

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 1 of 52

- 1- Service Notice: Roger Aberle
- 2- GROW South Dakota Urges South Dakota Homeowners to Seek Qualified Housing Counselors during National Homeownership Month
- 3- Jenifer Fjelstad Named to Augustana University's Dean's List
- 3-Lake Alvin, Lake Lakota Re-Open for Swimming
- 3- Norton Named Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year
- 3- Mirror Lakes Access Road Temporarily Closed
- 4-Who is the Current Oldest Living South Dakotan?
- 5- NEW DAV COMMANDER DON SEALOCK
- 6- Truss Pros Ad
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Weather Pages
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2019 Groton Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

Open Swim Daily: 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Fun Night is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27

CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Thursday, June 6

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Sisseton, (DH)
5:30 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Doland, Nelson Field (Black)
6:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Doland (R)
7:30 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Doland (W,B)
Softball hosts Warner on Nelson Field (U8 at 7 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)

Friday, June 7

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball at Andover (Gold)
7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Andover (R,W)

June 7-8

Junior Legion at Mellette Tourney

Service Notice: Roger Aberle

Memorial Services for Roger Aberle, 66, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, June 8th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Jeff Whillock will officiate. Military honors will be provided by American Legion Post #39. Visitation will be held from 9-11 a.m. Roger passed away June 4, 2019 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.



GROW SD Housing Loan Officers, Brenda Waage and Wade Veflin

GROW South Dakota Urges South Dakota Homeowners to Seek Qualified Housing Counselors during National Homeownership Month

Sisseton, SD – This June, GROW South Dakota urges South Dakota consumers considering homeownership or looking for help with their current housing needs to seek out qualified housing counseling and education organizations.

“During National Homeownership Month and throughout the year, we must do all we can to ensure homeownership is not built on quick sand. Being as prepared as possible before taking on the responsibilities of homeownership is critical and that’s where NeighborWorks housing counseling comes in,” said Marcia Erickson, CEO.

NeighborWorks housing counselors can help prospective homebuyers access down payment assistance grants, put together a solid budget that clearly outlines housing and other expenses, and be there for homeowners after the home purchase with financial coaching and other help.

“Research released this past March shows how effective NeighborWorks housing counseling is in reducing the likelihood of serious mortgage delinquency,” said Erickson, CEO.

GROW South Dakota is here to help you with all of your housing needs; from pre-purchase counseling, to down payment assistance, to direct mortgage loans. Contact one of our experienced staff to help guide you down the path of home ownership.

For more information about GROW South Dakota’s housing programs and services, please visit our website at www.growsd.org or call (605) 698-7654.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 3 of 52

Jenifer Fjelstad Named to Augustana University's Dean's List

SIOUX FALLS, SD (06/05/2019)-- Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, announced today that Jenifer Fjelstad of Groton has been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2018-19 academic year.

The Dean's List recognizes full-time students who have a minimum of 12 credit hours with grade-point averages at 3.5 or above.

Lake Alvin, Lake Lakota Re-Open for Swimming

PIERRE, S.D. - Lake Alvin, located outside of Harrisburg, and Lake Lakota at Newton Hills State Park have re-opened for swimming.

The lakes were closed to swimming, but new beach water samples taken this week show a healthy level of bacteria in the water.

The beaches are currently open and ready for swimmers and other recreators.

Contact Jason Baumann, district park supervisor, for additional questions or concerns at 605.987.2263.

Mirror Lakes Access Road Temporarily Closed

SPEARFISH, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) officials are warning anglers that access to Mirror Lakes in Lawrence County will be restricted due to bridge work.

"The road will be briefly closed to Mirror Lakes beginning June 11 for bridge maintenance," said McNenny State Fish Hatchery Manager, Mike Barnes. "These are popular lakes this time of year, and we want people to know that they will not be able to drive to them for a short period of time."

Barnes said the bridge should re-open in approximately one week.

Norton Named Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year

PIERRE, S.D. – The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators has named Austin Norton the 2019 Brook Brown Boating Officer of the Year. Norton is a conservation officer for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and is stationed in Webster.

"Austin shows a genuine passion," said Joe Keeton, GFP boating law administrator. "He has been willing to take on the extra responsibility, knowing it would require a lot of extra training, much of which would require him to be away from his duty station and family."

Keeton noted that being a good boating officer takes dedication, discipline, and sacrifice.

"The hours worked are the hours when everyone else is out enjoying the lakes – weekends, evenings, and holidays. Austin has done a good job making himself available when the lakes are busy," Keeton added.

About the Award: The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) award is presented annually to the boating law enforcement officer who has made outstanding contributions to the field of boating law enforcement.

The awards program consists of three levels: state, regional and national. State nominees are selected by the state boating law administrator. State nominees continue to regional competition, where they are reviewed, and one winner per region is selected by the three regional awards committees. Regional award winners are submitted to NASBLA's Awards Committee for review and selection of the national award.

The South Dakota award was renamed to honor a previous recipient and GFP conservation officer, Brook Brown. Brown lost his battle with cancer during the summer of 2012 and was well known for his contributions to the state's boating enforcement and education efforts.

Who is the Current Oldest Living South Dakotan?

Who is the oldest person you know in South Dakota? Each year, the South Dakota Health Care Association's (SDHCA) Century Clubsm seeks to find the answer! If you know of a South Dakotan born before February 20, 1911, he or she may be our state's oldest living person, and SDHCA would like to honor him or her with the 2019 Centenarian of the Year award.

If you are aware of a South Dakota resident at least age 108, who may be a candidate for our Centenarian of the Year award, please contact SDHCA using the information below.

In addition, any South Dakotan aged 100 or older is eligible to be recognized as part of SDHCA's Century Club. The Century Club is free to enroll, and each inductee receives a specially designed, framed certificate and membership card. The Century Club has inducted over 1,300 applicants since its founding in 1997. The Centenarian of the Year award is presented each July to the eldest living Century Club member.

If you have any questions or to request an application to the Century Club, please contact LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator, South Dakota Health Care Association at 1-800-952-3052 or write: Century Club, South Dakota Health Care Association, 804 N Western Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. Applications also available at www.sdhca.org.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 5 of 52

NEW DAV COMMANDER DON SEALOCK

A new state-wide slate of officers has been elected by members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of South Dakota, at their 80th Annual Convention in Sioux Falls.

New DAV Department of South Dakota Commander is Don Sealock, of Rapid City, who replaces Gaylord Helmbrecht of Sioux Falls, Immediate Past Commander. Other newly elected Department officers are:

Sr. Vice Commander.....	Dick Turnwall of DAV Northern Hills Chapter No. 11
1st Jr. Vice Commander	Dan Francis of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1
2nd Jr. Vice Commander	Christine Speirs of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3
Treasurer	Gene A. Murphy of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1
Judge Advocate/Inspector	Robert Hill of DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22

Commander-Elect Don Sealock made the following Commander Appointments:

Adjutant	Gene A. Murphy of DAV Sioux Falls Chapter No. 1
Chaplain	Allan Ochsner of DAV Aberdeen Chapter No. 13
Historian	Dan Francis of DAV Chapter No. 1

Commander Sealock, a member of DAV Rapid City Chapter No. 3, has been a member of DAV since 2007 and has worked for the DAV as the Hospital Transportation Network Coordinator at the Ft Meade Health Care System since June 1, 2006. He was born in Hagerstown, Maryland and raised in Virginia until 1961 when he went into the military. He is a disabled Veteran of the Vietnam era. Commander Sealock served 8 years in the Air Force and was stationed in Texas, Mississippi, Okinawa, Washington State, Hawaii, and Grand Forks, ND. Commander Sealock had 13 years in the Army National Guard, 11 years in South Dakota Guard and 2 years in the Virginia Guard before retiring with 21 years total Service. All 13 years was served on NBC Bn Staff.

From January 1972 to December 1995 Commander Sealock worked for the Social Security Administration and retired with 23 years. He worked in Rapid City, Huron, SD, Manassas, VA, Westminster, MD, Chambersburg, PA and back to Rapid City where he retired in December 1995. He was Commander of American Legion Post 7 in Huron SD 1980 and Beadle County Commander 1981; Past Chef De Gare of the Voiture 658 of 40 Et 8 in Rapid City; Past President of the Veterans Coordination Committee for 2 years; Veteran of the Month for the City of Rapid City for August 2010. Commander Sealock is currently Commander of DAV Chapter 3 in Rapid City and is a Life Member of Chapter 3 and Unit 3. He is also a Life Member of VFW, DAV, AL, 40 et 8 and TREA.

He has been married to his wife, Mary, for 50 years and has 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

Looking for assemblers - both shifts

- * New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and \$16/hr night shift
- Overtime Available

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 7 of 52

Today in Weather History

June 6, 1895: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles west of Summit, passing 3 miles northwest of Summit. Buildings were damaged on eight farms.

June 6, 1897: Light to heavy frost, and in some localities, killing frost occurred on the 6th and 7th. These cold temperatures along with last season frost in May and wet conditions several hampered the planting season. Luckily growing conditions changed towards the middle and end of the month. Some low temperatures on the 6th include 26 degrees in Castlewood and Watertown, 29 in Mellette, 30 in Aberdeen and Milbank, and 32 in Highmore. Some low temperatures on the 7th include; 24 degrees in Castlewood, 25 in Watertown, and 30 degrees in Milbank.

June 6, 1999: Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches caused flash flooding on a creek feeding into the Grand River. At a ranch southwest of Bullhead, a bunkhouse wall moved off the foundation by a wall of water coming down the creek. All of the contents in the bunkhouse were destroyed. A machine shop was washed away along with several pieces of equipment and many tools. Some tools and equipment were found more than a mile down the creek. A pump house and a grain bin were also destroyed. A pickup was washed down the stream, and a propane tank near home was rolled over. A colt was picked up by the water but managed to escape. The powerful flow of water took out several dead trees and washed them downstream. Finally, a road and a culvert were washed out by the flash flood.

1816: The temperature reached 92 degrees at Salem, Massachusetts during an early heat wave, but then plunged 49 degrees in 24 hours to commence the famous "year without a summer." Snow fell near Quebec City, Quebec Canada from the 6th through the 10th and accumulated up to a foot with "drifts reaching the axle trees of carriages."

1894: One of the greatest floods in U.S. history occurred as the Willamette River overflowed to inundate half of the business district of Portland, Oregon. The river crested at 33.5 feet, the worst flood ever recorded in the city.

1975 - A tornado, reportedly spinning backwards (spinning clockwise), was sighted near Alva, OK. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Severe thunderstorms with large hail and winds to 100 mph caused one million dollars damage around Norfolk, VA. A forty-two foot fishing boat capsized near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel drowning 13 of the 27 persons on board. (The Weather Channel)






1987 - Thunderstorms in southern California produced one inch hail at Mount Pinos, and marble size hail at Palmdale. Thunderstorms in southeastern Arizona produced heavy rain leaving some washes under four feet of water. Six cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the upper 90s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Seventeen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 65 mph which damaged two mobile homes northwest of Melbourne injuring six people. (The National Weather Summary)

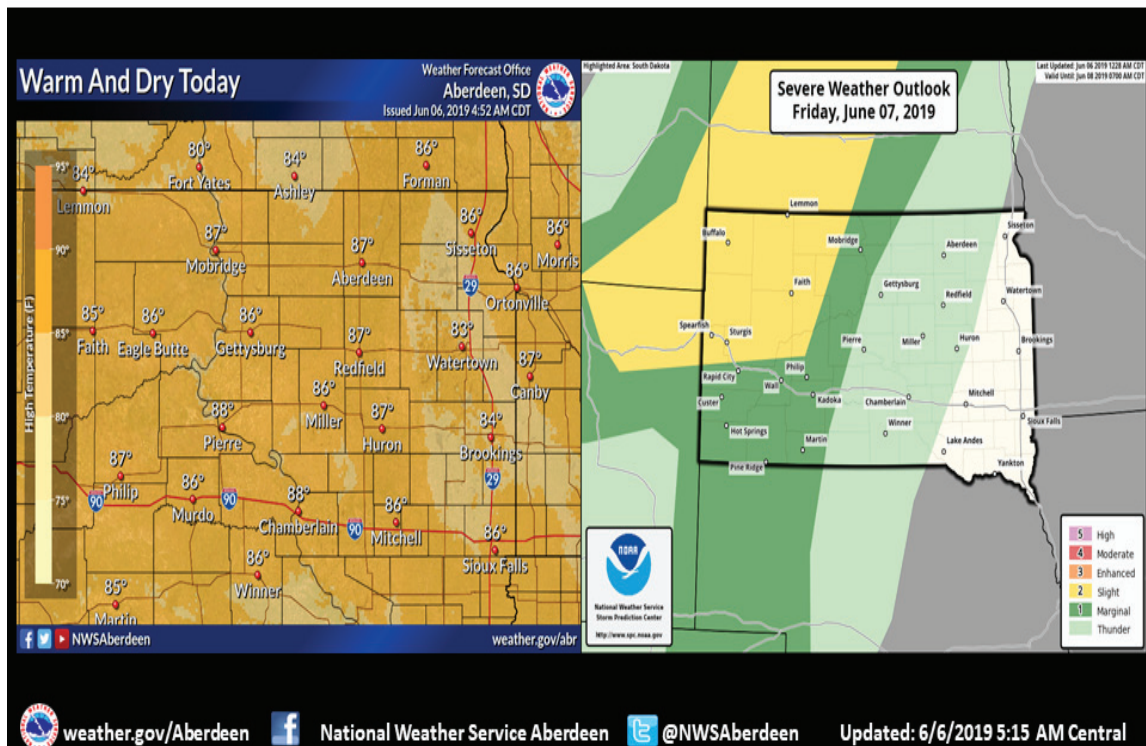
1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the late morning hours produced severe weather through the afternoon and night. Thunderstorms spawned 13 tornadoes, and there were 154 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado injured six persons at Lorenzo, TX, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph killed one person at Glasscock City, TX. Softball size hail was reported at Lipscomb and Glen Cove TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Broton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 8 of 52

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear then Slight Chance T-storms and Breezy	T-storms Likely
High: 87 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 90 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 80 °F

Hot Today And Friday - A Strong Storm Or Two Possible By Friday Evening



Published on: 06/06/2019 at 6:26AM

It's going to be downright hot again today and Friday. Temperatures are expected to climb well into the 80s both days. Some spots could reach or exceed the 90 degree mark. Doesn't seem like that big of a deal, except that at this time of year, the normal high temperature is right around 75 degrees. If thunderstorms can get going Friday afternoon across western South Dakota, a couple of them could stray over into central or north central South Dakota by Friday evening and potentially become severe. Keep a close eye on the forecast over the next couple of days.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 9 of 52

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 7:42 PM

Low Temp: 60 °F at 6:18 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 12:39 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1950

Record Low: 30° in 1897

Average High: 74°F

Average Low: 51°F

Average Precip in June.: 0.58

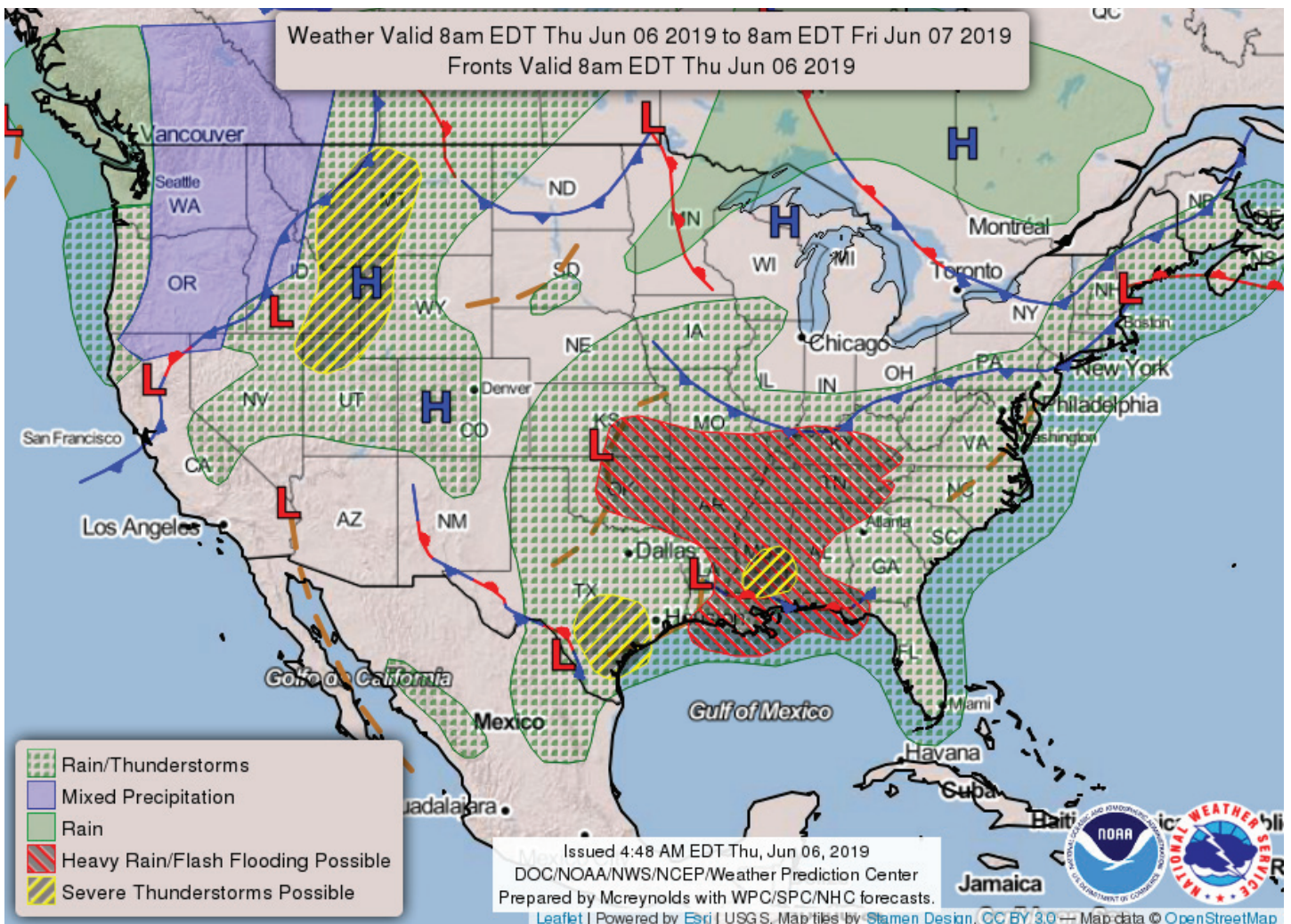
Precip to date in June.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 7.72

Precip Year to Date: 7.97

Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.

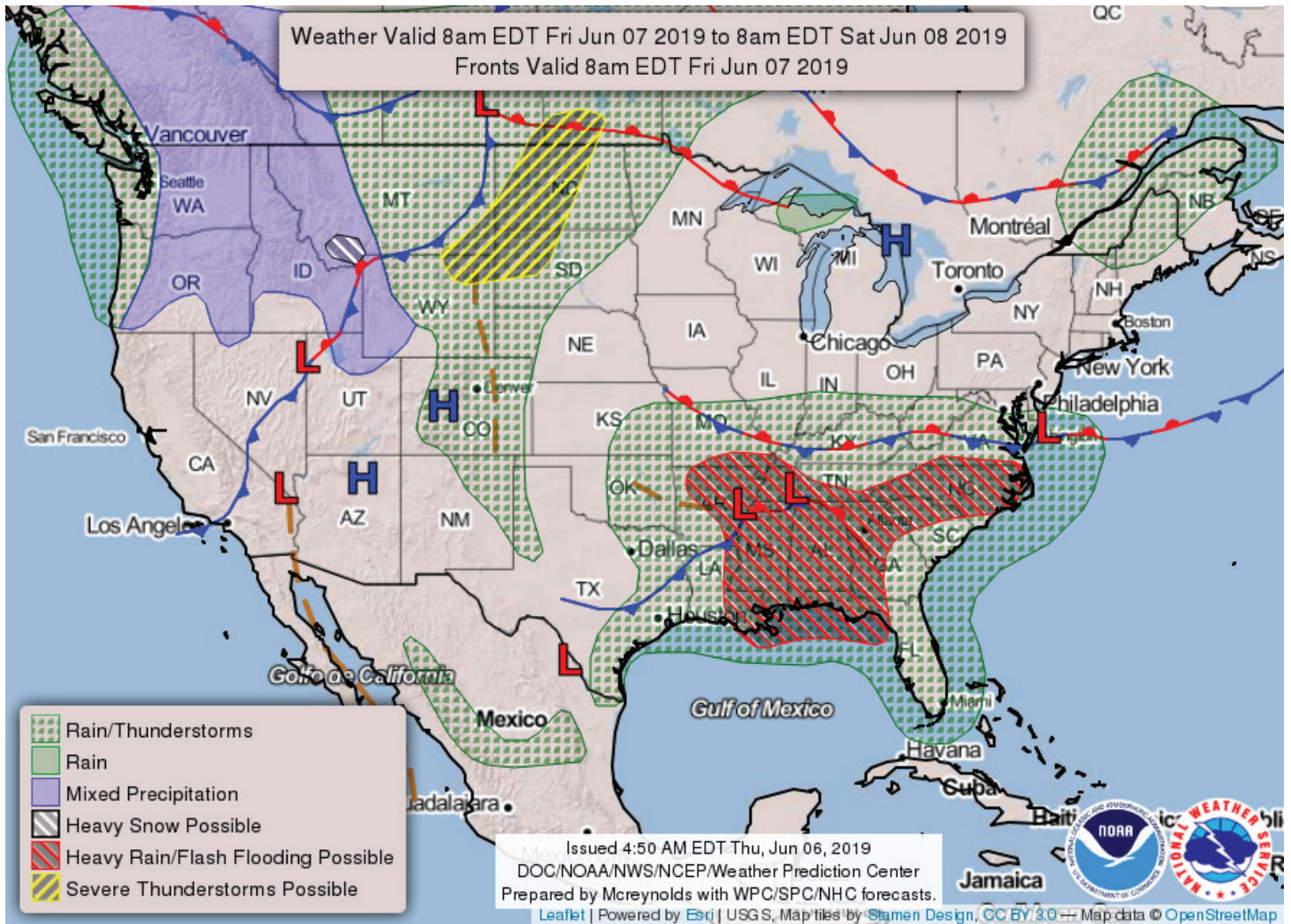
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 10 of 52

Tomorrow's Weather Map



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 11 of 52



THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE

My Dad worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for nearly fifty years. He was responsible for maintaining over 200 miles of railroad tracks. Part of the tracks ran from the docks of the harbor on Lake Erie to a steel mill that was the largest manufacturer of pipe in America. Although the distance from the harbor to the steel mill was only a few miles, the tracks formed an intricate system of switches and tracks that had to be carefully laid out and spaced for the engines, coal cars, and iron ore cars to pass each other safely.

One evening when he returned from work, he was visibly shaken. He sat quietly and said nothing. All of the family knew that something serious had happened and we knew not to ask questions. When he was ready to talk, he would tell us the story.

Finally, he said, We had a terrible accident in Elyria today. The men who worked there did not prepare the bed properly for the tracks, and they gave way today. The engine fell over on its side and killed the engineer. Someone failed to take the time to lay the foundation and build the bed strong enough for the trains to pass safely. That engineer did not have to die and leave his family. Someone failed in their duty, and it cost the engineer his life.

The highway of the upright avoids evil, he who guards his way guards his life, wrote Solomon. The word highway refers to a raised roadway that is carefully groomed and maintained. We groom our highway when we read Gods Word, pray, and seek His way.

Prayer: Father, help us to be aware of the foundations we establish. May we be sensitive to the importance of guarding each step by walking the way Your Son did. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 16:17 The highway of the upright avoids evil, he who guards his way guards his life.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 12 of 52

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 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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

06-08-09-14-22

(six, eight, nine, fourteen, twenty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$479,000

Lotto America

02-09-29-38-46, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 2

(two, nine, twenty-nine, thirty-eight, forty-six; Star Ball: ten; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$20.49 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$530 million

Powerball

17-23-28-34-38, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 3

(seventeen, twenty-three, twenty-eight, thirty-four, thirty-eight; Powerball: eight; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Missouri River will remain high because of water from dams

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The amount of water being released into the lower Missouri River will remain at a high level because of all the rain that fell in the area over the last month.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says the amount of water being released from Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska-South Dakota border will remain at 75,000 cubic feet per second because of all the recent rain.

The Corps' John Remus says the amount of water being released into the river is more than twice the average for this time of year.

That may worsen flooding downstream because many levees were damaged by flooding in March.

South Dakota nursing home closure renews Medicaid debate

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls nursing home will be the seventh to close in South Dakota in the last three years, continuing a trend that industry officials warned legislators about because of the state's low Medicaid reimbursement rate.

Covington Care and Rehabilitation told residents this week that the facility will be closing later this summer, the Argus Leader reported.

The South Dakota Health Care Association lamented the closing of the facility, the latest closure it attributed to South Dakota's low Medicaid reimbursement rate, which about 53 percent of the state's nursing home population receives.

Nursing home leaders warned legislators during this year's session that the industry was on the verge of collapse because South Dakota's low Medicaid reimbursement rate leaves nursing homes with a \$42 million annual shortfall in funding. The Legislature passed a 10 percent increase in the reimbursement rate for nursing homes in the state's 2020 budget and also revised its 2019 budget to begin the increase April 1.

"The long-term care funding crisis in our state is unfortunately still ongoing. Though we made significant progress during the last legislative session, this makes clear that still more needs to be done to adequately fund care for elderly and disabled South Dakotans," association Executive Director Mark Deak said in a statement.

The locations of the closures include both small town and larger cities across the state. In addition to

Covington, other recent closures include centers in Huron, Madison, Mobridge, Tripp, Bryant, and Rosholt. Inadequate reimbursement has been the primary driver of the closures, according to the association.

Even after recent increases in Medicaid reimbursement, nursing centers still lose an average of \$42.33 each day for each resident paying through Medicaid. Statewide, costs of unreimbursed care total more than \$48 million annually, the association said.

Covington administrators did not immediately return calls for comment on the closure.

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

South Dakota farmers' crops being damaged by dicamba drifts

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS** Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota farmer takes a snap of his crops and adds the temperature, wind conditions, date and other details into the text fields on his Snapchat app.

It's part of Austin Schuelke's record-keeping process. The Groton man fielded a phone call in mid-April while monitoring drainage pumps in his soggy fields. When it comes to crops, his mantra is document, document, document.

"I just take pictures with my phone, my Snapchat app, then type in the dates, what I saw for an observation. That's how I was using it," he told the Aberdeen American News.

The records helped when he noticed a patch of soybeans didn't look so good in mid-summer 2017. He had a hunch they'd been caught in a drift of dicamba, a herbicide that will destroy a crop that hasn't been modified to be resistant to the chemical.

"I gave those (records) to the state investigator, the liability insurance, then Monsanto came out, too. They have a regional or district rep," Schuelke said.

Using his own records and the Dicamba Damage Survey, he filed a claim. Farmers can find the damage survey on the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's website, sdda.sd.gov.

Dicamba damage claims jumped in 2017. The uptick was in line with the release of a new modulation of the herbicide. It takes out broadleaf weeds found in South Dakota croplands like kochia, waterhemp and Palmer amaranth and is applied over soybeans by a spray rig. Dicamba does the job as long as it's married with dicamba-resistant soybeans, the correct nozzles, the exact rate of application and the right weather conditions. Those are all required per label instructions.

One farmer's superhero crop — a good yield with nary a broadleaf weed — is another's kryptonite. Schuelke's soybeans weren't dicamba tolerant. He saw the leaves changing in his 240 acres of soybeans near Verdon in southeastern Brown County.

Their leaves had turned up and in, as if hands folded in prayer. That is called cupping. It can happen for a number of reasons, but is generally a telltale sign of herbicide poisoning, according to Schuelke.

Such crop losses are tough to take as the ag economy continues to struggle.

Samples confirmed dicamba poisoning. Schuelke filed a claim with the Department of Agriculture's Division of Agricultural Services. It's up to the division to follow up on claims of crop damage with adjacent farmers and applicators since it's the branch that facilitates applicator certifications for dicamba and other herbicides or pesticides.

In May 2018, Schuelke got a letter back from the Agricultural Services Division. Boiled down, it noted that Schuelke's crop had been damaged by off-label use of the herbicide dicamba.

The kick in the Carhartts was that no further action would be taken, according to the letter, and Schuelke's case had been closed. The letter is dated May 7, 2018, but he keeps it handy.

"It's sitting on my desk. Every time I think about it, it angers me," Schuelke said.

On April 17 of this year, he saw the letter and vented on his soapbox of choice, Twitter. His tweets drummed up a bit of dialogue with South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke, who also farms in Brown County.

The applicator's Farmers Union Insurance policy denied coverage of Schuelke's damaged soybeans. Liability

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 15 of 52

only covers damage to one's own crops. The exchange is now a ghost of tweets past, long since deleted.

The men say they go way back, as several-generations farmers do in these parts. They attend the same church. Mostly it was a venting on Schuelke's part. The discourse stopped short before it embraced a full-on "dance with the media devil," as Schuelke taunted at the end of one tweet.

Sombke understands his frustration. Essentially, all the letter gives Schuelke is validation and documentation if he wants to follow up with a civil lawsuit — potentially adding to his loss in the form of attorney costs and court fees.

The state could have taken action. A few options are set out in state law.

"It could be anywhere from a monetary fine to a formal warning letter. In 25% of the cases we take some kind of action," said Tom Gere, assistant director for the Division of Agricultural Services.

But there is no requirement for Agricultural Services to take action against violators, said Maggie Stensaas, communication officer for the division.

"Our policy is to take action when a violation has been proven. At the minimum that action may be to issue a warning," she said in a series of questions submitted by the American News.

Gere didn't get into Schuelke's specific claim.

"What we focus on is the label and the pesticides that were used. 2017 was probably the peak (for claims). In 2018 we got half as many issues. When the products first came out, there were some unknowns," Gere said.

In 2017, new formulas of dicamba were introduced: Engenia from BASF Agriculture Global; FeXapan from DuPont; XtendiMax with VaporGrip from Monsanto — the latter being the one that dinged Schuelke's nonresistant beans.

"Prior to the 2017 season, the SDDA typically handled 50 drift cases or less annually. In 2017, the SDDA drift investigations increased dramatically," Stensaas said.

There were about 150 drift cases in 2017.

Dicamba is highly susceptible to vapor drift, and vapor drift occurs readily during what's called an inversion. When it happens, dicamba can evaporate from the ground back into the low layer of atmosphere and drift.

"It can occur two to three days after application. It's made worse in drought conditions," said Laura Edwards, state climatologist.

In many areas. 2017 was a dry year.

"Temperature inversions are very common during the typical spray season of May to July. Our South Dakota Mesonet data shows that as much as 20 to 25 days per month — 70 to 80% of the time — can have temperature inversions that develop in the evening and overnight hours until morning," Edwards said.

Mesonet, found online at climate.sdstate.edu, is a tool from the state Extension office that helps chemical applicators predict when there's more potential for an inversion that could cause vapor drift.

The website also helps farmers and others investigate claims by using historical data.

While drifting from a neighbor's field can cause crop damage, conversations between those same neighbors can help avoid it. Talking about what, when and where there will be spraying can stave off potential issues.

If multiple surrounding farms are using dicamba, it can sometimes be hard to tell where damage to intolerant crops came from and the Division of Agricultural Services might have to investigate.

If a claimant receives an open-and-closed letter like Schuelke's, he or she might have to consider filing multiple civil lawsuits to be compensated for losses.

Craig Schaunaman of rural Aberdeen has also seen his crops damaged by vapor drift.

"We had alfalfa that got drifted on. In the alfalfa, we weren't sure what was going on. We did testing. That was in 2017. In 2018 we did have some on beans drifted on. The beans that weren't drifted on, there was a six-bushel-an-acre difference. Our proven yield is about 44 bushels," he said.

Schaunaman filed a complaint with the state for the fields affected by drift. He included his own test results and the names of adjoining neighbors. The state ran its own test, confirming the drift, he said, but

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 16 of 52

no further action has been taken to his knowledge.

Stensaas said the Department of Agriculture decides what action to take in response to violations on a case-by-case basis.

Sombke, Schuelke and Schaunaman agree there are some farmers who can't take the risk of a nontolerant crop getting hit with dicamba damage or any civil lawsuits in the event the state doesn't act.

"Unless you can prove it was too windy (or) something was not right according to label through collection of evidence with your case, you don't really have a case," Sombke said. "The only way to get that information is to sue to get it. I think that's wrong. We insure people to help them, not just to hang them out to dry. There needs to be something to address that from the state and also from the insurance side."

"The biggest thing in South Dakota, we take a hands-off approach to the dicamba issue. That's where the problems lie. (The state) is failing to do that right now," he said

Sombke said he took a \$50,000 hit from a dicamba-damaged crop.

The potential risk can leave farmers with few options.

"I think the biggest thing is guys said, 'I'm going to plant (dicamba-tolerant soybeans) just so mine don't get damage.' So they knuckled under the pressure of the industry," Sombke said.

Even with best-laid plans, things can be difficult with dicamba, which works perfectly in perfect conditions, but can also cause problems.

Sombke said he's been through training, and it ultimately comes down to "human judgement, human error." Claims decreased with implemented dicamba-specific training in 2018 — the number dropped to 90 from the 2017 spike, Stensaas said.

Thousands of dollars have been lost, and most farmers will just have to absorb that hit at a time when market prices are low.

Some are looking at rotating in sunflowers, and others will play the risk of non-GMO crops. But Schuelke has a feeling that if enough farmers' claims aren't satisfied concerning damage caused by dicamba drift, there could be a bigger dispute in the future.

"I think there's an outside chance in the next few years," he said. "I think there could be a class action lawsuit some day."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Sturgis graduate to pilot classroom for autistic students

By **DEB HOLLAND Black Hills Pioneer**

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Makenzie Skovlund likes a challenge. The recent Black Hills State University graduate from Sturgis will spend a portion of her summer preparing for the first-of-its-kind classroom for students with autism in the Meade School District.

"Students with autism require a unique learning environment. They learn in different ways," Skovlund said to the Black Hills Pioneer. "I'm super excited. It will certainly be a challenge, but I'm looking forward to taking this on."

Chrissy Peterson, director of the Meade School District Special Services Department, said in the last couple of years, the number of children with autism in the district has tripled.

"They are the most unique wonderful people, but right now we have 34 identified, and not one of them is the same.

The only thing the same is their diagnosis," she said.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication. According to the Centers for Disease Control, autism affects an estimated 1 in 59 children in the United States today.

Some of the 34 children with autism in the district are mainstreamed into general education classes, and others are in special education resource classrooms.

"We have a handful that have been served by Black Hills Special Services because we have not been

equipped to serve them properly," Peterson said. The new autism classroom, which will be located at Sturgis Elementary School, is a pilot program.

"We will start out with four beautiful kindergarten through second-grade boys. It will be based on a total visual environment," Peterson said. Skovlund has named her classroom STRIVE — Structured Teaching Reinforced In a Visual Environment.

For students with autism, the more the instructor talks, the more agitated they can become.

"Educators and moms love to talk, but for these students, the fewer words the better. We plan to use visual representations to help them get through their day," Peterson said.

Skovlund, whose mom is a special education teacher, did her student teaching with Amy Conover, a special education teacher at Sturgis Elementary School. "Working with Amy really sealed the deal that this was what I wanted to do," said Skovlund, a 2015 Sturgis Brown High School graduate.

Taking on the STRIVE classroom is Skovlund's way of advocating for students with autism.

"I want them to get the best education they deserve," she said. "My goal for them is to provide the tools they need to eventually become more a part of their general education classroom and be an active member with their peers." Students with autism thrive on routine and structure, Skovlund said. She hopes to provide that in her classroom.

"When you're in the classroom every day, you realize there is so much that impacts student learning," she said. "The biggest thing I realized is that it doesn't always matter what's in your lesson plan. If the child is having a bad day, they just need their teacher to be there for them, to give them a hug, and to encourage them."

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

Former Presentation athlete becoming an admissions counselor

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — By the time Cortni Mendoza walked across the stage at graduation, she already had her own office at Presentation College.

Mendoza graduated May 4 with a degree in communications and a minor in psychology and sports psychology, but had started working in the Presentation College admissions department about two months before. She also logged a semester as an intern in the department.

Originally from El Centro, Calif., Mendoza said she came to Presentation with her stepsister, Kassi Orozco, to play softball and earn a degree.

"That was a major deal for me," Mendoza told the Aberdeen American News.

They liked Presentation and Aberdeen because of its small size, she said.

"We could tell that the community was overall good, the campus, everybody was really friendly, they told us about the class sizes and you get a lot of one-on-one learning and teaching, so that kind of sold us," Mendoza said. "We don't have to deal with 300 kids in one classroom and maybe be lost."

After graduation, Orozco headed back to California, and Mendoza stayed in Aberdeen.

"She's kind of had a difficult time with it," Mendoza said in May. "She's like, 'I don't want to leave you, I don't want to leave my friends.' This is all we've known for four years, it'll be a little bit different, but I'm sure she'll be fine."

But Mendoza said she's excited to start adult life in South Dakota.

"I think California is very expensive and people are just very busy and go on about their days," she said. "Here, everyone's really welcoming and just curious about you and the kind of person that you are. That makes me feel a lot more comfortable and familiar with the community."

It's not just that first job. Mendoza said she had a lot of adulthood firsts this year.

"Right now, I'm the process of getting my first house. I actually got a house with a couple of my friends who are going to be seniors this year," she said. "I'm actually really excited, I got my first car this year, too. I went my whole college time without having a car, and I just got my first car a couple of months ago."

Before graduation, Mendoza said she was mostly completing menial tasks in admissions as a part-time student worker, but her duties changed when she transitioned to full time.

College admissions wasn't her first career choice.

"Originally, I wanted to go into broadcasting, which was kind of one of my bigger goals just because it's something I'd always been interested in," Mendoza said. "(Admissions) kind of fell into the category of being able to talk to students and talking to parents and just giving them information about why they should come to PC."

The skills she learned in class will be used in her career as an admissions counselor, Mendoza said.

"I'm always talking to prospective students. I get to do campus visits and just let them know reasons why they should come here and want to come here," she said.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Local farmer growing hops for breweries in Sioux Falls

By **TREVOR MITCHELL** Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — In a few months, Troy Grovenburg will be standing in the middle of a rainforest of hops, ready to be harvested and sent off to local brewers.

But in late April, as he stands among hundreds of telephone poles strung together with high tensile aircraft cable, you've got to use your imagination.

It all started when Grovenburg — a former South Dakota State University professor — and his sister Karli Baker decided they wanted to add something to their family farm, something a little different than the cattle, beans, corn, alfalfa and hay that had been raised there.

What they finally landed on was hops, the plant that both bitters and flavors beer.

They started setting up "Herds to Hops" Hop Farm in 2017 and sold their first hops the next year, growing a crop of about 8,000 pounds.

"It's a money sink the first few years," Grovenburg told the Argus Leader. "But we outdid a couple of established hop fields."

They currently grow on four acres and are hoping to expand up to 10 in the next few years.

The plants will start growing in May, winding clockwise up coconut fiber netting stretched between the poles in the field. As they grow up the poles, by late July Grovenburg says the field will be bursting with green, with temperatures getting noticeably warmer as you walk between the plants.

That's when you can start smelling the hops as well, he said.

"Those ones smell just like Juicy Fruit gum," he says, pointing to one end of the field.

He turns, pointing across the farm. "Those ones smell like old socks," he says. "But they'll add a great flavor."

They've sold to multiple local breweries, Grovenburg said, primarily Remedy and Woodgrain — although Monk's, Granite City and the soon-to-open Severance Brewing Co. have also used their hops.

"We've had a really good reception from the breweries," Grovenburg said.

Matt Hastad, president of Remedy Brewing Company, said they'd worked with Herds to Hops for a few months, and said he had been "nothing but impressed" with the farm's product.

If you've ever had Remedy's Stratocopter, a hazy New England style IPA, you've tried hops from Herds to Hops. And Hastad said there are more beers in the works that use the farm's hops as well.

Scott Heckel, CEO and head brewer for Severance said they're looking to create a hazy pale ale and a double IPA using hops from Herds to Hops.

The Cascade hops from Herds to Hops had a high alpha acid content, Heckel said — which plainly means it takes fewer of them to bring the bitterness they want into the beer.

"Any way we can, we try to support those local farmers," Heckel said.

As the farm expands and more varieties of hops are added, Grovenburg says they hope to only expand the amount of beers in which their hops feature.

Even with all that growth, Grovenburg said at heart it's still a family business — his mother and stepfather still live and work on the farm, and other family members help out as well.

And other hop yards have worked with them and given them advice as they start up. They might be competitors, but everyone's still friendly.

It's cloudy, cold and nothing's growing yet — but Grovenburg's looking forward to the rainforest. "It's a fun business to be in."

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

Man gets 17½ years for conspiring to distribute meth

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Hot Springs man has been sentenced to 17½ years in prison for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine.

Federal prosecutors say 51-year-old Laurens Maas received meth from a California supplier, which was later distributed in North Dakota and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Maas entered the guilty plea last June in an agreement with prosecutors and was sentenced Monday.

Law enforcement officers seized more than 6 pounds of meth, 21 guns and ammunition while serving a search warrant at Maas' home in October 2017.

Trump tells D-Day veterans they're among greatest Americans

BY KEVIN FREKING and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday lauded the heroism of American and Allied service members who participated in the D-Day invasion that changed the fortunes of World War II, saying they "are among the very greatest Americans who will ever live."

Trump joined other world leaders at Normandy American Cemetery in France to honor those who died and participated in the battle.

The president described the 130,000 service members who fought as the "citizens of free and independent nations, united by their duty to their compatriots and to millions yet unborn."

Trump also sought to assure allies skittish about relying on the U.S. under his tenure, saying: "To all of our friends and partners — our cherished alliance was forged in the heat of battle, tested in the trials of war, and proven in the blessings of peace. Our bond is unbreakable."

He said the abundance of courage showed by D-Day participants came from an abundance of faith.

"The exceptional might came from an exceptional spirit," Trump said.

Trump was joined by French President Emmanuel Macron, who told American D-Day veterans that "France doesn't forget" what they sacrificed for his country's liberty from Nazi Germany.

"We know what we owe to you veterans: our freedom," Macron said. "On behalf of my nation, I just want to say, thank you."

Trump, who participated in D-Day commemoration in Portsmouth, England, on Wednesday, said in France that America's veterans are the pride of the U.S. He shared the personal stories of several American D-Day veterans with the audience. Many veterans wore military uniforms bedecked with medals.

Following the program and gun salute, Trump, Macron and their wives walked to an overlook above Omaha Beach, the scene of the bloodiest fighting. They stood silently as a bugler played "Taps" and surveyed a map of the invasion. They also watched as fighter jets and other aircraft, including some that left trails of red, white and blue smoke, flew overhead. At the cemetery, Melania Trump placed a bouquet of white flowers at the base of a cross-shaped headstone.

Trump and Macron were traveling separately to Caen, France, for a meeting and lunch before Trump returns to his golf course in Ireland.

At the ceremony, Trump said Americans are drawn to the shores of Normandy "as though it were a part of our very soul." He noted that many of the men who lost their lives here were fathers who would never

meet their infant sons and daughters because they had a job to do.

"They came in wave after wave without question, without hesitation and without complaint," Trump said.

The cemetery contains grave markers for more than 9,300 American servicemen. Trump noted that each marker has been adopted by a French family and that people come from all over France to "look after our boys."

"They kneel, they cry, they pray, they place flowers and they never forget," Trump said. "Today America embraces the French people and thanks you for honoring our beloved war dead."

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Freking at <http://twitter.com/@APkfreking>

Tick tock goes the political clock as Dems weigh impeachment

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The political clock is a significant factor in whether majority House Democrats launch any impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

There's increasing pressure on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to at least start an impeachment inquiry into whether Trump obstructed special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. Pelosi is resisting for a number of reasons. But the tick-tock of time is an inexorable one as the 2020 presidential and congressional elections cast a widening shadow over Washington. As it spreads, the window for launching any impeachment proceedings shrinks, making the prospect of doing so beyond December unappetizing for wide swaths of Democrats.

That reality could limit how long Pelosi can say yes or no to impeachment questions stemming from Mueller's report.

"Whatever we do needs to be done in 2019. We need to begin it in 2019. It doesn't necessarily have to wrap up in 2019," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., who serves on the House Judiciary Committee that would consider any such proceedings. "I think when we get into 2020 in the election year, it's very late."

That's the commonality across Democrats divided over what to do now about Trump, described in the Mueller report as repeatedly trying to shut down the investigation. There's a widespread feeling that the House would have to launch any impeachment proceedings this summer or fall, or it will be too late. There's also a feeling that Pelosi knows this.

"I think they want to drag out the clock," said Heidi Hess, co-director of CREDO Action, one of the leading liberal groups that called on Pelosi this week to push forward with impeachment.

Pelosi, the daughter and sister of former Baltimore mayors and a congressional veteran herself, on Wednesday made clear she's well aware of the political clock — and says everything is unfolding as it should.

"We know exactly what path we are on," Pelosi, a member of Congress during the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton, told reporters. "We know exactly what actions we need to take. And while that may take more time than some people want it to take, I respect their impatience."

In line with her approach, the House is expected next week to hold former White House Counsel Don McGahn and Attorney General William Barr in contempt of Congress. More contempt votes against members of the administration will follow.

Cautioned Pelosi in what's become a mantra: "One step at a time, as fast as we can move."

Inside Congress, dozens of congressional Democrats say they want some kind of impeachment proceedings, at some point. But beneath that debate there's a recognition of the march of time and the plain fact that the available days for any such action are fewer than Congress' calendar makes it appear.

The schedule has politicians gaming out when, if ever, impeachment proceedings would have to begin and when they become less likely. The calculus starts with the calendar but also moves quickly into the politics. Other regular congressional business looms, such as the federal budget, nominations and more, including whether Republicans can turn back Trump's threat to impose tariffs on Mexico. Interviews with

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 21 of 52

Democrats inside and outside Congress suggest this political logic: The later it gets in in 2019, the harder impeachment becomes.

Congress is not known for moving swiftly on legislation or investigations. The proceedings against Clinton for lying and obstruction took three months from the time the Republican-led House received prosecutor Kenneth Starr's report to its vote to impeach the president. Nearly another two months went by before the Senate acquitted Clinton, exacerbating what some veterans see as a nearly unbridgeable rift in the country.

In theory, the House could do what legislators tend to loathe: Cancel or shorten its five-week August recess, or its multi-week recesses in October, November and December to allow for impeachment proceedings. But it's far from clear the party broadly supports moving to impeachment in the first place, for now.

Sen. Tom Daschle, who was Democratic leader during the Senate's trial of Clinton, said Congress' role investigating the administration should be the focus in the short term.

"The closer it gets to the election, the more consequential it would be politically," he said in a telephone interview. "From an institutional point of view it seems to me that timing is irrelevant."

Other Pelosi allies see enough time ahead to make impeachment-related decisions.

"I don't think we have a fear of time, yet," said Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, a member of the Judiciary Committee introducing legislation to formalize the panel's investigations.

As for working during recess, she went there.

"We could be in and out and you could still be here two or three days doing what you need to do," Jackson Lee said. "I was reminded that Watergate really broke in hearings (which were) in August of 1974."

Associated Press Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. US VETERANS, FAMILIES GATHER FOR D-DAY HOMAGE

Thousands of people and a handful of surviving U.S. D-Day veterans are gathered at the Normandy American Cemetery in France to honor thousands fallen in the pivotal invasion 75 years ago. French President Macron says, "France doesn't forget" your sacrifice.

2. 'AMONG THE VERY GREATEST AMERICANS WHO WILL EVER LIVE'

Trump praises veterans on the 75th anniversary of D-Day saying 10,000 Allied troops sacrificed their lives for the "survival of liberty."

3. CLOCK TICKING ON IMPEACHMENT

The political clock is ticking toward the 2020 election and that could limit how long House Speaker Nancy Pelosi can say yes or no on that question.

4. TEXAS COUPLE STANDS BY STORY AFTER CARDINAL PUSHES BACK

The Texas couple that accused Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of mishandling a sexual misconduct case against his former deputy is denying claims that they fabricated quotes or demanded a \$10 million payout.

5. TRUMP SAYS NO DEAL YET WITH MEXICO ON TARIFFS

Officials on both sides claim progress, but Trump says it's "not nearly enough" to halt the 5% import taxes designed to force Mexico to stanch the flow of migrants at the border.

6. FAR FROM PARADISE

A Northern California high school where nearly all of the students lost their homes in a wildfire is preparing for its first graduation since the devastating blaze.

7. GERMAN NURSE SENTENCED FOR SERIAL KILLINGS

Niels Hoegel is convicted of 85 counts of murder and sentenced to life in prison, making him what is believed to be the worst serial killer in modern German history.

8. AI AND LATTE

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 22 of 52

South Korean cafes are among the businesses expanding the use of unmanned technology to meet the changing patterns of consumers.

9. WHO ADDED TO COUNTRY MUSIC LEGACY

Carrie Underwood extends her run as the most decorated act in the history of the CMT Music Awards with her 20th win.

10. RAPTORS HIT BIG SHOTS TO TAKE NBA FINALS LEAD

Kawhi Leonard and the Raptors outduel Stephen Curry and the banged-up Warriors, beating Golden State 123-109 to take a 2-1 series lead.

Carrie Underwood wins at CMT Awards, Tanya Tucker performs

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

Carrie Underwood extended her run as the most decorated act in the history of the CMT Music Awards with her 20th win Wednesday night.

Underwood won two prizes at the fan-voted show, including video of the year for "Cry Pretty" and female video of the year for "Love Wins."

"Fans, thank you so much. I saw you guys doing the Twitter parties and getting together and doing your thing and voting," she said. "None of us would be able to do any of what we do if not for you guys. You guys put us here. You guys keep us going. You guys let us live out our dreams."

When she won the first televised award of the night, Underwood acknowledged her husband's birthday (she is married to former hockey player Mike Fisher, who sat in the audience).

"It is my husband's birthday today — look what they got you," she said.

The Grammy-winning country star also performed at the show honoring the year's best country music videos, which took place at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

Thomas Rhett, Little Big Town and Trombone Shorty kicked off the event with a performance of "Don't Threaten Me With a Good Time." More collaborative performances followed: Brett Young sang "Here Tonight" with Boyz II Men, even blending in some of the R&B group's "Water Runs Dry" for the performance. Sheryl Crow and Maren Morris teamed up onstage, while Tanya Tucker — whose new album will be produced by Brandi Carlile — sang "Delta Dawn" with the Grammy-winning Americana singer, Martina McBride, Trisha Yearwood, Lauren Alaina and more acts.

Little Big Town, who also performed and returned for a second year as hosts of the show, talked about the lack of female singers on country radio ahead of the strong female performance. On this week's Billboard country airplay chart — which tracks radio airplay — only 10 of the 60 slots belong to women or songs co-starring a woman.

"Back in December it was even worse — there were none," Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild said. "Here's my question, ladies in the house: 'What do we have to do to get some airplay around here?'"

Little Big Town told jokes at the top of the show and even sang some of "Old Town Road," the No. 1 country-rap hit from newcomer Lil Nas X that was booted from the Billboard country songs chart when the tune was deemed not country enough.

Dan + Shay — who won a Grammy this year as well as honors at the Academy of Country Music Awards and the Billboard Music Awards — kept their year of winning alive by taking home duo video of the year for "Speechless."

Shay Mooney thanked "the real stars of the video" — their wives — when they accepted the award.

Zac Brown Band won group video of the year for "Someone I Used to Know" and its frontman was passionate as he read his speech from a paper.

"For you young artists, have courage to stand up against the machine, be yourself, work hard and one day you can stand up here and tell all the haters to '(expletive) off,'" Zac Brown said.

When Ashley McBryde won breakthrough video of the year, she took a drink from Luke Combs as she walked to the stage.

"I'm always awkward and I usually bring my drink with me, but I didn't have a drink so I took Luke

Combs' drink," said McBryde, who scored Grammy and Emmy nominations this year.

Keith Urban and Julia Michaels — the pop singer who has co-written hits for Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez and herself — won collaborative video of the year for "Coming Home," while Kane Brown won male video of the year for "Lose It."

Luke Combs and R&B singer Leon Bridges — who won his first Grammy this year — won CMT performance of the year for "Beautiful Crazy" from the series "CMT Crossroads."

"First off, my beautiful fiancé Nicole," Combs said, "thank you for inspiring this song."

Online:

<http://www.cmt.com/cmt-music-awards>

D-Day 75: Nations honor veterans, memory of fallen troops

By RAF CASERT and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

OMAHA BEACH, France (AP) — With the silence of remembrance and respect, nations honored the memory of the fallen and the singular bravery of all Allied troops who sloshed through bloodied water to the landing beaches of Normandy, a tribute of thanks 75 years after the massive D-Day assault that doomed the Nazi occupation of France and portended the fall of Hitler's Third Reich.

Thursday's second day of ceremonies to mark the surprise Allied offensive by air and sea moved to France after spirited commemorations in Portsmouth, England, the main embarkation point for the transport boats that carried tens of thousands of soldiers to Normandy, each not knowing whether he would survive the day.

Leaders, veterans, their families and the grateful from France, Europe and elsewhere were present for the solemn day that began under a radiant sun.

At dawn, hundreds of people, civilians and military alike, hailing from around the world, gathered at the water's edge, remembering the troops who stormed the fortified Normandy beaches to help turn the tide of the war and give birth to a new Europe.

Dick Jansen, 60, from the Netherlands, drank Canadian whisky from an enamel cup on the water's edge. Others scattered carnations into the waves. Randall Atanay, a medic's son who tended the dying and injured, waded barefoot into the water near Omaha Beach — the first of five code-named beaches where the waters ran red the morning of June 6, 1944.

Up to 12,000 people gathered hours later at the ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery, where U.S. veterans, their numbers fast diminishing as years pass, were the guests of honor. They shared a giant stage with President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Macron is awarding five American vets with the Legion of honor, France's highest distinction.

Rows of white crosses and Stars of David where more than 9,380 of the fallen are buried stretched before the guests on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach.

Britain's Prince Charles, his wife Camilla and Prime Minister Theresa May attended a service of remembrance at the medieval cathedral in Bayeux, the first Normandy town liberated by Allied troops after D-Day. Cardinal Marc Ouellet read a message from Pope Francis with a tribute for those who "gave their lives for freedom and peace."

At daybreak, a lone piper played in Mulberry Harbor, exactly 75 years after British troops came ashore at Gold Beach.

"It is sobering, surreal to be able to stand here on this beach and admire the beautiful sunrise where they came ashore, being shot at, facing unspeakable atrocities," said 44-year-old former U.S. paratrooper Richard Clapp, of Julian, North Carolina.

Gratitude was a powerful common theme.

"Thank you to all those who were killed so that France could become free again," French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday, standing with British Prime Minister Theresa May and uniformed veterans overlooking Gold Beach.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 24 of 52

They were taking part in a ceremony laying the cornerstone of a new memorial that will record the names of thousands of troops under British command who died on D-Day and ensuing Battle of Normandy.

"If one day can be said to have determined the fate of generations to come, in France, in Britain, in Europe and the world, that day was the 6th of June, 1944," May said.

"As the sun rose that morning," she said, not one of the thousands of men arriving in Normandy "knew whether they would still be alive when the sun set once again."

To the veterans, she said "the only words we can - thank you."

Norwegian Sigrid Flaata drove from Oslo in a 1942 restored jeep to honor the soldiers who died on D-Day. Belgian Filip Van Hecke called his journey a "small effort to pay homage."

Passing on memories is especially urgent, with hundreds of World War II veterans now dying every day.

A group of five Americans parachuted into Normandy on Wednesday as part of a commemorative jump, and showed up on the beach Thursday morning still wearing their jumpsuits, all World War II-era uniforms, and held an American flag. All five said they fear that the feats and sacrifices of D-Day are being forgotten.

"I have all kinds of friends buried," said William Tymchuk, 98, who served with the 4th Canadian Armored Division during some of the deadliest fighting of the brutal campaign after the Normandy landings.

"They were young. They got killed. They couldn't come home," Tymchuk, who was back in Normandy, continued.

"Sorry," he said, tearing up. "They couldn't even know what life is all about."

The biggest-ever air and seaborne invasion took place on D-Day, involving more than 150,000 troops that day itself and many more in the ensuing Battle of Normandy. Troops started landing overnight from the air, then were joined by a massive force by sea on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats.

In that defining moment of military strategy confounded by unpredictable weather and human chaos, soldiers from the U.S., Britain, Canada and other Allied nations applied relentless bravery to carve out a beachhead on ground that Nazi Germany had occupied for four years.

"The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory," Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower predicted in his order of the day.

The Battle of Normandy, codenamed Operation Overlord, hastened Germany's defeat less than a year later.

Still, that single day cost the lives of 4,414 Allied troops, 2,501 of them Americans. More than 5,000 were injured. On the German side, several thousand were killed or wounded.

From there, Allied troops would advance their fight, take Paris in late summer and march in a race against the Soviet Red Army to control as much German territory as possible by the time Adolf Hitler died in his Berlin bunker and Germany surrendered in May 1945.

The Soviet Union also fought valiantly against the Nazis — and lost more people than any other nation in World War II — but those final battles would divide Europe for decades between the West and the Soviet-controlled East, the face-off line of the Cold War.

"The heroism, courage and sacrifice of those who lost their lives will never be forgotten," said Queen Elizabeth, who was an army mechanic during World War II while her father George was king. "It is with humility and pleasure, on behalf of the entire country — indeed the whole free world — that I say to you all, thank you."

Sylvie Corbet in Colleville-sur-Mer, France and Milos Krivokapic and Adam Pemble in Ver-sur-Mer and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed to this report.

Follow all of the AP's coverage of D-Day at <https://apnews.com/WorldWarII>

Trump says progress needed to stop 5% Mexico tariff plan

By JILL COLVIN, MATTHEW LEE and LUIS ALONSO LUGO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Straining to stave off threatened U.S. tariffs, Mexican and American officials claimed progress in White House talks, but President Donald Trump said Thursday that a “lot of progress” must be made to halt the import taxes he is holding out as a way to force Mexico to stanch the flow of Central American migrants flooding America’s southern border.

Talks were to resume later Thursday.

Underscoring the scope of the border problem, the Department of Homeland Security announced separately that U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border hit the highest level in more than a decade in May: 132,887 apprehensions, including a record 84,542 adults and children together, 36,838 single adults and 11,507 children traveling alone.

Trump, renewing his threat of import taxes on all Mexican goods, tweeted from Ireland that the Washington talks would continue “with the understanding that, if no agreement is reached, Tariffs at the 5% level will begin on Monday, with monthly increases as per schedule.”

“We’re having a great talk with Mexico,” Trump told reporters in Ireland before leaving for France to attend a D-Day ceremony. “We’ll see what happens. But something pretty dramatic could happen. We’ve told Mexico the tariffs go on. And I mean it, too. And I’m very happy with it.”

Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said immigration, not tariffs, was the main focus at the White House meeting, which included Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Vice President Mike Pence and other U.S. officials.

“We are optimistic,” he said at a news conference at the Mexican Embassy.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Congress are threatening their own confrontation with Trump, warning the White House that they are ready to stand up to the president to try to block his tariffs, which they worry would spike costs to U.S. consumers, harm the economy and imperil a major pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal .

The Republican president slammed Democrats in Congress, saying they don’t want to fix U.S. immigration laws. He said Congress probably won’t address immigration legislation until after the next presidential election.

“They want to just ride it out,” he said.

A “lot of people, senators included — they have no idea what they’re talking about when it comes to tariffs,” Trump said. “They have no — absolutely no idea.

“When you have the money, when you have the product, when you have the thing that everybody wants, you’re in a position to do very well with tariffs, and that’s where we are,” he added. “We’re the piggybank. The United States is the piggybank. It has all the money that others want to take from us, but they’re not taking it so easy anymore.”

Without a deal, the first tariffs — 5% taxes on imports from Mexico, eventually increasing to 25% — are to go into effect next Monday, and Trump has said that is “more likely” than not to occur despite the stiff and vocal opposition from many fellow Republicans. His goal is to persuade Mexican leaders to do more to keep would-be migrants from other Central American countries from traveling across Mexico to the American border.

Most are from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, countries wracked by gangs, violence and poverty. Many of the travelers are expected to eventually request asylum.

The tariffs carry enormous economic implications for both countries, and politically they underscore a major ideological split between Trump and his party. Trump has increasingly relied on tariffs as a bludgeon to try to force other nations to bend to his will, dismissing warnings, including from fellow Republicans, about the likely impacts on American manufacturers and consumers.

Administration officials have said Mexico can prevent the tariffs by securing its southern border with Guatemala, cracking down on criminal smuggling organizations and entering into a “safe third country agreement” that would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum

in the U.S.

The U.S., however, has not proposed any concrete benchmarks or metrics to assess whether the U.S. ally is sufficiently stemming the migrant flow from Central America. And it is unclear whether even those steps would be enough to satisfy Trump on illegal immigration, a signature issue of his presidency and one that he sees as crucial to his 2020 reelection campaign.

GOP Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin said Wednesday he called the Mexican ambassador to underscore that Trump was "serious" about the tariffs and that it's unclear if Congress would be able to muster enough votes to block them from a presidential veto.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, warned that the proposed tariffs would be "punishing" for both the U.S. and Mexico.

Analysts were not optimistic that the initial phase of tariffs could be avoided.

"Trump has got his new tool and he wants to use it and he will use it ... because it's part of his negotiation tactics," said Duncan Wood, director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington. "Mexico will offer to do a lot more on migration, but they will also say that they will retaliate against tariffs and a lot of people are going to lose a lot of money."

The stakes are clear: The 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement made trade with Mexico largely duty free. As a result, manufacturers have built up complicated supply chains that straddle the border. Americans bought \$378 billion worth of Mexican imports last year, led by cars and auto parts. Mexico is America's No. 2 export market behind Canada.

The back-and-forth could also imperil the NAFTA revamp, which Trump pressured Mexico and Canada to agree to last year. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement has been signed by all three countries but must be approved by their legislatures.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman, Lisa Mascaro, Darlene Superville and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Hong Kong court: Denying same-sex spousal benefits unlawful

By KATIE TAM Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal said Thursday the government cannot deny spousal employment benefits to same-sex couples, in a ruling hailed as a major step forward for same-sex equality in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The court overturned an earlier judgment, saying unanimously that denying same-sex couples access to spousal benefits is unlawful.

"It follows therefore that the 'prevailing views of the community on marriage' ... even if this can confidently be gauged in the first place, are simply not relevant to a consideration of the justification exercise," the ruling said.

Although same-sex marriage is not recognized in Hong Kong, the judgment appears to move the territory further in that direction. Last year, the Court of Final Appeal ruled that the same-sex partner of a British expatriate married abroad was entitled to the same visa treatment as a heterosexual partner under immigration law.

Angus Leung, a senior immigration officer who brought the case on behalf of himself and his partner, Scott Adams, said the ruling was the culmination of a stressful four-year process.

"We understand that it is just a small step for the equality in Hong Kong," Leung told reporters as he and Adams held hands outside the courthouse. "We think that as a small citizen, we shouldn't be going through such a process to fight for such a basic family right."

Leung urged the government to rectify discriminatory policies and legislation so that other couples wouldn't have to undergo the same legal process.

Man-kei Tam, director of Amnesty International Hong Kong, called Thursday's judgment a "huge step forward for equality" that brings Hong Kong "more in line with its international obligation to respect, pro-

tect and fulfil the rights of people with different sexual orientations.”

Tam also called on the government to review its laws, policies and practices to end all discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status, saying, “No one should experience discrimination because of who they are or who they love.”

It isn't clear what effect the ruling might have on private businesses and organizations, although some already offer benefits to same-sex partners as they compete for top talent in finance, marketing and other fields for which Hong Kong is famous. In another sign of acceptance, the city of 7.4 million people is also preparing to host the 2022 Gay Games.

Last month, Taiwan became the first place in Asia to allow same-sex marriage in a legislative vote on a cause that the island's LGBT rights activists have championed for two decades. Hundreds of same-sex couples rushed to get married on the first day the decision took effect.

In mainland China, the Communist Party-controlled government has ruled out the possibility of same-sex marriage without ever hearing legal arguments on the matter and strictly limits the activities of gay rights organizations. Hong Kong is a former British colony and maintains its own Western-style legal system distinct from China's heavily politicized courts. With its large semi-permanent foreign population, the city is also far more socially liberal than the mainland.

Still, Hong Kong's High Court earlier this year refused to allow three transgender men to be recognized as males on their official identity cards because they have not undergone full sex-change operations.

Texas couple stands by story after US cardinal pushes back

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Texas couple that accused top U.S. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of mishandling a sexual misconduct case involving his former deputy is denying his office's claims against them, saying the church is mistreating them the way it mistreats other victims.

DiNardo's Galveston-Houston archdiocese has said that the couple fabricated quotes in an Associated Press story and demanded \$10 million, and that it “categorically rejects” the story as biased and one-sided. George Pontikes said Wednesday he stood by his comments recounting meetings with DiNardo in 2016 and 2017, and called the diocese's response disappointing but not surprising.

“It is another example of a smoke screen designed to cover up wrongdoings,” said Pontikes, president and CEO of the Houston-based construction firm Satterfield & Pontikes.

His wife, Laura Pontikes, had approached DiNardo's Galveston-Houston archdiocese in April 2016 to report that the then-vicar general had taken advantage of problems in her marriage and business to manipulate her into a sexual relationship. Emails turned over to the archdiocese and AP show that while the sexual relationship grew, Monsignor Frank Rossi heard Pontikes' confessions, counseled her husband on their strained marriage and solicited hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations for the church.

Houston police are now investigating. Following inquiries by AP, Rossi's new bishop placed him on leave Tuesday pending the outcome of the police investigation. Rossi's lawyer confirmed that he was cooperating with the investigation but declined further comment.

The case is significant because DiNardo is heading up the U.S. Catholic Church's response to the clergy sex abuse scandal, which exploded anew last year worldwide. As president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, DiNardo will lead a meeting next week to approve new measures for accountability over abuse.

The archdiocese turned down repeated requests from the AP for an interview with DiNardo, with the latest rejection on Wednesday. But it has called the relationship between Rossi and Pontikes consensual, and said in a written statement Tuesday that comments the Pontikeses attributed to DiNardo were “an absolute fabrication.” The statement said DiNardo reacted “swiftly and justly” when Pontikes made the report, removing Rossi from the parish less than a week later and sending him for treatment.

Pontikes says the archdiocese had told her Rossi would never be a pastor again or counsel women.

The archdiocese said the treatment center recommended Rossi be returned to active ministry without restrictions, and that DiNardo agreed to the Pontikeses' request to not reassign him in Houston. In July

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 28 of 52

2017, Rossi became pastor at Our Lady of the Pines, in Woodville, Texas, in the Beaumont diocese.

The archdiocese cited an Aug. 1, 2017, meeting between Laura Pontikes, her therapist and church official Sister Gina Iadanza in which Pontikes "made, among other requests, a demand for a \$10 million payment." Pontikes disputes that, saying it was Iadanza who told her she needed to find something else to make her happy other than \$10 million.

George Pontikes said while he did seek a financial payout to recover the family's donations as well as punitive damages linked to an unrelated business dispute with the church, he "dropped these demands at Laura's insistence." He noted that if they wanted money, they wouldn't have entered into mediation but would have gone immediately to litigation.

Laura Pontikes made it clear that she was not interested in a financial payout but rather for the archdiocese to keep Rossi away from women and take measures to prevent such abuse in the future. Her position is articulated in emails to the archdiocese in April 2016, a written mediation proposal and in a letter to the Vatican as recently as April this year.

"I want to reassure you that I do not want anything from you or the church other than my health and spiritual well-being," she wrote Auxiliary Bishop George Sheltz April 13, 2016, a week after she reported Rossi.

One of Pontikes' therapists, Barbara Levinson, said Wednesday that Pontikes had been traumatized by the relationship, which she said followed the typical pattern of abuse in an unequal power relationship similar to that of a teacher and student. In therapy, Levinson said in a statement, "Laura finally realized she had been exploited, groomed, lied to, taken advantage of and manipulated, and that her priest had exploited her emotionally, physically, financially, sexually and spiritually."

An October 2017 mediation proposal from the Pontikeses asked first for an apology for the behavior of both Rossi and DiNardo, as well as close monitoring of Rossi and five years of therapy. It sought the development of new policies concerning inappropriate behavior by priests "to be more compassionate to those affected." The list ended with unspecified financial amends and reimbursement for mental health services.

In her letter to the Vatican, Laura Pontikes repeated she wasn't seeking money.

"I want my church to stand up in support of victims," she wrote.

Chicago releases 911 calls from Smollett incident in January

CHICAGO (AP) — The city of Chicago has released two 911 calls made after "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett claimed he was the victim of a racist, homophobic attack.

Recordings of the calls following the January 29 incident were obtained by The Associated Press and other outlets Wednesday evening. Both calls were made by an unidentified man who said he worked for "an artist" who he didn't want to name.

During the first call, the man said the person went to a Subway restaurant and "some guys ... they jumped him." The caller said the person was initially reluctant to make the report but that he would speak to police.

The man expressed concern about a perceived delay in police response during the second call.

Smollett was later charged with lying to police. Prosecutors dropped the charges on March 26.

From fire and ash to caps, gowns: Graduation in burned town

By ADAM BEAM Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif. (AP) — Sean Newsom's senior year of high school started with typical teenage pranks, like sticking a cup to the roof of his car with magnets just to mess with people as he drove around his small town in the Northern California mountains.

It ended with him living in an apartment with his older brother and two roommates, working at a tanning salon and learning how to be an adult without his parents.

In between, a monstrous wildfire consumed his home and destroyed the town of Paradise, leaving most residents homeless and scattering its close-knit people throughout the region with little time to say goodbye.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 29 of 52

Newsom's parents moved to the San Francisco Bay Area with his two younger siblings to start a new life.

Newsom stayed because of Paradise High School.

The school was one of the few buildings in town to survive the blaze that tore through the town on Nov. 8, killing 85 people, although it couldn't be used for classes. Of its 980 students, about 900 lost their homes. Some assumed the school would cease to exist, with its diaspora of students settling into new communities. But when a makeshift school opened for the spring semester in a former Facebook building near the Chico airport, more than 700 students returned, including 220 seniors.

They had work to do, work that finishes Thursday when they finally return to their beloved school's football field to graduate.

Together.

The first day in the temporary building, the school ran out of food. There was no loudspeaker, no drinking fountains, no bells. No gym or wood shop. The classrooms were cubicles divided by walls so thin that students in a government class struggled to concentrate while an EMS instructor next door loudly explained how to deliver a baby.

But for students from a multigenerational town with deep roots, the school was an anchor. The students needed to see each other.

"Going back to school has really helped my mental health since the fire," said Newsom, who said his parents reluctantly agreed to let him stay behind to finish his senior year.

Ben Dees was on the football team. After a disappointing season last year, the team went 8-2 his senior year and was preparing for the playoffs when the fire erupted. The team had to forfeit its first-round playoff game.

Dees has had bigger problems to deal with since then.

He has moved four times since the fire, staying with family members and, for a time, the mother of a friend of his mother's friend. He now lives in Corning, a 41-mile drive (66-kilometer) from Paradise. But Dees says he is rarely home. Most days he is with his friends, returning to Corning only to sleep. In July, he will move with his family to St. George, Utah, and attend Dixie State College in the fall.

"I know what I'm going to lose when I leave," he said.

He and his classmates were adamant that they graduate on the football field at Paradise High School like most other classes have done dating back to the 1960s.

"I feel like everybody just wants to get back to the high school. It reminds us of what Paradise was," Dees said.

The fire destroyed nearly 14,000 homes, burning nearly 240 square miles (620 square kilometers). It forced most of the town's 26,000 people to leave, settling throughout the region. To help keep a sense of community, the school organized events for students to go bowling, visit a trampoline park or just get together and play cards.

For their final week in high school, the senior class took a trip to an amusement park and had a picnic at a local park. Wednesday night, Bryan Adams' "Summer of '69" blared from a portable speaker on the Paradise High School football field as students played corn hole and enjoyed popsicles, the sun peeking through what was left of the towering pine trees surrounding the campus. Some set up tents, planning to spend their last night as a high school student at the campus they once knew.

The school's administration has embraced its status as a media magnet. Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard, who is making a documentary about the fire and its aftermath, has sent film crews to the school. After a Los Angeles Times story, a San Diego man donated \$1,000 to every student — more than \$1 million.

The graduation ceremony itself is possible in part because President Donald Trump autographed a Paradise High School Football hat, which Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa auctioned for \$23,000. He gave the money to the senior class, which used part of it to clear the field of debris and clean up the school.

Prom was free. Yearbooks were free. Caps and gowns are free. The senior trip was free. The Winter Formal was free. All because of donations, mostly facilitated by a teacher, Stacie Martin. The goodwill giving inspired Paradise students, who in March raised about \$1,500 for victims of tornados in Alabama.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 30 of 52

"We know how it felt losing a lot of things, and having everyone reach out and help us really helped, so we wanted to give back," said 17-year-old Emilee Taylor, co-president of the school and a graduating senior who plans to attend Chico State University in the fall and study to become an elementary school teacher.

"I'd say we have more good days than we have bad days," Taylor said of the students' emotional health. "It helps everyone all going through the same thing, all talking to each other about what's happening."

Of the 220 graduates, about 80% are expected to attend college, according to Principal Loren Lighthall, about the same as in past years. But it's an amazing statistic, he said, given that most college applications were due Nov. 30, about three weeks after the fire when the school was closed and many were displaced. But Lighthall said it's one of many examples of the school defying expectations, including posting the second-highest math scores in the county and graduating a record seven valedictorians — students who took at least eight college-level classes and made A-grades in all of them.

"The senior class is pretty exceptional," said Lighthall, who also lost his home and has been living in a 1,100 square-foot apartment with his wife and five of their seven children.

Eight of the school's 15 athletic teams won championships this year, including two that competed after the fire: boys' basketball and boys' golf. The golf team included senior Cade Weins, who saved his golf clubs from the fire as he was evacuating, along with a hamper full of dirty clothes.

"I figured I wore those the most," he said.

Playing golf became an escape for Weins and an outlet for his team to deal with their changing lives — or at least to not think about it for a few hours. School was initially a sad place for him that felt more like an obligation than a relief. But seeing people every day, people who had walked through the same tragedy, gave him hope.

"Everybody, no matter what grade you are in, just kind of grew up and dealt with whatever responsibility came their way," he said. "It wasn't necessarily the best thing, but it definitely turned out to not be the worst."

French beaches at dawn set scene for solemn D-Day observance

By JOHN LEICESTER and RAF CASERT Associated Press

OMAHA BEACH, France (AP) — The five beaches are silent at dawn but forever haunted.

When the sun rises Thursday over the Normandy coastline where thousands of men bled and died 75 years ago, the diminishing number of World War II veterans who know firsthand of the sacrifices that were made to dismantle tyranny will remember D-Day and hope the world never forgets.

After Britain's spirited anniversary tribute to the derring-do of the Allied forces that set off from England to defend democracy, the commemoration will be comparatively solemn in France, the country where so many young lives ended in sand and sea on June 6, 1944.

Leaders from the United States, Britain, Canada, France — and then-foe and now ally Germany — will once again laud the troops who stormed the fortified Normandy beaches to help turn the tide of the war and give birth to a new Europe, since at peace.

A ceremony at daybreak will mark the time when the first troops landed. Remembrances are taking place throughout the day at the military cemeteries where countries buried their fallen citizens.

French President Emmanuel Macron and President Donald Trump will look out over Omaha Beach, the scene of the bloodiest fighting, from the cemetery with grave markers for over 9,000 Americans, servicemen who established a blood bond between the United States and its trans-Atlantic allies.

"I have all kinds of friends buried," said William Tymchuk, 98, who served with the 4th Canadian Armored Division during some of the deadliest fighting of the brutal campaign after the Normandy landings.

"They were young. They got killed. They couldn't come home," Tymchuk, who was back in Normandy, continued.

"Sorry," he said, tearing up. "They couldn't even know what life is all about."

The biggest-ever air and seaborne invasion took place on D-Day. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 31 of 52

In that defining moment of military strategy confounded by unpredictable weather and human chaos, soldiers from the United States, Britain, Canada and other Allied nations applied relentless bravery to carve out a beachhead on territory Nazi Germany had occupied for four years.

"The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory," Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower predicted in his order of the day.

The Battle of Normandy, codenamed Operation Overlord, hastened Germany's defeat less than a year later. Still, that single day cost the lives of 4,414 Allied troops, 2,501 of them Americans. More than 5,000 were injured. On the German side, several thousand were killed or wounded.

From there, Allied troops would advance their fight, take Paris in late summer and march in a race against the Soviets to control as much German territory as possible by the time Adolf Hitler died in his Berlin bunker and Germany surrendered in May 1945.

The final battles would divide Europe for decades between the West and the Soviet-controlled East, the face-off line of the Cold War.

Russian President Vladimir Putin wasn't among the world leaders who joined Queen Elizabeth II on the south coast of England for Britain's 75th anniversary events honoring the ultimate triumph of D-Day.

The guests of honor at Wednesday's international ceremony in Portsmouth were several hundred of them aged 91 to 101 who served in the conflict — and the 93-year-old British monarch, also a member of what has been called the "greatest generation."

The queen, who was an army mechanic during World War II, said that when she attended a 60th anniversary commemoration 15 years ago, many thought it might be the last such event.

"But the wartime generation — my generation — is resilient," she said, striking an unusually personal note.

"The heroism, courage and sacrifice of those who lost their lives will never be forgotten," Elizabeth said. "It is with humility and pleasure, on behalf of the entire country — indeed the whole free world — that I say to you all, thank you."

In France, Normandy was awash with ceremonies and reenactments of key moments in the campaign ahead of Thursday's observances. U.S. Army Rangers climbed the jagged limestone cliffs of Normandy's Pointe du Hoc to honor the men who scaled them under fire 75 years earlier.

Elsewhere, parachutists jumped from C-47 transporters in WWII colors and other aircraft, aiming for fields of wild flowers on the outskirts of Carentan, one of the early objectives for Allied paratroopers.

Among the jumpers was 97-year-old D-Day veteran Tom Rice, 97. The American was dropped into Normandy with thousands of other paratroopers in 1944 and recalled it as "the worst jump I ever had."

Like many other veterans, Rice said he remains troubled by the war.

"We did a lot of destruction, damage. And we chased the Germans out and coming back here is a matter of closure," he said. "You can close the issue now."

AP journalists John Leicester in Carentan, France; Milos Krivokapic in Pointe du Hoc, France; and Jill Lawless and Gregory Katz in London contributed to this report.

Follow all of the AP's coverage of D-Day at <https://apnews.com/WorldWarII>

Mexican church leader still its 'apostle' after rape arrest

By MARK STEVENSON and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexico-based La Luz del Mundo church said Wednesday that its leader and "apostle" Naasón Joaquín García, who was arrested in California on charges of human trafficking and child rape, remains the spiritual leader of the group, which claims 5 million followers in 58 countries. It also strongly denied the charges.

"We believe these accusations are defamation and slander of our international director, the apostle of Jesus Christ," said church spokesman Silem García, who is not related to Joaquín García. "His position as apostle of Jesus Christ was given to him by God, and for life, and he continues to lead the church."

Joaquín García, 50, and a follower of the church, Susana Medina Oaxaca, 24, were arrested Monday after

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 32 of 52

their chartered flight from Mexico landed at Los Angeles International Airport.

A third defendant, Alondra Ocampo, 36, was arrested in Los Angeles County and a fourth, Azalea Rangel Melendez, remains at large.

The group faces a 26-count felony complaint with allegations that range from human trafficking and production of child pornography to rape of a minor. The charges detail allegations involving three girls and one woman between 2015 and 2018 in Los Angeles County.

A judge raised Joaquín García's bail Tuesday from \$25 million to \$50 million after investigators conducted additional search warrants.

His attorney, Dmitry Gorin, said he's had murder cases with lower bail and called the figure "outrageous" and "unreasonable" Wednesday at Joaquín García's arraignment in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The defendants' arraignment was extended to next Monday. They did not enter pleas at the hearing, where family members — including Joaquín García's wife and three children — and more than a dozen congregants were in the audience.

Joaquín García answered Judge Francis Bennett's questions through a Spanish interpreter while his co-defendants responded softly in English. His family waved as he walked out of the courtroom before a bailiff admonished them.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra scheduled a news conference in Sacramento on Thursday to urge additional victims to come forward.

The fundamentalist Christian church, whose name translates to The Light of the World, was founded in 1926 by Joaquin García's grandfather. His father also led the church and was the subject of child sex abuse allegations in 1997, but authorities in Mexico never filed criminal charges.

The accusations were particularly painful for a church that has tried to cultivate an image for its law-abiding, hard-working, conservatively-dressing people in Mexico — a country where it claims about 1.8 million followers. Its male members favor suits and short hair, and female members wear veils that cover their hair and modest dresses. There are about 1 million U.S. members.

"We have always encouraged prayer, honesty," said Mexico City church member Ruben Barrera. "Look at the way we dress, it is very honest, the haircuts, the way the women dress. We practice what we preach."

Barrera said that based on his knowledge of Joaquín García's life, he believes the accusations are "categorically" false.

The church has itself been the subject of discrimination in Mexico, in part because it has recruited significantly from Mexico's lower classes and because many in the predominantly Roman Catholic Country are suspicious of religious minorities.

But in the western city of Guadalajara where it is based, housewives seek out Luz del Mundo followers to work as maids, because of their reputation for honesty. When asked why the church has so many well-appointed temples in Mexico, García, the spokesman said "that is because the faithful" — many of whom are construction workers — "are the ones who do the construction."

Around 1,000 worshippers gathered at the headquarters of La Luz del beginning in Guadalajara beginning Tuesday evening to pray for Joaquín García as he was held in Los Angeles. Religious services were held hourly in its white, wedding cake-like cathedral.

Nicolás Menchaca, another spokesman, said the church trusts the justice system in California: "We believe they will do their job and that they will arrive at a favorable conclusion."

Joaquín García is named in 14 counts and Ocampo in 21. Oaxaca and Melendez are each named in two counts.

Joaquín García — who was a minister in Los Angeles and other parts of Southern California before becoming the church's leader — coerced the victims into performing sex acts by telling them that refusing would be going against God, authorities said.

He allegedly forced the victims, who were members of the church, to sexually touch themselves and each other. One of his co-defendants also allegedly took nude photographs of the victims and sent the pictures to García, the criminal complaint said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 33 of 52

Joaquín García told one of the victims and others in 2017, after they had completed a “flirty” dance wearing “as little clothing as possible,” that kings can have mistresses and an apostle of God cannot be judged for his actions, the complaint stated.

“Crimes like those alleged in this complaint have no place in our society. Period,” Becerra, the California attorney general, said in a statement. “We must not turn a blind eye to sexual violence and trafficking in our state.”

The attorney general’s investigation began in 2018, prompted in part by a tip to the California Department of Justice through an online clergy abuse complaint form.

The arrest is sure to prove an embarrassment for Mexico, in part because similar allegations have never resulted in charges there and in part because the church has long had political influence.

“It shows the enormous difference between the quality of law enforcement in Mexico and the United States,” said sociologist Bernardo Barranco of the Center for the Study of Religions in Mexico. “In Mexico, unfortunately, there is an innate protection for clergy, not just for the Luz del Mundo.”

In May, an opera concert at Palacio de Bellas Artes, the main cultural venue in Mexico, generated controversy because in some places it was presented as a tribute to Joaquin García. Critics said a secular state such as Mexico should not use a public place for that purpose.

The work, “The Guardian of the Mirror,” was broadcast on social networks and screened outside the Palace, with the church’s followers in the audience.

La Luz del Mundo denied that it was an homage and said the opinions expressed in social networks were not promoted by the institution.

Mexico’s former ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, the PRI, long supported Luz del Mundo as a counterweight to the Roman Catholic Church, whose followers led an armed uprising against anti-clerical laws in the 1920s.

That relationship cooled after the PRI became friendlier with the Catholic church between 2012 and 2018, but new leftist President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has shown more openness to protestant and evangelical churches than his predecessors. He took office late last year.

Asked about the arrest on Wednesday, Lopez Obrador said “we didn’t know, or at least authorities didn’t have information, about what was made public yesterday,” adding “my conscience is clear.”

Dazio reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writer Rogelio Navarro in Guadalajara, Mexico, contributed to this report.

Feds: No more education, legal services for immigrant kids

By ASTRID GALVAN and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The federal government has stopped paying for English-language courses and legal services at facilities that hold immigrant children around the country, imposing budget cuts it says are necessary at a time when record numbers of unaccompanied children are arriving at the border.

The Health and Human Services department notified shelters around the country last week that it was not going to reimburse them for teachers’ pay or other costs such as legal services or recreational equipment. The move appears to violate a legal settlement known as the Flores agreement that requires the government to provide education and recreational activities to immigrant children in its care.

But the agency says it doesn’t have the funding to provide those services as it deals with a soaring number of children coming to the U.S., largely from Central America.

It’s now up to the various nonprofit and private organizations run facilities for the children to cover the cost of teachers, supplies, legal services and even recreational activities and equipment — if they can, or choose to.

BCFS, a nonprofit provider in several Texas cities, said in a statement that it would continue providing services because not doing so would violate state licensing standards. It said it will use emergency funding from its parent organization.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 34 of 52

"The health and well-being of those in our care are of the utmost importance and we hope there is a rapid resolution to this funding issue," spokeswoman Evy Ramos said.

The government says it currently has 13,200 children in its care, and more are coming. The Border Patrol said Wednesday that 11,500 children crossed the border without a parent just last month. The kids are transferred to the care of Health and Human Services after the Border Patrol processes them. Health and Human Services contracts out their care and housing to nonprofits and private companies.

"As we have said, we have a humanitarian crisis at the border brought on by a broken immigration system that is putting tremendous strain (on the agency)," spokeswoman Evelyn Stauffer said. "Additional resources are urgently required to meet the humanitarian needs created by this influx - to both sustain critical child welfare and release operations and increase capacity."

Health and Human Services is seeking nearly \$3 million in emergency funding to cover more beds and provide basic care.

An official at one of the shelter providers said the government notified them on May 30 that they wouldn't be reimbursing costs of providing education and other activities. The providers pay for things like teacher salary upfront and are then reimbursed by the government.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter, said his employer was scrambling to figure out how it would cover the cost of teachers. The provider hasn't laid anyone off, but worries about children who desperately need to learn English and be intellectually stimulated.

Advocates are also worried about the ramifications of cutting recreational activities. Funding cuts may result in physical education coordinators from being let go and in a lack of adults who can supervise children playing outside.

"The kids are inside 23 hours, and the hour they spend outside is a real lifeline for them," said J.J. Muligan, an attorney at the Immigration Law Clinic at University of California, Davis, who has visited and spoken to many of the children at the facilities. "Most of them come from Latin American countries where soccer is king, so the ability to play with their friends really brings them joy in dark circumstances."

In a memo to staff obtained by The Associated Press, Southwest Key interim CEO Joella Brooks said she was working with the government to figure out why the funding had ended and how it can continue to offer the services. Southwest Key is a nonprofit and the largest provider of shelters for immigrant children.

"In the meantime, remember the service, encouragement and compassion you provide to these youth every day matters a great deal. Please continue to stay focused on taking good care of them," Brooks wrote to her staff.

U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Arizona, was critical of the cuts.

"By eliminating English classes and legal aid that are critical to ensuring children successfully navigate the asylum process, the Trump Administration is essentially condemning children to prison and throwing away the key until their imminent deportation," Grijalva, who represents a district on the border, said in a statement.

Gomez Licon reported from Miami. Associated Press journalist John Mone contributed to this report.

Fiat Chrysler says French politics ended Renault merger

By ANGELA CHARLTON and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Fiat Chrysler abruptly withdrew an offer to merge with French automaker Renault late Wednesday, a shocking reversal of a deal that could have reshaped the global auto industry.

The Italian-American automaker blamed its move on France's government, saying that the country's political climate would stop the tie-up from being successful. The government owns 15% of Renault and would have had to approve the merger.

"It has become clear that the political conditions in France do not currently exist for such a combination to proceed successfully," Fiat Chrysler said in a statement. "FCA will continue to deliver on its commitments

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 35 of 52

through the implementation of its independent strategy.”

Officials on each side blamed the other for making demands that caused the deal to fall apart with little hope of revival. The moves came on a tumultuous day in which FCA and the government reached a tentative deal on merger terms but it was scuttled later as Groupe Renault’s board met for six hours outside of Paris. The board postponed any action on the merger at the government’s request, Renault said.

Fiat Chrysler proposed the 50-50 merger in late May, saying it would save more than 5 billion euros (\$5.62 billion) per year in purchasing expenses and costs developing autonomous and electric vehicles. The combined company would have produced some 8.7 million vehicles a year, more than General Motors and trailing only Volkswagen and Toyota. The merger would have created the world’s third-largest automaker worth almost \$40 billion.

Nissan, which has a longtime alliance with Renault, expressed reservations about the deal. But if it had gone along, it would have created the world’s biggest auto company.

Most analysts praised the combination, saying each side bought strengths that covered up the other’s weaknesses. Now, the two companies apparently must find a new way to address any shortcomings at a time when the auto industry is in the midst of a global sales slowdown and facing enormous expenses to develop future technologies.

“FCA clearly saw too many obstacles, primarily Nissan’s reluctance,” said Kelley Blue Book Executive Publisher Karl Brauer. “Given the longstanding relationship between Renault and Nissan, it’s hard to imagine the merger working without Nissan’s full support.”

The scuttled deal won’t stop consolidation talks from continuing in the auto industry, Brauer said.

A person with ties to Fiat Chrysler said the talks were going great until the government got involved, continuing to push job security and other demands even after the initial deal was reached. The person didn’t want to be identified because details were not included in the company’s official statement. The person said Renault and its alliance partners Nissan and Mitsubishi, were “all in” on the deal.

But a French government official gave a different take, saying its demands were made public early on and did not change. The government sought guarantees that no French factories would be closed and no jobs would be lost. It also wanted support from Nissan and parity in corporate governance between Fiat Chrysler and Renault, said the person, who also requested anonymity because the government had yet to make an official statement.

Fiat Chrysler abruptly yanked its offer after the government said it wanted to wait until Tuesday to make a decision so it could meet in Japan with Nissan representatives, the person said.

The French government had said previously that it also wanted investment assurances, a seat on the merged entity’s board, and for the operational headquarters of the merged company to be in France.

Earlier Wednesday, France’s finance minister said the car companies shouldn’t rush into a merger.

“Let’s take the time to do things well,” Bruno Le Maire said on BFM television. “We want this merger, but we don’t want it under just any conditions.”

The negotiations come as the French government is struggling to contain fallout from new job cuts announced by General Electric in France.

Renault’s powerful CGT union is against a Fiat Chrysler merger, fearing the loss of jobs and arguing the proposal undervalues Renault and bails out Fiat.

The merger could have also threatened Renault’s troubled alliance with Nissan and Mitsubishi. Nissan had no comment Wednesday on the collapsed deal.

Krisher reported from Detroit. Yuri Kageyama contributed from Tokyo.

Trump, Irish prime minister differ on Brexit, meeting venue

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

SHANNON, Ireland (AP) — For the backdrop to his first official visit to Ireland, President Donald Trump wanted to promote his golf course on the nation’s rocky west coast. The Irish government countered with

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 36 of 52

the grand staging of an ancient castle.

In the end, neither side got what they wanted. The compromise location for Trump's meeting Wednesday with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar was the VIP lounge at Shannon Airport, just down the hallway from the food court and duty-free shop.

And the meeting itself was more than just a warm handshake for the cameras, as the two broke sharply on what would be best for Ireland if the United Kingdom were to leave the European Union.

Varadkar has become a vociferous opponent of Brexit, a move Trump supports. Many in Ireland express worry that if the U.K. does leave, a "hard border" will return between Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K, potentially reigniting sectarian tension that lasted for decades and sometimes exploded into violence.

"Probably you'll ask me about Brexit because I just left some very good people who are very involved with Brexit, as you know," Trump said in the leaders' meeting. "And I think it will all work out very well, and also for you with your wall, your border."

Varadkar quickly retorted, "I think one thing we want to avoid, of course, is a wall or border between us."

"I think you do, I think you do," Trump responded. "The way it works now is good, you want to try and to keep it that way. I know that's a big point of contention with respect to Brexit. I'm sure it's going to work out very well. I know they're focused very heavily on it."

Trump also has one other stop during his two days in Ireland, and it's not the capital of Dublin or the famed Cliffs of Moher. Rather, it's his own golf course in Doonbeg, where he will sleep for two nights amid the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

The White House initially proposed that Trump meet Varadkar at the course, as part of the president's unprecedented blending of government affairs and business advertising. But the Taoiseach's office balked and proposed a more historic site before settling on Shannon.

Trump denied Wednesday that he was simply trying to tout his golf course.

"This trip is really about great relationships that we have with the U.K. and I really wanted to do this stop in Ireland," he said when asked about Doonbeg. "It was very important to me because of the relationship I have with the people and with your prime minister."

The airport lounge was hardly the usual setting for a first meeting of two heads of state, though Shannon Airport does boast of the world's first duty-free shop. It also is a regular stopover for American officials on international flights, since its location on the eastern edge of the Atlantic Ocean makes it an ideal refueling spot for far-flung trips.

Trump arrived Wednesday after participating in a multinational ceremony in Portsmouth, Great Britain, which followed his two-day United Kingdom state visit in London. On Thursday, he'll commute from Doonbeg to the D-Day ceremony in Normandy, France before returning to Ireland for another 24 hours of golf and relaxation.

Many presidents — from John Kennedy to Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama — have been hailed as heroes in Ireland, which has strong ties to the United States and is the ancestral home for millions of Americans. But Trump's quick, mostly-hidden-from-view visit will likely earn him little reaction at all.

His unusual, limited itinerary will keep him far from much of the protests that awaited him in Ireland. Though some protesters set up a "peace camp" not far from the Shannon airport, the main demonstration was set to take place 120 miles away in Dublin, where the infamous Trump baby balloon is expected to be flown again.

But the reception in Doonbeg, a village of 262 people, was expected to be much warmer. The president's 400-acre hotel and golf course, which sits above the Atlantic's waves, is a large employer in the area, and many who call Doonbeg home believe it benefits economically from the visitors.

Trump's two adult sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, poured pints of Guinness for locals in a Doonbeg pub Wednesday night.

The Trump Organization has poured tons of millions into Doonbeg since it bought the resort in 2014 but it has yet to make a profit.

The club has been hurt by shutdowns during renovations over the years, but expected to start making

money in 2017. Instead, it posted operating losses that year and, according to unaudited figures provided by the Trump Organization, did again the following year.

As is the case in Trump's two money-losing Scottish resorts, Doonbeg has stunning ocean views but has also, at times, been a lightning rod for controversy. Though the civic clashes in Ireland have not been nearly as nasty as those around Trump's golf course in Aberdeen, Scotland, plans to build a wall to stop rising sea levels were fought by local residents. Environmentalists worried it would damage dunes and a public beach in the area.

The club also wants to build a ballroom, a "leisure facility" with a restaurant and 53 homes for visitors on its property, but has to wait for local government review and approval for that, too.

Losses notwithstanding, the financial trends for the Irish resort appear to be heading in the right direction. Operating losses last year were a third of those a year earlier.

The golf courses are predominantly run by Eric and Donald Trump Jr., who did not take administration jobs but plan to reprise their 2016 roles as campaign surrogates for their father's upcoming re-election bid. The two were also part of a retinue of adult Trump children who were highly visible during their father's state visit to London, helpfully sharing images of their adventures on social media.

Associated Press writers Bernard Condon in New York and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed reporting.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Convicted pedophile charged in 1993 killing of Missouri girl

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — A convicted pedophile who ran an international child pornography ring has been charged with the 1993 abduction, rape and killing of a 9-year-old Missouri girl, after previously undetected DNA found on her clothing implicated him in the crime, authorities announced Wednesday.

Earl Webster Cox, who has been in custody for years because the state deemed him a sexually dangerous person likely to re-offend if set free, is charged with first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping and sodomy in the death of Angie Housman, St. Charles County Prosecutor Tim Lohmar said at a news conference.

Angie disappeared after getting off her school bus on Nov. 18, 1993, less than a block from her home in St. Ann, a St. Louis suburb. Her body was found nine days later in the August A. Busch Wildlife area, which is about 20 miles west of St. Ann, in St. Charles County.

Investigators said she had been sexually assaulted, starved and handcuffed, and that she died just hours before she was found. Lohmar said her head was covered in duct tape except for her nose and that she had tried hard to free herself.

"She was dehydrated, she was malnourished and she was alive when she was left out in the woods to die," Lohmar said, noting that investigators don't know where she was kept while she was missing.

Angie's mother, Diane Bone, died of cancer in 2016 at age 52. Her stepfather, Ron Bone, told The Associated Press by phone Wednesday, "I can't say anything about being happy until he's found guilty."

The disappearance of Angie and a 10-year-old girl, Cassidy Senter, the following month caused a panic in the area. Hundreds of volunteers and law enforcement officers searched for Angie before a deer hunter found her body. Cassidy, meanwhile, was later found dead in a St. Louis alley.

Investigators feared that a child serial killer was on the loose before determining that Cassidy's killer was one of her neighbors, who was eliminated as a suspect in Angie's death.

In late February, St. Charles County crime lab investigators caught a break: They found previously undetected DNA on a pair of Angie's Barbie-themed underwear that was found at the crime scene that matched a DNA profile in a national crime database.

"They were looking for a needle in a haystack without a magnet and still found the needle," Lohmar said.

Lohmar said investigators have spoken with Cox about the killing, but he declined to say if Cox acknowledged knowing anything about it. He also wouldn't say if his office will pursue the death penalty, and that investigators "have reason to believe that Earl Cox was not the only suspect," though he didn't elaborate.

Cox, now 61, grew up in the St. Louis area. He was living in another suburb, Ferguson, when Angie was abducted, but he had relatives who lived near her school and not far from her home, Lohmar said.

Cox enlisted in the Air Force in 1975 but was dishonorably discharged in 1982 after being convicted in a court-martial for molesting four young girls for whom he babysat while stationed at Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany. He was paroled in 1985 and returned to the St. Louis area, where he was questioned in at least two reported instances of child molestation in the four years before Angie's killing.

He was arrested in October 1989 in Overland, which borders St. Ann, after he allegedly had inappropriate contact with two 7-year-old girls. Cox was not charged in that case, according to court records, but the arrest led authorities to revoke his parole for crimes in Germany and he was returned to federal custody from January to December 1992. He got out 11 months before Angie was killed.

At some point during the 1990s, Cox moved to Colorado. In January 2003, he set up a meeting with someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl whom he had asked to become his sex slave. It turned out to be an undercover federal agent.

After Cox was arrested, police seized about 45,000 images of child pornography from his computer and discovered that he led an international online child pornography ring known as the "Shadowz Brotherhood." The subsequent investigation led to the arrest of about 60 people in 11 countries.

Cox was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Before he was scheduled for release in 2011, Cox was certified as a sexually dangerous person, which allowed authorities to keep him incarcerated even after he completed his sentence because he was considered likely to re-offend. He has unsuccessfully appealed the government's decision to keep him incarcerated, arguing in part that his poor health makes it unlikely that he would re-offend.

Associated Press writer Margaret Stafford in Kansas City contributed to this report.

Trump halts fetal tissue research by government scientists

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR** and **LAURAN NEERGAARD** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said Wednesday that it is ending medical research by government scientists that uses human fetal tissue.

The Health and Human Services Department said in a statement that government-funded research by universities that involves fetal tissue can continue for now, subject to additional scrutiny — although it also ended one major university project that used the tissue to test HIV treatments. That school — University of California, San Francisco — called the decision "politically motivated."

Administration officials said the federal policy changes will not affect privately funded research.

Ending the use of fetal tissue by the National Institutes of Health has been a priority for anti-abortion activists, a core element of President Donald Trump's political base. A senior administration official said it was the president's call. The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss internal deliberations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

But research using fetal tissue has led to lifesaving advances, including development of vaccines for rubella and rabies and drugs to treat HIV. Scientists around the country denounced the decision, saying that fetal tissue was critically needed for research on HIV vaccines, treatments that harness the body's immune system to battle cancer, and other health threats, including some to fetuses themselves.

"Prohibiting valuable research that uses fetal tissue that is otherwise going to be discarded doesn't make any sense," said Dr. Lawrence Goldstein, a regenerative medicine specialist at the University of California, San Diego. "It blocks important future research vital to the development of new therapies."

The government's own top medical scientist, NIH Director Francis Collins, said as recently as last December that he believes "there's strong evidence that scientific benefits come from fetal tissue research

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 39 of 52

," and that fetal tissue, rather than any alternatives, would "continue to be the mainstay" for certain types of research for the foreseeable future.

"Today, fetal tissue is still making an impact, with clinical trials underway using cells from fetal tissue to treat conditions including Parkinson's disease, ALS, and spinal cord injury," said Doug Melton, co-director of Harvard's Stem Cell Institute and president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research.

Last year, the administration announced a review of whether taxpayer dollars were being properly spent on fetal tissue research. As a result, NIH froze procurement of new tissue. On Wednesday, the administration also said it is not renewing an expiring contract with the University of California, San Francisco, that used fetal tissue to create a human-like immune system in mice for HIV research.

University Chancellor Sam Hawgood said in a statement that the Trump administration action ended a 30-year partnership with NIH. "UCSF exercised appropriate oversight and complied with all state and federal laws," said Hawgood. "We believe this decision to be politically motivated, shortsighted and not based on sound science."

HHS says it is trying to balance "pro-life" and "pro-science" imperatives.

Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, said in a statement that the Trump administration has "once again done the right thing in restoring a culture of life to our government."

The Susan B. Anthony List, a group that works to elect lawmakers opposed to abortion, said in a statement that taxpayer funding ought to go to promoting alternatives to using fetal tissue in medical research. The NIH is funding a \$20 million program to "develop, demonstrate, and validate experimental models that do not rely on human fetal tissue from elective abortions."

That idea got strong support from a Republican senator who oversees NIH funding.

"Today's action is a significant pro-life victory," Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri said in a statement. NIH "has directed funding toward the development of alternative research methods that do not rely on human fetal tissue from elective abortions and I remain supportive of that effort."

But the scientific consensus is there is no adequate substitute for fetal tissues in some research areas. For example, to learn how the mosquito-borne Zika virus moves from a pregnant woman's bloodstream into her fetus and attacks the developing brain — and how to prevent that — requires studying fetal brain cells, neuroscientist Sally Temple of the Neural Stem Cell Institute in New York wrote in the journal *Science* this year.

"Despite the president's pledge to 'end the HIV epidemic,' today's announcement poses a direct threat to crucial research to find treatments for HIV and other health threats," Megan Donovan of the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights. "Ideologues should not be allowed to stand in for real doctors and scientists when the government is making decisions about lifesaving medicine."

The government has funded research using fetal tissue for decades, under administrations of both political parties.

Officials said there are currently at least three active federal research projects that involve human fetal tissue, and possibly as many as 12. Among university research projects funded by the government, officials said, fewer than 200 of 50,000 rely on human fetal tissue.

The International Society for Stem Cell Research questioned whether the new scrutiny that university projects will face will follow long-accepted ethical guidelines or instead block the research for ideological reasons.

Aside from the canceled UCSF contract, no university-led programs will be affected for the time being, the administration said. New projects that propose to use fetal tissue and current projects up for renewal will be subject to additional reviews.

Trump sees progress in Mexico talks but 'not nearly enough'

By JILL COLVIN, MATTHEW LEE and LUIS ALONSO LUGO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Straining to stave off threatened U.S. tariffs, Mexican and American officials claimed progress in White House talks late Wednesday, but President Donald Trump declared it was "not

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 40 of 52

nearly enough" to halt the import taxes he is holding out as a way to force Mexico to stanch the flow of Central American migrants flooding America's southern border.

Talks continued into the night at the State Department and were to resume Thursday.

Underscoring the scope of the problem, the Department of Homeland Security announced separately that U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions of migrants illegally crossing the border hit the highest level in more than a decade in May: 132,887 apprehensions, including a record 84,542 adults and children traveling together and 11,507 children traveling alone.

The threatened tariffs carry enormous economic implications for both countries, and politically they underscore a major ideological split between Trump and his party. Trump has increasingly relied on tariffs as a bludgeon to try to force other nations to bend to his will, dismissing warnings, including from fellow Republicans, about the likely impacts on American manufacturers and consumers.

Renewing his threat Wednesday, Trump tweeted from Ireland that the Washington talks would continue "with the understanding that, if no agreement is reached, Tariffs at the 5% level will begin on Monday, with monthly increases as per schedule."

Mexican Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said immigration, not tariffs, was the main focus at the White House meeting, which included Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Vice President Mike Pence and other U.S. officials.

"We are optimistic," he said at a news conference at the Mexican Embassy.

Meanwhile, Republicans in Congress are threatening their own confrontation with Trump, warning the White House that they are ready to stand up to the president to try to block his tariffs, which they worry would spike costs to U.S. consumers, harm the economy and imperil a major pending U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.

Without a deal, the first tariffs — 5% taxes on imports from Mexico, eventually increasing to 25% — are to go into effect next Monday, and Trump has said that is "more likely" than not to occur despite the stiff and vocal opposition from many fellow Republicans. Trump has been seething for months about the spike in migrants trying to cross the southern border and has proposed a series of increasingly radical solutions, including completely sealing the U.S.-Mexico border and renewing his controversial family separation policy.

Most of the migrants trying to enter the country are from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, countries wracked by gangs, violence and poverty. Many of the travelers are expected to eventually request asylum.

Administration officials have said Mexico can prevent the tariffs by securing its southern border with Guatemala, cracking down on criminal smuggling organizations and entering into a "safe third country agreement" that would make it difficult for those who enter Mexico from other countries to claim asylum in the U.S.

The U.S., however, has not proposed any concrete benchmarks or metrics to assess whether Mexico is sufficiently stemming the migrant flow from Central America. And it is unclear whether even those steps would be enough to satisfy Trump on illegal immigration, a signature issue of his presidency and one that he sees as crucial to his 2020 re-election campaign.

Heading into the meeting, which Mexico requested, White House officials had downplayed expectations, saying the U.S. delegation was willing to listen to Mexico's ideas for meeting Trump's demands, but did not expect a deal to emerge Wednesday.

And it remained unclear what kind of deal could be struck with Trump out of the country.

Nonetheless, some Republican lawmakers who have been in talks with officials from both countries were increasingly hopeful a proposal could be reached that would satisfy Trump, or least delay the tariffs and buy more time.

GOP Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin said Wednesday he called the Mexican ambassador to underscore that Trump was "serious" about the tariffs and that it's unclear if Congress would be able to muster enough votes to block them.

"I just wanted to make sure the Mexican ambassador realized" the situation, Johnson said. "If he enacts those tariffs, they're not going to be overridden."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 41 of 52

Offering optimism, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on CNN that there were commitments Mexico could make to avoid the tariffs, which he said "may not have to go into effect precisely because we have the Mexicans' attention."

And Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said before the White House meeting that the Mexicans had "a long list of things they're going to offer to us, and it will preclude tariffs going into effect."

Analysts, however, were not optimistic that the initial phase of tariffs could be avoided.

"Trump has got his new tool and he wants to use it and he will use it ... because it's part of his negotiation tactics," said Duncan Wood, director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington.

"Mexico will offer to do a lot more on migration, but they will also say that they will retaliate against tariffs and a lot of people are going to lose a lot of money," he said.

Tony Wayne, a former U.S. ambassador to Mexico, said the two sides could have a good meeting and reach a deal, but still not satisfy the "wild card" president.

"The tweets have said 'stop everybody' and 'stop drugs.' That would be an impossible task to do in the near term," he said.

The stakes are clear: The 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement made trade with Mexico largely duty-free. As a result, manufacturers have built up complicated supply chains that straddle the border. Americans bought \$378 billion worth of Mexican imports last year, led by cars and auto parts. Mexico is America's No. 2 export market behind Canada.

The back-and-forth could also imperil the NAFTA revamp, which Trump pressured Mexico and Canada to agree to last year. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement has been signed by all three countries but must be approved by their legislatures.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman, Lisa Mascaro, Darlene Superville and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Thai Parliament votes for coup leader to stay on as PM

By **KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA** and **PITCHA DANGPRASITH** Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Parliament elected 2014 coup leader Prayuth Chan-ocha as prime minister in a vote Wednesday that helps ensure the military's sustained dominance of politics since the country became a constitutional monarchy nearly nine decades ago.

The military-backed party that nominated Prayuth won the second-highest number of seats in the House of Representatives in a general election in March. But his selection was virtually assured because the prime minister is chosen in a joint vote of the 500-seat House and the 250-seat Senate, whose members were appointed by the junta Prayuth leads. Two House seats were vacant due to a suspension and resignation.

Prayuth was elected to serve a second term by a vote of 500 to 244 for his opponent, Future Forward party leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit. Prayuth, a former army commander, was the candidate of the military-backed Palang Pracharath party, which holds 116 House seats, as well as lawmakers from smaller parties. Prayuth's appointment becomes official when it is endorsed by King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

"The people are still calling for liberties. The people are still calling for justice," Thanathorn said after the vote. "This is not the time to lose hope. Hope is still on our side. Time is still on our side. I want to thank all 244 people who love democracy for voting for me."

Prayuth made no immediate public comment on the vote.

Prayuth did not run for office in the March election — the constitution enacted under the junta he headed does not require that the prime minister come from Parliament. Laws passed under his government handicapped established political parties, raising concerns the election was not held on a level playing field. Critics also questioned the fairness of the Election Commission, alleging that rules were bent after the election to benefit Palang Pracharath.

The new election laws were aimed especially at the Pheu Thai party, which headed the government

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 42 of 52

ousted by the 2014 coup and won the most House seats in March.

Pheu Thai is associated with former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was removed by a 2006 coup and lives in exile to avoid serving a prison term on a conflict of interest conviction he decries as politically motivated.

The populist policies of Thaksin won him enormous support at the polls but also threatened the influence of traditional power holders, including the military.

His following remained strong even after his ouster, and his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, became prime minister in 2011, only to have her Pheu Thai government also toppled by the army in 2014.

Wednesday's vote indicates that Prayuth's coalition also has control — by a small margin — of the House, necessary to pass laws and approve budgets.

But there are doubts that a government led by Prayuth, used to governing by fiat, can fare well in a parliamentary framework.

"General Prayuth's return to the premiership has gone according to the ... junta's design. But managing a coalition government and a Parliament with a sizable opposition is very different from overseeing a military dictatorship," said Michael Montesano, coordinator of the Thailand Studies Program at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

"If observers are right and the new coalition proves too unstable to last more than a few months, the fear that another coup will pitch Thailand into an even bleaker situation is on the mind of many."

An open-ended parliamentary debate, with the two sides touting the merits of their candidate and the weaknesses of their opponent, pushed Wednesday's vote late into the night. The official result was announced just before midnight.

During the debate, Palang Pracharath lawmaker Koranis Ngamsukonrattana praised Prayuth for his character and his vision.

"He's patient and sacrificed himself so much for the country," he said. "He's the savior who came in and saved the country when all hope was lost."

Thanathorn's supporters attacked Prayuth as a destroyer of democracy.

"Coups are the ultimate crime against the rule of democracy with the monarch as head of state," said Piyabutr Saengkanokkul, secretary general of Thanathorn's Future Forward party. "It rips apart the entire constitution and takes power to rule over the country by establishing yourself as a 'sovereign' with the highest power."

It was a novelty for Thais to see such parliamentary battling after five years of army rule in which there was only a tame rubberstamp assembly.

While the formation of a government will finally return Thailand officially to civilian rule, it will be done under a new political system enacted by the junta Prayuth has led and its appointees. It is a system that critics say is meant to prolong rule by the military and its allies in the conservative establishment, rather than reflect the will of everyday Thais.

The Palang Pracharath coalition was opposed by the "Democratic Front," comprising seven anti-military parties led by Pheu Thai.

They nominated the charismatic young Thanathorn as their candidate for prime minister.

Future Forward, whose platform included strong opposition to military interference in politics, finished a strong third in the March election. Its unexpected performance has drawn it a raft of legal challenges from the military's supporters, and Thanathorn himself has been suspended from Parliament until the Constitutional Court decides whether he violated election law by allegedly holding shares in a media company.

Neither candidate was present for Wednesday's debate. Prayuth attended to official government business, while Thanathorn was absent from the assembly hall due to a court-ordered suspension that his supporters charge is politically motivated.

Doctor accused of murder in 25 patient overdose deaths

By KANTELE FRANKO Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio doctor was charged with murder Wednesday in the deaths of 25 hospital patients who, authorities say, were killed with deliberate overdoses of painkillers, many of them administered by other medical workers on his orders.

In one of the biggest cases of its kind ever brought against an American health care professional, William Husel was accused of ordering outsize doses of the powerful painkiller fentanyl. Many of the patients who died were on ventilators and receiving palliative care. The deaths occurred between 2015 and 2018.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien compared Husel's actions to extinguishing a dwindling candle. "That candle, while there may be just a half an inch of wax left, if I blow that candle out, I'm causing that flame to go out sooner than it would naturally," O'Brien said.

Husel, 43, pleaded not guilty after turning himself in earlier in the day. A judge set bail at \$1 million.

The doctor is the lone defendant. Authorities are not prosecuting nurses, pharmacists and others involved in the deaths, though dozens of hospital employees have been reported to professional boards for investigation and potential disciplinary action.

Husel's lawyer said he was trying to provide "comfort care" for dying patients.

"At no time did Dr. Husel ever intend to euthanize anyone — euthanize meaning speed up death," defense attorney Richard Blake said.

The patients were going to die whether they were being treated by Husel or another physician, Blake said.

The Columbus-area Mount Carmel Health System has publicly apologized. It issued a statement Wednesday pledging to continue cooperating with authorities and making "meaningful changes" to ensure such events never happen again.

The system found that Husel ordered potentially fatal drug doses for 29 patients, including five who might have received those drugs when there still was a chance to improve their conditions with treatment. The hospital system said six more patients got doses that were excessive but probably did not cause their deaths.

The murder charges were brought only in cases that involved fentanyl doses of at least 500 micrograms. The prosecutor said the investigation remains open and other cases are still under review.

Husel was fired in December and stripped of his medical license after concerns about his orders were brought to the attention of officials at Mount Carmel, where he had worked for five years.

Mount Carmel has said it should have investigated and taken action sooner. It has acknowledged that the doctor was not removed from patient care for four weeks after the concerns were raised, and three patients died during that time.

Police Sgt. Terry McConnell said none of the families who talked with investigators believed that what happened was "mercy treatment."

Amy Pfaff, whose mother was among the patients whose deaths prompted the charges, said she still wonders about his motives.

"Trust me, I sit many hours sitting trying to figure out why would he do this to so many people, and I just don't know," Pfaff said.

More than two dozen wrongful-death lawsuits have been filed against the doctor and the hospital system, including one by Pfaff over the October 2017 death of her mother, Beverlee Schirtzinger.

The hospital system settled some of the cases for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

All employees who had a role in administering medication to the victims have been removed from patient care as a precaution, hospital officials have said.

All told, 48 nurses and pharmacists were reported to their respective professional boards. Thirty of those employees were put on leave, and 18 no longer work there, including some who left years ago, officials said.

Records show no prior disciplinary action against Husel by the Ohio State Medical Board. The board will not disclose whether it received any complaints that did not result in action.

The allegations against Husel recalled another Ohio case involving a former nurse's aide dubbed the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 44 of 52

Angel of Death. That man, Donald Harvey, confessed in 1987 to killing 37 people, most of them hospital patients, over the span of two decades in Ohio and Kentucky. He was given multiple life sentences and died in 2017 after being attacked by a fellow inmate.

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of the doctor's name to Husel in one instance, instead of Hussel.

Follow Franko on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/kantele10> .

Can Americans still go to Cuba? Yes, but it's more difficult

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Trump administration's new restrictions on travel to Cuba have made it harder, but far from impossible, for Americans to visit the island nation.

Cruises offered easy, one-stop shopping for legal trips across the 90 miles that separate the two nations, but those appear to be over for now, after the federal prohibition took effect Wednesday. All major cruise lines have rerouted Cuba-bound itineraries to other Caribbean destinations, leaving thousands of passengers disappointed.

Some answers to common questions about the complications of travel to Cuba:

WHY DID THE ADMINISTRATION TAKE THIS STEP?

The Trump administration says it wants to cut off cash to Cuba's communist government to force it to stop supporting President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela. Cuba says Trump wants to reduce Americans' exposure to the country because those who travel here invariably come back opposed to the 60-year U.S. embargo on the island.

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS TO TRAVEL TO CUBA?

Major airlines, including American, JetBlue and Delta, continue to run a full schedule of relatively affordable flights to Havana and other Cuban cities. Most depart from Miami and Fort Lauderdale, but there are daily flights from other U.S. cities.

As far as Cuba is concerned, American visitors are welcomed as tourists, and the country tries to make it easy for them to come. Tourist visas are available for immediate purchase with an airline ticket or separately upon check-in for a Cuba-bound flight. The cost is about \$50 per visa. Cuba remains perhaps the safest country in the Western Hemisphere for travelers, with violent crime against tourists virtually unknown. Even simple theft is unusual.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

U.S. law prohibits Americans from going to Cuba, except for 11 specific purposes: family visits; government business; journalistic activity; professional research and meetings; educational activities; religious activities; public performances and exhibitions; supporting the Cuban people; humanitarian projects; activities of private foundations; and importing and exporting.

Travelers must pick one of those categories from a menu displayed during their purchase of an airline ticket.

Before Trump's latest changes, many Americans came in groups whose purpose was "people-to-people" contact with ordinary Cubans. That category, with requirements that were relatively easy to fulfill through normal travel, has now been eliminated.

WHAT DO OTHER REPUBLICANS SAY?

Advocates of Trump's changes, such as Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, say that Americans should now travel to Cuba under the category of support for the Cuban people.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 45 of 52

The U.S. government defines this as supporting the activities of human rights organizations and other groups that promote democracy and "independent activity intended to strengthen civil society in Cuba."

There are dozens, if not hundreds, of travel-related activities that could be seen as complying with that definition. Cuba travel companies on Wednesday had already begun repackaging tours to make them compliant with "support for the Cuban people," promoting activities such as culinary tours, cigar-rolling and scuba diving.

CAN AMERICANS BE PUNISHED FOR TRAVELING TO CUBA?

The legality of U.S. travel to Cuba has functioned on an honor system for years. Enforcement was virtually unknown during President Barack Obama's presidency, and there have been no reported cases of examination of travelers' itineraries since President Donald Trump took office.

That could change at any time. U.S. rules require travelers to keep records of their travel to Cuba, a journal of daily activities, for example, for at least five years.

Complicating any travel to Cuba is a U.S. requirement that Americans avoid patronizing any business on a list of businesses run by military- and intelligence-linked government agencies. Enforcement of the list is practically impossible in many cases.

Legal experts question deputy's arrest over Parkland tragedy

By CURT ANDERSON AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The arrest of a Florida sheriff's deputy for not confronting the gunman in the Parkland school massacre represents a highly unusual use of the law — and a legally dubious one, in the opinion of some experts.

Scot Peterson, 56, appeared in court Wednesday on 11 charges, including negligence and child neglect for not entering the building during the rampage last year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that left 17 people dead.

In court papers, prosecutors said five people were killed and four others wounded after Peterson took up his position, gun drawn, but did not go inside. Nikolas Cruz, 20, faces the death penalty if convicted in the Valentine's Day bloodshed.

President Donald Trump and others have branded Peterson a coward. But can Broward County prosecutors prove his hesitation to act amounts to a crime?

Legal experts are not so sure and suggested prosecutors may have overreached.

"This is a unique prosecution, pushing the bounds of criminal liability," said David O. Markus, a prominent Miami defense attorney not involved in the case. "While elected prosecutors many times bow to the court of public opinion, our justice system demands that a case like this be tested in a court of law. Legally, this is a tough one for the prosecution."

Michael Grieco, a defense attorney and state legislator from Miami Beach who is also not involved in the case, agreed that prosecutors face an uphill climb.

"Although as a father, legislator and human being, I believe that there is no societal defense to cowardice, the law has consistently and recently held that there is no constitutional duty for police to protect us from harm," Grieco said. "The decision to criminally charge Mr. Peterson, although popular in the court of public opinion, will likely not hold water once formally challenged."

Instances in which law enforcement officers are accused of mishandling a situation are often dealt with not with criminal charges but with lawsuits seeking damages. Several have already been filed against Peterson.

The negligence charge brought by prosecutors accuses Peterson of "reckless indifference" or "careless disregard" for others. Child neglect involves a failure to protect someone under 18 from "abuse, neglect or exploitation."

Peterson's lawyer, Joseph DiRuzzo, said the charges should be dismissed because Peterson did not legally have a duty to care for the students, as would be the case for someone dealing directly with children, such as a nurse or day care staffer.

"Mr. Peterson cannot reasonably be prosecuted because he was not a 'caregiver,' which is defined as a parent, adult household member or other person responsible for a child's welfare," DiRuzzo said. "Mr. Peterson was not criminally negligent in his actions, as no police officer has ever been prosecuted for his or her actions in responding to an active shooter incident."

DiRuzzo also pointed out that the Broward County Sheriff's Office policy at the time stated that deputies "may enter the area" to deal with an active shooter — they were not required to do so.

Investigators, prosecutors and victims' family members tell a different story. Prosecutors noted in court papers that Peterson was trained to confront an armed assailant and, as the school's resource officer, was the only armed person on campus who could have limited or stopped the carnage in a timely way.

"He could have and would have saved lives. So he has to deal with that for the rest of his life," said Lori Alhadef, whose 14-year-old daughter Alyssa was killed.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Rick Swearingen, whose agency conducted a 14-month investigation into Peterson's conduct that included interviews with 184 witnesses and a review of many hours of surveillance video, said: "There can be no excuse for his complete inaction and no question that his inaction cost lives."

Peterson was jailed in lieu of \$102,000 bail. He said nothing at the hearing Wednesday and did not enter a plea. In news interviews, he has defended his actions as justified amid the chaos that day.

"I believed there was a sniper. So in my mind, I'm thinking to myself there's possibly, maybe, somebody up there shooting out. But I didn't think they were shooting at kids," Peterson said on NBC's "Today" show. "I thought they were shooting out at the building. Outside."

Peterson faces a maximum sentence of nearly 100 years in prison if convicted on all counts, a combination of felonies and misdemeanors. Other than Cruz, who is set to go to trial early next year, he is the only person charged with a crime despite a well-documented litany of failures by authorities before and during the massacre.

"There has only ever been one person to blame: Nikolas Cruz," Peterson's lawyer said.

Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/Miamicurt>

Missouri official stresses safety over abortion access

By JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Patient safety takes priority over access to abortion, Missouri's health department director said Wednesday after a court hearing on an effort by the state's only abortion clinic to keep operating.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams spoke to reporters after a court hearing on Planned Parenthood's request for a preliminary injunction that would retain its license to perform abortions at its St. Louis clinic. Circuit Judge Michael Stelzer did not indicate when he would rule.

The health department last week declined to renew the clinic's license to perform abortions, saying March inspections at the clinic uncovered deficiencies. The agency cited "at least one incident in which patient safety was gravely compromised." It also cited what it called "failed surgical abortions in which women remained pregnant," and an alleged failure to obtain "informed consent." Clinic leaders say the allegations are part of an effort by an anti-abortion administration to eliminate the procedure in the state.

Stelzer issued an order on Friday that allows the clinic to continue performing abortions while he considers Planned Parenthood's request.

Williams told reporters that reviews of records raised concerns about patient care. He declined to elaborate.

M'Evie Mead, director of policy and organizing for Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri, said the state is playing a "political game," and that Planned Parenthood has not been advised by the health department of any issues related to patient safety.

"The department, if they have any concerns about health and safety, especially grave concerns, they are obligated to outline them in clear words and say, 'This is a deficiency and it's at this level.' They have

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 47 of 52

not done that," Mead said after the court hearing.

If the abortion clinic closes, Missouri would become the first state without a functioning abortion clinic since 1974, the year after the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide.

"We can never sacrifice safety for access," Williams said. "We have to have both."

Wednesday's hourlong court hearing focused on technical legal matters. Planned Parenthood attorney Jamie Boyer argued that the health department regulations that relate to licensing abortion clinics exceed the authority provided by state law.

John Sauer of the Missouri attorney general's office disagreed. He also argued that an administrative hearing, not a court, is the proper venue for Planned Parenthood's effort to keep its license.

Stelzer ruled Tuesday that four former doctors in training who worked briefly at the clinic are not required to testify at the hearing. The refusal of those four doctors and a fifth to cooperate with the state investigation was at the core of the health department's decision not to renew the license.

Lawmakers in Missouri and many other conservative states have recently passed new restrictions taking aim at Roe. Abortion opponents, emboldened by new conservative justices on the Supreme Court, hope federal courts will uphold laws that prohibit abortions before a fetus is viable outside the womb, the dividing line the high court set in Roe.

The number of abortions performed in Missouri has declined every year for the past decade, reaching a low of 2,910 last year.

The closest abortion clinic to the St. Louis facility is just across the Mississippi River in Granite City, Illinois, less than 10 miles (16 kilometers) away. Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic in the Kansas City area is in Overland Park, Kansas, just 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the state line.

Is there finally more help in the fight against robocalls?

By TALI ARBEL AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New tools are coming to fight robocalls, but don't expect unwanted calls to disappear. Political gridlock could derail bills aimed at beefing up enforcement and forcing phone companies to do more. The companies have been slow to act against such automated calls on their own. And even if companies do implement better technology, scammers and telemarketers will somehow get through in this never-ending arms race.

"We get things working really well. We're flagging all these calls as scams. And then the scammers find a new way," said Grant Castle, vice president of engineering at T-Mobile. "We have to adjust. It is a constant back-and-forth."

Still, there's hope that new efforts from the Federal Communications Commission and the industry should help you dodge many robocalls, even if they won't go away completely. In a scheduled vote Thursday with big implications, the FCC is clarifying that phone companies can block many unwanted calls without asking customers first.

Phone scams have cost victims millions of dollars. And they disrupt institutions, not just your dinner. A hospital in Florida, the Moffitt Cancer Center, received 6,600 calls over 90 days faked to look as though they were coming from inside the hospital, diverting 65 hours of staff time from patient care.

The aggravation isn't limited to scammers pretending to be from the IRS or Social Security. Call-blocker YouMail estimates that about a third of robocalls come from debt collectors and companies pitching cruises or insurance.

The robocall problem has exploded because cheap software makes it easy to make mass calls. Scammers don't care if you've added your number to the government's Do Not Call list.

Yet enforcement against illegal callers is negligible. Federal agencies have fined scammers hundreds of millions of dollars, but it's been difficult to collect. Many of the callers are overseas. It's hard to throw the fraudsters in jail.

As a result, robocalls from scammers and legitimate companies have risen to 5 billion per month in the U.S., according to YouMail. That works out to 14 calls per person.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 48 of 52

It's nearly double the 2.7 billion robocalls in November 2017, when the government gave wireless companies such as Verizon and T-Mobile permission to block some problem calls that are certainly scams, like if they started with a 911 area code.

Wireless carriers are implementing a system to identify faked numbers and have rolled out call-blocking apps. But they haven't done much else, worried about their own legal liability for accidentally blocking calls that should go through.

Rules the FCC is expected to approve Thursday could make call-blocking widespread. But carriers still wouldn't have to make call-blocking the default, and they could charge for it, too — just as they now charge for some caller ID features and other extras.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai believes wireless carriers will have an incentive to step up and offer these services for free.

"These robocalls that are being placed on their own networks are a hassle and a cost for them to handle," Pai said in an interview.

He said he hopes that this measure helps consumers avoid all unwanted calls, not just illegal scams.

That worries businesses and institutions that make such calls. Royal Credit Union, a small Midwestern bank, says widespread call-blocking would make it harder for their fraud alerts and low-balance warnings to reach customers. Customers "expect us to reach them in certain situations," CEO Brandon Riechers said.

Another angle of attack is to get rid of "spoofed" numbers. That's when a scammer fakes the number on your phone to look like it's coming from the same area code you have, in an effort to get you to pick up.

The industry has been working on a system that will ensure that the number that comes up on people's phones is real. That's only beginning to roll out, and to work well, all the carriers have to implement it. There's no hard government deadline, but Pai has threatened regulatory action if it doesn't happen this year.

The Senate, with near-unanimous support, passed a bill in May that would give carriers an 18-month deadline, as well as give regulators more tools to go after scammers. But it's not clear how the bill will fare in the Democrat-controlled House, which has several anti-robocall proposals that go further.

New technology should help fight the problem, but the government must force carriers to implement it, said Dave Summitt, Moffitt's cybersecurity executive.

"We can't do it by ourselves," he said. "We need help."

He believes Congress needs to force carriers to stop spoofed numbers from showing up on phones. But he's also worried organizations like his would have to redo their telecom systems to get that technology to work.

Even when this system does launch, there are issues. T-Mobile has deployed the system for calls between its customers, but it doesn't work on iPhones yet. Old-fashioned copper landlines will be left out, too.

And determined scammers and telemarketers will likely find ways to get through, as they are good at wriggling through defenses. Think of how malware on personal computers is still a problem despite antivirus software. The government's Do Not Call registry has been around since 2003, but Americans still get billions of unwanted calls.

Automated callers could circumvent new safety measures by buying real numbers and using those to call you. They could hack into businesses and hijack the phone lines, then use those to call out, T-Mobile's Castle said. He said he has already seen that happen.

Asian stocks mixed after Trump threatens Mexico tariffs

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed on Thursday as traders kept a close watch on impending U.S. tariffs on Mexico while trade talks with Beijing remained at a standstill.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.3% to 20,832.46 while the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.5% to 2,848.34. The benchmark in Shenzhen, a smaller, more domestic-oriented market, tumbled 1.5% to 1,471.73. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.3% to 26,965.76 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 advanced 0.5% to 6,392.20. Shares fell in Taiwan and Singapore but rose in the Philippines. South Korean markets were

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 49 of 52

closed for a holiday.

American and Mexican officials said late Wednesday that progress was being made at immigration talks at the White House, but President Donald Trump tweeted that it was "not nearly enough."

Trump, who was visiting Ireland, said talks would resume Thursday "with the understanding that, if no agreement is reached, Tariffs at the 5% level will begin on Monday, with monthly increases as per schedule."

If an agreement isn't reached, the 5% tax on imports from Mexico will kick in on Monday, adding to costs for American manufacturers and consumers. The tax may eventually increase to 25%.

It is unclear how the U.S. will gauge that Mexico has successfully stemmed the migrant flow from Central America. The Department of Homeland Security announced separately that border arrests reached 132,887 in May, the highest level in more than a decade.

In other news, the U.S. and China concluded their 11th round of trade talks last month with no agreement. No further talks have been arranged.

On Wall Street, broad gains by technology, industrial and health care companies lifted indexes Wednesday. Traders paid little attention to a report showing that private U.S. companies added the fewest jobs in nine years last month. The report may have been seen as positive in that it might encourage the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates.

The S&P 500 index gained 0.8% to 2,826.15 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 0.8% to 25,539.57. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.6% to 7,575.48. But the Russell 2000 index of smaller company slipped 0.1% to 1,506.79.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude picked up 14 cents to \$51.82 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gave up \$1.80 to settle at \$51.68 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, added 18 cents to \$60.81 per barrel. The contract shed \$1.34 to \$60.63 per barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 108.22 Japanese yen from 108.46 yen late Wednesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1231 from \$1.1221.

AP Business writers Damian J. Troise and Alex Veiga contributed.

'Homework gap' shows millions of students lack home internet

By MICHAEL MELIA, JEFF AMY and LARRY FENN Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — With no computer or internet at home, Raegan Byrd's homework assignments present a nightly challenge: How much can she get done using just her smartphone?

On the tiny screen, she switches between web pages for research projects, losing track of tabs whenever friends send messages. She uses her thumbs to tap out school papers, but when glitches keep her from submitting assignments electronically, she writes them out by hand.

"At least I have something, instead of nothing, to explain the situation," said Raegan, a high school senior in Hartford.

She is among nearly 3 million students around the country who face struggles keeping up with their studies because they must make do without home internet. In classrooms, access to laptops and the internet is nearly universal. But at home, the cost of internet service and gaps in its availability create obstacles in urban areas and rural communities alike.

In what has become known as the homework gap, an estimated 17% of U.S. students do not have access to computers at home and 18% do not have home access to broadband internet, according to an Associated Press analysis of census data.

Until a couple of years ago, Raegan's school gave every student a laptop equipped with an internet hot spot. But that grant program lapsed. In the area surrounding the school in the city's north end, less than half of households have home access.

School districts, local governments and others have tried to help. Districts installed wireless internet on buses and loaned out hot spots. Many communities compiled lists of wi-fi-enabled restaurants and other

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 50 of 52

businesses where children are welcome to linger and do schoolwork. Others repurposed unused television frequencies to provide connectivity, a strategy that the Hartford Public Library plans to try next year in the north end.

Some students study in the parking lots of schools, libraries or restaurants — wherever they can find a signal.

The consequences can be dire for children in these situations, because students with home internet consistently score higher in reading, math and science. And the homework gap in many ways mirrors broader educational barriers for poor and minority students.

Students without internet at home are more likely to be students of color, from low-income families or in households with lower parental education levels. Janice Flemming-Butler, who has researched barriers to internet access in Hartford's largely black north end, said the disadvantage for minority students is an injustice on the same level as "when black people didn't have books."

Raegan, who is black, is grateful for her iPhone, and the data plan paid for by her grandfather. The honors student at Hartford's Journalism and Media Academy tries to make as much progress as possible while at school.

"On a computer — click, click — it's so much easier," she said.

Classmate Madison Elbert has access to her mother's computer at home, but she was without home internet this spring, which added to deadline stress for a research project.

"I really have to do everything on my phone because I have my data and that's it," she said.

Administrators say they try to make the school a welcoming place, with efforts including an after-school dinner program, in part to encourage them to use the technology at the building. Some teachers offer class time for students to work on projects that require an internet connection.

English teacher Susan Johnston said she also tries to stick with educational programs that offer smartphone apps. Going back to paper and chalkboards is not an option, she said.

"I have kids all the time who are like, 'Miss, can you just give me a paper copy of this?' And I'm like, 'Well, no, because I really need you to get familiar with technology because it's not going away,'" she said.

A third of households with school-age children that do not have home internet cite the expense as the main reason, according to federal Education Department statistics gathered in 2017 and released in May. The survey found the number of households without internet has been declining overall but was still at 14 percent for metropolitan areas and 18 percent in nonmetropolitan areas.

A commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission, Jessica Rosenworcel, called the homework gap "the cruelest part of the digital divide."

In rural northern Mississippi, reliable home internet is not available for some at any price.

On many afternoons, Sharon Stidham corrals her four boys into the school library at East Webster High School, where her husband is assistant principal, so they can use the internet for schoolwork. A cellphone tower is visible through the trees from their home on a hilltop near Maben, but the internet signal does not reach their house, even after they built a special antenna on top of a nearby family cabin.

A third of the 294 households in Maben have no computer and close to half have no internet.

Her 10-year-old son, Miles, who was recently diagnosed with dyslexia, plays an educational computer game that his parents hope will help improve his reading and math skills. His brother, 12-year-old Cooper, says teachers sometimes tell students to watch a YouTube video to help figure out a math problem, but that's not an option at his house.

On the outskirts of Starkville, home to Mississippi State University, Jennifer Hartness said her children often have to drive into town for a reliable internet connection. Her daughter Abigail Shaw, who does a blend of high school and college work on the campus of a community college, said most assignments have to be completed using online software, and that she relies on downloading class presentations to study.

"We spend a lot of time at the coffee shops, and we went to McDonald's parking lot before then," Abigail said.

At home, the family uses a satellite dish that costs \$170 a month. It allows a certain amount of high-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 51 of 52

speed data each month and then slows to a crawl. Hartness said it's particularly unreliable for uploading data. Abigail said she has lost work when satellites or phones have frozen.

Raegan says she has learned to take responsibility for her own education.

"What school does a good job with," she said, "is making students realize that when you go out into the world, you have to do things for yourself."

Amy reported from Maben, Mississippi, and AP data journalist Larry Fenn reported from New York.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 6, the 157th day of 2019. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 6, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day" as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

On this date:

In 1654, Queen Christina of Sweden abdicated; she was succeeded by her cousin, Charles X Gustav.

In 1799, American politician and orator Patrick Henry died at Red Hill Plantation in Virginia.

In 1816, a snowstorm struck the northeastern U.S., heralding what would become known as the "Year Without a Summer."

In 1918, U.S. Marines suffered heavy casualties as they launched their eventually successful counteroffensive against German troops in the World War I Battle of Belleau Wood in France.

In 1925, Walter Percy Chrysler founded the Chrysler Corp.

In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater was opened by Richard Hollingshead in Camden County, New Jersey. (The movie shown was "Wives Beware," starring Adolphe Menjou.)

In 1939, the first Little League game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, 25 1/2 hours after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a primary ballot initiative calling for major cuts in property taxes.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1985, authorities in Brazil exhumed a body later identified as the remains of Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious "Angel of Death" of the Nazi Holocaust.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama visited the American cemetery at Omaha Beach in France to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Summer Bird won the Belmont Stakes, rallying past Mine That Bird to spoil jockey Calvin Borel's attempt at winning all three legs of the Triple Crown. Svetlana Kuznetsova beat top-ranked Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-2 in an all-Russian final at the French Open.

Five years ago: Men who'd stormed Normandy's shore 70 years earlier joined world leaders in paying tribute to the 150,000 Allied troops who risked and lost their lives in the D-Day landings.

One year ago: Breaking with President Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan said there was no evidence that the FBI had planted a "spy" in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in an effort to hurt his chances at the polls. Trump commuted the life sentence of Alice Marie Johnson, who had spent more than two decades behind bars for drug offenses; her cause had been championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian West. Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards as a new award for female video of the year gave her 18 wins overall; Blake Shelton walked

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 331 ~ 52 of 52

away with the night's top prize, video of the year. Hall of Fame second baseman Red Schoendienst, who also managed the St. Louis Cardinals to two pennants and a World Series championship in the 1960s, died at the age of 95.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 80. Country singer Joe Stampley is 76. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 75. Actor Robert Englund is 72. Folk singer Holly Near is 70. Singer Dwight Twilley is 68. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., is 67. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 67. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 63. Actress Amanda Pays is 60. Comedian Colin Quinn is 60. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 60. Rock musician Steve Vai is 59. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 58. Actor Jason Isaacs is 56. Actor Anthony Starke is 56. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 53. Actor Max Casella is 52. Actor Paul Giamatti is 52. Rhythm and blues singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 51. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 49. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 47. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 46. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 45. Actress Sonya Walger is 45. Actress Staci Keanan is 44. Jazz singer Somi is 43. Actress Amber Borycki is 36. Actress Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 12.

Thought for Today: "As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being." — Carl Jung (1875-1961).