

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 1 of 40

- 1- Robotics Greenhouse Raffle Ad
- 2- Third Annual Middle School Talent Show
- 7- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 7- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 8- Russian Foreign Exchange Student
- 9- Earthtalk: Hair dye and cancer
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Pages
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- 2019 Groton Events
- 15- News from the Associated Press

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

“Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.”

-GEORGE S. PATTON

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

Click on Ad to sign up!



Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:
Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)
Hunting Blind (Hexagon with 6 shooting windows)
Free delivery within 20 miles
2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

**Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation
Drawing to be held April 15th**

**Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or
call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.**

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 2 of 40



Third Annual Middle School Talent Show

The Third Annual Groton Area Middle School Talent Show was held Friday evening in the GHS Gym. The junior high band started off with, "The Greatest Show," which was their theme for the night. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Candance Tullis, accompanied by Ellie Weismantel, sang, "You Are the Reason." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emily Clark had a piano solo entitled, "Spinning Song." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The sixth grade boys band performed, "High Adventure." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 3 of 40



The junior high boys choir sang, "The Sound of Silence." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Anna Bisbee had a vocal solo as she sang, "Shut Up and Fish." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Carter Barse and Ava Kramer were the masters of ceremony for the event. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 4 of 40



Kaden Kampa had a solo in the sixth grade band performance. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Ellie Weismantel had a piano solo entitled, "Nocturne." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



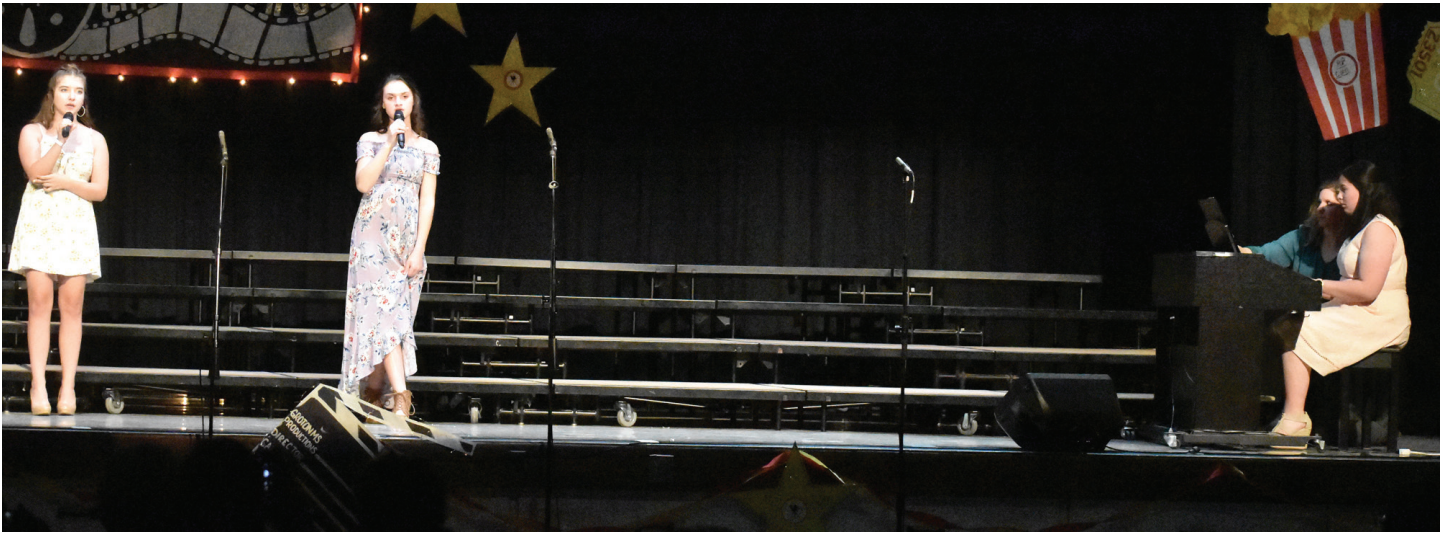
Ethan Clark had a solo entitled, "Megalovania." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The sixth grade band performed to, "Counting Stars." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 5 of 40



Sierra Ehremann and Shaylee Peterson had a vocal duet entitled, "Love Someone." They were accompanied by Ellie Weismantel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Carter Barse had a vocal solo entitled, "Birds." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kamryn Flihs had a vocal/instrument solo entitled, "Mad World." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 6 of 40



The sixth grade girls band performed to, "Edelweiss." (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The junior high girls show choir had the finale with their performance of, "I Will Survive/ Survivor." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

From Cody Swanson

This next Sunday, April 7th is our POP's concert! Just to avoid more questions... all tickets will be at the door and they are \$5. We have our annual silent auction! Each family is responsible to bring two silent auctions baskets...one for 2:00 performance and one for 7:00 performance. Audience members can then bid on the baskets! Baskets can be anything from baked goods to mystery baskets to kids themes to summer theme... Whatever you want!!

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts &
Class A CDL Drivers

New Starting Competitive Wages
Overtime Available

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- STD
- LTD
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit www.uslbm.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

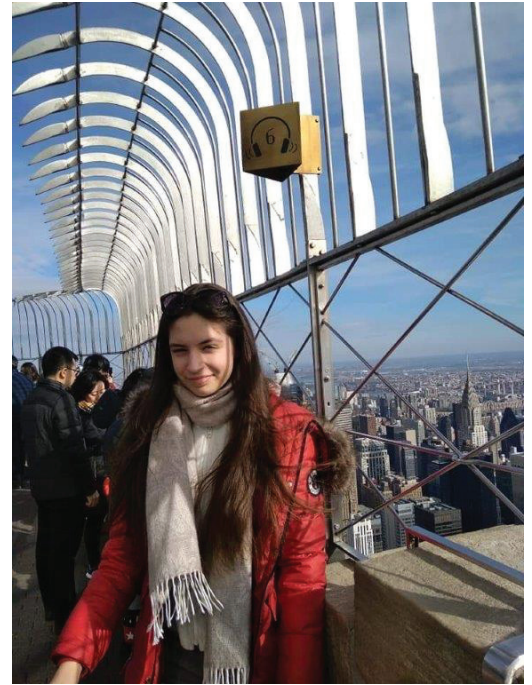


4255 6th Ave

Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!

Russian Foreign Exchange Student

Gordon and Dorene Nelson were weekend guests at the home of their son Corey and Brenda Nelson, Hope and Isaac. While in Rochester, the Nelsons helped Isaac celebrate his 13th birthday. They also met Alisa Zinchuk, an exchange student from Vyborg, Russia, who is staying with their son's family until June 1.



Alisa Zinchuk's arrival in New York City. (Courtesy photo)



The Nelsons host Russian student L to R Brenda Nelson, Hope Nelson, Isaac Nelson with Chewie, Alisa Zinchuk, and Corey Nelson. (Courtesy photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 9 of 40

EARTHTALK TM
Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Hair Dye and Cancer



Dear EarthTalk: My hairdresser was just diagnosed with leukemia and I wonder if there is a link between the chemicals in hair dye and cancer?
-- Cyndi B., Tallahassee, FL

The short answer is...maybe. Scientists have found links between certain types of cancer and repeated exposure to so-called "permanent" hair dyes (that is, the kind you would get in the hair salon that would stay put until the hair is replaced by new growth).

These dyes contain a cocktail of potentially harmful substances, including formaldehyde (linked to cancer and fetal

damage in utero), p-Phenylenediamine (lung and kidney problems, bladder cancer), DMDM Hydantoin (an immunotoxin restricted in other countries but not the U.S.), ammonia (respiratory problems and asthma), coal tar (a known carcinogen), resorcinol (a hormone disruptor) and eugenol (cancer, allergies, and immune and neurological issues). These dyes penetrate and bind with hair shafts; darker dyes require more of the potentially harmful coloring agents and are therefore more dangerous.

Three-quarters of adult women in the U.S. color their hair, but it's the hair care workers, exposed to noxious chemicals daily, who are most at risk. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), some studies have shown that hairdressers, stylists and barbers who work with these dyes do indeed have a slightly elevated risk of developing bladder cancer, leukemia or non-Hodgkin lymphoma, while others proved inconclusive. If working with hair is your job, you might want to consider limiting your exposure to permanent hair dyes, or at least look for and offer safer alternatives, even if they don't last as long.

A good place to start is the "Hair Color & Bleaching" section of the free online Skin Deep database, launched in 2004 by the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) to provide information on the ingredients of common household cleaning and health and beauty products—and to highlight potential hazards and health concerns. The database contains listings for hundreds of hair color products, both for at-home use and in salons, that won't make you sick. Some favorite all-natural, non-toxic brands to try include EcoColors, Hairprint, Organic & Mineral, Logona, Good Dye Young and Naturigin.

According to Nicole Cothrun Venables, a Hollywood-based stylist, there are many all-natural ways to enhance, brighten or alter your existing hair color without subjecting your locks to carcinogenic chemicals. "Fruit, vegetable, and herb restorative color cocktails are excellent rinses that can be applied once per week to refresh your color," she reports. "Tea, coffee and wine hair stains are also gentle ways to add subtle hints of opaque color, depth, highlights and shine." Check out her DIY hair color treatment recipes and techniques in her HuffPost article "7 Non-Toxic Solutions to Healthy Hair Color."

Another way to avoid potentially dangerous hair color treatments is to just get over your misplaced vanity and accept your natural hair color—even if it's gray—as a beautiful expression of who you are and what you stand for in the increasingly manicured, colorized and fabricated world we now inhabit.

CONTACTS: ACS's "Hair Dye," cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/hair-dyes.html; EWG, ewg.org/skindeep/browse/hair+color+and+bleaching/; EcoColors, www.ecocolors.net; Hairprint, www.myhairprint.com; Organic & Mineral, originalmineral.com/cct-color/; Logona, logona.de/de/haare/pflanzen-haarfarben.html; Sante, sante.de/en/hair/herbal-hair-colors.html; Good Dye Young, gooddyeyoung.com/#colors; Naturigin, naturigin.com/natural-hair-colours/; HuffPost, www.huffpost.com/entry/nontoxic-hair-dye_b_1005188.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 10 of 40

Today in Weather History

March 30, 1967: Prolonged strong southerly winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts to 55 mph, caused areas of blowing dust in eastern South Dakota, reducing visibilities to near zero. A metal roof on lumber shed in Vermillion was blown off. The strong winds also piled ice along the shore of Lake Poinsett to heights of 20ft, causing damage to some cabins along the lakeshore.

March 30, 2009: A major winter storm moved across the Northern Rockies and into the Northern Plains producing from 2 to 22 inches of snowfall along with widespread blizzard conditions. Most area schools and events were canceled. Travel was challenging and not advised. Interstate 29 from Watertown to the North Dakota line and Interstate 90 across Jones and Lyman counties were both closed during the storm. There were several vehicle accidents with no serious injuries reported. However, this storm took a toll on area ranchers as the calving season was underway. Storm total snowfall amounts included; 6 inches in Blunt, Timber Lake, Gettysburg, and Wilmot; 7 inches in Doland and Pierre; 8 inches in Clark, Clear Lake, Leola, Hosmer, Gettysburg, southeast of McIntosh, and Kennebec; 9 inches south of Bristol, Waubay, and near Chelsea; 10 inches in Eagle Butte and Mobridge; 11 inches in Pollock and Turton. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included; 12 inches in Aberdeen, Britton, Andover, Sisseton, and Faulkton; 13 inches at Lake Sharpe, Roy Lake, and eight miles southwest of Keldron; 14 inches in Miller, Redfield, and Webster; 15 inches near Highmore and near Columbia; 16 inches southwest of Stratford; 17 inches 14 miles northeast of Isabel; 20 inches in McLaughlin, Ree Heights, and 4 miles northeast of Victor with almost 22 inches northwest of Stephan.

March 30, 2010: Scattered light rain showers falling into a very dry air mass were responsible for several heat bursts that occurred across central South Dakota from Pierre to Onida during the evening hours of March 30th. Between 853 pm and 1053 pm CDT, observations from the Pierre airport (KPIR) showed a marked increase in temperature (+10F), a decrease in dew point temperature (-4F), the pressure falls, and gusty surface winds (a peak wind gust of 48 mph). On a farm outside of Pierre, winds were estimated up to 70 mph as some shingles were blown off the roof along with damage to several outbuildings. The Onida airport recorded a peak wind gust of 66 mph in the early evening.

1805: New York's City's Battery Park was strewn with 24-inch snow rollers, from a ferocious storm between the March 26th and March 28th. Snow rollers are natural snowballs that are formed when winds blow over a snow-covered surface.

1823 - A great Northeast storm with hurricane force winds raged from Pennsylvania to Maine. The storm was most severe over New Jersey with high tides, uprooted trees, and heavy snow inland. (David Ludlum)

1848: On six reported occasions, the water flow over the American Falls has been entirely blocked by ice and ceased to fall. But only once has this happened on the much larger Horseshoe Falls. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Keith Heidorn, Ph.D., The Weather Doctor.

1899 - A storm which buried Ruby, CO, under 141 inches of snow came to an end. Ruby was an old abandoned mining town on the Elk Mountain Range in the Crested Butte area. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Hartford, CT, hit 87 degrees to establish a record for the month of March. (The Weather Channel)





1987 - A storm spread heavy snow across the Ohio Valley and Lower Great Lakes Region. Cleveland OH received sixteen inches of snow in 24 hours, their second highest total of record. Winds gusting to 50 mph created 8 to 12 foot waves on Lake Huron. The storm also ushered unseasonably cold air into the south central and southeastern U.S., with nearly one hundred record lows reported in three days. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter-like storm developed in the Central Rockies. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to 15 inches at the Brian Head Ski Resort, and winds in Arizona gusted to 59 mph at Show Low. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along and ahead of a slow moving cold front produced large hail and damaging winds at more than fifty locations across the southeast quarter of the nation, and spawned a tornado which injured eleven persons at Northampton NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 11 of 40


Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
				
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain/Snow
High: 33 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 47 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 41 °F

Today
31 to 42°


Tonight
19 to 26°



CHILLY TEMPERATURES
To start the weekend



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 3/30/2019 4:50 AM Central



Published on: 03/30/2019 at 5:54AM

Expect a chilly start to the weekend today as high pressure settles over the Dakotas. Most of the area will top out in the lower 30s with lower 40s only found west of the Missouri. Temps will rebound on Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 12 of 40

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 43 °F at 6:16 PM

Low Outside Temp: 26 °F at 6:05 AM

High Gust: 24 mph at 8:45 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 81° in 1943

Record Low: -14° in 1969

Average High: 48°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 1.06

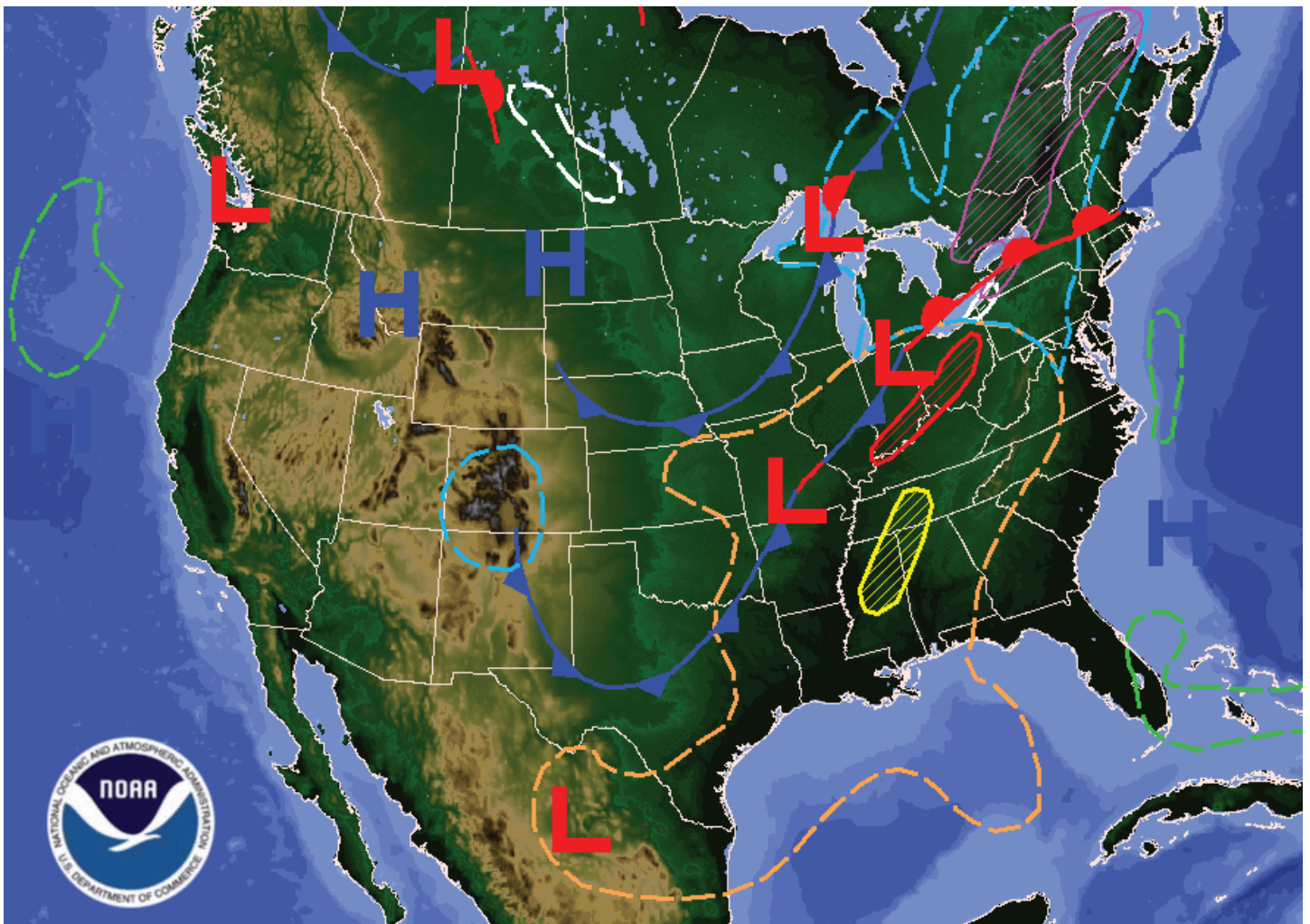
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.87

Average Precip to date: 2.08

Precip Year to Date: 3.06

Sunset Tonight: 7:59 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:16 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 30, 2019, issued 4:30 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kebede 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

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 13 of 40



WATCHING...WAITING...WONDERING

It was an unusually nasty night. The wind was howling fiercely as the rain pounded the roof relentlessly. The temperature was well below freezing. It was 3:30 a.m. and Lady had to go outside. With great hesitation, I opened the door and discovered a small Shih Tzu gazing upward into my eyes. She appeared frightened as she cowered at my feet.

Her markings were stunning: grey, tan, white - even brown stripes on her ears. She bumped my ankle purposely with her nose and began wagging her tail as she gazed steadfastly into my eyes. Then, unexpectedly she laid at my feet as if pleading for her life.

After carefully examining her, we realized that she had been abused and abandoned. Covered with dirt, fleas, and ticks, she needed care. However, Mary and I had agreed that as long as Lady lived, there would not be another dog allowed. Without saying a word, she used her pleading eyes and wagging tail to force her way into our hearts and home.

After a few weeks, she became very attached to me. Constantly resting at my feet, standing patiently at the door not allowing me to leave without her, quietly waiting for me to make a move so she could join me seemed to be a statement that she could not live without me now.

Listen carefully as wisdom speaks: Blessed is the man and woman who listens to me, watching daily at my door, waiting at my doorway.

Bella is a constant reminder of those three very important words: listening, watching and waiting. How different life would be if our relationship with God centered around those three words.

Prayer: Father, May we learn to depend completely on You as the way, the truth and the source of light for our lives. May we look to You and wait on You for our needs. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 8:34 Blessed is the man and woman who listens to me, watching daily at my door, waiting at my doorway.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 14 of 40

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

News from the Associated Press

Oregon heads to Elite 8 with 63-53 win over South Dakota St

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon has been looking forward to this since falling in the Elite Eight last season. The second-seeded Ducks (32-4) are back for the third straight year in the regional finals, where they lost to Notre Dame last year.

"This is what we work for, this is what we dream of and now it's time to make our dreams a reality," guard Sabrina Ionescu said. "We are going to come out Sunday dialed in, ready to go, and not let this opportunity slip away because it is a great one."

Ruthy Hebard had 24 points and 14 rebounds, while Ionescu added 17 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds in the Ducks' 63-53 victory over No. 6 South Dakota State in the Sweet 16 on Friday night.

Oregon was spurred on by a big contingent of yellow- and green-clad fans, with attendance at the Moda Center announced at 11,324. Much the same is expected for Sunday when Oregon plays top-seeded Mississippi State (33-2), which beat Arizona State 76-53 in the earlier game.

Macy Miller had 21 points for South Dakota State (28-7), which had advanced to the round of 16 for the first time in school history. The loss snapped an 18-game winning streak for the Jackrabbits.

"It's a tough one tonight but that doesn't take anything away from the phenomenal and special season that this team had this year, and to make it to the Sweet 16 and make history like that is something that none of us are ever going to forget," said senior guard Madison Guebert.

Satou Sabally finished with 14 points and the Ducks led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter.

"We finished it like champions and that's what we want to be," Sabally said.

Last season Oregon also was among the final eight but fell 84-74 to top-seeded Notre Dame in the Spokane Regional. The Fighting Irish went on to win the NCAA title.

Ionescu, the Pac-12 Player of the Year, was averaging 19.7 points, 8.2 assists and 7.5 rebounds going into the game. The junior guard had her 18th career triple-double, an ongoing NCAA record, in the Ducks' 91-68 second-round victory Sunday over Indiana, finishing with 29 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Oregon easily dispatched No. 15 seed Portland State 78-40 in its first-round game.

SDSU was making its ninth tournament appearance in the past 11 years. To reach the Sweet 16 the Jackrabbits beat 11th seed Quinnipiac 76-65 then upset No. 3 Syracuse 75-64.

Both teams ranked among the nation's best offenses. Oregon went into the game averaging 86 points (third), while the Jackrabbits were averaging 80 (12th). The Ducks were shooting 51 percent shooting from the floor, with SDSU at 48.

While defense seemed to be the theme for both sides, Oregon's trio of Ionescu, Hebard and Sabally still proved too much for the Jackrabbits.

South Dakota State took an early 12-8 lead on Guebert's 3-pointer. But the Ducks came back to tie it at 12 on the first of Ionescu's four consecutive jumpers.

The fourth gave the Ducks an 18-12 lead at the end of the opening quarter. Sabally's 3-pointer pushed Oregon's lead to 29-19 and she had 11 points to lead all players at the break. Oregon led 31-22.

Hebard had 17 points and 12 rebounds by the end of the third quarter for her 14th double-double of the season.

BIG PICTURE

South Dakota State: The Jackrabbits hosted the Ducks earlier this season on Dec. 12. Oregon won 87-79. ... No other Summit League team has reached the round of 16.

Oregon: Reserve guard Taylor Chavez was a game-time decision after missing the last seven games with a foot injury. While she warmed up with the team, she did not play.

FAMILIAR FOES

Oregon has faced all three of the teams at the Portland Regional this season. In addition to the Ducks'

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 16 of 40

visit to Brookings in December, they beat Mississippi State 82-74 in Las Vegas, before twice defeating Pac-12 foe Arizona State (77-71 at home on Jan. 18, and 66-59 on March 3 in Tempe) during the conference season.

INSTAGRAM FEEDBACK

Ionescu took some social media bashing after her latest triple-double, so she commented on Instagram: "Comment section doesn't phase me. They're talking about cooking?! Well I've been serving triple doubles lately."

She was asked about it following Friday night's game.

"I mean, I was just trying to advocate for what I believe in, what I think all women should believe in. Now I'm starting to see it more on Twitter. People are kind of starting to post about it. It was nice to see some former Oregon players, some former NBA, WNBA players responding to that post and appreciating it," she said.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/WomensNCAATournament> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

05-14-15-62-66, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 3

(five, fourteen, fifteen, sixty-two, sixty-six; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$75 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Trump issues new permit for stalled Keystone XL pipeline

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moving defiantly to kick-start the long-stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline, President Donald Trump on Friday issued a new presidential permit for the project — two years after he first approved it and more than a decade after it was first proposed.

Trump said the permit issued Friday replaces one granted in March 2017. The order is intended to speed up development of the controversial pipeline, which would ship crude oil from tar sands in western Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

A federal judge blocked the project in November, saying the Trump administration had not fully considered potential oil spills and other impacts. U.S. District Judge Brian Morris ordered a new environmental review.

A White House spokesman said the new permit issued by Trump "dispels any uncertainty" about the project. "Specifically, this permit reinforces, as should have been clear all along, that the presidential permit is indeed an exercise of presidential authority that is not subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act," the spokesman said.

But a lawyer for environmentalists who sued to stop the project called Trump's action illegal. The lawyer, Stephan Volker, vowed to seek a court order blocking project developer TransCanada from moving forward with construction.

"By his action today in purporting to authorize construction" of the pipeline despite court rulings blocking it, "President Trump has launched a direct assault on our system of governance," Volker said Friday in an email.

Trump's attempt to "overturn our system of checks and balances is nothing less than an attack on our Constitution. It must be defeated," Volker said.

Calgary-based TransCanada said in a statement that Trump's order "clarifies the national importance of

Keystone XL and aims to bring more than 10 years of environmental review to closure."

Trump "has been clear that he wants to create jobs and advance U.S. energy security, and the Keystone XL pipeline does both of those things," said Russ Girling, TransCanada's president and CEO.

Keystone XL will create thousands of jobs and deliver crude oil to U.S. refineries "in the safest, most efficient and environmentally sound way," the company said. An appeal filed by the company is pending.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce hailed Trump's action, saying in a statement that "it shouldn't take longer to approve a project than to build it."

Keystone XL will boost U.S. economic and energy security interests, said Christopher Guith, acting president of the chamber's Global Energy Institute. "Review after review has found it can be built and operated in an environmentally responsible way. It's time to move forward," Guith said.

Anthony Swift, director of the Canada project for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, said the pipeline "was a bad idea from Day One and it remains a terrible idea. If built, it would threaten our land, our drinking water, and our communities from Montana and Nebraska to the Gulf Coast. And it would drive dangerous climate change."

Trump "is once again showing his disdain for the rule of law," Swift said, adding that the last time Trump "tried to ram this permit through he lost in court" and is likely to do so again.

Keystone XL, first proposed in 2008 under President George W. Bush, would begin in Alberta and go to Nebraska, where it would join with an existing pipeline to shuttle more than 800,000 barrels a day of crude to terminals on the Gulf Coast.

After years of study and delay, former President Barack Obama rejected the project in 2015. Trump reversed that decision soon after taking office in 2017, saying the \$8 billion project would boost American energy and create jobs. A presidential permit is needed because the project crosses a U.S. border.

After environmental groups sued, Morris said the administration had not fully considered potential oil spills and other impacts and that further reviews were needed.

TransCanada disputes that, saying Keystone XL has been studied more than any other pipeline in history. "The environmental reviews are clear: the project can be built and operated in an environmentally sustainable and responsible way," Girling said.

Associated Press writer Matthew Brown in Billings, Mont., contributed to this story.

Snapshot of extinction: Fossils show day of killer asteroid

By **SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — New research released Friday captures a fossilized snapshot of the day nearly 66 million years ago when an asteroid smacked Earth, fire rained from the sky and the ground shook far worse than any modern earthquake.

It was the day that nearly all life on Earth went extinct, including the dinosaurs.

The researchers say they found evidence in North Dakota of the asteroid hit in Mexico, including fish with hot glass in their gills from flaming debris that showered back down on Earth. They also reported the discovery of charred trees, evidence of an inland tsunami and melted amber.

Separately, University of Amsterdam's Jan Smit disclosed that he and his colleagues even found dinosaur footprints from just before their demise.

Smit said the footprints — one from a plant-eating hadrosaur and the other of a meat eater, maybe a small Tyrannosaurus Rex — is "definite proof that the dinosaurs were alive and kicking at the time of impact ... They were running around, chasing each other" when they were swamped.

"This is the death blow preserved at one particular site. This is just spectacular," said Purdue University geophysicist and impact expert Jay Melosh, who wasn't part of the research but edited the paper released Friday by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Melosh called it the field's "discovery of the century." But other experts said that while some of the work is fascinating, they have some serious concerns about the research, including the lack of access to this

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 18 of 40

specific Hell Creek Formation fossil site for outside scientists. Hell Creek — which spans Montana, both Dakotas and Wyoming — is a fossil treasure trove that includes numerous types of dinosaurs, mammals, reptiles and fish trapped in clay and stone from 65 to 70 million years ago.

Kirk Johnson, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History who also has studied the Hell Creek area for 38 years, said that the work on the fish, the glass and trees “demonstrates some of the details of what happened on THE DAY. That’s all quite interesting and very valid stuff.” But Johnson said that because there is restricted access to the site, other scientists can’t confirm the research. Smit said the restrictions were to protect the site from poachers.

Johnson also raised concerns about claims made by the main author, Robert DePalma, a University of Kansas doctoral student, that appeared in a New Yorker magazine article published Friday but not in the scientific paper. DePalma did not return an email or phone message seeking comment.

For decades, the massive asteroid crash that caused the Chicxulub crater in Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula has been considered the likely cause of the mass extinction often called the “KT boundary” for the division between two geologic time periods. But some scientists have insisted that massive volcanic activity played a role. Johnson and Melosh said this helps prove the asteroid crash case.

There were only a few dinosaur fossils from that time, but the footsteps are most convincing, Smit said.

There was more than dinosaurs, he said. The site includes ant nests, wasp nests, fragile preserved leaves and fish that were caught in the act of dying. He said that soon after fish die they get swollen bellies and these fossils didn’t show swelling.

The researchers said the inland tsunami points to a massive earthquake generated by the asteroid crash, somewhere between a magnitude 10 and 11. That’s more than 350 times stronger than the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Purdue’s Melosh said as he read the study, he kept saying “wow, wow, what a discovery.”

The details coming out of this are “mind-blowing,” he said.

Science Writer Christina Larson in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears .

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

Historic district in Spearfish named to National Register

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The Jackson Boulevard Historic District in Spearfish has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Register is the federal government’s list of properties it deems worthy of recognition and preservation.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that the four-block district includes about 50 properties, many with distinctive architecture. The oldest building was constructed in 1882.

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

Agency, hospital dropped from suit on catheterizing toddler

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has dropped the South Dakota Department of Social Services and Avera St. Mary’s Hospital in Pierre from a lawsuit alleging they deprived a 3-year-old boy and his mother of their rights after the boy was catheterized for a drug test.

The boy’s mother sued the department and its officials along with the Pierre hospital and two of its employees. The suit says the boy developed a staph infection following the procedure, which was ordered after the mother’s boyfriend failed a drug test.

The Argus Leader reports Judge Roberto Lange ruled the Department of Social Services did not have

a role in the catheterization and the hospital has no policy to forcefully catheterize children on behalf of state investigators.

The two hospital employees were not released from the suit.

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

Ex-South Dakota priest sentenced for sexually abusing child

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former Roman Catholic priest who served in Rapid City, South Dakota, has been sentenced to six years in prison for sexually abusing a child.

Thirty-eight-year-old John Praveen pleaded guilty in February to sexually touching a 13-year-old girl over her clothes last year.

The Rapid City Journal reports Judge Steven Mandel handed down the sentence Friday after prosecutors asked for the maximum of one year in prison. Mandel said that was "not adequate" for Praveen's crime.

Praveen will be eligible for parole in three years, after which the parole board could ask the federal government to deport him to India. Praveen had joined the Rapid City Diocese for a 10-year assignment in December 2017.

Praveen apologized and told the court he wishes he could take back what he did.

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

Sioux Falls steel company picks partner to redevelop site

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls steel manufacturer is partnering with a local developer to transform the company's downtown industrial site into a bustling commercial and residential center.

Sioux Steel on Thursday announced its partnership with Lloyd Companies to redevelop the manufacturer's roughly 11-acre property along the Big Sioux River, the Argus Leader reported.

The steel company unveiled plans last year to vacate the site it's called home for a century.

The first phase of the redevelopment project will include a hotel, conference center and offices, with construction to begin early 2020.

The property will be redeveloped into an "urban downtown village" with both daytime and evening destinations, said Luke Jessen, a development project manager at Lloyd Companies.

He said the Sioux Steel site will be anchored by the hotel and conference center, with office space, restaurants and a mix of residential options.

"The streets will be designed with an urban feel for sidewalk dining and retail concepts that can take advantage of the outdoors," said Jake Quasney, Lloyd Companies' executive vice president of development. "You'll be able to come down and sit in a coffee shop or sit in a park, and it will all flow together in a way that feels natural, much like you'd see in more progressive urban communities."

Scott Rysdon, Sioux Steel's president and CEO, said the project may request tax increment financing from the city to meet future parking needs.

"The success ultimately depends on us working together to build those cultural, iconic experiences and in that way, we'll build an engine for growth here in this city," Rysdon said.

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

Tuition hiked \$5 an hour at technical schools

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Technical Education is raising tuition by \$5 an hour at the state's four public technical schools.

The board on Thursday set the tuition rate at \$121 per credit hour for the upcoming academic year at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, Lake Area Technical

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 20 of 40

Institute in Watertown and Western Dakota Technical Institute.

KSFY-TV reports the board also approved new academic programs at Western Dakota, including a diploma in hospitality, a mechanic certificate and a degree in aquaponics.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

For '20 Dems, more targets but uphill slog to win Senate

By ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Teresa Tomlinson is a former mayor of a mid-sized city with no national profile. Yet she hopes she'll be national Democrats' top recruit to run for the Senate from Georgia next year — if one of the party's rising stars, Stacey Abrams, takes a pass.

"I feel comfortable I'll be their Plan B," says Tomlinson, 54, the first female mayor of Columbus, a minority-majority community and one of Georgia's largest cities.

Nineteen months from Election Day, a political eternity during which plenty can change, Democrats are looking at Plan B in Senate races around the country. Even in a campaign cycle that looks far more promising than last year's, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., who heads the party's Senate campaign arm, have struggled to recruit candidates who are battle-tested statewide.

Yet the loss of well-known contenders merely compounds Democrats' chief problem as they begin an uphill fight to capture a Senate majority next year: There are precious few Republican-held Senate seats that Democrats have a clear-cut chance of capturing.

In Democrats' favor, Republicans will be defending 22 of the 34 contested Senate seats, with just one incumbent Democrat in obvious jeopardy: Sen. Doug Jones of deep-red Alabama. Democrats say their voters will be supercharged by the polarizing President Donald Trump, who'll be seeking his second term, and their focus on pocketbook issues like health care, wages and jobs.

"It's trending in our favor, and I think we've got an opportunity to take back the majority in the Senate," said Cortez Masto.

It's a much better Senate battlefield than last year, when Democrats had to defend a nightmarish 26 of the 35 seats. That included 10 in states Trump carried in 2016, five by landslides, and Democrats were fortunate to lose just two net seats.

Even so, the 2020 map looks tough for Democrats.

Trump carried 20 of the 22 states where GOP seats are at stake next year and narrowly lost the other two. Those were Democratic-leaning Colorado, where Sen. Cory Gardner seems to be the most endangered Republican incumbent, and Maine, where Democrats will try denting Sen. Susan Collins's reputation for independence as she seeks a 5th term.

Since Republicans control the Senate 53-47, Democrats need to gain three seats to take over if they defeat Trump next November and four if Trump wins, thanks to the vice president's tie-breaking vote in the chamber. If Jones loses in Alabama, which party strategists consider likely, those numbers rise to four Democratic pickups if Trump loses and five if he wins, meaning Democrats will practically need to run the table of winnable Senate contests to take the majority.

"I think we get close," said Democratic pollster Celinda Lake. "Everything has to break our way to make it over the top."

Republicans beg to differ.

They say the GOP should hold the Senate because the jam-packed field of Democratic presidential candidates will spend months noisily competing for their party's liberal base. That means plenty of talk about the Green New Deal plan for aggressively curbing climate change and "Medicare for All" proposals for expanding the federal role in health care — ideas that go too far for some moderate voters.

"Green New Deal is something we can't wait to run against," said Jesse Hunt, spokesman for the Senate GOP's campaign committee.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 21 of 40

Arizona seems headed toward a competitive contest. Republican Sen. Martha McSally, appointed to one vacant seat shortly after losing a 2018 election for another to Democrat Kyrsten Sinema, could end up facing former astronaut Mark Kelly. The gun control advocate and husband of former Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was wounded in a 2011 mass shooting in Tucson, is expected to run a centrist campaign.

A close race could also loom in North Carolina. In one of this year's most significant Senate votes, GOP Sen. Thom Tillis initially said he'd oppose Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the southwest border, then voted for it. That turnaround has risked alienating hard-right Trump supporters and moderates alike, leaving Tillis exposed both to a potential GOP primary challenge and in the general election.

Democrats might have had a stronger chance against Tillis if state Attorney General Josh Stein, who's seeking re-election, had succumbed to Schumer's appeal to run for Senate. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who are running for president, also rebuffed pleas to seek the Senate.

Another who turned down Democratic leaders is former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who's seeking the White House. That's opened the door to potential contenders like MJ Hegar to challenge Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn.

"It's pretty much all I'm thinking about lately," said Hegar, 43, an Air Force combat veteran who narrowly missed ousting a longtime GOP incumbent last year from a safely Republican House district outside Austin. She might end up in a Democratic primary against Rep. Joaquin Castro, whose twin brother, former federal housing secretary Julian Castro, is running for president.

A handful of other GOP senators could face competitive races, including Georgia's Sen. David Perdue, especially if he's challenged by Abrams, who narrowly lost a gubernatorial race last year but gained a national following. Other possibilities include Montana's Steve Daines and Iowa's Joni Ernst. Democrats would love to oust Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, but that's a longshot.

Strong GOP challengers could also force incumbent Democrats into tough races.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., would face a real fight if Gov. Chris Sununu challenges her. Trump lost New Hampshire by a knife's edge in 2016. Democratic Sen. Gary Peters is running again in Michigan, which Trump narrowly carried.

Democrats say Trump will help them in closely contested states because his near-exclusive appeals to core supporters make it hard for GOP candidates to win over both conservatives and party moderates.

"Trump creates a rock-and-a-hard-place scenario for Republicans running in blue-leaning and purple states," said Democratic pollster Geoff Garin.

Republicans say battleground states could shift their way depending on whether the Democratic presidential nominee is a moderate like former Vice President Joe Biden or a hard-left liberal like Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"There could be states that come on or off the board, depending on who the Democrats nominate for president," said GOP pollster Robert Blizzard.

Trump threatens to shut down border with Mexico next week

By CATHERINE LUCEY, NOMAAN MERCHANT and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Threatening drastic action against Mexico, President Donald Trump declared he is likely to shut down America's southern border next week unless Mexican authorities immediately halt all illegal immigration. Such a severe move could hit the economies of both countries, but the president emphasized, "I am not kidding around."

"It could mean all trade" with Mexico, Trump said when questioned Friday by reporters in Florida. "We will close it for a long time."

Trump has been promising for more than two years to build a long, impenetrable wall along the border to stop illegal immigration, though Congress has been reluctant to provide the money he needs. In the meantime, he has repeatedly threatened to close the border, but this time, with a new surge of migrants heading north, he gave a definite timetable.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 22 of 40

A substantial closure could have an especially heavy impact on cross-border communities from San Diego to South Texas, as well as supermarkets that sell Mexican produce, factories that rely on imported parts, and other businesses across the U.S.

The U.S. and Mexico trade about \$1.7 billion in goods daily, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which said closing the border would be "an unmitigated economic debacle" that would threaten 5 million American jobs.

Trump tweeted Friday morning, "If Mexico doesn't immediately stop ALL illegal immigration coming into the United States through our Southern Border, I will be CLOSING the Border, or large sections of the Border, next week."

He didn't qualify his threat with "or large sections," stating: "There is a very good likelihood I'll be closing the border next week, and that is just fine with me."

He said several times that it would be "so easy" for Mexican authorities to stop immigrants passing through their country and trying to enter the U.S. illegally, "but they just take our money and talk."

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen suggested Trump was referring to the ongoing surge of mostly Central American families heading north through Mexico. Many people who cross the border illegally ultimately request asylum under U.S. law, which does not require asylum seekers to enter at an official crossing.

Short of a widespread shutdown, Nielsen said the U.S. might close designated ports of entry to re-deploy staff to help process parents and children. Ports of entry are official crossing points that are used by residents and commercial vehicles.

"If we have to close ports to take care of all of the numbers who are coming, we will do that," Nielsen said. "So it's on the table, but what we're doing is a very structured process based on operational needs."

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about whether Trump's possible action would apply to air travel.

Trump's latest declaration came after Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said his country was doing its part to fight migrant smuggling. Criminal networks charge thousands of dollars a person to move migrants through Mexico, increasingly in large groups toward remote sections of the border.

"We want to have a good relationship with the government of the United States," Lopez Obrador said Friday. He added: "We are going to continue helping so that the migratory flow, those who pass through our country, do so according to the law, in an orderly way."

Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's foreign relations secretary, tweeted that his country "doesn't act based on threats" and is "the best neighbor" the U.S. could have.

Customs and Border Protection commissioner Kevin McAleenan said Wednesday that 750 border inspectors would be reassigned to deal with the growing number of migrant families.

In Florida, Trump was also asked about the two migrant children who died in U.S. custody in December. Is the administration equipped to handle sick children who are detained?

"I think that it has been very well stated that we have done a fantastic job," he said, defending Border Patrol efforts to help the children.

Trump said that in one of the cases "the father gave the child no water for a long period of time," although an autopsy released Friday made no mention of dehydration.

"It was a very tough situation and that trek up, that's a long hard trek," he said. "It's a horrible situation. But Mexico could stop it."

Democratic and Republican lawmakers have fought over Trump's contention that there is a "crisis" at the border, particularly amid his push for a border wall. He claims a wall would solve immigration problems, though it wouldn't keep out families who cross at official points so they can surrender and be detained.

The president called on Congress to immediately change what he said were weak U.S. immigration laws, which he blamed on Democrats. The Department of Homeland Security wants the authority to detain families for longer and more quickly deport children from Central America who arrive at the border on their own. The department argues those policy changes would stop families from trying to enter the U.S.

Alejandra Mier y Teran, executive director of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, said

the mere threat of border closures sends the wrong message to businesses in Mexico and may eventually scare companies into turning to Asia for their supply chains.

"I think the impact would be absolutely devastating on so many fronts," said Mier y Teran, whose members rely on the Otay Mesa crossing to bring televisions, medical devices and a wide range of products to the U.S. "In terms of a long-term effect, it's basically shooting yourself in your foot. It's sending out a message to other countries that, 'Don't come because our borders may not work at any time.' That is extremely scary and dangerous."

Merchant reported from Houston, Lucey from Washington. Associated Press writers Peter Orsi in Mexico City and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

2 death row inmates similar requests, but different results

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Death row inmates Patrick Murphy and Domineque Ray each turned to courts recently with a similar plea: Halt my execution if the state won't let a spiritual adviser of my faith accompany me into the execution chamber.

Both cases wound up at the Supreme Court. And while the justices overrode a lower court and allowed Ray's execution to go forward in Alabama in February, they gave Murphy, a Texas inmate, a temporary reprieve Thursday night.

What the justices wrote suggests the opposite results came down to one thing: timing. Ray, a Muslim, didn't ask to be joined by his spiritual adviser soon enough, while Murphy, a Buddhist, did.

Spencer Hahn, one of Ray's attorneys, said in a telephone interview Friday that he hoped his client had helped bring attention to the fact some inmates are treated differently when it comes to religious advisers in the execution chamber.

"I'd like to think Mr. Ray's death was not in vain," he said.

Hahn said the Supreme Court's action in Murphy's case sends a message to other corrections departments: "The Supreme Court doesn't want to see people mistreated like this in their final moments."

Ray, 42, was sentenced to death for the 1995 rape and murder of 15-year-old Tiffany Harville. His attorneys argued that Alabama's execution procedure violated the Constitution by favoring Christian inmates over Muslims. A Christian chaplain employed by the prison is typically present in the execution chamber during a lethal injection, but the state would not let Ray's imam in the chamber, arguing only prison employees are allowed for security reasons.

A federal appeals court halted Ray's execution, but the Supreme Court reversed that decision and let it take place Feb. 7. The court's five conservative justices said Ray waited until just 10 days before his execution to raise the issue. The court's four liberal justices dissented. Justice Elena Kagan wrote that Ray's request to have his imam by his side was denied on Jan. 23 and he sued five days later. Ray's imam watched the execution from an adjoining witness room.

Murphy's plea was similar. The 57-year-old, who was among a group of inmates who escaped from a Texas prison in 2000 and then committed numerous robberies, including one where a police officer was fatally shot, became a Buddhist while in prison. He asked that his spiritual adviser, a Buddhist priest, accompany him into the execution chamber. Texas officials said no.

They argued that only chaplains who had been extensively vetted by the prison system were allowed in the chamber. While Christian and Muslim chaplains were available, no Buddhist priest was.

Murphy's lawyers argued that violated their client's rights. Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice Neil Gorsuch would have allowed Murphy's execution to proceed. But a majority of the Supreme Court said the state can't carry out Murphy's execution at this time unless it permits Murphy's spiritual adviser or another Buddhist reverend the state chooses to accompany him in the execution chamber.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jeremy Desel said Thursday that the state would review

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 24 of 40

the ruling to determine how to respond.

Speaking just for himself, Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote "that Murphy made his request to the State in a sufficiently timely manner, one month before the scheduled execution." No other justice wrote separately.

Kavanaugh said the state has two options going forward: allow all inmates to have a religious adviser of their religion in the execution room, or allow religious advisers only in the viewing room, not the execution room.

Robert Dunham, the head of the Death Penalty Information Center, said it's possible something besides timing was considered by the justices.

"The more centrist conservatives on the court may have been stung by the overwhelming criticism they received from people across the political and religious and ideological spectrum" following Ray's execution, he said.

It was not clear how many other inmates might find themselves in a similar situation. Only eight states, including Texas and Alabama, carried out executions last year.

But law professor James A. Sonne, whose Stanford clinic has studied the issue of chaplains' presence at executions, said most of the 30 states with the death penalty allow a chaplain of the inmate's choice to be present at the execution, though that doesn't necessarily mean in the death chamber. He called Thursday's ruling a "sea-change."

Associated Press writers Juan A. Lozano and Michael Graczyk contributed to this report from Texas.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

Democrats tailoring 2020 message to appeal to rural voters

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Several Democratic presidential candidates will make their case to Iowa farmers on Saturday — part of a broader effort to win over rural voters who have drifted to Republicans in recent years.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota are among the White House hopefuls who will attend the Heartland Forum in Storm Lake, Iowa. They're likely to tout proposals they released this week aimed at helping rural communities.

The attention on agricultural communities and issues is the result of a recognition that Democrats need to do more to win over rural voters, especially in places like Iowa. This state has long been a presidential battleground that swung between Democrats and Republicans. But Iowa has trended more solidly Republican over the past two election cycles, a troubling warning sign for Democrats seeking to oust President Donald Trump.

"There needs to be a better connection made between politicians and rural Americans," said Aaron Heley Lehman, the president of Iowa Farmers' Union, which is hosting Saturday's forum and busing in members from neighboring states to hear the candidate pitches.

In the early days of the 2020 Democratic primary, many candidates are focusing on building that connection.

Warren rolled out an extensive agriculture policy this week that would help family farmers by breaking up big agriculture monopolies. Klobuchar announced a \$1 trillion infrastructure policy that she spoke about while surveying flooding damage in Iowa this weekend. And former Rep. John Delaney rolled out his own policy aimed at revitalizing rural America, which includes a focus on farming and rural infrastructure.

Several contenders, including former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, have campaigned in parts of rural Iowa that haven't seen much Democratic activity in years. Former Rep. John Delaney is the only Democratic candidate so far to visit all 99 of Iowa's counties.

That's a key part of what Democrats need to do to win back rural America, according to Iowa state Rep. Mary Gaskill — simply show up.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 25 of 40

"There are a lot of people who are hesitant to come out as a Democrat, because they all feel neglected, or abused or shunned by their neighbor," she said.

Gaskill is the only Democratic lawmaker in her area, and represents a red county that went for Trump by more than 20 points in 2016 — but one that Barack Obama won by nearly 12 points in 2012. Now, at least two candidates — Sens. Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand — have campaigned there, a development Gaskill welcomes.

"We might see our neighbors there, that we didn't know they were Democrats," she said.

O'Rourke won't attend Saturday's forum. But his first Iowa swing as a presidential candidate included stops in small towns that swung from Democrats to Republicans in 2016.

He didn't change much of his message — during the swing O'Rourke still talked about the need for gun control, legal marijuana and a compassionate immigration program. But his top strategist in the state, Norm Sterzenbach, said the key was to bring those policies to people that hadn't heard directly from Democrats before.

"Maybe those ideas you like, maybe you don't, but you'll never know if we're not in there communicating," he said.

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand recently visited the same swath of eastern Iowa, pitching herself to voters as a candidate who could defeat Trump because she's won in red areas of New York. She, too, didn't shy away from embracing progressive policies like gun control, universal health care and the Green New Deal, and she touted her work on the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, the policy prohibiting gays from serving openly in the military, everywhere she went.

Neither Gillibrand nor O'Rourke won everyone over. Tom Courtney, the Des Moines County Democratic Party chairman, hosted an event for both candidates and said he wasn't impressed by their message.

"O'Rourke didn't, and (Gillibrand) didn't make a good case for rural Iowa either — nobody's doing that yet. She was talking a lot of issues that liberals always talk about," he said, like leadership on the global stage, the president's morals or abortion rights. "Trump got elected by telling people he was gonna fix their lives. I'm not hearing that here."

The rural forum will offer candidates the opportunity to discuss policies that will have a more direct impact on rural voters and farmers — and explain how some of their more sweeping proposals, like the Green New Deal, would help at the local level. Lehman said he believes there's space in the conversation with farmers to address things like climate change and immigration, but candidates have to start bringing that message directly to them.

"We're encouraged that candidates are spending time and energy to think about what good rural policy is — we hope that the thing we're doing on Saturday is the beginning of the conversation we'll have all during the caucus season," he said.

GOP scrambles to deal with Trump's decision on health care

By LISA MASCARO and CATHERINE LUCEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's decision to revive the fight over the Affordable Care Act has stirred a political and policy debate among Republicans on how best to approach the divisive issue heading into the 2020 election.

Failing to repeal and replace the ACA, otherwise known as Obamacare, is one of the biggest shortcomings of the president's first term. It left Republicans with a broken campaign promise, dismal approval ratings and a narrative they haven't been able to shake — that they don't support protecting those with pre-existing medical conditions from high-cost care. In some races, it cost Republican seats last fall, flipping House control to Democrats.

For Trump, the reset he wants is clear. "The Republican Party will soon be known as the party of health care," he said on Capitol Hill. "You watch!"

But among Republican senators, there's reluctance to embrace Trump's new priority. Usually tight-lipped Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who was given little advance notice of the president's new push,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 26 of 40

spoke volumes when asked about it.

"I look forward to seeing what the president is proposing," McConnell told Politico.

And in the House, it's a mixed bag. Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy initially panned Trump's move, questioning the timing that collided with Trump's bounce from the end of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election. But the GOP leader does see value in kick-starting a health care debate, said a person granted anonymity to discuss the situation. House Republicans continue to be asked about it back home and a new GOP health care bill could improve their standing with voters, the person said.

What's unclear is whether a Trump-Care bill will emerge from the White House or Capitol Hill to replace the Affordable Care Act or if the president's push for a policy outcome fades to little more than a topic for the campaign trail.

Trump discussed health care at length during a rally in Michigan Thursday and again during an appearance in Florida Friday.

"We are going to have a plan that's so much better than Obamacare," the president promised after touring an aging dike in South Florida.

For Trump, returning to health care shows his commitment to a 2016 campaign pledge and his desire to frame the 2020 debate on his terms.

Stung by the Democratic gains in November and sparked by another ACA legal challenge that could make its way to the Supreme Court, the president dug into the issue this past week, deciding to fight. He feels that it is an important battle to take on, said two people familiar with White House thinking who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The president has been actively engaged in conversations about health care, dialing up lawmakers in the House and Senate, and the White House is expected to lay out further details on his goals in the coming days.

"We are working very hard on that," said Trump as he was heading out to the Michigan rally, singling out Republican senators John Barrasso, Rick Scott and Bill Cassidy among those involved.

"They are going to work together to come up with something that's really spectacular," the president said.

But in truth, there is no grand Republican plan on Capitol Hill to replace Obamacare.

The day after Trump dropped the new priority during a private Senate GOP lunch, a top ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., convened an evening meeting of senators to discuss options, according to those familiar with the talks.

Graham had helped spark the idea with Trump during a golf outing at Mar-a-Lago. The group he assembled back on Capitol Hill included two former governors well versed in health care policy — Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, whose Romney-care in Massachusetts was a precursor to Obamacare, and Sen. Rick Scott of Florida, a former health care executive.

But McConnell has made it clear he would rather see Republicans spend their time attacking the Democratic plans to expand existing health care programs, namely the Medicare for All plans embraced by some of the Democrats running to unseat Trump. He sees it as their best option for reversing public opinion heading toward 2020 when he, too, faces re-election. McConnell derides the high cost of a government-run system as "Medicare for None."

The thinking among McConnell and other leading Republicans is that it's best to avoid another messy legislative battle. Republicans are loath to repeat the undertaking that consumed much of 2017. At that time, Republicans could never agree on a new health care plan and the months-long exercise ended in failure when John McCain joined others in rejecting one last-ditch effort, dooming the years-long campaign to repeal and replace Obamacare.

They would rather simply wait out the White House with an expectation that no actual legislation emerges, according to those familiar with the GOP thinking.

House Republicans, though, face a different calculus. They lost dozens of seats last fall in part because Democrats successfully attacked them over the GOP proposals to replace Obamacare. Americans have

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 27 of 40

warmed to the 2010 health care law and, in particular, its provision that prevents insurers from charging more to patients pre-existing conditions.

McCarthy wants the majority back, the person said. Even though he questioned Trump's sudden shift to health care, it has promise. The day after Trump announced his health care push, the GOP leader convened the top House Republicans from various committees to dig into the issue.

"I'll make this promise to you — and it's a conversation I had with the president — the Republicans will make sure pre-existing conditions are protected," McCarthy told reporters. "The president and I have talked numerous times. We talked quite often. But this is one of the conversations we have, greatly, that we support protecting pre-existing conditions."

But Republicans lost their chance to revise Obamacare when they controlled both chambers in Congress. Now, any bill will need Democratic backing to clear the House with Speaker Nancy Pelosi's majority.

At most, lawmakers envision a modest package of health care bills that could lower prescription drug prices and other reforms that have wide bipartisan support.

That may or may not be enough for Trump.

And if not, he can continue advocating for more on the campaign trail.

At the rally in Michigan, he vowed, "It's going to be far better than Obamacare."

Follow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lisamascaro> and https://twitter.com/catherine_lucey

Oklahoma ex-senator David Boren accused of sexual misconduct

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A former University of Oklahoma student alleges he was touched and kissed inappropriately by former university President David Boren on several occasions almost a decade ago when the man worked as a teaching aide for the onetime governor and senator.

The allegations by Jess Eddy, now 29, appear to be at the center of an investigation being conducted for the university by Jones Day, one of the world's largest law firms, into whether Boren sexually harassed male subordinates. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has also opened an investigation.

Boren, now 77, has denied any inappropriate conduct in statements released by his attorneys, who have confirmed the Jones Day investigation. Boren was a Democratic governor in the 1970s before serving in the U.S. Senate for more than 15 years. He was OU president from 1994 until stepping down last year and has been married to his second wife for more than 40 years. He has denied requests to be interviewed, citing poor health.

Boren's attorney, Clark Brewster, said Eddy's newest account of his encounter with Boren, which he detailed in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press, contradicts previous statements he gave to Jones Day investigators and to Brewster. In those earlier statements, he said he was not aware of any inappropriate behavior.

Eddy's latest allegations were first reported Tuesday by the online news site NonDoc.

"Mr. Eddy was carefully examined, asked about anything that he had ever witnessed or had seen or had experienced and not only said that didn't occur, but he gave specific factual detail as to why it couldn't have been true," Brewster said.

Eddy acknowledged the discrepancy with his initial accounts and said he was untruthful in an effort to protect Boren.

"My initial instinct was to do what Boren wanted," Eddy said. "I was under extreme duress."

Eddy confirmed providing Brewster with a signed written statement dated March 14 in which he addressed allegations made against Boren.

"To the extent that any of these allegations are attributed to me, I would like to make perfectly clear that they are not true," Eddy wrote.

Eddy also acknowledged calling Boren personally and asking for financial compensation after The Oklahoman first reported Boren was being investigated.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 28 of 40

"I felt like a great wrong had been done to me, and I was looking for the path of least resistance out and some relief," Eddy said. "I hope people can understand that this has just been a traumatic and deeply disturbing experience that's required me to undergo a lot of deep thought and consideration about what the right thing to do is."

Eddy said he decided to speak publicly about his encounters with Boren after he "started to realize the implications of what I was doing by concealing my truth."

"Thinking that there might be others like me began to just haunt me," he said.

Eddy said he came to know Boren after taking a political science course the president taught. Boren asked him to be his teaching aide the following semester, in the fall of 2010, when Eddy was 21.

That fall, he said, he accompanied Boren on a weekend fundraising-and-recruiting trip to Houston, where he flew on a private jet with Boren and attended a dinner with donors. He said he and Boren ended up in Boren's hotel room, where the two of them drank alcohol and Boren made an unwanted sexual advance and touched him inappropriately before he left the room. Eddy declined to elaborate, saying the experience was too traumatic to discuss in detail.

The next morning, when a group of OU administrators picked him and Boren up at the hotel, OU's former vice president of university development, Tripp Hall, a longtime Boren ally, placed his hand on Eddy's inner thigh, touched his genital area and asked him if he had a good time, Eddy said. Hall, who left the university in November, did not respond to telephone and email messages seeking comment. He declined to comment on the allegations when contacted by NonDoc.

Eddy suggested Hall and other high-level administrators at OU were aware that Boren made unwanted advances toward male subordinates but did nothing to stop it.

Eddy cited several other incidents of unwanted touching and kissing by Boren that occurred in Boren's office at OU in 2010 and 2011. He said he was not aware of any documents or other physical evidence that would corroborate his new account, but three people who knew Eddy in 2010 confirmed to the AP that he recounted to them a similar story about Boren's sexual misconduct in the hotel room.

P.J. Wolbach, a friend of Eddy's since high school, said he recalled hearing about the incident in the hotel room shortly after Eddy returned from the trip.

"He told us how they had drinks and were alone and how Boren got touchy with him in a sexual manner," Wolbach recalled. "I remember those points with vivid detail."

Eddy returned to work at OU's Office of University Community in 2017 but left a year later after reaching a separation agreement with the university. He said he now works part-time for a law firm.

Boren's attorney said a transcript Eddy provided him of his first interview with Jones Day attorneys in mid-February showed Eddy not only denied ever witnessing or experiencing any inappropriate conduct by Boren, but also gave specific factual details as to why the allegations could not have been true.

"And then you call up somebody and say you want money or you're going to say something different?" Brewster said. "That does cause somewhat of a daunting incredibility is all I'm saying."

Neither Brewster nor Eddy agreed to release a copy of the transcript to the AP.

Eddy said he met again with Jones Day investigators this week and provided a detailed account of his allegations against Boren. Jones Day did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

A spokeswoman for the Norman Police Department confirmed that Eddy also spoke with detectives this week to make a report, but they determined none of the alleged incidents happened within their jurisdiction. Eddy's complaint was forwarded to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. An OSBI spokeswoman confirmed the agency is investigating allegations against both Boren and Hall.

Eddy declined to discuss whether he was considering legal action against Boren or OU. He would not comment on whether he had talked to OSBI investigators.

In a statement this week, the university acknowledged an ongoing investigation into a report of sexual misconduct school officials received in November 2018, but they have declined to discuss details.

"The goal of this investigation since the beginning has been to proceed with the highest degrees of professionalism, confidentiality and sincere concern for all parties involved, particularly potential victims," the statement read. "While individuals may share their own personal accounting, it is critical that the university

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 29 of 40

proceed deliberately, objectively and with respect for all the individuals involved.”

Follow Sean Murphy at www.twitter.com/apseanmurphy .

Upsides, downsides for Smollett, city in looming fines fight

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A brewing battle over Chicago’s demand that Jussie Smollett recoup the city more than \$130,000 for an investigation into his report of a racist, anti-gay attack and the “Empire” actor’s apparent determination not to pay it could ultimately land in a civil court, where a jury could have to answer the question that was supposed to be answered in criminal court: Was the attack staged or not?

The first legal skirmish in the wake of a shocking decision by Cook County prosecutors earlier this week to drop all criminal charges against Smollett could come as soon as the end of next week, the deadline for Smollett to send in a money order or cashier’s check for \$130,106 — plus 15 cents. His legal team has signaled he doesn’t intend to pay, which will likely prompt the city to sue Smollett in Cook County Circuit Court.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who has said the false claims by Smollett damaged the city’s reputation, denounced Tuesday’s dismissal of 16 felony counts against Smollett as a “whitewash.” Emanuel said Thursday, as his law department chief sent a letter to Smollett and his attorneys seeking payment for overtime worked by detectives and officers who looked into the actor’s claim, that demanding he pay would help establish that he did in fact orchestrate the attack.

Smollett’s lawyers shot back Thursday, saying it is city officials “who owe” Smollett “an apology — for dragging an innocent man’s character through the mud.” They added: “Jussie has paid enough.”

The downside of paying for Smollett is that it would be perceived as an admission of guilt, and he’s still adamant he’s told the full truth about the incident that he says happened Jan. 29 in downtown Chicago. Prosecutors and police say the evidence is clear that he concocted it as a publicity stunt. The upside of paying now is that there would be no drawn-out process keeping the question of whether he’s lying or not in the headlines.

Among the potential downsides for the city: It could end up spending far more in legal fees than it’s asking Smollett to recoup and can ever hope to get from him. If he doesn’t pay the around \$130,000 now, the municipal code stipulates that the city could then triple the amount it’s demanding from Smollett — to more than \$390,000.

And while the current mayor seems committed to seeing the process through, his successor may not be. Emanuel’s in his last days in office. A new mayor will be elected Tuesday.

With charges dropped, Smollett seemed to dodge what would have been emotionally grueling criminal proceedings, culminating in a trial with days of public testimony. All that could be in his future again if he doesn’t pay the fine by next week and the city, as expected, files a lawsuit in response.

The issue on which the outcome of a civil trial would hinge would be the same: Does the evidence show that Smollett, who is black and gay, made up the attack about two masked men shouting slurs, wrapping a rope around his neck and pouring a substance on him?

At a civil trial, much of the same evidence would be on display. But to the city’s advantage, the threshold of proof will be much lower than it would have been for prosecutors. The city won’t have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Smollett staged the attack, only that it’s more likely true than not true that he did, said Larry Hyman, a Chicago attorney with no ties to the case.

The spokesman for City Hall’s law department, Bill McCaffrey, wouldn’t spell out exactly how the city would respond if Smollett doesn’t pay next week, saying the city “is not committing to any future legal actions.”

The city has sought to reclaim money before over reports that were purportedly false — and succeeded.

A University of Iowa physician, Gary Hunninghake, reported that he was attacked and stabbed while jogging in Chicago in 2010. After contradictions in his account, he eventually conceded he’d stabbed himself. A year later, he was ordered to pay more than \$15,000 to reimburse the city for costs of the investigation.

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm>

Check out the AP's complete coverage of the Jussie Smollett case.

Jackson, Nicks enter hall with encouragement for women

By DAVID BAUDER AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stevie Nicks, who became the first woman inducted twice into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and Janet Jackson, the latest member of the Jackson clan to enter the hall, called for other women to join them in music immortality on a night they were honored with five all-male British bands.

Jackson issued her challenge just before leaving the stage of Brooklyn's Barclays Center. "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," she said, "in 2020, induct more women."

Neither Jackson or Nicks were around at the end of the evening when another Brit, Ian Hunter, led an all-star jam at the end to "All the Young Dudes." The Bangles' Susanna Hoffs was the only woman onstage.

During the five-hour ceremony, Bryan Ferry of Roxy Music thanked multiple bass players and album cover designers, the Cure's Robert Smith proudly wore his mascara and red lipstick a month shy of his 60th birthday and two of Radiohead's five members showed up for trophies.

During Def Leppard's induction, Rick Allen was moved to tears by the audience's standing ovation when singer Joe Elliott recalled the drummer's perseverance following a 1985 accident that cost him an arm.

Jackson followed her brothers Michael and the Jackson 5 as inductees. She said she wanted to go to college and become a lawyer growing up, but her late father Joe had other ideas for her.

"As the youngest in my family, I was determined to make it on my own," she said. "I was determined to stand on my own two feet. But never in a million years did I expect to follow in their footsteps."

She encouraged Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, producers of her breakthrough "Control" album and most of her vast catalog, to stand in Brooklyn's Barclays Center for recognition, as well as booster Questlove. She thanked Dick Clark of "American Bandstand" and Don Cornelius of "Soul Train," along with her choreographers including Paula Abdul.

There was some potential for awkward vibes Friday, since the event was being filmed to air on HBO on April 27. HBO angered the Jackson family this winter for showing the documentary "Leaving Neverland," about two men who alleged Michael Jackson abused them when they were boys. Jackson never mentioned Michael specifically in her remarks but thanked her brothers, and he was shown on screen with the rest of the family.

Jackson was inducted by an enthusiastic Janelle Monae, whose black hat and black leather recalled some of her hero's past stage looks. She said Jackson had been her phone's screen-saver for years as a reminder to be focused and fearless in how she approached art.

Nicks was the night's first induction. She is already a member of the hall as a member of Fleetwood Mac, but only the first woman to join 22 men — including all four Beatles members — to have been honored twice by the rock hall for the different stages of their career.

Nicks offered women a blueprint for success, telling them her trepidation in first recording a solo album while a member of Fleetwood Mac and encouraging others to match her feat.

"I know there is somebody out there who will be able to do it," she said, promising to talk often of how she built her solo career. "What I am doing is opening up the door for other women."

During her four-song set, she brought onstage a cape she bought in 1983 to prove to her "very frugal" late mother that it was still in good shape, and worth its \$3,000 price tag. Don Henley joined her to sing "Leather and Lace," while Harry Styles filled in for the late Tom Petty on "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around."

David Byrne inducted Radiohead, noting he was flattered the band named itself after one of his songs. He said their album "Kid A" was the one that really hooked him, and he was impressed Radiohead could be experimental in both their music and how they conduct business.

"They're creative and smart in both areas, which was kind of a rare combination for artists, not just now

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 31 of 40

but anytime," he said.

With only drummer Philip Selway and guitarist Ed O'Brien on hand, Radiohead didn't perform; there was a question of whether any of them would show up given the group's past ambivalence about the hall. But both men spoke highly of the honor.

"This is such a beautifully surreal evening for us," said O'Brien. "It's a big (expletive) deal and it feels like it. ... I wish the others could be here because they would be feeling it."

The Cure's Smith has been a constant in a band of shifting personnel, and he stood onstage for induction Friday with 11 past and current members. Despite their goth look, the Cure has a legacy of pop hits, and performed three of them at Barclays, "I Will Always Love You," "Just Like Heaven" and "Boys Don't Cry."

Visibly nervous, Smith called his induction a "very nice surprise" and shyly acknowledged the crowd's cheers.

"It's been a fantastic thing, it really has," he said. "We love you, too."

His inductee, Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, recalled ridiculing the rock hall in past years because he couldn't believe the Cure wasn't in. When he got the call that the band was in, he said "I was never so happy eating my words as I was that day."

Def Leppard sold tons of records, back when musicians used to do that, with a heavy metal sound sheened to pop perfection on songs like "Photograph" and "Pour Some Sugar on Me." They performed them in a set that climaxed the annual ceremony.

Singer Joe Elliott stressed the band's working-class roots, thanking his parents and recalling how his father gave them 150 pounds to make their first recording in 1978.

Besides Allen's accident, the band survived the 1991 death of guitarist Steve Clark. Elliott said there always seemed to be a looming sense of tragedy around the corner for the band, but "we wouldn't let it in."

"If alcoholism, car crashes and cancer couldn't kill us, the '90s had no (expletive) chance," said Elliott, referring to his band mates as the closest thing to brothers that an only child could have.

Roxy Music, led by the stylish Ferry, performed a five-song set that included hits "Love is the Drug," "More Than This" and "Avalon." (Brian Eno didn't show for the event).

Simon LeBon and John Taylor of Duran Duran inducted them, with Taylor saying that hearing Roxy Music in concert at age 14 showed him what he wanted to do with his life.

"Without Roxy Music, there really would be no Duran Duran," he said.

The soft-spoken Ferry thanked everyone from a succession of bass players to album cover designers. "We'd like to thank everyone for this unexpected honor," he said.

The Zombies, from rock 'n' roll's original British invasion, were the veterans of the night. They made it despite being passed over in the past, but were gracious in their thanks of the rock hall. They performed hits "Time of the Season," "Tell Her No" and "She's Not There."

Zombies lead singer Rod Argent noted that the group had been eligible for the hall for 30 years but the honor had eluded them.

"To have finally passed the winning post this time — fantastic!"

Financial pressure mounts to fix Boeing's troubled jetliner

By DAVID KOENIG, TOM KRISHER and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

Boeing is facing mounting pressure to roll out a software update on its best-selling plane in time for airlines to use the jets during the peak summer travel season.

Company engineers and test pilots are working to fix anti-stall technology on the Boeing 737 Max that is suspected to have played a role in two deadly crashes in the last six months.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that investigators have determined that the flight-control system on an Ethiopian Airlines jet automatically activated before the aircraft plunged into the ground on March 10.

The preliminary conclusion was based on information from the aircraft's data and voice recorders and indicates a link between that accident and an earlier Lion Air crash in Indonesia, the newspaper said. Boeing and the Federal Aviation Administration declined to comment on the report.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 32 of 40

Also on Friday, The New York Times reported that the Ethiopian jet's data recorder yielded evidence that a sensor incorrectly triggered the anti-stall system, called the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System, or MCAS. Once activated, the MCAS forced the plane into a dive and ultimately a crash that killed everyone on board, the newspaper said.

The Max remains grounded worldwide and airlines are losing money by canceling flights.

Southwest, the largest operator of the Max with 34 of them and another 249 on order, said this week that the grounding caused it to cancel 2,800 flights so far, or 30 percent of all cancellations in the first quarter. It said canceled flights, including those not related to the Max, will cost it \$150 million in revenue for the quarter and cut its planned capacity growth for the entire year.

German tour operator TUI Group said 2019 profit will drop about 200 million euros (\$225 million) because of the Max grounding. That forecast assumes the planes are flying again no later than mid-July.

United Airlines, which has 14 Max jets, said the grounding isn't hurting the airline yet, but the financial pain "is expected to increase if the grounding extends into the peak summer travel season."

Boeing is also seeing its own expenses rise, although it would not disclose how much it is costing the company to make the software fix and also train pilots how to use it.

Cowen Research analysts say a "very rough guess" is that Boeing will pay about \$2 billion after insurance to fix the plane, pay crash victims' families and compensate airlines that had to cancel flights.

Most Wall Street analysts are betting that the planes will be flying again in less than three months, while noting that it could take longer in countries that plan to conduct their own reviews of Boeing's upgrade instead of taking the word of the U.S. regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration.

Boeing has stopped Max deliveries during the grounding, which cuts into cash flow — Boeing gets most of its money for a plane upon delivery. Outside estimates of the cash-flow drain range from \$640 million to \$1.8 billion a month, but Boeing will get that money eventually unless airlines cancel orders.

It is difficult and unusual for airlines to switch an order from one aircraft manufacturer to another. Boeing and European rival Airbus form a duopoly that dominates commercial airplane sales. Airlines that considering switching from the Max to the comparable Airbus model, called the neo for new engine option, would fall to the back of a yearslong backlog line.

"We believe a wholesale cancellation is unlikely if for no other reason than the inability of Airbus to deal with the influx," says Hunter Keay, an aviation analyst with Wolfe Research, but he adds there is "some risk" of additional cancellations, with the big Chinese market being the most serious.

If cancellations are limited to Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines — the two carriers involved in the crashes — and Garuda Indonesia, which has announced plans to do so, they account for only about 300 orders. Boeing has about 4,600 unfilled Max orders, making up the bulk of a huge backlog that the company values at \$490 billion.

Then there is the potential cost of lawsuits stemming from October's crash of a Lion Air Max 8 in Indonesia and the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 near Addis Ababa. In all, 346 people died.

Already one law firm alone has filed seven lawsuits against Boeing in federal district court in Chicago; six were filed on behalf of families of passengers on the Lion Air jet and one by the family of an Ethiopian Airlines passenger.

The lawsuits claim that the flight-control system on the plane was defective and that Boeing failed to warn airlines about it or train pilots how to respond if it caused the plane's nose to sink. The automated MCAS system was not on previous 737s.

The tragedy-filled introduction of the Max is reminiscent of troubled early histories of other planes. In 1979, for instance, the FAA grounded the McDonnell Douglas DC-10 following accidents involving a poorly designed cargo door that could spring open during flight and a crash in Chicago — still the deadliest aviation accident in U.S. history with 273 lives lost — that ultimately was blamed on poor maintenance practices by American Airlines.

After changes approved by safety regulators, the three-engine DC-10 returned to the skies and sold several hundred more copies before production was stopped. The plane couldn't compete with more efficient twin-engine models.

Boeing's 787 "Dreamliner" was grounded by overheating batteries in 2013, but after Boeing fixed the problem it became a favorite among airlines and passengers. The same course could play out for the Max, which entered service just two years ago — as long as there are no fresh accidents to stir passengers' fears.

"The public has an amazingly short memory," said Robert Mann, a former American Airlines and TWA executive. "Most of them don't even realize the kind of airplane they are flying on."

UK faces new Brexit crisis after lawmakers reject May's deal

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers on Friday rejected the government's Brexit deal for a third time, leaving the U.K. facing the stark prospect of a chaotic departure from the European Union in just two weeks, with political leaders in turmoil and the country ill-prepared for the shock.

It's either that, or a long delay to the country's exit from the EU. The alternatives are dwindling.

The House of Commons voted 344-286 against the withdrawal agreement struck between Prime Minister Theresa May and the EU, rebuffing her plea to "put aside self and party" and deliver the Brexit that Britons voted for.

Amid business warnings that a no-deal Brexit could mean crippling tariffs, border gridlock and shortages of goods, a visibly frustrated May said the vote had "grave" implications.

"The legal default now is that the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union on 12 April — in just 14 days' time," she said. "This is not enough time to agree, legislate for and ratify a deal, and yet the House has been clear it will not permit leaving without a deal. And so we will have to agree an alternative way forward."

Had the deal been passed, Britain would have left the EU on May 22.

The bloc said the rejection of the divorce terms made a no-deal Brexit "a likely scenario" and called an emergency summit of EU leaders for April 10 to decide what to do next.

An EU Commission official said the 27 remaining EU nations were "fully prepared for a no-deal scenario at midnight 12th of April."

Almost three years after Britain voted in June 2016 to leave the EU, and two years after it set its departure date for March 29, 2019, British politicians remain deadlocked over Brexit. Like the country as a whole, they are split between those who want a clean break, those who want to retain close ties with the bloc, and those who want to overturn the decision to leave.

Last week, to prevent Britain from crashing out, the EU granted an extension to May 22 if the divorce deal was approved by Friday — or to April 12 if it was rejected.

Friday's 58-vote margin of defeat for the deal was narrower than previous votes in January and March, but it still left the government's blueprint for exiting the bloc in tatters.

May's deal was voted down even after the prime minister sacrificed her job in exchange for Brexit, promising to quit if lawmakers approved the agreement. With the deal's rejection, she will face pressure to step aside and let a new Conservative Party leader take over negotiations with the EU.

The government had also warned pro-Brexit politicians that rejecting May's deal could see Britain's departure from the EU delayed indefinitely.

May's arguments moved some previously resistant Brexit-backers to support the deal. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson — a likely contender to replace May as Conservative leader — tweeted that rejecting it risked "being forced to accept an even worse version of Brexit or losing Brexit altogether."

But May's key allies, the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, refused to back the agreement because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the U.K.

Parliament voted on the legally binding, 585-page withdrawal agreement that May struck with the EU late last year, setting out the terms of Britain's departure — but not on a shorter declaration on future ties that was also part of the accord between the two sides.

Removing the political declaration altered the deal enough to overcome a parliamentary ban against asking lawmakers the same question over and over again.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 34 of 40

May also hoped severing the link between the two parts of the deal would blunt opposition. That gamble failed to pay off, as opposition lawmakers said if amounted to voting for a "blind Brexit" with no idea what would happen next.

Opposition lawmakers declared May's deal as good as dead. Labour Party legislator Ian Murray likened it to the dead parrot in a Monty Python comedy sketch.

"Her deal is no more," he said. "It has ceased to exist. It is bereft of life. It rests in peace. It's a deal that has been nailed to its perch. It's an ex-parrot, it is an ex-deal."

Lawmakers who favor a "soft Brexit" plan to hold votes Monday in an attempt to find a deal with majority support that can break the deadlock.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said Parliament had a "responsibility to find a majority for a better deal for all the people of this country."

Business groups, who have been sounding the alarm for months about the damage a no-deal Brexit could do, urged lawmakers to avert disaster.

"All eyes are now on Monday to discover what Parliament is for," said Josh Hardie, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry. "The U.K.'s reputation, people's jobs and livelihoods are at stake. No-deal is two weeks away."

There also were new warnings in Europe.

Eric Schweitzer, head of the influential Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said it was time to prepare for the worst.

"Britain and Europe are stumbling toward an unregulated withdrawal from the EU," he said.

If lawmakers back a new proposal, Britain would need to seek a new delay to Brexit from the bloc to implement it.

The EU has indicated it could grant an extension of up to a year if the U.K. plans to change course and tack toward a softer departure. That would, however, require Britain to participate in elections for the European Parliament in late May — something both the bloc and the British government have sought to avoid.

The political morass has left Britons on both sides of the debate frustrated and angry. Thousands of Brexit supporters, who had planned to be celebrating Friday, were protesting instead.

They converged on Parliament Square as lawmakers voted inside, waving Union Jack flags, singing "Bye-Bye EU" and lamenting the government's failure to take Britain out of the bloc on schedule.

"The people are supposed to be the masters and them inside (Parliament) are meant to do what we tell them," said Charlotte Clifford from Eastbourne in southern England. "It's democracy."

The main "Leave Means Leave" protest outside Parliament was attended by senior Brexiteers including former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who called Friday a "day of betrayal."

In a separate rally up the street, far-right agitator Tommy Robinson roused supporters with a speech attacking politicians and the media.

Retired charity worker Mandy Childs, one of a band of Brexit supporters walking across England to join the "Leave Means Leave" protest, said she felt "heartbroken."

"We were told over a 100 times by a British prime minister that we would be leaving on the 29th of March, 2019," she said.

"To do that, promise the British people that and then say 'Actually, no, we need to just put it back' — absolute betrayal. And how dare she?"

Associated Press writers Raf Casert in Brussels, Monika Scislowska in Warsaw and Jeff Schaeffer in Great Missenden, England, contributed.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Redacted Mueller report expected to be released by mid-April

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on the Russia investigation will be sent to Congress by mid-April and will not be shared with the White House beforehand, Attorney General William Barr said Friday.

Barr's timeline, included in a letter to the chairmen of the House and Senate judiciary committees, sets up a possible showdown with House Democrats, who are insisting they see the full report next week.

In his letter, Barr said he shares a desire for Congress and the public to be able to read Mueller's findings, which are included in the nearly 400-page report the special counsel submitted last week.

Barr said President Donald Trump would have the right to assert executive privilege over parts of the report. But he noted that Trump "has stated publicly that he intends to defer to me and, accordingly, there are no plans to submit the report to the White House for a privilege review."

Mueller officially concluded his investigation when he submitted the report last Friday. Two days later, Barr sent a four-page letter to Congress that detailed Mueller's "principal conclusions."

Mueller did not find that the Trump campaign coordinated or conspired with Russia, Barr wrote, and did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Barr said he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided on their own that Mueller's evidence was insufficient to establish that the president committed obstruction.

Barr said he is preparing to redact multiple categories of information from the report and Mueller is helping the Justice Department identify sections that will be blacked out in the public version.

Those include grand jury material, information that would compromise sensitive sources and methods; information that could affect ongoing investigations, including those referred by Mueller's office to other Justice Department offices and information that could infringe on the personal privacy and reputation of "peripheral third parties."

"Our progress is such that I anticipate we will be in a position to release the report by mid-April, if not sooner," Barr wrote.

Barr said last week's letter detailing Mueller's "principal conclusions" was not intended to be an "exhaustive recounting" of the special counsel's investigation.

Barr described Mueller's report as nearly 400 pages long, not including the tables and supporting materials, which he said sets forth Mueller's analysis, findings and the reasons for his conclusions.

"Everyone will soon be able to read it on their own," Barr wrote. "I do not believe it would be in the public's interest for me to attempt to summarize the full report or to release it in serial or piecemeal fashion."

Asked about Barr's commitment to release a redacted version of Mueller's report, Trump said he has "a lot of confidence" in Barr "and if that's what he'd like to do, I have nothing to hide." He spoke at Mar-a-Lago, his private estate in Florida.

Barr's letter drew a quick — and critical — response from Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who had demanded the full Mueller report by April 2.

Nadler, D-N.Y., said that deadline still stands and called on Barr to join him in working to get a court order allowing the release of grand jury information to the committee, rather than spending "valuable time and resources" keeping portions of the report from Congress.

"There is ample precedent for the Department of Justice sharing all of the information that the Attorney General proposes to redact to the appropriate congressional committees," Nadler said in a statement. "Again, Congress must see the full report."

The Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said he appreciated Barr's update and looked forward to the attorney general appearing before his panel on May 1.

Members of Congress will be in recess for two weeks beginning April 12, which could mean that lawmakers will be out of town when the report is delivered.

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Jonathan Lemire in Palm Beach, Florida contributed to this report.

Read the letter: <http://apne.ws/NiTV5IG>

Autopsy: Migrant child who died in US custody had infection

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A 7-year-old girl from Guatemala died of a bacterial infection while detained by the U.S. Border Patrol, according to an autopsy released Friday, in a case that drew worldwide attention to the plight of migrant families at the southern U.S. border.

Jakelin Caal Maquin died Dec. 8, just over a day after she was apprehended by Border Patrol agents with her father after entering the U.S. illegally. Jakelin was one of two children to die in Border Patrol custody in December, raising questions about the agency's ability to care for families.

The report from the medical examiner in El Paso, Texas, says traces of streptococcus bacteria were found in Jakelin's lungs, adrenal gland, liver, and spleen. The autopsy says she faced a "rapidly progressive infection" that led to sepsis and the failure of multiple organs.

The medical examiner did not determine which form of streptococcus bacteria Jakelin contracted.

"It's a death that could have been preventable," said Dr. Colleen Kraft, a past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics who spoke to The Associated Press after reviewing the report.

Kraft said the type of infection Jakelin had would have likely caused initial symptoms that a medical professional would have caught, like an elevated heartbeat, respiratory rate, or problems with blood circulation.

"She should have been taken to the hospital right away," Kraft said, adding that "you had somebody who didn't know to look for those subtle signs that her little system was shutting down."

Dr. Matthew Gartland, a pediatrician and member of the advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights, said that while it was difficult to determine whether more rapid treatment would have saved Jakelin's life, "what we can say is immigrant children should receive timely care, including emergency care, by pediatricians."

Jakelin was not hospitalized until 12 hours after she and her father were apprehended, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

CBP said Jakelin and her father, Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz, were in a group of 163 migrants who were apprehended at about 9:15 p.m. Dec. 6 in a remote part of New Mexico. The father signed an English-language form stating Jakelin was in good health, CBP said, but it remains unclear whether he understood what the form said.

Jakelin and her father boarded a bus at about 4:30 a.m. Dec. 7 from the Antelope Wells port of entry for the Lordsburg station. According to a CBP statement, Jakelin's father reported just before the bus left at 5 a.m. that she was vomiting.

The bus arrived in Lordsburg about 90 minutes later, CBP said. By then, Jakelin's temperature had reached 105.7 degrees Fahrenheit (40.9 degrees Celsius). An emergency medical technician had to revive her.

She was flown to a hospital in El Paso, where she died the next day.

CBP says large groups of migrants are increasingly heading to remote areas of the border such as rural New Mexico, where it has very limited facilities or staff to apprehend and care for them. The agency expanded medical screenings for all children after the death of a second child, Felipe Gomez Alonzo.

The Border Patrol said this week that it would release families immediately instead of referring them to processing, a step the agency said was necessary to relieve overcrowding in its facilities.

CBP declined Friday to comment on the autopsy report. Commissioner Kevin McAleenan previously said in a statement that the agents who were involved "are deeply affected and empathize with the father over the loss of his daughter."

"We cannot stress enough the dangers posed by traveling long distances, in crowded transportation, or in the natural elements through remote desert areas without food, water and other supplies," McAleenan said.

Advocates have criticized CBP for its treatment of migrant families and for portraying their growing numbers as a crisis. They have long warned that immigration facilities are ill-suited to detain families. After Jakelin's death, the U.N. special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants urged the U.S. not to detain migrants and called for "a thorough investigation" of her death.

Kraft, the former head of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said she had spoken with McAleenan since the two child deaths and said the agency had made progress in making sure sick children are quickly taken to a hospital.

RAICES, a group that provides legal services to detained immigrants, tweeted on Friday: "We will keep fighting for you and the innocent children and their families seeking refuge in this country."

Tekandi Paniagua, the Guatemalan consul based in Del Rio, Texas, said his office had spoken to Nery Caal on Friday and that he would "continue providing the necessary accompaniment and support to the Caal family."

AP Exclusive: Captain feared death in migrant hijack at sea

By MAGGIE MICHAEL, VANESSA GERA and STEPHEN CALLEJA Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — African migrants who hijacked an oil tanker after it rescued them in the Mediterranean Sea seized metal objects and began smashing the ship and threatening crew members after they realized they were being returned to Libya, the ship's captain said Friday.

Nader el-Hiblu, the 42-year-old Libyan captain of the El Hiblu 1 ship, said he and five other crew members feared they could be killed during the "horror" that played out at sea this week. He said the threats by rioting migrants forced him to agree to their demand that he take them to Europe, not back to Libya.

"They attacked the cockpit, heavily beating on the doors and the windows and they threatened to smash the boat," el-Hiblu said in an exclusive account given Friday to The Associated Press. He spoke by phone from the ship, which is now docked in Valletta, the capital of Malta.

"They went nuts and they were screaming and shouting 'Go back! Go back! Go back!'" he said.

For years, the Mediterranean Sea has been a place of drama and death as desperate people from Africa and the Middle East board unseaworthy smuggling boats with dreams of a better life in Europe. Last year, 2,299 people died in the sea trying to head to Europe, and the dangerous journey has also killed 311 people so far this year.

The migrants revolted against heading back to lawless Libya, where aid groups say migrants are beaten, raped and tortured on a regular basis in detention camps. Some aid groups called the migrants' actions "self-defense" against Europe's inhumane migration policies.

Now, there are fears that some merchant ship captains might become reluctant to save migrants from sinking boats in the future if they fear they could lose control of their ships.

El-Hiblu said the drama began Tuesday afternoon when his tanker was traveling from Istanbul to Libya. He was contacted by a military aircraft flying above — though he isn't sure if it was Maltese or Italian — alerting him of a boat with people who needed help.

He then approached the boat, which he said was carrying 98 men, women and children.

"I took the people in the boat and there were six who refused to jump in, fearing that I take them back to Libya," he said. "They refused to come with me and they fled while the plane was going after them."

The aircraft then contacted him with a second location and he went there, but lost contact with the plane and the boats, he said.

He then directed his ship to Libya, saying the migrants believed they were headed to Europe and "were relaxed and happy and did nothing throughout the journey."

At 6 a.m. Wednesday, el-Hiblu alerted Libyan port authorities that he was nearing the coast and requested assistance from coast guards or naval forces, aware that the migrants would become upset at realizing they were returning to Libya.

But help didn't come. When the Libyan capital of Tripoli came into view, about 25 of the male migrants began their attack, he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 38 of 40

"They all brought heavy metal tools and started to beat and smash the ship and threatened that they would leave the ship in pieces" if the vessel continued to Libya, he said. "It was horror. I didn't care much about the boat, but the crew members."

El-Hiblu called the port in Libya again and told them the crew was heading north toward Europe, saying: "they are going to kill me and kill us if we return. We are leaving."

Libyan Coast Guard Spokesman Brig. Gen. Ayoub Gassim said when Libyan coast guards learned about the hijacking, they sent two boats in "hot pursuit" over a distance of 60 nautical miles (110 kilometers), but said the tanker was faster than their boats.

El-Hiblu insists, however, that the Libyan coast guard could have reached his tanker had authorities wanted to.

As the tanker moved north, news started spreading it was heading either toward Malta or the Italian island of Lampedusa. Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who has a strong anti-migrant stance, said Italy would not accept them.

At first, Malta also insisted it would not accept the vessel in its waters.

But on Thursday morning, the Maltese armed forces stormed the vessel and detained five men suspected of leading the hijacking, taking them away in handcuffs when the ship docked in Valletta, the capital.

El-Hiblu was incensed, however, after a Maltese security officer gave him a rough treatment, ordering him to take off his clothes for a body search and confiscating his phone. He said he was detained for a couple of hours in a cell in a police station near the port, under suspicions of being a human trafficker.

"This filthy country treated me in a very disrespectful way after rescuing 98 people. They dealt with me as a criminal and accused me of illegal migration," he said angrily.

Maltese officials would not comment on the tanker hijacking case as they carried out an investigation. It was also impossible to speak to any of the migrants who had been on the ship to hear their side of the story.

Maggie Michael reported from Cairo, and Vanessa Gera from Rome.

A look at the cast of characters in the Jussie Smollett saga

By CARYN ROUSSEAU Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jussie Smollett, a successful but not A-list actor, burst into the world's consciousness in January after he reported being the victim of a racist and anti-gay attack. In the two months since, a number of figures in Chicago and beyond have gained international attention and emerged as supporting characters in the saga. A look at those involved:

THE CELEBRITY

Actor and musician Jussie Smollett went from child star to one of the few actors to play a black, gay character on prime-time TV on Fox's "Empire." His name-recognition skyrocketed when he made a report to Chicago police that he was the victim of a racist and homophobic attack in late January. Weeks later, his celebrity turned to notoriety when he was indicted, accused by police of staging the attack because he was unhappy with his pay on "Empire" and was looking to promote his career. On Tuesday, tables turned again for the actor when prosecutors dropped the charges. Afterward, Smollett stood in front of a media crush, thanking his family and supporters.

THE PRESIDENT

President Donald Trump increased attention on the case when, two days after Smollett reported the attack, he told reporters at the White House that he saw a story about Smollett. "It doesn't get worse, as far as I'm concerned," Trump said. Smollett said his attackers yelled, "This is MAGA country," a reference to Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan. Two days after prosecutors drop charges against Smollett the president tweeted that the FBI and Department of Justice will "review the outrageous Jussie Smollett case" and called the case "an embarrassment to our Nation!"

THE MAYOR

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 39 of 40

Mayor Rahm Emanuel jumped to support his city after Smollett was first charged, saying the accusations against the actor "will never trump Chicago's collective spirit." When charges were dropped, a visibly angry Emanuel appeared at a news conference and called the move by prosecutors "a whitewash of justice." He said Chicago "saw its reputation dragged through the mud." Emanuel's administration on Thursday sent Smollett a letter, ordering him to pay \$130,000 to cover the cost of the investigation.

THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson was chosen to lead the department after his predecessor was fired when video was released showing a white police officer fatally shoot unarmed black teenager Laquan McDonald 16 times. Johnson said he was angry and offended that another black man would exploit racial divisions for his own gain. He called Smollett's case a "scar that Chicago didn't earn and certainly didn't deserve" and said the actor should apologize. When charges were dropped, Johnson said Smollett still owes the city an apology — and that he should have been willing to prove his innocence.

THE PROSECUTORS

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx removed herself from the Smollett case before he was charged, saying she had discussed the case with a Smollett family member. The case was handed to First Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Magats. Foxx defended the decision by her staff to drop charges, saying the matter was handled properly. She pointed to Smollett forfeiting his \$10,000 bond and doing community service.

THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

Smollett turned to celebrity defense attorney Mark Geragos, whose clients have included Michael Jackson and Colin Kaepernick, when he was charged. Geragos called the 16-count indictment that Smollett faced "prosecutorial overkill." When charges were dropped, Smollett walked out of a Cook County courtroom with attorney Patricia Brown Holmes, who told reporters that her client "was a victim who was vilified and made to appear as a perpetrator." Holmes is known locally for being special prosecutor in the trial of three Chicago police officers who were acquitted of lying to protect their colleague who shot McDonald.

THE BROTHERS

Abimbola "Abel" and Olabinjo "Ola" Osundairo told police Smollett hired and paid them \$3,500 to help stage an attack on himself that included shouting slurs, dousing the actor with a chemical and draping a noose around his neck. The brothers testified before a grand jury and later said they regretted their involvement. After charges were dropped, the brother's attorney, Gloria Schmidt, said they "were fully prepared to testify in any criminal proceeding" in the Smollett case.

Follow Caryn Rousseau on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/carynrousseau>

Check out the AP's complete coverage of the Jussie Smollett case.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, March 30, the 89th day of 2019. There are 276 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 30, 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million, a deal ridiculed by critics as "Seward's Folly."

On this date:

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1923, the Cunard liner RMS Laconia became the first passenger ship to circle the globe as it arrived in New York.

In 1945, during World War II, the Soviet Union invaded Austria with the goal of taking Vienna, which it accomplished two weeks later.

In 1970, Triple Crown winner Secretariat was born at The Meadow near Doswell, Virginia.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, March 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 263 ~ 40 of 40

In 1975, as the Vietnam War neared its end, Communist forces occupied the city of Da Nang.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C. hotel by John W. Hinckley, Jr.; also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and a District of Columbia police officer, Thomas Delahanty.

In 1991, Patricia Bowman of Jupiter, Florida, told authorities she'd been raped hours earlier by William Kennedy Smith, the nephew of Sen. Edward Kennedy, at the family's Palm Beach estate. (Smith was acquitted at trial.)

In 1999, Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic (sloh-BOH'-dahn mee-LOH'-shuh-vich) insisted that NATO attacks stop before he moved toward peace, declaring his forces ready to fight "to the very end." NATO answered with new resolve to wreck his military with a relentless air assault.

In 2002, Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth died at Royal Lodge, Windsor, outside London; she was 101 years old.

In 2004, In a reversal, President George W. Bush agreed to let National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice testify publicly and under oath before an independent panel investigating the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In 2006, American reporter Jill Carroll, a freelancer for The Christian Science Monitor, was released after 82 days as a hostage in Iraq.

In 2017, a massive fire caused an interstate bridge to collapse during rush hour in Atlanta; no one was hurt. North Carolina rolled back its "bathroom bill" in a bid to end a yearlong backlash over transgender rights that had cost the state dearly in business projects, conventions and basketball tournaments. At Cape Canaveral, SpaceX successfully launched and then retrieved its first recycled rocket.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama asserted unprecedented government control over the auto industry, rejecting turnaround plans from General Motors and Chrysler and raising the prospect of controlled bankruptcy for either ailing auto giant. Federal food safety officials warned consumers to stop eating all foods containing pistachios while they figured out the source of a possible salmonella contamination. Gunmen attacked a police academy on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan, killing at least 12 people.

Five years ago: Four hours of talks in Paris between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov failed to break a tense East-West deadlock over the crisis in Ukraine. Actress Kate O'Mara, 74, best known for her role in the 1980s soap opera "Dynasty," died in southern England.

One year ago: The widow of the gunman who slaughtered 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, was acquitted on charges that she had helped plot the attack and had lied to the FBI afterward. Thousands of Palestinians marched to Gaza's border with Israel and Palestinian health officials said 15 of the protesters were killed by Israeli fire on the first day of what Hamas organizers said would be six weeks of daily protests against a border blockade; it was the area's deadliest violence in four years.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Peter Marshall is 93. Actor John Astin is 89. Actor-director Warren Beatty is 82. Rock musician Graeme Edge (The Moody Blues) is 78. Rock musician Eric Clapton is 74. Actor Justin Deas is 71. Actor Paul Reiser is 63. Rap artist MC Hammer is 57. Singer Tracy Chapman is 55. Actor Ian Ziering (EYE'-an ZEER'-ing) is 55. TV personality Piers Morgan is 54. Rock musician Joey Castillo is 53. Actress Donna D'Errico is 51. Singer Celine Dion is 51. TV personality/producer Richard Rawlings is 50. Actor Mark Consuelos is 48. Actress Bahar Soomekh is 44. Actress Jessica Cauffiel is 43. Singer Norah Jones is 40. Actress Fiona Gubelmann is 39. Actress Katy Mixon is 38. Actor Jason Dohring is 37. Country singer Justin Moore is 35. Actress Tessa Ferrer is 33. Country singer Thomas Rhett is 29. Rapper NF is 28.

Thought for Today: "We do not talk — we bludgeon one another with facts and theories gleaned from cursory readings of newspapers, magazines and digests." — Henry Miller, American author (1891-1980).