arts South Dakota will be focused on soliciting funds from Veterans Day, November 12, through the Day of Giving, November 27, to launch a campaign supporting the State Veterans Home Arts Initiative. This will kick start our efforts for a two-year pilot program to bring additional arts programming to our South Dakota Veterans.

The statewide campaign gives each of us a chance to partner with other groups in our hometowns to leverage the power of community pride to boost the vitality of our arts organizations and our local services. Communities that invest in themselves are stronger and more able to leverage local action to build a brighter future for the arts.

You can energize your hometown around the South Dakota Day of Giving and ways in which your community can take part in this statewide effort. Getting people involved can build new partnerships, boost participation, enhance programming and strengthen your local arts scene. Check out www.southdakotagives.org, or check out the Arts South Dakota website, www.artssouthdakota.org for updates on the Day of Giving.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 5 of 44



The Groton Fire Department responded to a hay bale fire north of Groton last evening. Hay bales at the Steve Simon farm caught on fire and with the northerly breeze, smoke and haze came into the city limits. Groton fireman Butch Farmen is pictured above getting the fire hose ready as the trucks came back into town to refill.

School Calendar Today

Faculty Inservice: Groton Area School District
5:00pm- 7:30pm: Welcome Back Picnic, Groton Area School District
6:30pm: 6th Grade Orientation, GHS Arena
6:30pm- 8:00pm: Open House, Groton Area Elementary School

Wednesday

Faculty Inservice: Groton Area School District

Thursday

1st Day of School, Groton Area School District
10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Northeast Conference vs. Tiospa Zina @ Hankinson, ND (Casino)
5:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. St. Thomas More @ Groton Area High School
6:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Redfield-Doland @ Groton Area High School (C at 5:00 PM, JV at 6:00 PM followed by varsity match)

Schools Open Across South Dakota This Week – Motorists Urged to Pay Extra Attention

One-Third of Child Pedestrian Fatalities Occur During After-School Hours.

August 21, 2018 – As summer draws to a close, this is the week most South Dakota students return back to schools across the state. AAA warns drivers to be especially vigilant for pedestrians during before-and after-school hours. Typically in the U.S., nearly one-third of all child pedestrian fatalities occur between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

While supplies last, AAA retail stores have 2018 School's Open, Drive Carefully yards signs available for the public to pick up and display in neighborhoods and around schools to remind drivers of the need to be mindful of traffic transitions.

Keep kids safer with AAA's seven life-saving tips for motorists:

1. Slow down. Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

2. Eliminate distractions. Children often cross the road unexpectedly and may emerge suddenly between two parked cars. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Put down the phone.

3. Reverse responsibly. Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles—even those that are parked.

4. Brake for Buses. It may be tempting to drive around a stopped school bus, but not only is it dangerous, it's against the law, no matter which direction you're approaching the stopped bus from.

5. Talk to your teen. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and more than one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 to 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at TeenDriving.AAA.com.

6. Come to a complete stop. Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.

7. Watch for bicycles. Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and the bicycle. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that they wear a properly-fitted bicycle helmet on every ride.

AAA's School's Open – Drive Carefully awareness campaign was launched in 1946 in an effort to prevent school-related child pedestrian traffic crashes—helping kids to live fulfilling, injury-free lives.

Additional Resources:

School's Open, Drive Carefully: <https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/child-safety/schools-open-drive-carefully/#.W1CwIiErJQI>

Pedestrian Safety: <https://exchange.aaa.com/safety/pedestrian-safety/#.W1CxSyErJQI>

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 7 of 44

Today in Weather History

August 21, 1989: Baseball size hail caused near 100 percent crop damage to Correll in Big Stone County to 10 miles north of Appleton. Most of Swift County also received 4 to 8 inches of rain.

August 21, 2007: Thunderstorms produced large hail in southeastern South Dakota, mainly near the Missouri River, during the late afternoon and early evening of August 21st. Enormous hail fell in the Dante area in Charles Mix County, including a state record size hailstone certified as 6 and 7/8 inches in diameter, with a circumference of 18 inches and a weight of one pound. The heaviest stone was verified at 6 1/8 inches in diameter with a weight of 1.25 lbs. Damage included holes in roofs, broken rafters, broken awnings, numerous broken windows and dented vehicles, damaged siding, divots in the ground up to 12 inches long and 3 inches deep, and damaged crops. The state record hailstone was broken on July 23rd, 2010 with the United States record hailstone in Vivian. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS office in Sioux Falls.

1856: The Charter Oak was an unusually large white oak tree growing from around the 12th or 13th century until it fell during a windstorm on this day in 1856. According to tradition, Connecticut's Royal Charter of 1662 was hidden within the hollow of the tree to thwart its confiscation by the English governor-general. The oak became a symbol of American independence and is commemorated on the Connecticut State Quarter.

1883: An estimated F5 tornado caused extensive damage to Rochester Minnesota on this day. The enormous roar was said to have warned most Rochester residents, as the massive funnel cut through the north side of town. Over 135 homes were destroyed, and another 200 damaged. Many of the 200 plus injuries were severe, and other deaths probably occurred but not listed as part of the 37 total mentioned. This damaging tornado eventually led to the formation of the Mayo Clinic.

1888 - A tornado swarm occurred in Maryland and Delaware. Many waterspouts were seen over Chesapeake Bay. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1918 - A tornado struck Tyler, MN, killing 36 persons and destroying most of the business section of the town resulting in a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The temperature at Fayetteville, NC, soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced severe weather in eastern Iowa and west central Illinois. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 82 mph at Moline IL, and tennis ball size hail at Independence IA. Rock Island IL was drenched with 3.70 inches of rain. Total damage for the seven county area of west central Illinois was estimated at twelve million dollars. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes in Iowa, produced wind gusts to 63 mph in the Council Bluffs area, and drenched Sioux Center IA with up to 6.61 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from Kansas to Minnesota and North Dakota. Thunderstorms in Minnesota produced baseball size hail from Correll to north of Appleton. Thunderstorms in north central Kansas produced wind gusts higher than 100 mph at Wilson Dam. Thunderstorms around Lincoln NE produced baseball size hail and up to five inches of rain, and Boone NE was deluged with five inches of rain in an hour and a half. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 8 of 44

Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday
Night

Thursday



20%

Slight Chance
Showers then
Patchy Smoke

High: 74 °F



Clear

Low: 50 °F



Sunny

High: 79 °F



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F



30%

Mostly Sunny
then Chance
T-storms

High: 79 °F



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Update: 8/21/2018 4:37 AM Central

Highs in the low 70s today

Dry this afternoon and Wednesday

weather.gov/abr



Published on: 08/21/2018 at 4:41AM

Dry high pressure to our northwest will settle across the Northern Plains through Wednesday, with the next chance of showers and storms holding off until Thursday into Thursday night.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 9 of 44

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.7 F at 4:06 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 56.4 F at 7:53 AM

High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 1:35 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1947

Record Low: 37° in 2004

Average High: 81°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.56

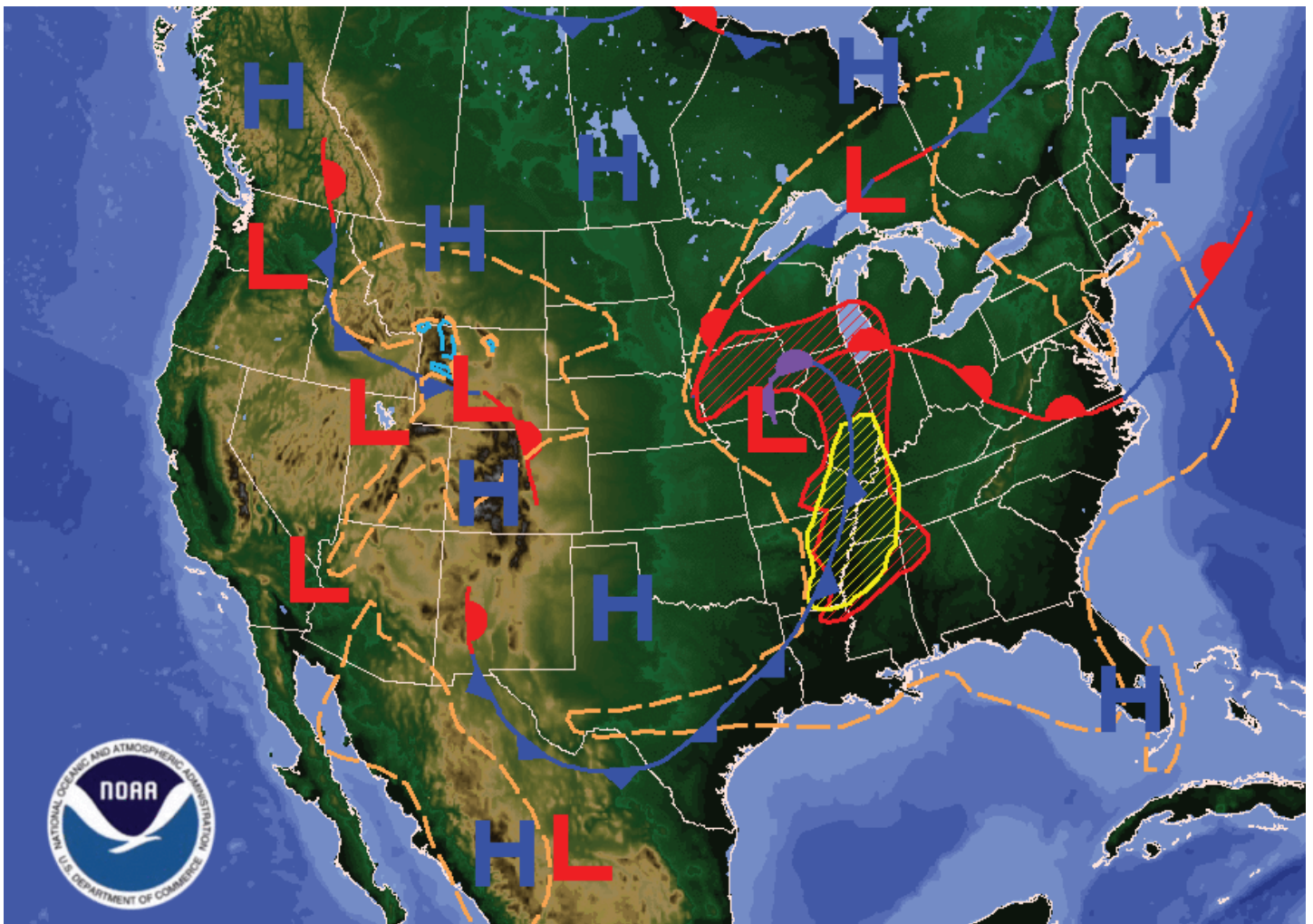
Precip to date in Aug: 0.57

Average Precip to date: 15.42

Precip Year to Date: 10.46

Sunset Tonight: 8:31 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:43 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Aug 20, 2018, issued 4:19 PM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by campbell 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

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 10 of 44



MERCY WITHOUT MEASURE

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were the first spies ever to be executed for conspiracy to commit espionage for giving information about the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. As a result of their conviction, they were put to death in the electric chair in Sing Sing Prison, New York.

In his summation at the end of the grueling and bitter trial, the lawyer of the Rosenbergs said with deep emotion, Your Honor, what my clients ask for is justice.

The court has given what you have asked for - justice! replied Judge Irving Kaufman. What you really wanted is mercy. But that is something that this court has no right to give.

This response from the judge has a scriptural bearing: no one is good - no one in all the world. Every one of us has sinned. If God gave us justice, each one of us would have our place in hell - separated from God forever.

We are reminded of this fact in Psalm 130:3 where we read, If You, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? He then answers it with a gracious promise that brings the peace of God: But with You there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve You.

If God kept a record of our sins - or if He held a grudge against us - we could say that He purposefully built a barrier between Himself and us so that we would be separated from Him forever.

But, He did not do that. He sent His one and only begotten Son to be our one and only Savior. Now, we have access to Him, when we repent because of His mercy.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your willingness to forgive us of our sins and grant us Your love and salvation. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 130:3-4 If You, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve You.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 12 of 44

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Prep Media football polls are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class ahead of the new season. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

Class 11AAA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP

1. Sioux Falls Washington;(26);0-0;138
2. Sioux Falls Roosevelt;(2);0-0;97
3. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;-;0-0;83
4. Brandon Valley;-;0-0;67
5. RC Stevens;-;0-0;28

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 5, Rapid City Central 1, Watertown 1.<

Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP

1. Mitchell;(22);0-0;133
2. Pierre;(3);0-0;103
3. Harrisburg;(3);0-0;96
4. Yankton;-;0-0;53
5. Huron;-;0-0;19

Others receiving votes: Sturgis 10, Brookings 5, Douglas 1.<

Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP

1. Dakota Valley;(14);0-0;113
2. Madison;(10);0-0;104
3. Tea Area;(4);0-0;95
4. St. Thomas More;-;0-0;68
5. Dell Rapids;-;0-0;24

Others receiving votes: West Central 9, Milbank 6, Belle Fourche 1.<

Class 11B

Rank-School FPV Rcd;TP;PRV

1. SF Christian (27)1-0;139;1
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan (1) 1-0;109;2
3. Mount Vernon-Plankinton - 1-0;32;5
4. Canton - 1-0;56;RV
5. Winner - 0-1;74;3

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Roncalli 13, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 7, Beresford 2, Sioux Valley 1.<

Class 9AA

Rank-School FPV Rcd;TP;PRV

1. Gregory (14) 1-0;123;1
2. Wolsey-Wessington (12) 1-0;121;3
3. Irene-Wakonda (1) 1-0;72;4

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 13 of 44

4. Webster Area (1) 1-0;52;5
5. Bon Homme (-) 1-0;15;RV
Others receiving votes: Miller-Highmore-Harrold 10, Garretson 9, Baltic 8, Arlington/Lake Preston 5, North Border 3, Kimball-White Lake 2.<

Class 9A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;PRV

1. Britton-Hecla;(25);1-0;135;1
2. Corsica-Stickney;(3);1-0;103;3
3. Warner;-;1-0;78;4
4. Clark-Willow Lake;-;1-0;56;5
5. Canistota-Freeman;-;1-0;24;RV
Others receiving votes: Howard 17, Timber Lake 7.<

Class 9B

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;PRV

1. Sully Buttes (23);1-0;131;1
2. Castlewood (2);1-0;96;2
3. Colome (2);1-0;84;3
4. Colman-Egan (1);1-0;74;4
5. Harding County -;1-0;24;5
Others receiving votes: Faulkton Area 10, Wall 1.<

Fires prompt sage grouse hunting ban in large part of Nevada

By SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Destruction of sage grouse habitat by a series of large wildfires has prompted a ban on hunting for the game bird this fall across a stretch of Nevada that is nearly twice as big as the state of Delaware.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approved the emergency closure Friday of two hunting units in Humboldt and Elko counties.

The closure covers more than 3,500 square miles (9,000 square kilometers) between the Idaho line and U.S. Interstate 80, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) northeast of Reno.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife says at least 39 known breeding sites supporting about 750 male sage grouse were destroyed in July by the Martin Fire.

The agency says the fire that started in Paradise Valley north of Winnemucca burned 689 square miles (1,785 square kilometers) of mostly rangeland — the largest fire in Nevada history. Visible from a NASA satellite, it came on the heels of another wildfire last year that burned 267 square miles (690 square kilometers) north of Battle Mountain.

"This fire negatively affected one of the few remaining stronghold habitats for greater sage-grouse and a myriad of other sagebrush obligate species in Nevada," said Shawn Espinosa, an upland game staff specialist for the state agency.

"Although we have hopes that restoration efforts can be successful, there will be some areas that will likely convert to cheatgrass which will further reduce available habitat for sage-grouse into the future."

Hunting units 051 and 066 will remain closed for sage grouse until further notice along the Idaho line from McDermitt in the west to Owyhee in the east and as far south as just west of Battle Mountain.

Another fire currently burning about 15 miles (24 kilometers) north of Battle Mountain has charred more than 60 square miles (155 square kilometers).

Greater sage grouse — a ground-dwelling bird about the size of a chicken — once numbered in the millions across much of the West, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service now estimates the population at

200,000 to 500,000. Experts blame energy development, along with wildfires, disease, livestock grazing and other causes.

Their range covers parts of 11 Western states and two Canadian provinces. The largest concentrations are in Wyoming, Montana, Nevada and Idaho.

State wildlife officials say the two big Nevada fires not only burned grouse breeding sites but also destroyed priority winter habitat which will likely affect the bird's annual production and survival rates.

So far, no other states have implemented grouse hunting restrictions as a result of fires. Wildlife biologists have said in the past that hunting doesn't generally threaten the survival of sage grouse populations.

Espinosa said the state is working with federal land management agencies, private landowners and non-governmental organizations on restoration plans for the Martin Fire, and procurement of seed from several sources.

Keystone XL company moves to condemn South Dakota land

BUFFALO, S.D. (AP) — The company planning the Keystone XL oil pipeline is moving to condemn private land in South Dakota.

TransCanada Corp. has filed eminent domain petitions in state court against parcels of Harding County land owned by two families, The Rapid City Journal reported .

At least one family plans to fight. Resident Jeffrey Jensen said he'll take the matter to court if necessary. "I got nothing to lose. Wouldn't bother me in the least," he said. "They (TransCanada) actually want to give less than they did before on my first easement."

Jensen initially signed a five-year contract with the company for the easement. But the company's easement expired after President Barack Obama's administration denied Keystone permitting for the pipeline to pass the international border from Canada to the U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has since reversed that decision with an executive order .

The \$8 billion, 1,184-mile (1,905-kilometer) pipeline would carry oil from Canada through Montana, and South Dakota to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect with the original Keystone pipeline that runs to Texas Gulf Coast refineries. The Keystone XL pipeline would provide a more direct and wider transfer of crude oil than the current Keystone line, company officials said.

The company has 94 percent of the private property easements needed for the project, according to TransCanada's latest quarterly report filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. The pipeline would cross over 300 private parcels in the state. The company has yet to secure easements on state land.

The project still faces several hurdles along with resistance from environmental groups and Native American tribes.

The South Dakota Supreme Court in June dismissed pipeline opponents' appeal of a judge's decision last year that upheld regulators' approval for the pipeline to cross the state.

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

Air Force secretary on hand to commemorate drone flight

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson was in North Dakota to commemorate the launch of the first large drone to fly beyond sight of the pilot and without a manned airplane to observe the plane.

The flight was conducted Monday by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., which is a tenant at the Grand Sky aviation technology park. A recent authorization by the Federal Aviation Administration allows the drones to fly within 30 miles of the park.

Political leaders from the state called the flight a historic milestone that shows North Dakota's standing in the unmanned aircraft industry.

Wilson was previously the president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Conference focuses on violence against Native American women

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal and tribal officials are meeting in South Dakota this week to discuss violence against Native American women.

Topics of the two-day conference that begins Tuesday in Sioux Falls include strengthening federal law enforcement efforts to crack down on domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and sex trafficking.

Officials also will talk about federal administration of tribal funds and programs established under the Violence Against Women Act.

Among the officials scheduled to attend are the Justice Department's acting associate attorney general and the acting director of the Office on Violence Against Women.

Confederate statue on UNC campus toppled by protesters

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — A Confederate statue in the heart of North Carolina's flagship university was toppled Monday night during a rally by hundreds of protesters who decried the memorial known as "Silent Sam" as a symbol of racist heritage.

The statue erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1913 had been under constant police surveillance, costing the university hundreds of thousands of dollars, since it was vandalized last year. Protesters appeared to outwit officers by swiftly surrounding it with banners on bamboo poles before yanking it down.

The crowd had gathered across the street from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill plaza for a series of speakers at 7 p.m. before heading over to the quadrangle. Then, about two hours into the protest, a group pulled it down, according to television footage. Once it was on the ground, demonstrators kicked it and cheered.

Afterward, a small crowd remained around the empty pedestal, chanting "Tar Heels!" and "Whose Campus? Our Campus!" as passing cars honked in approval.

Many students, faculty and alumni have called the statue a racist image and asked officials to take it down. Others argued that it should remain as a tribute to fallen ancestors. Protesters responded to the assertion that the statue wasn't a symbol of white power by reading its 1913 dedication speech, by tobacco magnate Julian Carr, celebrating the Ku Klux Klan's post-war campaign to terrorize former slaves.

UNC leaders including Chancellor Carol Folt had previously said state law prevented the school from removing it. Once it was down, a dozen officers surrounded the fallen statue, which was eventually covered with a tarp.

The site of the empty pedestal "is pretty breathtaking," said Ricardo, who's African American. "I think most people here are happy. I'm ecstatic."

Junior Ian Goodson said he came out after he heard the statue fell because he wanted to see history. "It's a significant event for UNC," he said.

He said that while he doesn't agree with what the Confederacy stood for, he understands that some saw the statue as an important memorial.

Asked whether he's glad the statue came down, he said: "I was always kind of torn."

North Carolina, which ranks among the handful of Southern states with the most Confederate monuments, has been a focal point in the national debate over them following a deadly white nationalist protest a year ago in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Protests over the UNC statue flared in the past year, and another Confederate monument in nearby Durham was torn down shortly after the Virginia protest.

Gov. Roy Cooper had called for removing Silent Sam and other rebel symbols on public land. A state historic panel is set to meet this week to debate Cooper's request to remove other Confederate monuments at the state Capitol.

Still the Democratic governor issued a statement on Twitter on Monday night arguing the protesters took the wrong approach.

"The Governor understands that many people are frustrated by the pace of change and he shares their frustration, but violent destruction of public property has no place in our communities," said the tweet from his official account.

The university echoed that.

"Tonight's actions were dangerous, and we are very fortunate that no one was injured. We are investigating the vandalism and assessing the full extent of the damage," the university said in a tweet.

Follow Drew on Twitter at www.twitter.com/JonathanLDrew

US deports former Nazi camp guard, 95, to Germany

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, DAVID RISING and RANDY HERSCHAFT, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The last Nazi war crimes suspect facing deportation from the U.S. was taken from his New York City home and spirited early Tuesday morning to Germany, the White House said.

The deportation of the 95-year-old former concentration camp guard, Jakiw Palij, came 25 years after investigators first confronted him about his World War II past and he admitted lying to get into the U.S., claiming he spent the war as a farmer and factory worker.

Palij lived quietly in the U.S. for years, as a draftsman and then as a retiree, until nearly three decades ago when investigators found his name on an old Nazi roster and a fellow former guard spilled the secret that he was "living somewhere in America."

Palij told Justice Department investigators who showed up at his door in 1993: "I would never have received my visa if I told the truth. Everyone lied."

A judge stripped Palij's citizenship in 2003 for "participation in acts against Jewish civilians" while an armed guard at the Trawniki camp in Nazi-occupied Poland and was ordered deported a year later.

But because Germany, Poland, Ukraine, and other countries refused to take him, he continued living in limbo in the two-story, red brick home in Queens he shared with his wife, Maria, now 86. His continued presence there outraged the Jewish community, attracting frequent protests over the years that featured such chants as "your neighbor is a Nazi!"

According to the Justice Department, Palij served at Trawniki in 1943, the same year 6,000 prisoners in the camps and tens of thousands of other prisoners held in occupied Poland were rounded up and slaughtered. Palij has admitted serving in Trawniki but denied any involvement in war crimes.

Last September, all 29 members of New York's congressional delegation signed a letter urging the State Department to follow through on his deportation.

Richard Grenell, the U.S. ambassador who arrived in Germany earlier this year, said President Donald Trump — who is from New York — instructed him to make it a priority. He said the new German government, which took office in March, brought "new energy" to the matter.

The deportation came after weeks of diplomatic negotiations.

Grenell told reporters that there were "difficult conversations" because Palij is not a German citizen and was stateless after losing his U.S. citizenship, but "the moral obligation" of taking in "someone who served in the name of the German government was accepted."

ABC News video showed federal agents carrying Palij out of his Queens apartment on a stretcher sometime during the day Monday. The bearded, white-haired Palij, wrapped in a sheet, was carried down the brick stairway in front of his home and is later seen sitting up and talking to the agents.

Palij landed in the western German city of Duesseldorf on Tuesday. The local government in Warendorf county, near Muenster, indicated that Palij would be taken to a care facility in the town of Ahlen.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that "there is no line under historical responsibility," adding in comment to German daily Bild that doing justice to the memory of Nazi atrocities "means standing by our moral obligation to the victims and the subsequent generations."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 17 of 44

German prosecutors have previously said it does not appear that there's enough evidence to charge Palij with wartime crimes.

Now that he is in Germany, Efraim Zuroff, the head Nazi-hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said he hoped prosecutors would revisit the case.

"Trawniki was a camp where people were trained to round up and murder the Jews in Poland, so there's certainly a basis for some sort of prosecution," he said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem, adding that the U.S. Department of Justice "deserves a lot of credit" for sticking with the case.

"The efforts invested by the United States in getting Palij deported are really noteworthy and I'm very happy to see that they finally met with success."

Palij's deportation is the first for a Nazi war crimes suspect since Germany agreed in 2009 to take John Demjanjuk, a retired Ohio autoworker who was accused of serving as a Nazi guard. He was convicted in 2011 of being an accessory to more than 28,000 killings and died 10 months later, at age 91, with his appeal pending.

Palij, whose full name is pronounced Yah-keev PAH'-lee, entered the U.S. in 1949 under the Displaced Persons Act, a law meant to help refugees from post-war Europe.

He told immigration officials that he worked during the war in a woodshop and farm in Nazi-occupied Poland; at another farm in Germany; and finally in a German upholstery factory. Palij said he never served in the military.

In reality, officials say, he played an essential role in the Nazi program to exterminate Jews in German-occupied Poland, as an armed guard at Trawniki. According to a Justice Department complaint, Palij served in a unit that "committed atrocities against Polish civilians and others" and then in the notorious SS Streibel Battalion, "a unit whose function was to round up and guard thousands of Polish civilian forced laborers."

After the war, Palij maintained friendships with other Nazi guards who the government says came to the U.S. under similar false pretenses. And in an interesting coincidence, Palij and his wife purchased their home near LaGuardia Airport in 1966 from a Polish Jewish couple who had survived the Holocaust and were not aware of his past.

The Justice Department's special Nazi-hunting unit started piecing together Palij's past after a fellow Trawniki guard identified him to Canadian authorities in 1989. Investigators asked Russia and other countries for records on Palij beginning in 1990 and first confronted him in 1993.

It wasn't until after a second interview in 2001 that he signed a document acknowledging he had been a guard at Trawniki and a member of the Streibel Battalion. Palij suggested at one point during that interview that he was threatened with death if he refused to work as a guard, saying "if you don't show up, boom-boom."

Though the last Nazi suspect ordered deported, Palij is not the last in the U.S.

Since 2017, Poland has been seeking the extradition of Ukrainian-born Michael Karkoc, an ex-commander in an SS-led Nazi unit that burned Polish villages and killed civilians during the war. The 99-year-old who currently lives in Minneapolis was the subject of a series of 2013 reports by the AP that led Polish prosecutors to issue an arrest warrant for him.

In addition to Karkoc, there are almost certainly others in the U.S. who have either not yet been identified or investigated by authorities.

The American public did not become fully aware until the 1970s that thousands of Nazi persecutors had gone to the U.S. after World War II. Some estimates say 10,000 may have made the U.S. their home after the war.

Since then, the Justice Department has initiated legal proceedings against 137 suspected Nazis, with about half, 67, being removed by deportation, extradition or voluntary departure. Of the rest, 28 died while their cases were pending and 9 were ordered deported but died in the U.S. because no other country was willing to take them.

Sisak and Herschaft reported from New York. Rising reported from Berlin. Geir Moulson contributed from Berlin

Trump plan rolls back Obama's coal emissions standards

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is set to roll back the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's efforts to slow global warming, the Clean Power Plan that restricts greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

A plan to be announced in coming days would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. The Environmental Protection Agency announced late Monday that acting administrator Andrew Wheeler planned to brief the news media by telephone Tuesday on greenhouse guidelines for states to set performance standards for existing coal-fired power plants.

President Donald Trump is expected to promote the new plan at an appearance in West Virginia on Tuesday.

The plan also would let states relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades, according to a summary of the plan and several people familiar with the full proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the plan publicly.

Combined with a planned rollback of car-mileage standards, the plan represents a significant retreat from Obama-era efforts to fight climate change and would reverse an Obama-era push to shift away from coal and toward less-polluting energy sources such as natural gas, wind and solar power. Trump has already vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement as he pushes to revive the coal industry.

Trump also has directed Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take steps to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to keep them open, warning that impending retirements of "fuel-secure" power plants that rely on coal and nuclear power are harming the nation's power grid and reducing its resilience.

The White House had no immediate comment on the plan, and the EPA didn't respond to requests for comment Monday.

A three-page summary being circulated at the White House focuses on boosting efficiency at coal-fired power plants and allowing states to reduce "wasteful compliance costs" while focusing on improved environmental outcomes. Critics say focusing on improved efficiency would allow utilities to run older, dirtier power plants more often, undercutting potential environmental benefits.

The White House rejects that criticism.

"Carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector will continue to fall under this rule, but this will happen legally and with proper respect for the states, unlike" the Clean Power Plan, the summary says. The AP obtained a copy of the summary, which asserts that the Obama-era plan exceeds the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act.

Obama's plan was designed to cut U.S. carbon dioxide emissions to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The rule dictated specific emission targets for states based on power-plant emissions and gave officials broad latitude to decide how to achieve reductions.

The Supreme Court put the plan on hold in 2016 following a legal challenge by industry and coal-friendly states, an order that remains in effect.

Even so, the Obama plan has been a factor in a wave of retirements of coal-fired plants, which also are being squeezed by lower costs for natural gas and renewable power and state mandates that promote energy conservation.

Trump has vowed to end what Republicans call a "war on coal" waged by Obama.

"This is really a plan to prop up coal plants — or try to," said David Doniger, a climate expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

The Trump plan "will make no meaningful reductions" in greenhouse gas emissions "and it probably will make emissions worse," Doniger said.

Gina McCarthy, who served as EPA administrator when the Clean Power Plan was created in 2015, said that based on draft proposals and news reports, she expects the plan will not set specific federal targets for reducing emissions from coal-fired plants. The plan is expected to address power plants individually

rather than across the electric grid as the EPA proposed under Obama. The new plan would give utilities and states more flexibility in achieving emissions reductions, but critics say it could harm public health.

"They are continuing to play to their base and following industry's lead," McCarthy said of the Trump administration and its new acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist. "This is all about coal at all costs."

Michelle Bloodworth, president of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, a trade group that represents coal producers, called the new rule a marked departure from the "gross overreach" of the Obama administration and said it should prevent a host of premature coal-plant retirements.

"We agree with those policymakers who have become increasingly concerned that coal retirements are a threat to grid resilience and national security," she said.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this report.

Separated Korean families have 2nd day of emotional reunions

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A mother wails as she embraces a son she hasn't seen since the 1950-53 Korean War. A woman weeps as she greets a grandfather she never got to know.

The scenes of Koreans meeting this week, likely for the last time before they die, are heartbreaking, but they often bely a highly political and tightly controlled event in which participants often struggle to have genuine conversations.

Much of the awkwardness centers on the defining fact of the Korean Peninsula: For decades it has been divided between the authoritarian North, originally backed by the Soviet Union and then, during the war, communist China, and the U.S.-backed capitalist South. Citizens from both nations, especially the elderly who remember the bitterness and bloodshed of the war, often wear their nationalism on their sleeves, and some South Koreans have complained that their relatives take every chance to score propaganda points for their authoritarian nation.

About 200 South Koreans and their family members crossed the border on Monday for three days of meetings with their North Korean relatives. The relatives have been given a total of 12 hours together, including three hours in private. Another 337 South Koreans and accompanying family members will participate in a second round of reunions from Friday to Sunday.

After the initial tears at North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort, Cha Jae-geun, an 84-year-old South Korean, and his 50-year-old North Korean nephew began an awkward exchange Monday over international politics surrounding the Korean Peninsula and the origins of the war that split their family apart and killed and injured millions.

The Koreans should "drive the American bastards out," Cha Song Il, the nephew, said, according to South Korean pool reports. He accused the United States of being unfaithful to the commitments of a June summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, in which they expressed an aspirational goal for a nuclear-free peninsula without describing when or how it would occur.

The elder Cha reminded his nephew that it was North Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung, the grandfather of the current leader, who triggered the war by ordering a sneak attack on the South in June 1950.

"That's a lie," the nephew replied, waving both hands. "The Korean War was something the Americans did. "We fought against (our enemies) with our own strength."

Cha Jae-geun smiled and quickly changed the subject, as South Korean officials urge their reunion participants to do if politics come up. South Korea's government instructs participants not to criticize the North's leadership and economy during the reunions.

Some North Korean participants, who are reportedly chosen for the reunions based on their loyalty to their authoritarian rulers, were eager to show their government commendations to their South Korean relatives. In at least once case, this resulted in another awkward exchange.

Ju Yong Ae, a 52-year-old North Korean who came to meet her 86-year-old South Korean aunt, steadfastly

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 20 of 44

refused when a South Korean official who had come to the North to help manage the meeting repeatedly asked her to put her "Kim Il Sung commendation," a public service medal, below the table.

"How can you put down our supreme dignity?" Ju asked.

A North Korean official intervened, telling the South Korean official, "She's just trying to show it to her family; leave her alone."

After sleeping separately Monday night, the relatives had private meetings at hotel rooms on Tuesday morning before meeting again in group sessions later in the day. Tuesday's exchanges were less emotional and more amicable than Monday's.

"Isn't my younger sister pretty?" 88-year-old South Korean Kim Byung-oh said of his 81-year-old sister from North Korea, Kim Sun Ok. He smiled and fed his sister a snack bar.

During their first encounter Monday, Kim Sun Ok wiped away her tears when she said, "Let's live together even at least one minute after unification before we die."

South Korean participants at past reunions have complained that the heavy monitoring presence of North Korean officials and intense media coverage made genuine conversations difficult or impossible.

The North sees the reunions as a crucial tool to win concessions from the South, but it has rejected the South's demands to increase the number of reunions and the people participating in them.

The North also ignores the South's proposals for letter exchanges and hometown visits, something currently banned. Pyongyang doesn't want the reunions expanded because it fears they would give citizens a better awareness of the outside world and weaken its grip on power, analysts say.

The North uses the reunions for propaganda purposes, carefully choosing participants based on loyalty and instructing them to praise the authoritarian leadership during the meetings. But Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University, said it could become harder for the North to maintain previous levels of control because the participants are so old now that it's harder to train them to do what the government wants.

Nearly 20,000 people have participated in 20 rounds of face-to-face reunions held between the countries since 2000. No one has had a second chance to see their relatives. Past participants express frustration and anger that their final conversations with North Korean relatives included so little genuine conversation.

Hong Yong-gee, who went with his mother for a 2015 reunion at Diamond Mountain and met his three North Korean aunts, said Tuesday that it seemed his North Korean relatives were working off a script.

"They praised the leadership of Kim Jong Un and life in North Korea so frequently that any genuine conversation became impossible," Hong said. "It was difficult for my mother and aunts to talk freely when several North Korean officials stationed themselves so close to our table, listening in to whatever we were saying."

Choi Ho-seok, 83, also said that his 76-year-old sister kept praising the North's government when they met in 2015 under the watchful eyes of North Korean officials.

"There were things closer to our hearts that we couldn't talk about because we were being watched closely at all times," he said. "It would be painful if that's the last time I get to see her."

Associated Press writer Hyung-jin Kim contributed to this report.

MTV VMAs was a shocking event, for the wrong reasons

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With most of music industry's top acts absent — from Beyonce to Bruno Mars — the MTV Video Music Awards lacked star power and felt flat, and some of the winners turned heads — for the wrong reasons.

Exhibit A: Camila Cabello beat out Drake, Mars, Cardi B, Ariana Grande and Post Malone for artist of the year.

"I can't believe this is for me," Cabello said Monday onstage.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 21 of 44

Neither can we.

Cabello achieved the unthinkable later in the show when she took home the top prize — video of the year — for “Havana.” Cabello’s song was a No. 1 hit and of the video of the year nominees, “Havana” was the second-most viewed clip behind Drake’s “God’s Plan.” But that’s partly since “Havana” was released last year while the other videos came out this year.

It was the night’s most shocking moment, and MTV seemed to send a message: You’re punished for not showing up and rewarded for attending.

Grande won best pop and Post Malone took home song of the year. Drake, the most successful musician of the last year, didn’t win a single award. Beyonce, Jay-Z, Rihanna and Kendrick Lamar were restricted to technical honors like editing, art direction, cinematography and visual effects. And Gambino picked up best direction, choreography and video with a message for his heralded video “This Is America.”

The show hit another low when Jennifer Lopez, Cardi B and DJ Khaled won best collaboration for “Dinero” — a song that has peaked at No. 80 on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart — besting the record-setting hit “Meant to Be,” by Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line, and Mars and Cardi B’s anthemic “Finesse” remix.

Then there was the Aretha Franklin tribute, a moment Madonna made, well, all about Madonna.

The pop icon rambled and rambled about the early struggles in her career, finally informing the crowd that she sang Franklin’s “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman” at an audition that became a breakthrough for her.

“None of this would have happened without our lady of soul,” she said. “She led me where I am today. ...I want to thank you Aretha for empowering all of us. ... Love live the queen.” It wasn’t clear if Madonna meant Franklin, or herself.

At least MTV did played a clip of Franklin, who died last week, singing “I Say A Little Prayer.”

The VMAs, at Radio City Music Hall in New York, also lacked oomph with its performances throughout the night: Grande was a bore during “God Is a Woman,” but added some excitement when she was joined by her mother, grandmother and cousin onstage at the end of the performance. Travis Scott, whose album is No. 1 for a second week, had strong energy while onstage, but the performance felt like it belonged more to singer James Blake, who is featured on Scott’s album and performed just as long as Scott during the segment.

There were a few highlights. Maluma, the Colombian singer who was nominated twice in the best Latin category, did have an exciting performance as he danced onstage with gyrating dancers. And Lopez started off slow — Kylie Jenner and Scott’s unamused faces perfectly captured the vibe — but she hit a strong stride when she sang old smashes like “Jenny from the Block,” “I’m Real” — where Ja Rule joined her onstage — and “All I Have,” which showed the skilled dancer’s vocal range.

But Lopez’s speech was more stirring than her performance: She was emotional as she thanked her children and beau Alex Rodriguez onstage when she earned the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award for lifetime achievement.

She was teary-eyed and looked at her “two little angels,” as she called them, and said, “I stand here stronger and better than ever ... so thank you Max and Emme.” She called Rodriguez, who filmed her performance with his phone, “my twin soul.”

“My life is sweeter and better with you in it,” she said.

Cardi B, who gave birth last month, won three awards and said people told her she was “gambling your career” when she decided to become a mother.

“I had the baby, I carried the baby and now I’m still winning awards,” she said.

She also seemed to take aim at Nicki Minaj, who while promoting her new album last week said other musicians have hired fans to listen to their music.

Cardi said she’s been blessed with fans “that you can’t buy,” looking into the camera and shouting an expletive.

Minaj won the first televised award — best hip hop — and checked comedian Tiffany Haddish for dissing girl group Fifth Harmony, now on hiatus.

After congratulating ex-Fifth Harmony member Cabello on her five nominations, Haddish said sarcasti-

cally, "Hi Fifth Harmony." When Minaj accepted an award moments later, she looked to Haddish and said, "Don't be coming for Fifth Harmony because Normani is that (chick)." Normani currently has her first hit apart from the group with the Khalid-assisted "Love Lies."

Minaj, who has been a trending topic this week after she madly tweeted about why her new album debuted at No. 2 behind Travis Scott, also provided the first bleeped moment of the night when she told the audience to listen to her Apple Music radio show this week to hear "who the (expletive) of the day award is going to."

There was just one political moment, orchestrated when Logic was joined onstage by young immigrants wearing T-shirts that read, "We are all human beings" to protest the Trump administration's separation of migrant children from their parents after they illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border. The rapper, best known for the suicide prevention anthem "1-800-273-8255," wore a T-shirt that read, "(Expletive) the wall."

There was one posthumous winner: Avicii, who died in April, won for best dance for "Lonely Together" alongside Rita Ora.

Man admits wife's murder, blames her for daughters' deaths

By KATHLEEN FOODY, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The father of two young girls found submerged in oil tanks after being missing for days told authorities his pregnant wife killed the children after learning he wanted a separation, and that he erupted in rage after witnessing the killings and strangled their mother inside the family's suburban Denver home, according to court documents.

Days after letting police inside his home so they could help find his missing family, Christopher Watts told investigators "he would tell the truth."

Watts first asked to speak with his father then admitted to killing his wife, Shannan. Watts told police in court papers released Monday that he killed her after witnessing her strangling one of the girls on a baby monitor. The other child had already been killed by the woman, he said.

Watts, 33, faces three first-degree murder charges, two counts of murdering a child under 12, one count of unlawful termination of a pregnancy and three counts of tampering with a deceased human body. He is scheduled to appear in court on Tuesday and is being held without bail.

District Attorney Michael Rourke declined to answer questions about the case Monday but said his office has three prosecutors working on it. Rourke also said it was too early to discuss whether he will seek the death penalty.

Police first visited the family's house on Aug. 13, after a friend asked officers to check on Shanann Watts. She had missed a doctor's appointment and wasn't answering calls or text messages hours after returning home after a business trip, the friend reported.

With Christopher Watts' approval, police searched the house and found his wife's cellphone stuffed inside a couch. Her purse was on a kitchen island and a suitcase was at the bottom of the stairs.

A detective spoke to Christopher Watts and learned about his separation plans. Watts first described the conversation with Shannan as civil but later told police that "they were both upset and crying" and she planned to go to a friend's house that day, the court papers said.

When Shanann Watts and the girls did not return home by Tuesday morning, investigators ramped up their efforts with the help of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Christopher Watts was interviewed by several local television stations, asking for the return of his family and discussing how much he missed spending time with his children.

It wasn't until Wednesday night that he made his promise to tell police the truth.

According to Watts' account, the early hours of Aug. 13 began with an intense conversation. He said he told his wife that he wanted a separation. Separately in the papers released Monday, investigators said they learned that Watts was "actively involved in an affair with a co-worker," something he denied in earlier conversations with police.

Watts told police that after discussing the separation he walked downstairs.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 23 of 44

When he returned, he told them he spotted a baby monitor on his wife's nightstand — displaying her “actively strangling” their 3-year-old daughter, Celeste. He said the video feed also showed their other daughter, 4-year-old Bella, “sprawled out on her bed and blue.”

“Chris said he went into a rage and ultimately strangled Shanann to death,” the document said.

Police found surveillance video from a neighbor showing Watts' truck backing into the driveway at 5:27 a.m. and shortly after driving away from the house in Frederick, a small town on the grassy plains north of Denver where fast-growing subdivisions like the one the Watts family lived in intermingle with drilling rigs and oil wells.

Watts, an operator with Anadarko Petroleum, said he loaded his wife and daughters' bodies into the back seat of his truck and drove to an oil work site about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of the family's home. There, he buried Shanann Watts' body and “dumped the girls inside” oil tanks, according to the court document.

Separate court documents filed by Watts' defense attorney last week said the girls' bodies were submerged in crude oil for four days before police found the remains late Thursday. Their mother's body was found nearby, in a shallow grave, according to prosecutors.

Anadarko, one of Colorado's largest oil and gas drillers, has since fired Watts.

The court filing says Watts gave police an aerial photograph of the area and identified three areas where he placed the bodies. Investigators used a drone to search the area and spotted a bed sheet that matched other linens in the family home, along with fresh dirt.

Shanann Watts' social media posts show the girls playing with their father and each other. The couple married in North Carolina nearly six years ago, and moved to Colorado soon after.

Shanann's father, Frank Rzucek, spoke to reporters for the first time on Monday. In a statement, he thanked police for their efforts, along with friends and neighbors who organized a candlelight vigil outside the family's home last week.

“Keep the prayers coming for our family,” Rzucek said.

Taliban rockets hit near Kabul presidency; no injuries

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban fired a pair of rockets Tuesday toward the presidential palace in Kabul as the Afghan president was delivering his holiday message for the Muslim celebrations of Eid al-Adha, police said, prompting a ferocious aerial response with helicopter gunships bombing the house from where the rockets were reportedly launched.

The first rocket landed somewhere near the presidency building while the second hit near a NATO compound and the U.S. Embassy but no one was hurt, said police official Jan Agha.

The boom of the rockets was heard in the live broadcast of President Ashraf Ghani's speech. As he also heard the thud, Ghani interrupted his message to say: “If they are thinking the rocket attack will keep Afghans down, they are wrong.”

The Kabul area where the rockets hit is one of the most secure in the Afghan capital, where embassies and government buildings are surrounded by high cement blast walls and coils of razor wire. Many streets near the U.S. Embassy are closed off, as well as those near sensitive government and military locations.

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanekzia said Afghan police had noticed a suspicious vehicle earlier on Tuesday morning and followed it to a mud-brick house near the sprawling Eid Gah mosque where hundreds had gathered to offer their prayers for the Eid al-Adha holiday.

Once inside the house, the suspects are believed to have fired the rockets, Stanekzia told The Associated Press. A helicopter gunship was called in and bombed the location, destroying the house and the vehicle.

Eyewitnesses at the scene said that after the explosions, sporadic shooting could be heard from the area, though it wasn't clear who was firing. The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity fearing for their safety.

Another police official, Mohammed Akram, said four attackers were apparently involved though it was

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 24 of 44

unclear if any survived the helicopter assault on the house. Police were combing the area in the heart of Kabul, where crowded open-air markets intrude on old residential areas of mostly poor, mud-brick homes.

Shortly afterward, all the attackers were killed, said Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish. Two members of the Afghan security forces were wounded in the firefight, which also ignited a market nearby, setting it on fire, he said.

There was no immediate statement from the Taliban, or a claim of responsibility for the attack by any other militant group, but the assault on the major Muslim holiday sent a stark message. It was also another blow to Ghani's efforts to bring the insurgents to the negotiation table and hold peace talks to end the country's 17-year war.

On Sunday, Ghani had offered a conditional cease-fire to last during the holiday, saying it would only take effect if the Taliban reciprocated.

The Taliban have been at war with the U.S.-backed Afghan government for nearly 17 years, and have stepped up attacks in recent months, seizing rural districts and carrying out major assaults against security forces and government compounds on an almost daily basis.

On Monday, Afghan forces rescued nearly 150 people, including women and children, just hours after the Taliban ambushed a convoy of buses and abducted them in northern Kunduz province.

The quick response marked a rare if limited battlefield success for the troops after weeks of unrelenting insurgent attacks.

Earlier this month, the insurgents launched a coordinated assault on Ghazni, a strategic city only 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Kabul and the capital of a province with the same name. They seized several neighborhoods, and it took security forces, aided by U.S. airstrikes and advisers, more than five days to drive them out.

The battle for the city killed at least 100 security forces and 35 civilians, according to Afghan officials. The Defense Ministry said about 200 militants were killed.

In neighboring Pakistan, new Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the "cowardly" attack in Kabul. Ghani had criticized Pakistan following the attack on Ghazni and both the United States and Afghanistan have accused Pakistan of harboring Taliban militants. Islamabad denies the accusations.

The U.N. special representative to Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, pleaded for peace on the Muslim holiday.

"To allow all Afghans to commemorate this auspicious celebration, I strongly urge the parties to the conflict to demonstrate good will, to respect this time of joy and tolerance and to refrain from resorting to violence," he said.

Ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday, Taliban leader Maulvi Haibatullah Akhunzadah released a message on Saturday, saying there would be no peace in Afghanistan as long as the "foreign occupation" continues and reiterated that the group will only negotiate directly with the U.S., which it blames for the 17-year war.

The U.S. and NATO officially ended their combat mission at the end of 2014 but have repeatedly come to the aid of Afghan forces in recent years to prevent the Taliban from advancing into major cities.

The Taliban have sent delegations to Uzbekistan and Indonesia in recent weeks, raising their diplomatic profile even while carrying out deadly attacks. The Taliban say they met with a U.S. diplomat in Qatar earlier this month for what the group described as "preliminary" talks, and said it expected further negotiations.

Associated Press photographer Rahmat Gul in Kabul, Afghanistan, and AP correspondents Kathy Gannon and Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed to this report.

Logic stages immigrant protest at VMAs with parents, kids

By LEANNE ITALIE, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wearing white T-shirts with the message "We are All Human Beings," more than two dozen immigrant children and their parents joined Logic and Ryan Tedder on stage Monday night at the MTV Video Music Awards to protest President Donald Trump's separation and detention policy.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 25 of 44

The children, including some younger ones who appeared intimidated by the crowd, stood in a line as a "human wall," some swaying and clapping to Logic's new song, "One Day." He debuted it Friday with a new music video depicting a teen forcibly separated at the U.S.-Mexico border from his parents and baby sibling.

On stage, their parents came out next from behind, simulating reunions with hugs. The protesters hoisted faux candles in the air as the song concluded.

Immigrant leaders from three advocacy groups, including United We Dream and the National Domestic Workers Alliance, participated. Logic wore a black T-shirt reading "F(asterisk)ck the Wall."

Three weeks after a federal court-ordered deadline to reunify families, the Department of Justice revealed last week that the Trump administration is still holding 565 of the children forcibly separated from their parents in federal detention, including 24 under age 5 who were supposed to be reunited more than a month ago, according to a statement from coordinators of the demonstration.

El Salvador, Taiwan break ties as China isolates island foe

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan broke off diplomatic ties with El Salvador on Tuesday as the Central American country defected to rival Beijing in the latest blow to the self-ruled island China has been trying to isolate on the global stage.

The break in ties means Taiwan is recognized as a sovereign nation by only 17 mainly small, developing countries. In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced that his government had established ties with El Salvador.

"History will prove that establishing diplomatic relations with China is in full accordance with the fundamental and long-term interests of the country and the people of El Salvador," Wang said.

Taiwan split from mainland China amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing, which considers Taiwan its territory, campaigns relentlessly to isolate the island globally. It cut off relations with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's government shortly after she took office in 2016 and has been steadily ratcheting up both diplomatic and economic pressure.

Earlier this year, the West African nation of Burkina Faso and the Dominican Republic broke ties with Taiwan and resumed or established diplomatic relations with China.

Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu on Tuesday condemned what he called China's campaign of luring away Taiwan's allies with promises of vast financial aid and investment.

Taiwan is willing to consider cooperating with its allies in education, farming or even infrastructure initiatives, Wu said, but refuses to compete with China in buying diplomatic support.

Wu said that El Salvador had repeatedly sought large amounts of funding from Taiwan for a port project that a Taiwanese team of engineers dispatched by the government thought wasn't economically feasible.

"We think this is an inappropriate development plan that risks causing both countries to fall into great debt," Wu said, noting that some developing countries were increasingly concerned about the risks of unsustainable debt linked to Chinese investments.

Wu said El Salvador's ruling party was also expecting Taiwan to provide funds to help it win in elections, but Taiwan refused.

"It is irresponsible to engage in financial aid diplomacy or compete with China in cash, or even in providing illegal political money," Wu said. "My government is unwilling to and cannot do so."

Some analysts say Chinese President Xi Jinping, one of the most powerful Chinese leaders in decades, seems determined to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control during his time in office, which would place him in the history books alongside Mao Zedong.

The island's 23 million residents are strongly in favor of maintaining their de facto independent status, but Xi has previously warned a Taiwanese envoy that the issue of unification cannot be put off indefinitely.

Salvadoran President Salvador Sanchez Ceren said on national television that China and El Salvador would discuss ways to cooperate in trade, investment and infrastructure development.

"It will give great benefits to the country and provide extraordinary opportunities on a personal level

to each one of you," he said.

The move comes just a day after China's foreign ministry said it had complained to the U.S. over Taiwanese President Tsai's visits this month to Los Angeles and Houston while in transit to diplomatic allies Paraguay and Belize.

The administration of President Donald Trump has been boosting relations with Taiwan amid a brewing trade war with Beijing.

Tsai urged the island's people to unite despite the pressure the government was facing diplomatically. "Taiwan will not yield because of pressure," Tsai said in a televised address. "We will be stronger and more united, and this will strengthen Taiwan's determination to go out."

Marcos Aleman in San Salvador, El Salvador, contributed to this report.

Sen. Collins, potential swing vote, to meet with Kavanaugh

By DUSTIN WEAVER and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh is set to meet with Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, a centrist who's seen as a potential swing vote on his confirmation.

Collins supports abortion rights and has vowed to oppose any nominee who has "demonstrated hostility" to *Roe v. Wade*. But she has spoken highly of President Donald Trump's nominee, saying he's qualified for the job.

The meeting Tuesday comes as Kavanaugh, an appellate court judge, is making the rounds on Capitol Hill ahead of confirmation hearings in September. One key meeting will be with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who wants Kavanaugh to support fully releasing documents from his tenure in the George W. Bush White House.

Democrats complain that Republicans, who have a slim 51-49 majority in the Senate, are withholding documents in their rush to confirm Trump's pick for the court ahead of midterm elections.

"There's still much about Judge Kavanaugh that we don't know, because Senate Republicans have engaged in blatant and historic obstruction of large portions of his record," Schumer said Monday from the Senate floor.

Kavanaugh, 53, is a conservative who, in replacing retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, could tip the court rightward for a generation.

He has already met with most Republicans but his meeting with Collins, and a meeting expected later this month with Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, will be crucial. Both senators both support access to abortion services.

Kavanaugh is also set to meet with other Democrats on Tuesday as he steps up his outreach to that side of the aisle.

Many Democrats have already said they would oppose Kavanaugh, while others say they want to see more documents from his five years in the Bush White House.

Republicans are using an expedited process to review Kavanaugh's lengthy record in public service, drawing on records assembled by Bush's lawyer, Bill Burck, separate from those traditionally compiled by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Republicans say there is plenty to review, including 300 court cases from his 12 years as a judge, and are only seeking records from Kavanaugh's time in the White House counsel's office. Democrats also want documents from Kavanaugh's three-year stint as Bush's staff secretary.

The National Archives is also producing documents from Kavanaugh's time on Kenneth Starr's investigation of President Bill Clinton, but has said its larger cache of files from the Bush years won't fully be delivered until late October.

Republicans hope to have Kavanaugh confirmed by the start of the court's session Oct. 1.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 27 of 44

States aim to stop internet release of 3D-printed gun plans

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge in Seattle is scheduled to hear arguments Tuesday on whether to block a settlement the U.S. State Department reached with a company that would allow it to post blueprints for printing 3D weapons on the internet.

The federal agency had tried to stop a Texas company from releasing the plans online, arguing it violated export regulations. But the agency reversed itself in April and entered an agreement with the company that would allow it to post the plans. The company is owned by a self-described "crypto-anarchist" who opposes restrictions on gun ownership.

Nineteen states and the District of Columbia sued and last month secured a restraining order to stop that process, and now they want to make that permanent by having the judge convert the restraining order into an injunction. They fear the plans, if disseminated online, could be used by people who are not legally permitted to buy or possess guns. Critics add that because the weapons aren't made of metal, they would be undetectable.

Cody Wilson, owner of Austin, Texas-based Defense Distributed, has said "governments should live in fear of their citizenry." Wilson's lawyers have said the safety risk from the 3D weapons claimed by the states is largely exaggerated because many of the files are already online.

The U.S. Justice Department argues that federal laws already prohibit the manufacture and possession of undetectable plastic guns, and they say the issues raised in this case are different. The State Department oversees regulations involving the export of certain weapons, not domestic laws, therefore the injunction is not necessary, the Justice Department said.

"The (State) Department is tasked with determining what technology and weaponry provides a critical military or intelligence advantage such that it should not be shipped without restriction from the United States to other countries (or otherwise provided to foreigners), where, beyond the reach of U.S. law, it could be used to threaten U.S. national security, foreign policy, or international peace and stability," the Justice Department said in its brief.

By seeking an injunction, the lawyers said, the states misunderstand the limits on the State Department's authority. "Domestic activities that do not involve providing access to foreign persons, by contrast, are left to other federal agencies and the states to regulate," the justice department argues.

The states call this argument "semantic gymnastics" and say the government's actions could cause "drastic, irreparable harm."

"By authorizing the unrestricted spread on the internet of downloadable guns, so that any state resident or visitor could manufacture and possess weapons without the states' knowledge or detection, the government undercuts the states' abilities to enforce their statutory codes," the lawyers argue. "The government's deregulation violates the states' border integrity by impeding their ability to prevent weapons from entering through airports."

After the Justice Department filed its brief opposing the injunction, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a statement saying plastic weapons are already illegal and are a risk to public safety. "The Department of Justice will use every available tool to vigorously enforce this prohibition," Sessions said.

The states suing are: Washington, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, California, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

Animal crackers break out of their cages

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Business Writer

After more than a century behind bars, the beasts on boxes of animal crackers are roaming free. Mondelez International, the parent company of Nabisco, has redesigned the packaging of its Barnum's Animals crackers after relenting to pressure from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

PETA, which has been protesting the use of animals in circuses for more than 30 years, wrote a letter

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 28 of 44

to Mondelez in the spring of 2016 calling for a redesign.

"Given the egregious cruelty inherent in circuses that use animals and the public's swelling opposition to the exploitation of animals used for entertainment, we urge Nabisco to update its packaging in order to show animals who are free to roam in their natural habitats," PETA said in its letter.

Mondelez agreed and started working on a redesign. In the meantime, the crackers' namesake circus — Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey — folded for good. The 146-year-old circus, which had removed elephants from its shows in 2016 because of pressure from PETA and others, closed down in May 2017 due to slow ticket sales.

The redesign of the boxes, now on U.S. store shelves, retains the familiar red and yellow coloring and prominent "Barnum's Animals" lettering. But instead of showing the animals in cages — implying that they're traveling in boxcars for the circus — the new boxes feature a zebra, elephant, lion, giraffe and gorilla wandering side-by-side in a grassland. The outline of acacia trees can be seen in the distance.

"When PETA reached out about Barnum's, we saw this as another great opportunity to continue to keep this brand modern and contemporary," said Jason Levine, Mondelez's chief marketing officer for North America, in a statement.

Mondelez is based in Illinois, which passed a statewide ban on circuses with elephants that went into effect in January. More than 80 U.S. cities have fully or partially banned circuses with wild animals, according to Animal Defenders International.

PETA Executive Vice President Tracy Reiman says she's celebrating the box redesign for the cultural change it represents.

"The new box for Barnum's Animals crackers perfectly reflects that our society no longer tolerates the caging and chaining of wild animals for circus shows," she said.

Nabisco has been making Barnum's Animals crackers since 1902. It has redesigned its boxes before, but only for limited-time special editions. In 1995, it offered an endangered species collection that raised money for the World Wildlife Fund. In 1997, it offered a zoo collection that raised money for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. And in 2010, it worked with designer Lilly Pulitzer on a pastel-colored box that raised money for tiger conservation.

The company won't say how many boxes it sells each year. Canadian boxes already had a different design and aren't affected.

Microsoft uncovers more Russian attacks ahead of midterms

By MATT O'BRIEN, AP Technology Writer

Microsoft said Tuesday it has uncovered new Russian hacking attempts targeting U.S. political groups ahead of the midterm elections.

The company said that a hacking group tied to the Russian government created fake internet domains that appeared to spoof two American conservative organizations: the Hudson Institute and the International Republican Institute. Three other fake domains were designed to look as if they belonged to the U.S. Senate.

Microsoft didn't offer any further description of the fake sites.

The revelation came just weeks after a similar Microsoft discovery led Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat who is running for re-election, to reveal that Russian hackers tried unsuccessfully to infiltrate her Senate computer network.

The hacking attempts mirror similar Russian attacks ahead of the 2016 election, which U.S. intelligence officials have said were focused on helping to elect Republican Donald Trump to the presidency by hurting his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

This time, more than helping one political party over another, "this activity is most fundamentally focused on disrupting democracy," Brad Smith, Microsoft's president and chief legal officer, said in an interview this week.

Smith said there is no sign the hackers were successful in persuading anyone to click on the fake websites,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 29 of 44

which could have exposed a target victim to computer infiltration, hidden surveillance and data theft. Both conservative think tanks said they have tried to be vigilant about "spear-phishing" email attacks because their global pro-democracy work has frequently drawn the ire of authoritarian governments.

"We're glad that our work is attracting the attention of bad actors," said Hudson Institute spokesman David Tell. "It means we're having an effect, presumably."

The International Republican Institute is led by a board that includes six Republican senators, and one prominent Russia critic and Senate hopeful, Mitt Romney, who is running for a Utah seat this fall.

Microsoft calls the hacking group Strontium; others call it Fancy Bear or APT28. An indictment from U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller has tied it to Russian's main intelligence agency, known as the GRU, and to the 2016 email hacking of both the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton campaign.

"We have no doubt in our minds" who is responsible, Smith said.

Microsoft has waged a legal battle with Strontium since suing it in a Virginia federal court in summer 2016. The company obtained court approval last year allowing it to seize certain fake domains created by the group. It has so far used the courts to shut down 84 fake websites created by the group, including the most recent six announced Tuesday.

Microsoft has argued in court that by setting up fake but realistic-looking domains, the hackers were misusing Microsoft trademarks and services to hack into targeted computer networks, install malware and steal sensitive emails and other data.

Smith also announced Tuesday that the company is offering free cybersecurity protection to all U.S. political candidates, campaigns and other political organizations, at least so long as they're already using Microsoft's Office 365 productivity software. Facebook and Google have also promoted similar tools to combat campaign interference.

Trump looks to Brennan for a foil in Russia probe spat

By **ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — With tweets and taunts, President Donald Trump is attempting to turn one of his most outspoken critics into the public face of the Russia probe that he has long worked to discredit.

In John Brennan, the blunt former CIA director, Trump believes he has found an unsympathetic foil — one with whom he can spar publicly as he seeks to bolster his public-relations campaign against special counsel Robert Mueller and a team of federal investigators.

Where Mueller's disciplined silence creates a void, Trump is eager to fill that empty space with Brennan.

Trump has long been unable to resist a fight with a foe who publicly challenges him, particularly on television, and Brennan got under Trump's skin with his declarations and innuendos about Trump's fitness for office and ties to Russia. But White House aides and Trump confidants say Trump's attack on Brennan is as much strategic as it is impulsive.

Goaded on by Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has been fiercely critical of Brennan's policy views and actions for almost a decade, Trump signed an order weeks ago to strip the career intelligence official of his security clearance. The president has told confidants in recent days that he views Brennan as a useful adversary.

In a decision he later spelled out on Twitter, the president began attacking Brennan not just as a critic but also as a face of the institutional government corruption he believes is driving the Mueller probe, according to two Republicans close to the White House who are familiar with Trump's thinking. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations.

One White House official, who likewise spoke on condition of anonymity, put Trump's motivations more bluntly, saying the president simply doesn't like Brennan.

"Many people don't even know who he is, and now he has a bigger voice," Trump told reporters Friday. "And that's OK with me because I like taking on voices like that. I've never respected him. I've never had a lot of respect."

Although many in the White House urged Trump to ignore Brennan, others in the president's orbit labeled

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 30 of 44

the former CIA director as the epitome of the deep state that they believe has conspired to undermine Trump.

Brennan's loud criticism of Trump, including repeated accusations of "treasonous" behavior alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin last month, has caused even some allies to roll their eyes.

"The common denominator among all of us that have been speaking up, though, is genuine concern about the jeopardy or threats to our institutions and values," former National Intelligence Director James Clapper, himself a frequent Trump critic, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." "But John and his rhetoric have become, I think, an issue in and of itself."

On Monday, 175 national security professionals joined 75 others before them in signing an open letter protesting Trump's decision to revoke Brennan's security clearance but indicated there is not unanimous support for how Brennan has conducted himself either.

"Our signatures below do not necessarily mean that we concur with the opinions expressed by former CIA Director Brennan or the way in which he expressed them," the letter stated. "What they do represent, however, is our firm belief that the country will be weakened if there is a political litmus test applied before seasoned experts are allowed to share their views."

Trump's fight with Brennan comes as the Mueller inquiry looks into the president's conduct in office and as Trump devotes more of his public comments and private griping to trying to undermine the investigation. It also comes amid his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort's financial fraud trial and as his lawyers engage in a back-and-forth with the special counsel's office on a potential presidential interview.

"He has become nothing less than a loudmouth, partisan, political hack who cannot be trusted with the secrets to our country!" Trump tweeted of Brennan over the weekend.

"Everybody wants to keep their Security Clearance, it's worth great prestige and big dollars, even board seats, and that is why certain people are coming forward to protect Brennan," Trump said in a Monday tweet. "It certainly isn't because of the good job he did! He is a political 'hack.'"

White House officials are also preparing paperwork to revoke the security clearances of more than a half-dozen current and former national security professionals who have criticized the president or had a role in beginning the federal probe of potential collusion between Trump's campaign and agents of the Russian government.

Some Republicans close to the White House noted that in elevating Brennan, Trump was seeking to exploit partisan fractures over some of the more controversial elements in his past.

While celebrated by former Obama administration officials for his role in the operation to kill al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, Brennan's role in the previous administration's drone program had made him a subject of some criticism from both ends of the political spectrum.

The White House has not offered specific examples of Brennan improperly using classified information. But on ABC, national security adviser John Bolton argued Sunday that Brennan politicized his information when he served under President Barack Obama.

"It was my view at the time that he and others in the Obama administration were politicizing intelligence," Bolton said. "I think that's a very dangerous thing to do."

Brennan, like other former Obama administration officials, has been a prominent face on MSNBC since leaving office. Bolton is a former Fox News contributor.

Miller and Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Poll shows support for charter schools, vouchers is growing

By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Support for charter schools and private school voucher programs has gone up over the past year, with Republicans accounting for much of the increase, according to a survey published Tuesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 31 of 44

The findings by Education Next, a journal published by Harvard's Kennedy School and Stanford University, come as Education Secretary Betsy DeVos promotes alternatives to traditional public schools.

Forty-four percent of respondents in the poll conducted in May said they support the expansion of charter schools, compared to 39 percent in 2017. The gain of 5 percentage points, however, did not fully offset the drop in support from 51 percent in 2016.

When broken down according to party affiliation, 57 percent of Republicans and 36 percent of Democrats voiced support for charter schools, compared to 47 percent of Republicans and 34 percent of Democrats in 2017.

"Support is up among Republicans for various strategies to expand school choice, and the Trump administration's embrace of those policies is a likely explanation," said Martin West, associate professor of education at Harvard University and a co-author of the report.

Some experts noted that the issue of charter schools has become extremely politicized.

"I hate to see an issue turn into a partisan question," said Robin Lake, director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education. "I don't think that an education policy that's designed to get better outcomes for kids should ever be a partisan issue."

Support for publicly funded vouchers given to low-income families to help them pay tuition at private school rose from 37 percent to 42 percent over the past year.

Meanwhile, Americans seem to be more satisfied with their local police and the post office than with their neighborhood school. While 51 percent of respondents said they would give their local schools a grade of A or B, 68 percent gave the local post office a similar grade and 69 percent the local police.

"It makes sense that only 50 percent of Americans are giving their public school a good grade of an A or a B that they would express support for alternatives to those public schools," said Patrick McGuinn, a professor of political science and education at Drew University.

The Education Department did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

In the Black Lives Matter era, African-American respondents gave their local police much lower marks than other respondents, but their views of their local schools were even worse. Thirty-nine percent gave their local schools an A or a B, while the local police force received such marks from 43 percent of African-American respondents.

The study also found that many Americans favor raising teacher salaries and increasing school funding in the aftermath of teachers walking out of schools in six states earlier this spring to protest pay and other issues.

Informed about average teacher earnings in their state, nearly half said they support raising teacher pay. That number was 67 percent when respondents were not told explicitly how much their local teachers were making. Nationally, the average teacher's salary was \$58,950 in 2017, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

"The sense of economic insecurity for teachers is very strong and there is growing support for higher pay, not just from teachers but from the broader community," said Evan Stone, CEO of Educators For Excellence, a teachers' advocacy organization.

West said that while many believe teachers should be making more, there is disagreement over whether they should be compensated based on how much their students learn or using some other metric.

"To the extent that the debate moves from how much are teachers are paid to how they are paid, there is potential for continued conflict," West said.

The Education Next survey was based on interviews with 4,601 adults across the country. The margin of error was 1.4 percentage points.

Los Angeles authorities looking into Asia Argento allegation

NEW YORK (AP) — Authorities said Monday that they are looking into sexual assault allegations by a young actor against Italian actress Asia Argento — one of the most prominent activists of the #MeToo movement against sexual harassment.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 32 of 44

Los Angeles County sheriff's Capt. Darren Harris said investigators from his department will seek to talk to Jimmy Bennett or his representatives about the alleged incident at a Southern California hotel in 2013, when Bennett was 17.

The move comes in response to a New York Times story saying Argento, 42, settled a legal notice of intent to sue filed by Bennett, who is now 22, for \$380,000 shortly after she said last October that movie mogul Harvey Weinstein raped her.

Argento and Bennett co-starred in a 2004 film called "The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things" in which Argento played Bennett's prostitute mother.

Bennett says in the notice that he had sex with Argento in the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Marina del Rey, California, in 2013. The age of consent in California is 18.

The notice says the encounter traumatized Bennett and hurt his career, the Times reported.

Investigators have learned no police report was filed at the time, Harris said.

The newspaper said it received court documents that included a selfie of Argento and Bennett in bed. Three people familiar with the case said the documents were authentic, the Times reported.

In a statement to The Associated Press on Monday, a lawyer for Bennett said the actor "does not wish to comment on the documents or the events" at this time.

The statement asked for privacy and noted that Bennett would take "the next 24 hours, or longer, to prepare his response."

Argento became one of the most well-known activists of the #MeToo movement after she told the New Yorker magazine that Weinstein raped her at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 when she was 21. Argento told the magazine that she continued to have a relationship with Weinstein because she was afraid of angering him.

Weinstein has been indicted on sex crime accusations involving three women, but not including Argento. Representatives for Argento did not respond to a request from The Associated Press for comment.

This story has been clarified to say that Jimmy Bennett filed a notice of intent to sue.

Colorado man charged with murder says wife killed daughters

By KATHLEEN FOODY, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado man told police that he killed his pregnant wife in "a rage" when he discovered she had strangled their two daughters after he sought a separation, according to an arrest affidavit released on Monday.

Colorado prosecutors, though, filed formal charges earlier in the day, accusing the former oil and gas worker of murdering his entire family days before he was interviewed by local television stations and pleaded for his missing family's safe return home.

Christopher Watts, who is being held without bail, is due back in court on Tuesday morning to be advised of the charges filed against him.

District Attorney Michael Rourke declined to answer most questions about the case Monday but said his office has three prosecutors assigned to it. Rourke also said it was too early to discuss whether he will seek the death penalty.

Under state law, the top punishment for homicide is the death penalty or life in prison.

The arrest affidavit was sealed at prosecutors' request until Monday, a frequent request in Colorado as prosecutors determine what charges to file after someone has been arrested.

After filing charges, prosecutors asked a judge on Monday to unseal it — revealing Watts' confession that he had killed his wife and his accusation that she was responsible for the deaths of 4-year-old Bella and 3-year-old Celeste. The document also says police confirmed that Christopher Watts was having an affair with a co-worker, something he denied in earlier conversations with investigators.

According to the affidavit, early on the morning of Aug. 13 Christopher Watts told his wife that he wanted to separate. She had returned from a business trip a few hours before their conversation.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 33 of 44

Watts told police that he walked downstairs, leaving his wife in their bedroom. When he returned, Watts said he checked a baby monitor on Shanann's nightstand and saw his wife strangling their youngest daughter. He said the monitor also showed their oldest daughter sprawled on her bed, looking blue.

Watts, 33, said he then "went into a rage" and strangled his wife.

He told police that he loaded all three bodies into his work truck, and then he buried his wife at an oil work site and dumped the bodies of Bella and Celeste inside oil tanks.

Autopsies have been completed but not released. A judge on Friday denied a request by defense lawyer James Merson to require the coroner to collect DNA from the necks of the children.

Watts faces three first-degree murder charges, two counts of murdering a child, one count of unlawful termination of a pregnancy and three counts of tampering with a deceased human body.

The charges come a week after a friend reported Shanann Watts, 34, and the girls missing.

Before his arrest last week, Christopher Watts lamented in interviews with local television stations about missing his wife and daughters. He spoke in front of their home in Frederick, a small town on the grassy plains north of Denver where fast-growing subdivisions intermingle with drilling rigs and oil wells.

Police spoke with Watts several times before he was arrested late on Wednesday, according to the affidavit. It says Watts initially told police that his conversation with Shanann about a separation was civil but emotional. Watts later told police that both he and his wife were "upset and crying" and Shanann told him she was going to a friend's house that day.

The bodies were found on property owned by Anadarko Petroleum, one of Colorado's largest oil and gas drillers, where Watts had worked as an operator. He was fired on Wednesday. Court documents filed by Merson said the girls had been submerged in crude oil for four days.

The affidavit says Watts gave police an aerial photograph of the area and identified three areas where he placed the bodies. Investigators used a drone to search the area and spotted a bed sheet that matched other linens found in the family home, along with fresh dirt.

Family and friends have said they were shocked by the slayings, saying the family seemed happy and Christopher Watts appeared to be a good father. The social media accounts for Shanann Watts, who was from North Carolina, are filled with photos of the family smiling and playing and posts praising her husband and expressing excitement about the couple expecting their third child.

A June 2015 bankruptcy filing showed that the family was dealing with financial strain, including tens of thousands of dollars in credit card debt, student loans and medical bills totaling \$70,000 in unsecured claims along with a sizable mortgage.

Associated Press writer James Anderson contributed to this report.

Michigan official faces manslaughter trial over Flint deaths

By ED WHITE, Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — A judge on Monday ordered Michigan's health director to stand trial for involuntary manslaughter in two deaths linked to Legionnaires' disease in the Flint area, the highest-ranking official to face criminal charges as a result of the city's tainted water scandal.

Nick Lyon is accused of failing to issue a timely alert about the outbreak. District Court Judge David Goggins said deaths likely could have been prevented if the outbreak had been publicly known. He said keeping the public in the dark was "corrupt."

Goggins found probable cause for a trial in Genesee County court, a legal standard that isn't as high as beyond a reasonable doubt. Lyon also faces a charge of misconduct in office.

When the judge announced his decision, a woman in the gallery said, "Yes, yes, yes."

"It's a long way from over," Lyon told The Associated Press. He declined further comment.

Some experts have blamed Legionnaires' on Flint's water, which wasn't properly treated when it was drawn from the Flint River in 2014 and 2015. Legionella bacteria can emerge through misting and cooling systems, triggering a severe form of pneumonia, especially in people with weakened immune systems.

Flint Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 34 of 44

At least 90 cases of Legionnaires' occurred in Genesee County, including 12 deaths. More than half of the people had a common thread: They spent time at McLaren Hospital, which was on the Flint water system.

The outbreak was announced by Gov. Rick Snyder and Lyon in January 2016, although Lyon concedes that he knew that cases were being reported many months earlier. He is director of the Health and Human Services Department.

Nonetheless, he denies wrongdoing. Lyon's attorneys said there was much speculation about the exact cause of Legionnaires' and not enough solid information to share earlier with the public.

The investigation by state Attorney General Bill Schuette's office is part of a larger probe into how Flint's water system became contaminated when the city used Flint River water for 18 months. The water wasn't treated to reduce corrosion. As a result, lead leached from old pipes.

"We're not looking at today as a win or a loss. We're looking at today as the first step and the next step for justice for the moms, dads and kids of Flint," said Schuette spokeswoman Andrea Bitely, who specifically mentioned the families of two men whose deaths the prosecution blames on Lyon — 85-year-old Robert Skidmore and 83-year-old John Snyder.

An additional 14 current or former state and local officials have been charged with crimes, either related to Legionnaires' or lead in the water. Four agreed to misdemeanor plea deals; the other cases are moving slowly.

"Normally we don't see government officials accused of manslaughter based on what they didn't do," said Peter Henning, a professor at Wayne State University law school in Detroit. "That does make it an unusual case, and it will make government officials be much more cautious. Maybe that's the message here."

Defense attorney John Bursch said the judge's decision was "mystifying." Goggins spent more than two hours summarizing evidence from weeks of testimony, but he didn't specifically explain what swayed him to send Lyon to trial.

"We had 20 pages of argument in our legal brief that he didn't address," Bursch said outside court. "He didn't talk about the law at all."

A trial would be many months away after Snyder's term as governor ends on Jan. 1. He said Lyon "has my full faith and confidence" and will remain as Michigan's health director.

A courtroom spectator, Karina Petri, 30, of Milwaukee said sending a senior official to trial is "long overdue."

"He withheld the truth. There's no excuse," said Petri, who wore a "Flint Lives Matter" shirt. "He could have changed hundreds of lives."

David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, contributed to this story.

Trump ready to ease rules on coal-fired power plants

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is set to roll back the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's efforts to slow global warming, the Clean Power Plan that restricts greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

A plan to be announced Tuesday would give states broad authority to determine how to restrict carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. The Environmental Protection Agency announced late Monday that acting administrator Andrew Wheeler planned to brief the news media by telephone Tuesday on what the administration is calling the "Affordable Clean Energy" rule — greenhouse guidelines for states to set performance standards for existing coal-fired power plants.

President Donald Trump is expected to promote the new plan at an appearance in West Virginia on Tuesday.

The plan is also expected to let states relax pollution rules for power plants that need upgrades, according to a summary of the plan and several people familiar with the full proposal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the plan publicly.

Combined with a planned rollback of car-mileage standards, the plan represents a significant retreat from

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 35 of 44

Obama-era efforts to fight climate change and would stall an Obama-era push to shift away from coal and toward less-polluting energy sources such as natural gas, wind and solar power. Trump has already vowed to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement as he pushes to revive the coal industry.

Trump also has directed Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take steps to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to keep them open, warning that impending retirements of "fuel-secure" power plants that rely on coal and nuclear power are harming the nation's power grid and reducing its resilience.

A three-page summary being circulated at the White House focuses on boosting efficiency at coal-fired power plants and allowing states to reduce "wasteful compliance costs" while focusing on improved environmental outcomes. Critics say focusing on improved efficiency would allow utilities to run older, dirtier power plants more often, undercutting potential environmental benefits.

The White House rejects that criticism.

"Carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector will continue to fall under this rule, but this will happen legally and with proper respect for the states, unlike" the Clean Power Plan, the summary says. The AP obtained a copy of the summary, which asserts that the Obama-era plan exceeds the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act.

Obama's plan was designed to cut U.S. carbon dioxide emissions to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The rule dictated specific emission targets for states based on power-plant emissions and gave officials broad latitude to decide how to achieve reductions.

The Supreme Court put the plan on hold in 2016 following a legal challenge by industry and coal-friendly states, an order that remains in effect.

Even so, the Obama plan has been a factor in a wave of retirements of coal-fired plants, which also are being squeezed by lower costs for natural gas and renewable power and state mandates that promote energy conservation.

Trump has vowed to end what Republicans call a "war on coal" waged by Obama.

"This is really a plan to prop up coal plants — or try to," said David Doniger, a climate expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

The Trump plan "will make no meaningful reductions" in greenhouse gas emissions "and it probably will make emissions worse," Doniger said.

Gina McCarthy, who served as EPA administrator when the Clean Power Plan was created in 2015, said that based on draft proposals and news reports, she expects the plan will not set specific federal targets for reducing emissions from coal-fired plants. The plan is expected to address power plants individually rather than across the electric grid as the EPA proposed under Obama. The new plan would give utilities and states more flexibility in achieving emissions reductions, but critics say it could harm public health.

"They are continuing to play to their base and following industry's lead," McCarthy said of the Trump administration and its new acting administrator, Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist. "This is all about coal at all costs."

Michelle Bloodworth, president of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, a trade group that represents coal producers, called the new rule a marked departure from the "gross overreach" of the Obama administration and said it should prevent a host of premature coal-plant retirements.

"We agree with those policymakers who have become increasingly concerned that coal retirements are a threat to grid resilience and national security," she said.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this report.

AP sources: Prosecutors preparing charges against Cohen

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer, could be charged before the end of the month with bank fraud in his dealings with the taxi industry and with committing other financial crimes, two people familiar with the federal probe said Monday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 36 of 44

The people confirmed reports that federal prosecutors in Manhattan were considering charging Cohen after months of speculation over a case that has been a distraction for the White House with the midterm elections approaching.

The people, who weren't authorized to discuss the case and spoke on Monday on condition of anonymity, refused to answer questions about speculation that Cohen still might strike a plea deal with prosecutors requiring his cooperation.

Absent a quick resolution, it's believed that prosecutors would put off a decision on how to go forward with the case until after the election in compliance with an informal Justice Department policy of avoiding bringing prosecutions that could be seen as political and influence voters.

Both the U.S. attorney's office and an attorney for Cohen, Lanny Davis, declined to comment on Monday. There was no immediate response to a message seeking comment from Sterling National Bank, one of the institutions that loaned Cohen money.

The New York Times reported Sunday, based on anonymous sources, that prosecutors have been focusing on more than \$20 million in loans obtained by taxi businesses that Cohen and his family own.

Cohen had gained notoriety as Trump's loyal "fixer" before FBI agents raided his office and a hotel where he was staying while renovations were being done on his apartment in a Trump-developed building.

Prosecutors were initially silent about why Cohen was under investigation. Some details became public after lawyers for Cohen and Trump asked a judge to temporarily prevent investigators from viewing some of the seized material, on the grounds that it was protected by attorney-client privilege.

The search of Cohen's files sought bank records, communications with the Trump campaign and information on hush money payments made in 2016 to two women: former Playboy model Karen McDougal, who received \$150,000, and the porn actress Stormy Daniels, who got \$130,000.

At the time, Trump branded the raid "a witch hunt," an assault on attorney-client privilege and a politically motivated attack by enemies in the FBI.

The president's initial support for Cohen has since degenerated into a public feud, prompting speculation that, to save himself, Cohen might be willing to tell prosecutors some of the secrets he helped Trump keep.

Davis, Cohen's lawyer, has been sending signals of his own.

First, he went on CNN with a tape of Trump talking about the McDougal payment. Then, over the weekend, he revealed that he's been having conversations with John Dean, the White House lawyer who helped bring down President Richard Nixon.

Davis said Monday that he sees major parallels between Cohen and Dean and that he wanted to hear what he'd learned from Watergate and his perspective on what Cohen is going through. Cohen hasn't spoken to Dean, Davis said.

Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak and Larry Neumeister contributed to this report.

Hard to see, hard to breathe: US West struggles with smoke

By SALLY HO and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Smoke from wildfires clogged the sky across the U.S. West, blotting out mountains and city skylines from Oregon to Colorado, delaying flights and forcing authorities to tell even healthy adults in the Seattle area to stay indoors.

As large cities dealt with unhealthy air for a second summer in a row, experts warned that it could become more common as the American West faces larger and more destructive wildfires because of heat and drought blamed on climate change. Officials also must prioritize resources during the longer firefighting season, so some blazes may be allowed to burn in unpopulated areas.

Seattle's Space Needle was swathed in haze, and it was impossible to see nearby mountains. Portland, Oregon, residents who were up early saw a blood-red sun shrouded in smoke and huffed their way through another day of polluted air. Portland Public Schools suspended all outdoor sports practices.

Thick smoke in Denver blocked the view of some of Colorado's famous mountains and prompted an air

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 37 of 44

quality health advisory for the northeastern quarter of the state.

The smoky pollution, even in Idaho and Colorado, came from wildfires in British Columbia and the Northwest's Cascade Mountains, clouding a season that many spend outdoors.

Portland resident Zach Simon supervised a group of children in a summer biking camp who paused at a huge water fountain by the Willamette River, where gray, smoky haze obscured a view of Mount Hood.

Simon said he won't let the kids ride as far or take part in as many running games like tag while the air quality is bad.

"I went biking yesterday, and I really felt it in my lungs, and I was really headachy and like, lethargic," Simon said Monday. "Today, biking, you can see the whole city in haze and you can't see the skyline."

One of Colin Shor's favorite things about working in the Denver area is the view of the high peaks to the west. But that was all but gone Monday.

"Not being able to see the mountains is kind of disappointing, kind of sad," he said.

Forest fires are common, but typical Seattle-area weather pushes it out of the way quickly. The latest round of prolonged smoke happened as hot temperatures and high pressure collided, said Andrew Wineke, a spokesman for the state Ecology Department's air quality program.

It's a rare occurrence that also happened last year, raising concerns for many locals that it may become normal during wildfire season. Wineke said climate change is expected to contribute to many more fires.

"The trend is clear. You see the number of forest fires increasing, and so there's going to be wildfires," Wineke said. "There's going to be smoke. It's going to be somewhere."

The Federal Aviation Administration said airplanes bound for the Sea-Tac International Airport, Seattle's main airport, may be delayed because of low visibility.

In Spokane, air quality slipped into the "hazardous" range. Thick haze hung over Washington's second-largest city, forcing vehicles to turn on their headlights during the morning commute.

The air quality was so bad that everyone, regardless of physical condition or age, will likely be affected, according to the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency.

In California, wind blew smoke from several wildfires into the San Francisco Bay Area, where haze led authorities to issue an air quality advisory through Tuesday. They suggested people avoid driving to limit additional pollutants in the air and advised those with health problems to reduce time outdoors.

Health officials say signs of smoke-related health symptoms include coughing, scratchy throat, irritated sinuses, headaches, stinging eyes and runny nose. Those with heart disease may experience chest pain, irregular heartbeats, shortness of breath and fatigue.

Patients at Denver's National Jewish Health, a respiratory hospital, were reporting worsening symptoms, hospital spokesman Adam Dormuth said.

In Portland, six tourists from Lincoln, Nebraska, posed for a photo in front of the Willamette River with the usual Mount Hood backdrop shrouded in haze. The group of siblings and friends rented an RV and drove in to visit a sister who recently moved to the area.

"We are disappointed that we can't see the mountains and the whole city, because our relatives live here and tell us how pretty it is, and we're missing it," Bev Harris said. "We're from tornado alley, and we don't have wildfires. It's a different experience."

Flaccus reported from Portland, Oregon. Associated Press reporters Nicholas K. Geranios in Spokane, Dan Elliott in Denver and Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this story.

Trump elevates Brennan in proxy fight over Mueller probe

By **ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — With tweets and taunts, President Donald Trump is attempting to turn one of his most outspoken critics into the public face of the Russia probe that he has long worked to discredit.

In John Brennan, the blunt former CIA director, Trump believes he has found an unsympathetic foil — one with whom he can spar publicly as he seeks to bolster his public-relations campaign against special

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 38 of 44

counsel Robert Mueller and a team of federal investigators.

Where Mueller's disciplined silence creates a void, Trump is eager to fill that empty space with Brennan. Trump has long been unable to resist a fight with a foe who publicly challenges him, particularly on television, and Brennan got under Trump's skin with his declarations and innuendos about Trump's fitness for office and ties to Russia. But White House aides and Trump confidants say Trump's attack on Brennan is as much strategic as it is impulsive.

Goaded on by Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has been fiercely critical of Brennan's policy views and actions for almost a decade, Trump signed an order weeks ago to strip the career intelligence official of his security clearance. The president has told confidants in recent days that he views Brennan as a useful adversary.

In a decision he later spelled out on Twitter, the president began attacking Brennan not just as a critic but also as a face of the institutional government corruption he believes is driving the Mueller probe, according to two Republicans close to the White House who are familiar with Trump's thinking. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations.

One White House official, who likewise spoke on condition of anonymity, put Trump's motivations more bluntly, saying the president simply doesn't like Brennan.

"Many people don't even know who he is, and now he has a bigger voice," Trump told reporters Friday. "And that's OK with me because I like taking on voices like that. I've never respected him. I've never had a lot of respect."

Although many in the White House urged Trump to ignore Brennan, others in the president's orbit labeled the former CIA director as the epitome of the deep state that they believe has conspired to undermine Trump.

Brennan's loud criticism of Trump, including repeated accusations of "treasonous" behavior alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin last month, has caused even some allies to roll their eyes.

"The common denominator among all of us that have been speaking up, though, is genuine concern about the jeopardy or threats to our institutions and values," former National Intelligence Director James Clapper, himself a frequent Trump critic, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." "But John and his rhetoric have become, I think, an issue in and of itself."

On Monday, 175 national security professionals joined 75 others before them in signing an open letter protesting Trump's decision to revoke Brennan's security clearance but indicated there is not unanimous support for how Brennan has conducted himself either.

"Our signatures below do not necessarily mean that we concur with the opinions expressed by former CIA Director Brennan or the way in which he expressed them," the letter stated. "What they do represent, however, is our firm belief that the country will be weakened if there is a political litmus test applied before seasoned experts are allowed to share their views."

Trump's fight with Brennan comes as the Mueller inquiry looks into the president's conduct in office and as Trump devotes more of his public comments and private griping to trying to undermine the investigation. It also comes amid his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort's financial fraud trial and as his lawyers engage in a back-and-forth with the special counsel's office on a potential presidential interview.

"He has become nothing less than a loudmouth, partisan, political hack who cannot be trusted with the secrets to our country!" Trump tweeted of Brennan over the weekend.

"Everybody wants to keep their Security Clearance, it's worth great prestige and big dollars, even board seats, and that is why certain people are coming forward to protect Brennan," Trump said in a Monday tweet. "It certainly isn't because of the good job he did! He is a political 'hack.'"

White House officials are also preparing paperwork to revoke the security clearances of more than a half-dozen current and former national security professionals who have criticized the president or had a role in beginning the federal probe of potential collusion between Trump's campaign and agents of the Russian government.

Some Republicans close to the White House noted that in elevating Brennan, Trump was seeking to

exploit partisan fractures over some of the more controversial elements in his past.

While celebrated by former Obama administration officials for his role in the operation to kill al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, Brennan's role in the previous administration's drone program had made him a subject of some criticism from both ends of the political spectrum.

The White House has not offered specific examples of Brennan improperly using classified information. But on ABC, national security adviser John Bolton argued Sunday that Brennan politicized his information when he served under President Barack Obama.

"It was my view at the time that he and others in the Obama administration were politicizing intelligence," Bolton said. "I think that's a very dangerous thing to do."

Brennan, like other former Obama administration officials, has been a prominent face on MSNBC since leaving office. Bolton is a former Fox News contributor.

Miller and Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Pope: No effort spared to fight abuse, but offers no details

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis vowed Monday that "no effort must be spared" to root out priestly sex abuse and cover-up from the Catholic Church, but gave no indication that he would take action to sanction complicit bishops or end the Vatican culture of secrecy that has allowed the crisis to fester.

In a letter to Catholics worldwide following damning new revelations of misconduct in the U.S., Francis sought to project a get-tough response to the perpetrators and a compassionate shoulder for victims ahead of a fraught trip to Ireland this weekend.

Francis begged forgiveness for the pain suffered by victims and said lay Catholics must be included in the effort to root out abuse and cover-up. He blasted the clerical culture that has been blamed for the crisis, with church leaders more concerned about their own reputations than the safety of children.

"We showed no care for the little ones," Francis wrote. "We abandoned them."

But Francis alone can sanction bishops and he offered no hint that he would change the Vatican's long-standing practice of giving religious superiors a pass when they botch abuse cases or are negligent in protecting their flocks.

He said he was aware of the "effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world" to ensure children are protected and hold accountable those who commit abuse and cover it up.

But he made no reference to what the Vatican plans to do, saying only: "We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future."

The letter was viewed by abuse survivors as little more than recycled rhetoric that fails to acknowledge the Vatican's own role in turning a blind eye to predatory priests and fomenting a culture of secrecy that has allowed crimes to go unpunished for decades.

"That culture was overseen by #Vatican & codified into its laws," tweeted Colm O'Gorman, a prominent Irish abuse victim who is organizing a solidarity demonstration of survivors in Dublin during Francis' visit. "He needs to name & own that."

Marie Collins, another prominent Irish survivor who resigned in frustration from the pope's sex-abuse advisory commission, said statements about how terrible abuse is and how bishops must be held accountable are meaningless.

"Tell us instead what you are doing to hold them accountable," she tweeted. "That is what we want to hear. 'Working on it' is not an acceptable explanation for decades of 'delay.'"

Priestly sex abuse was always expected to dominate the pope's trip to Ireland, a once staunchly Roman Catholic country where the church's credibility has been devastated by years of revelations that priests raped and molested children with impunity and their superiors covered it up.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 40 of 44

But the issue has taken on new gravity following revelations in the U.S. that one of Francis' trusted cardinals, the retired archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, allegedly sexually abused and harassed minors as well as adult seminarians.

In addition, a grand jury report in Pennsylvania last week revealed that at least 1,000 children were abused by some 300 priests over the past 70 years, and that generations of bishops failed to take measures to protect their flock or punish the rapists.

"Priests were raping little boys and girls, and the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing; they hid it all," the grand jury report said.

The letter from Latin America's first pope also comes on the heels of a spiraling sex-abuse scandal in Chile, where law enforcement has staged multiple raids on church archives to try to determine what was known and kept hidden about pedophile priests.

The three-page letter, issued in seven languages, referred to the Pennsylvania report but stressed that its message was to a much broader global audience. In it, Francis acknowledged that no effort to beg forgiveness of the victims would be sufficient but vowed "never again."

Looking to the future, he said: "No effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated."

He demanded an end to "clericalism" — the culture that places priests on a pedestal. He said lay Catholics must help end that culture, since rank-and-file Catholics are often the ones who most fervently hold up their priests as beyond reproach.

That emphasis — on both the role of the laity and clericalism — is new for a pope in addressing the abuse scandal and seems a direct response to the Pennsylvania findings, said Kathleen Sprows Cummings, associate professor of American studies and history at the University of Notre Dame.

"That's what people are feeling. That's the rage," she said, adding that she had acquaintances who were withholding donations to their parishes, refusing to address priests as "Father" and demanding at Sunday Mass that their pastors address the crisis.

"I think this is a crisis and I don't think many church leaders appreciate that," she said.

Francis appears to hear that call, but it's unclear if it will be enough.

Several years ago, he scrapped a proposed Vatican tribunal to prosecute negligent bishops, relying instead on current Vatican procedures. While he has taken some bishops to task, he has refused to act on credible reports of bishops failing to report abusers to police or otherwise botching the handling of cases.

Francis also has kept on his nine-member cabinet a Chilean cardinal long accused of covering up for pedophiles, an Australian cardinal currently on trial on sex-abuse charges and a Honduran cardinal implicated in a gay priest sex scandal involving his trusted deputy.

As a result, advocates for victims found his letter wanting.

"Mere words at this point deepen the insult and the pain," said Anne Barrett Doyle of the research group Bishop Accountability, which released a database Monday of credibly accused or convicted Irish clergy.

What Francis should do to protect children, she said, is to order the Vatican to release the names of all priests who have been convicted under canon law of abusing minors.

Unlike the U.S. bishops' conference, which has referred only to "sins and omissions" in their response to the Pennsylvania report, Francis labeled the misconduct "crimes."

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said it was "significant" that Francis used that term and called for accountability, "which in many cases means bishops."

"This is a wake-up call for everyone," Burke told The Associated Press.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro praised the pope's letter and urged local church officials to "cease their denials and deflections" and accept the grand jury recommendations, which include allowing victims to sue the church for abuse that otherwise would fall outside the statute of limitations.

The Catholic Church has long resisted such litigation windows, fearing for its bottom line. In the U.S., the sex-abuse scandal and related litigation has cost the church some \$3 billion and led to the sell-off of church properties and bankruptcy protection for several dioceses.

It was the second Vatican response in recent days to the Pennsylvania grand jury report, which has sparked a crisis of confidence in the U.S. Catholic leadership and led to calls for mass ouster of American bishops.

Last week, Burke issued a statement calling the abuse "criminal and morally reprehensible" and said there must be accountability for those who raped children "and those who permitted abuse to occur."

Subsequently, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked Francis to authorize a Vatican investigation into McCarrick, whose penchant for inviting seminarians to his New Jersey beach house and into his bed was apparently an open secret.

The Vatican hasn't said if Francis would approve such an investigation. The question is delicate, given that there is evidence that Vatican officials knew as early as 2000 of McCarrick's activities, yet still appointed him Washington archbishop and a cardinal.

On Monday, the archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, said he didn't see a letter sent to his office in 2015 concerning McCarrick's activities.

O'Malley said a pastor sent him the letter because he was president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. He said his priest secretary told the pastor a recommendation to review cases fell outside the commission's mandate.

O'Malley apologized to the pastor and to anyone whose concerns were reflected in the letter.

Small firms thrive as customers seek more unique clothing

By **DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Claudio Belotti knows he cut the denim that became the jeans Meghan Markle wore on one of her first outings as the fiancée of Britain's Prince Harry.

That's because he cuts all of the fabric for Hiut Denim Co., a 7-year-old company that makes jeans in Cardigan, Wales. Belotti is a craftsman with 50 years of experience that gives his work a personal touch — something that's not quite couture but not exactly mass-produced either.

"There's a story behind each one," Belotti said. "You're paying for the skill."

Customer demand for something unique is helping small companies like Hiut buck the globalization trend and set up shop in developed countries that had long seen such work disappear. While international brands like H&M and Zara still dominate the clothing market, small manufacturers are finding a niche by using technology and skill to bring down costs and targeting well-heeled customers who are willing to pay a little more for clothes that aren't churned out by the thousands half a world away.

Profits at smaller national clothing firms grew 2 percent over the last five years, compared with a 25 percent decline at the top 700 traditional multinationals, according to research by Kantar Consulting.

Their success comes from promoting their small size and individuality, said Jaideep Prabhu, a professor of enterprise at Cambridge University's Judge Business School.

"It's a different kind of manufacturing," he said. "They are not the Satanic mills. These are very cool little boutiques."

Hiut, which makes nothing but jeans, employs 16 people in Cardigan and makes 160 pairs a week. Women's styles range from 145 pounds (\$192) to 185 pounds (\$244), men's go for 150 pounds to 235 pounds. Each is signed by the person who sewed it, known in the company as a "Grand Master." By contrast, Primark says it sources products from 1,071 factories in 31 countries and keeps costs down by "buying in vast quantities." The most expensive pair of jeans on the company's website sells for 20 pounds.

Many of these small manufacturers also try to stand out by embracing social issues, from reducing waste to paying a living wage.

Hiut, for example, highlights its efforts to put people back to work in a small town that was devastated when a factory that employed 400 people and made 35,000 pairs of jeans a week shut down. Underscoring the years of craftsmanship that go into each pair of jeans, the company offers "free repairs for life."

This kind of customer service helps form a "personal relationship" between a brand and the shopper that is valuable, says Anusha Couttigan of Kantar Consulting.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 42 of 44

Customers notice. Laura Lewis-Davies, a museum worker who from Wales, says she wants to support independent businesses when she can and bought a pair of Hiut jeans after seeing a story about Markle wearing the brand.

"Well-crafted things bring more joy," she said. "I'd rather buy fewer things but know they're good quality (and) made by people who are working in good conditions for a fair salary."

The rise of small clothing makers reflects a broader shift in consumer preferences away from big brands — as evident, say, in the boom in craft beers. In fashion, technology is fueling the trend.

The internet provides a cheap way to reach customers, while off-the-shelf artificial intelligence programs allow companies to accurately forecast demand and order materials so they can make small batches and avoid unwanted stock. That makes it possible to produce clothes that are more customized.

"Data is the backbone for this and the trigger," said Achim Berg, a senior partner at McKinsey & Co. in Frankfurt who advises fashion and luxury goods companies. "It's not custom-made, but it gives the consumer the opportunity to be more individual."

A survey of 500 companies by McKinsey and The Business of Fashion, an influential industry news website, identified personalization as this year's No. 1 trend. Consumers are willing to hand over personal information to get more customized products and services, according to a 2016 survey by Salesforce.com, which provides online sales and marketing tools for businesses.

Established brands have recognized the trend and offering to customize products, too. Adidas, for example, offers the chance to mix and match colors and materials on things like the sole and laces on some of its shoes.

But making clothes on a smaller scale has also gained a moral tinge after scandals about sweatshops, child labor and unsafe working practices hit global brands in recent years. The 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, which killed 1,100 and injured 2,500 others, highlighted the grim conditions in factories that export to the United States and Europe.

Jenny Holloway, who employs 100 people at Fashion Enter in London, said she's not interested in making as many garments as possible and selling them as fast as she can.

"I'd like to say we've done a massive business plan and we refer to it. We don't," Holloway said. "We sit down and have a cup of tea and we have a chat and we evaluate how things sit with us. How does that client fit our ethics? ... It isn't about money and making that big buck. It's about sustainability."

Prabhu sees this as part of a bigger shift away from the model of outsourcing production to low-cost countries like China. "You're trying to constantly keep up with your customers. Your competitive advantage is to give them something closer to their needs."

Hiut Denim is an example of this backlash.

The company is based in a town of some 4,000 people where 10 percent of the population once made jeans. Then, a decade ago, the factory shut down as the owners moved production to Morocco and later to China.

When David and Clare Hieatt decided to start making jeans again, they were determined to take advantage of the years of professional experience going to waste. They hoped that would give their products a "story" to market.

Markle's decision to wear Hiut jeans in Wales boosted that effort. The company now has a waiting list of three months.

"For the town it's been incredible because it gives people a confidence to go, 'Wow. This town makes a world-class product,'" David Hieatt said. "We lost our mojo when we lost 400 jobs, but now we're getting it back. That's a very cool story."

Martin Benedyk contributed to this report.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 43 of 44

Asian shares gain despite doubts over US-China trade talks

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Tuesday amid doubts about the prospects for resolving the trade dispute between the U.S. and China.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.3 percent in morning trading to 22,273.82 and South Korea's Kospi added 0.9 percent to 2,268.16. Hong Kong's Hang Seng climbed 0.5 percent to 27,729.63, and the Shanghai Composite jumped 1.4 percent to 2,737.13. Shares were higher in Taiwan and Southeast Asia but Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.9 percent to 6,288.60.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 rose 0.2 percent to 2,857.05. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 0.3 percent to 25,758.69. The Nasdaq composite recovered from a morning slide, adding 0.1 percent to 7,821.01 and the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks also rebounded, picking up 0.3 percent to 1,698.69.

TRADE TENSIONS: Investors are closely watching for any progress on ending the trade dispute between the U.S. and China. The costly, dueling tariffs between them are rattling global markets. Hopes rose late last week on news that China will send an envoy to Washington this month to discuss a way out of the standoff before President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet in November.

ENERGY: U.S. benchmark crude added 11 cents to \$65.53 per barrel in New York in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It added 21 cents to \$65.42 on Monday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 4 cents to \$72.25 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.09 yen from 110.06 yen late Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1522 from \$1.1484.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2018. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 21, 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 whites. (Turner was later executed.)

On this date:

In 1609, Galileo Galilei demonstrated his new telescope to a group of officials atop the Campanile (kahm-pah-NEE'-lay) in Venice.

In 1858, the first of seven debates between Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1912, the Boy Scouts of America named its first Eagle Scout, Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1961, country singer Patsy Cline recorded the Willie Nelson song "Crazy" in Nashville for Decca Records. (The recording was released in October 1961.)

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 043 ~ 44 of 44

States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport. The musical play "La Cage Aux Folles" opened on Broadway.

In 1987, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree, the first Marine court-martialed for spying, was convicted in Quantico, Virginia, of passing secrets to the KGB. (Lonetree ended up serving eight years in a military prison.)

In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In 2000, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush issued a federal disaster declaration for parts of Florida affected by Tropical Storm Fay. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Baghdad for discussions with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other top Iraqi officials. Twin Taliban suicide bombings at Pakistan's largest weapons complex killed at least 67 people. At the Summer Olympics, Japan defeated the U.S. softball team, 3-1, to win the gold medal. Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor won their second consecutive gold medal in beach volleyball, beating Wang Jie and Tian Jia of China. The U.S. women's soccer team won the gold medal by beating Brazil 1-0 in extra time.

Five years ago: Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was sentenced at Fort Meade, Maryland, to up to 35 years in prison for spilling an unprecedented trove of government secrets. (The former intelligence analyst, now known as Chelsea Manning, was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison. The sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.) The National Security Agency declassified three secret court opinions showing how in one of its surveillance programs, it scooped up as many as 56,000 emails and other communications by Americans not connected to terrorism annually over three years.

One year ago: Americans witnessed their first full-blown coast-to-coast solar eclipse since World War I, with eclipse-watchers gathering along a path of totality extending 2,600 miles across the continent from Oregon to South Carolina. In a national address, President Donald Trump reversed his past calls for a speedy exit from Afghanistan and recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old conflict, saying U.S. troops must "fight to win." A collision between the destroyer USS John McCain and an oil tanker near Singapore left ten U.S. sailors dead. London's Big Ben bell atop Parliament's clock tower fell silent for four years of repair work that would keep it quiet on all but a few special occasions.

Today's Birthdays: Former NFL player and general manager Pete Retzlaff is 87. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 86. Playwright Mart Crowley is 83. Singer Kenny Rogers is 80. Actor Clarence Williams III is 79. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 79. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 79. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 77. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 73. Actress Patty McCormack is 73. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese (jee-ah mah-REE'-see) is 71. Actress Loretta Devine is 69. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 67. Singer Glenn Hughes is 66. Country musician Nick Kane is 64. Actress Kim Cattrall is 62. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 59. Actress Cleo King is 56. Retired MLB All-Star John Wetteland is 52. Rock singer Serj Tankian (TAN'-kee-ahn) (System of a Down) is 51. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 49. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 48. MLB player-turned-manager Craig Counsell is 48. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 47. Actress Alicia Witt is 43. Singer Kelis (kuh-LEES') is 39. Actor Diego Klattenhoff is 39. TV personality Brody Jenner is 35. Singer Melissa Schuman is 34. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain (yoo-SAYN') Bolt is 32. Actor Carlos Pratts is 32. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 32. Actor Cody Kasch is 31. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 30. Actress Hayden Panettiere (pan'-uh-tee-EHR') is 29. Actor RJ Mitte is 26. Actor Maxim Knight is 19.

Thought for Today: "Paradoxical as it may seem, to believe in youth is to look backward; to look forward we must believe in age." — Dorothy L. Sayers, English author (1893-1957).