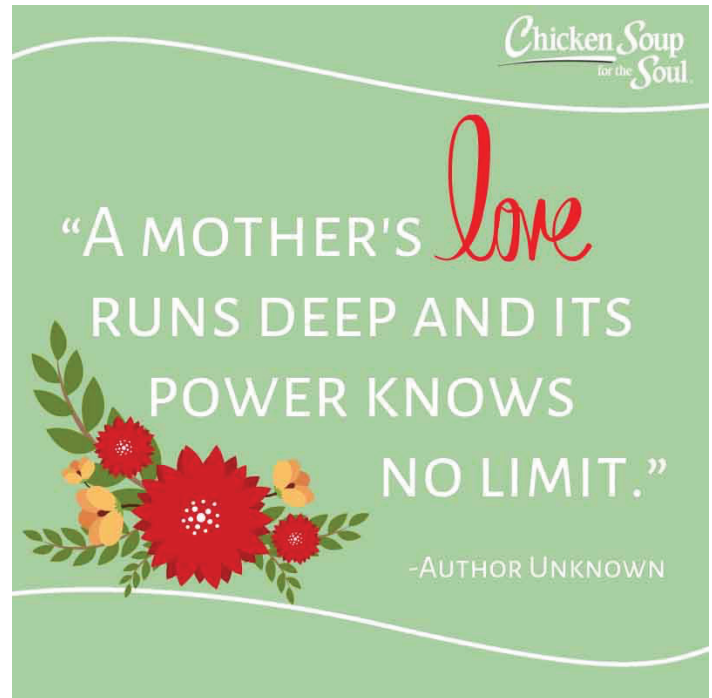


Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 1 of 63

- 2- Game, Fish & Parks News
- 5- SD NewsWatch: Governor to enact reform of youth treatment facilities
- 8- Groton Community Transit Fundraiser
- 9-10: Box Scores from Groton Legion Game with Redfield
- 11- Truss Pros Ad
- 12- Today in Weather History
- 13- Weather Pages
- 16- Daily Devotional
- 17- 2019 Groton Events
- 18- News from the Associated Press



CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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

Thursday, June 13

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Lake Norden, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion at Milbank, (DH)

5:30 p.m.: U12 Midgets at Warner, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees host Watertown, (DH)
s (R,B)

Softball at Faulkton, U14 (DH), 6 p.m.

Softball at Clark (U8 at 5 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U12 at 7 p.m. (2 games)

Groton Transit Fundraiser, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, June 14

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)

Softball at Britton, U12 (DH), 6 p.m.

Olive Grove Golf Course: SDSU Golf Tournament, 18 holes, Noon Shotgun Start.

June 15-16

U12 Midgets at Mitchell Have Johnston Tournament

U10 Pee Wees at Mitchell Tourney

South Dakota

GAME, FISH AND PARKS



Pot-Bellied Pig Captured in Custer State Park

CUSTER, S.D. – A possible stray pet caused a good bit of commotion in South Dakota's iconic Custer State Park (CSP) over the weekend.

CSP staff began receiving reports of a pig near the Black Hills Playhouse on Saturday, June 8th near Center Lake. Park rangers were dispatched and quickly found the animal. CSP staff was unable to capture the animal, but were able to determine that it was a pot-bellied pig, and not a feral hog.

CSP staff members were able to finally capture the pig near the Black Hills Playhouse. It was taken to the Hot Springs Humane Society where it was identified as a castrated male, pot-bellied pig.

"Pot-bellied pigs are popular pets," said Custer State Park and GFP regional parks supervisor Matt Snyder. "When staff first saw the animal, they were able to get within 20 feet of it and were able to see that it likely wasn't a feral hog. At that point we wanted to capture the pig and possibly reunite it with its' owner."

While this may seem strange and innocent enough; pigs, especially feral hogs can mean problems. Across the country, feral hogs have become a big nuisance, taking over and destroying large amounts of habitat. Feral hogs have been found in nearby states and Canadian provinces, including north central North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

While this is considered an isolated incident, Custer State Park staff would like to remind visitors that if they have a pet on the loose, they should inform staff immediately.

GFP Commission Keeps No Wake Zone on Deerfield Reservoir

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission did not adopt a proposal to establish a 25 mile per hour speed limit on Deerfield Reservoir. The "No Wake Zone" restriction currently in place on Deerfield Reservoir remains in effect, meaning boats on Deerfield Reservoir must be operated at speeds less than five miles per hour.

GFP Commission Proposed Change to Sand Lake Refuge Archery Season

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to move the start date for archery hunters wanting to hunt the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Brown County.

Currently, archers may hunt the refuge beginning the third Saturday of October. At the request of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge staff, the Commission proposal would create a Sept. 1 start date, which aligns with the start of the state-wide archery season.

The GFP Commission will consider adopting these proposals at the Fort Pierre AmericInn Convention Center. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held July 8 at 2 p.m. CST. Individuals can comment online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/ or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006.

GFP Commission Keeps Sage Grouse and Custer State Park Antelope Hunting Seasons Closed

PIERRE, S.D. – Following a Department recommendation, the GFP Commission concurred with the Department recommendation to keep the sage grouse hunting season closed in the state.

Survey efforts observed 60 male sage grouse on priority leks and 153 on all leks this spring. Guidelines within the management plan recommend that if less than 150 male sage grouse are counted on priority leks and fewer than 250 males are counted on all observed leks, the season will be closed.

South Dakota's last sage grouse hunting season was in 2016.

The Commission also concurred with the Department recommendation to keep the Custer State Park antelope hunting season closed in 2019 and 2020. Antelope populations are below levels that would trigger a season recommendation.

Custer State Park's last antelope hunting season was in 2016, where three hunters participated.

GFP Commission Proposes Modifications to Rifle and Archery Antelope Hunting Units

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission is proposing to modify firearm and archery antelope units and adjustments to firearm licenses for the 2019 and 2020 hunting seasons.

The Commission proposed the following changes for the firearms antelope season:

Adjust the number of West River resident licenses from no more than 4,665 one-tag antelope licenses and no more than 300 two-tag antelope licenses to 4,235 one-tag antelope licenses and no more than 600 two-tag antelope licenses.

Adjust the number of East River resident licenses from no more than 100 one-tag antelope licenses to 85 one-tag antelope licenses.

Modify Unit 36A (Hughes County) by removing Hyde County.

Establish Unit 38A to include Buffalo, Hand and Hyde counties.

Modify Unit 50A (Mellette County) to include Todd County.

The proposed firearms antelope hunting seasons would be:

September 28 – October 13, 2019

October 3 – October 18, 2020

The Commission proposed to add Todd County to the area where archery antelope hunting would be allowed, and to remove Brule County from the archery season.

Proposed archery season dates would be:

2019: August 17 – October 31, except when the prairie (firearm) antelope season is open

2020: August 15 – October 31, except when the prairie (firearm) antelope season is open

The GFP Commission will consider adopting these proposals at the Fort Pierre AmericInn Convention Center. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held July 8 at 2 p.m. CST. Individuals can comment online at gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/ or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing) per HB 1006.

GFP Commission Finalizes Adjustments for Bighorn Sheep Auction Tag License

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) Commission removed the November 1 deadline for nonprofit groups to submit an application letter for the opportunity to auction the bighorn sheep auction tag license.

The move will allow the Commission to establish a new date to allow flexibility in conjunction with the

bighorn sheep auction.

The bighorn sheep auction license will also now be valid in both Custer County and the Badlands hunting units.

GFP Commission Modifies the Use of Firearms, Archery Equipment in Parks

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission eased and revised some restrictions regarding hunting and target shooting equipment in state park areas that allow those activities.

The Commission actions are as follows:

Uncased weapons will now be allowed in motor vehicles, trailers, campers or boats and when being carried from parking areas to and from firearm and archery target ranges and boat ramps within state park areas.

Airguns are now allowed on designated shooting ranges year around and for hunting as allowed by rule.

The period when hunting is allowed in lakeside use areas and Shadehill Recreation Area is extended from October 1 to April 30 exclusively to September 1 to May 31 exclusive.

Crossbows are now legal hunting weapons in those state parks that allow hunting.

The George S. Mickelsen trail's restriction of discharging firearms and bows on the George S. Mickelson Trail now includes crossbows and air guns.

GFP Commission Decides Not to Restrict Spearing on Pactola Reservoir

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission did not adopt a proposal to prohibit the spearing of smallmouth and largemouth bass on Pactola Reservoir, during established season dates. Largemouth and smallmouth bass and all other game fish species, except trout and salmon, may be taken with legal spears, spear guns, bow and arrow, and crossbows from May 1 through March 31.

GFP Commission Creates Application Deadlines and Delayed Start for Nonresident Public Land Archers; Archery Access Permits for Custer National Forest

PIERRE, S.D. -The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission finalized rules that will delay the start of archery deer season for nonresidents hunting on public ground.

The 2019 archery season will begin on Oct. 1 for nonresidents hunting on public lands or private lands leased by the Department. The Sept.1 start date will remain unchanged for resident archers and nonresidents hunting on private lands.

The Commission also established an application deadline of Aug.1 for nonresident archery hunters to be eligible to hunt on public ground. Any nonresident archery deer application received after Aug. 1 will be for a license valid on private land, not including Walk-In Areas.

The Commission created 625 access permits (125 nonresident and 500 resident) for Archery Unit 35L, which encompasses the Custer National Forest area in Harding County. Archers wanting to hunt in this unit will have to apply for one of these free access permits after they have applied for their archery license. The deadline to apply for one of these access permits is Aug. 1.



Governor to enact reform of youth treatment facilities

In response to news investigation, Noem orders reform of licensing and inspections

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

Gov. Kristi Noem has ordered the state Department of Social Services to enact a series of wide-ranging reforms intended to improve the safety of youths sent to privately run treatment facilities across South Dakota.

The governor's announcement came in response to an investigative report published June 5 by South Dakota News Watch that uncovered a decade-long pattern of physical, sexual and psychological abuse of youths at Aurora Plains Academy, a privately run, government-funded intensive residential treatment facility in Plankinton, S.D.

"As a mom, it deeply saddens me to read the stories of these kids. Regardless of whether a situation happened 10 years ago, 10 months ago or 10 days ago, abuse is never OK," the governor wrote in a statement to News Watch. "I hope we can learn and take corrective action where it is needed to protect our most vulnerable population."

Noem said she has ordered DSS, which has regulatory authority over youth treatment facilities including Aurora Plains, to review and reform licensing and inspection processes of the facilities, to seek ways to improve safety for children, to increase transparency of neglect or abuse complaints and corrective-action plans, and to push state agencies to do more unannounced inspections (only one annual, pre-announced inspection of each facility is done by the state now.)

"In light of the stories of abuse these people have shared, I have asked the Department of Social Services to produce a full analysis on the processes for licensing and inspecting these private facilities and fully evaluate the department's role in ensuring the wellbeing and safety of these children," Noem wrote. "If there are ways to improve our systems – whether that's through added resources, increased oversight, or legislation – we must act. We must do better."

The six-month News Watch investigation included a review of public records and independent injury investigations, as well as a dozen on-the-record interviews with former academy residents and employees and the parents of residents. The report showed that 400 child abuse or neglect complaints were filed against Aurora Plains over the past 10 years, but that the state investigated only 39 of those complaints and issued four corrective-action reports during that time. The report further showed that some employees were needlessly rough with residents, that some employees used illegal restraints and holds, that residents were bullied and taunted by some employees, and that a culture of secrecy and protectionism within the facility allowed the abuse to continue unabated. Several residents were left with physical injuries including injured limbs, bruising and rug burns on their faces. Some female residents reported being touched sexually or having their breasts pinched to the point of bruising.

Noem, a first-term Republican governor, said Aurora Plains was placed under a corrective-action plan by the state from 2012 to 2014 that required improvements in reporting protocols, the proper use of physical restraints on residents, the supervision of youth, the management and training of staff, and emergency procedures. She said the number of complaints filed against the facility fell after those steps were taken.

"Facilities such as Aurora Plains Academy play a critical role to a very vulnerable population," Noem wrote. "My team and I remain committed to protecting kids in this facility and helping these private facilities administer the best care for youth."

In an earlier email to News Watch, Noem wrote that improvements were required and have been implemented at the Black Hills Children's Home, a privately run residential youth treatment facility in Rockerville operated by the Children's Home Society. That facility in February lost track of 9-year-old resident Serenity Dennard, who ran away and has not been found and is presumed dead by authorities, who continue to

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 6 of 63

search for her.

The president of Clinicare Corp., the for-profit Wisconsin firm that operates Aurora Plains, said in a statement that the News Watch investigation was incomplete, and "distorted" the role of academy employees in allegations of improper care.

"Because of regulatory and legal requirements regarding confidentiality ... we are not in a position to publicly address such allegations," company president David Fritsch wrote in response to a series of questions sent to him by News Watch. "That said, the reporting of several allegations misrepresents the scope of the alleged incidents with incomplete accounts that distort the response by staff members."

Fritsch declined an interview request. But in his statement, he noted that Aurora Plains employees were trained in late 2018 on a new form of physical restraint known as Safe Crisis Management, which emphasizes de-escalation and collaborative problem solving.

By state regulation, academy employees are allowed to physically restrain residents only when they are a danger to themselves or others. Former academy residents and employees told News Watch that some employees often used holds or sometimes tackled them to the ground or mashed their faces into walls or the floor. Hard restraints were done for minor violations such as not following orders, talking out of turn or failing to take medications, they said. Some employees would goad residents into acting out so they could restrain them and would then falsify reports to place the blame on residents for causing their own injuries.

Aurora Plains is an intensive residential treatment center licensed to house 66 people ages 10 to 20, with 48 beds for males and 18 for females, according to the facility website. The site refers to its clientele as a special population "characterized by high levels of verbal, physical and sexual aggression."

State Sen. Joshua Klumb, a Republican from Mount Vernon whose district includes Aurora County, where Aurora Plains Academy is located, said he knows and attends church with several academy employees who he said are fine people.

"I don't really believe there is a problem," said Klumb, who noted that he sits on a community advisory board for Aurora Plains Academy.

Klumb said it's likely that people who have alleged abuses at the academy are "disgruntled," and that he feels state oversight of the facility has been adequate. "I think we've got two sides of the story there and I have to go with the people I trust," Klumb said.

State Rep. Paul Miskimins of Mitchell, a Republican whose district includes Aurora County, said he also knows good people who work at Aurora Plains but added that it is clear mistakes were made and that abuse of some youths did occur.

"It is of great concern to all the people of South Dakota," Miskimins said. "Whether DSS needs to step up their game to protect these young people or whether ownership needs to change, I'm not in charge of that. But if nothing happens, then I think action needs to be taken."

Miskimins said greater transparency and oversight of operations and outcomes are needed at Aurora Plains, and he suggested that improved training and screening of employees could help make the facility safer. He also called for more unannounced inspections and more thorough investigations when complaints are made.

"These allegations should be taken seriously and investigated, and probably some changes need to be made in the way things are reviewed and listened to when complaints are made because it doesn't seem that the complaints were adequately responded to," he said. "Those that are pinching and sexually and physically abusing, that's wrong and everyone knows that."

Jessi Dillon, now 24 and a construction worker in Sioux City, Iowa, said he remains emotionally scarred by the way he and others were treated by employees of the academy.

Dillon said he saw physical or mental abuse of residents almost daily, and would frequently hear youths cry out in pain or terror either in his residential pod or from others within the campus. One morning, after a restless night where his medications prevented him from sleeping, Dillon said he tried to stay in bed. Suddenly, he said, two therapeutic-support staff members showed up and physically removed him from his bed.

"Two of them picked me up and pinned me to the wall and slammed me to the ground and drug me out with my face dragging on the floor," Dillon said. "They pinned arms so far behind my back it made my chest so tight it was hard to breathe."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 7 of 63

Lauren Schroeder, the parent of a boy who suffered extensive bruising and rug burns as a result of abuse by employees of the academy in 2015, was cautiously optimistic that the governor's directives would lead to positive change.

"I think it's a start, and while there's something behind words, there's much more behind action, so we really need to see action," said Schroeder, whose son's injuries were documented by police in Aberdeen and at Child's Voice within Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Emily Mitchell, whose son Ender Murray, then 10, suffered a black eye, bruising and rug burns during an attack by an academy employee in 2013, said she appreciated the governor's efforts to reform the youth treatment system.

Yet Mitchell remains angry over the mistreatment of her son and said that it shouldn't have taken state officials so long to listen to and believe the complaints of abuse made against academy employees by residents and their parents.

"I appreciate her taking action, but I feel like it's not enough," said Mitchell, who has pushed for youth treatment reform since her son was injured six years ago.

Mitchell said her son has post-traumatic stress disorder in addition to physical and emotional scarring from the abuse he endured at Aurora Plains. "They abused him repeatedly over 24 months and stole his shine," she said. "They left my child a shell of who he was."

Clinicare, a firm launched in 1967, now operates Aurora Plains and similar intensive youth treatment facilities in Victoria, Minn., and in Eau Claire and Milwaukee, Wis.

The mistreatment at Aurora Plains is not the first time Clinicare has faced serious allegations of injurious treatment of youths at its facilities.

In October 2013, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families revoked the license of the Wyalusing Academy in Prairie du Chien, Wis., after a boy at the Clinicare-owned facility was left paralyzed due to a damaged spinal cord resulting from three restraints by staff.

State records showed that the boy, who had been at the home less than a week, was taken to the ground during a restraint and lost feeling in his legs. Despite his injuries, the boy was restrained two more times as he was moved to an isolation room and left to sleep without bedding on a hard floor. He was not taken to a hospital for more than 24 hours after the injury.

All 20 youth treatment facilities in South Dakota are privately operated, either by nonprofits or for-profit entities, said Tia Kafka, spokesperson for DSS.

Privatization of correctional and treatment centers for both youths and adults is on the rise in the U.S., with about half of youth facilities now run by private non-profit agencies or for-profit companies, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Some national studies and reports have shown that compared with state-run facilities, privately operated juvenile facilities see higher employee turnover rates, less employee training, decreased facility maintenance and increased injuries for both staff and residents.

Melissa Goemann, senior policy counsel for the non-profit National Juvenile Justice Network, said treatment outcomes and resident safety are lower at institutions run by for-profit, private firms than those that are publicly owned and overseen. Government oversight of private facilities tends to be lower as well, she said.

"There's so many negative consequences that we've seen in private, for-profit facilities," said Goemann, who researched studies and reports on privately run facilities for a 2015 position paper for the network. "The private, for-profit facilities in general have a much worse track record in terms of resident and employee safety and positive treatment outcomes."

Goemann said for-profit firms need to maintain a strong, steady population of residents in order to maximize profits, sometimes taking in residents who don't really need to be there. They also try to limit spending on employee training, resident programming and other overhead expenses in order to maintain cash flow, she said.

Aurora Plains is mainly funded through the Medicaid program, with a combination of state and federal funds. In fiscal year 2018, Kafka said, the facility was paid \$7.34 million in government funds, with \$4.1 million in federal funds and \$3.2 million in state funds.

"The incentive as a for-profit company is to run the place as cheaply as possible, and that's not in keeping with providing what children need for positive youth development, which isn't always cheap," said Goemann.

Groton Community Transit Fundraiser



When: Thursday, June 13, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

Where: Groton Community Transit

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Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 9 of 63

Redfield Clay Kiser Legion **14 - 2** Groton Post 39

📍 Home 🏠 League 📅 Wednesday June 12, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
RDFL	1	0	1	0	6	2	4	14	11	2
GRTN	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	5

BATTING

Redfield Clay	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
B Osborn (SS)	3	2	1	1	2	0	0
C Deyoung...	2	2	0	0	2	2	1
##32 (CF)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
P Osborn (1...	4	2	2	2	1	0	0
B Wren (P, 1B)	4	2	2	2	1	0	2
L Rohlf's (C)	5	3	2	0	0	0	3
N Hainy (3B)	4	2	1	2	1	0	3
D Masat (RF)	4	0	2	2	1	1	2
C Jessen (LF)	3	0	1	2	2	1	2
G Clausen (...)	4	1	0	0	1	3	7
Totals	34	14	11	11	11	8	10

2B: P Osborn, **3B:** B Osborn, **HR:** B Wren, **TB:** B Wren 5, N Hainy, C Jessen, L Rohlf's 2, B Osborn 3, D Masat 2, P Osborn 3, **SB:** G Clausen, C Deyoung, L Rohlf's, **LOB:** 10

PITCHING

Redfield Clay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Wren	6.0	4	2	1	4	5	0
P Osborn	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	7.0	4	2	1	4	6	0

WP: B Wren, **P-S:** B Wren 102-62, P Osborn 9-6, **BF:** B Wren 26, P Osborn 3

Groton Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
K Blackmun...	4	1	1	0	0	0	2
W Locke (3...	3	0	0	0	1	0	3
A Morris (C)	3	0	2	1	0	0	0
C Larson (S...	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
D Shabazz (...)	3	1	0	0	0	0	3
A Jones (P,...	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
P Johnson (...)	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
R Thurston...	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
A Knutson...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
G Schroede...	2	0	0	1	1	1	5
Totals	25	2	4	2	4	6	6

2B: A Morris, **TB:** C Larson, K Blackmun, A Morris 3, **CS:** W Locke, **SB:** D Shabazz, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Jones	4.1	5	8	3	8	3	0
C Larson	2.2	6	6	5	3	5	1
Totals	7.0	11	14	8	11	8	1

LP: A Jones, **P-S:** C Larson 61-32, A Jones 100-45, **BF:** C Larson 19, A Jones 26

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 10 of 63

Redfield Clay Kiser Legion **3 - 2** Groton Post 39

📍 Home 🏠 League 📅 Wednesday June 12, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
RDFL	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	0
GRTN	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	0

BATTING

Redfield Clay	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
B Osborn (SS)	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
C Deyoung...	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
B Wren (1B)	3	0	1	0	0	0	3
L Rohlfs (3B)	1	0	0	0	2	0	2
P Osborn (DH)	3	1	2	1	0	1	0
D Masat (RF)	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
N Hainy (C)	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
E Miller (2B)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
#2 (LF)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
G Clausen (P)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	19	3	4	3	5	2	6

2B: B Wren, P Osborn, **TB:** B Wren 2, C Deyoung, P Osborn 3, **SB:** C Deyoung 2, B Osborn 4, P Osborn 2, **LOB:** 6

PITCHING

Redfield Clay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
G Clausen	5.0	4	2	2	4	6	0
Totals	5.0	4	2	2	4	6	0

WP: G Clausen, **P-S:** G Clausen 79-47, **BF:** G Clausen 22

Groton Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
K Blackmun...	3	0	1	0	0	1	2
T Traphage...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
A Morris (C,...	3	0	1	1	0	0	2
C Larson (S...	3	0	0	0	0	2	2
A Jones (3B...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
W Locke (1...	2	0	0	0	1	0	2
L Simon (P	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
A Schinkel (...)	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
G O'Neil (2...	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
G Schroede...	2	0	1	0	0	1	2
Totals	18	2	4	2	4	6	5

3B: A Jones, **TB:** G Schroeder, K Blackmun, A Jones 3, A Morris, **LOB:** 5

Groton Post 39	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Traphagen	4.0	2	1	1	3	2	0
L Simon	1.0	2	2	2	2	0	0
Totals	5.0	4	3	3	5	2	0

LP: T Traphagen, **P-S:** L Simon 27-12, T Traphagen 87-45, **BF:** L Simon 7, T Traphagen 17

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Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 12 of 63

Today in Weather History

June 13, 1943: An estimated F2 tornado moved ENE, destroying a home on the southeastern edge of Highmore in Hyde County. A mother and her five children seeking shelter in the home were injured. Barns and outbuildings were damaged on a dozen farms. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 8 miles and caused about \$10,000 in damage.

June 13, 1991: A small F1 tornado remained on the ground for 4 miles as it moved westerly from 10 miles west of Roscoe to 6 miles west of Roscoe, in Edmunds County. The path of the tornado continued for another 5 miles but was not consistently on the ground. It dissipated one mile west of Roscoe. Although the tornado had a long path, its width was 10 yards and traveled through open fields and cause little to no damage.

1972: Severe weather conditions over the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico begin to converge and form a tropical depression that would become Hurricane Agnes over the next two weeks. This hurricane affected most of the eastern United States with the Northeast being the hardest hit area with heavy rainfall.

1976: A deadly tornado moved across parts of the southwestern Chicago, Illinois suburbs killing three people and injured 23 others. The tornado, with winds over 200 mph moved from Lemont to Downers Grove causing \$13 million in damage when 87 homes were destroyed, and another 90 were damaged. The tornado passed over the Argonne National Laboratory, peeling part of a roof of the building housing a nuclear reactor. The tornadoes movement was somewhat erratic moving southeast to the north and finally turning northwest.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

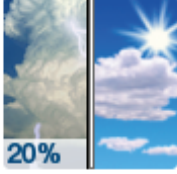




1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

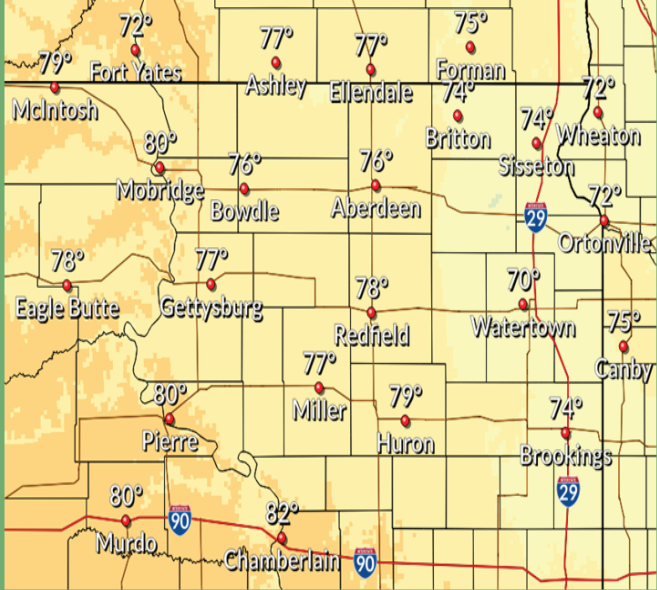
Broton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 13 of 63


Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 77 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 80 °F

TODAY

Mild & Dry




FRIDAY



Late Day Storms

HIGHS: 80s

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/abr

6/13/2019 4:38 AM

Published on: 06/13/2019 at 5:50AM

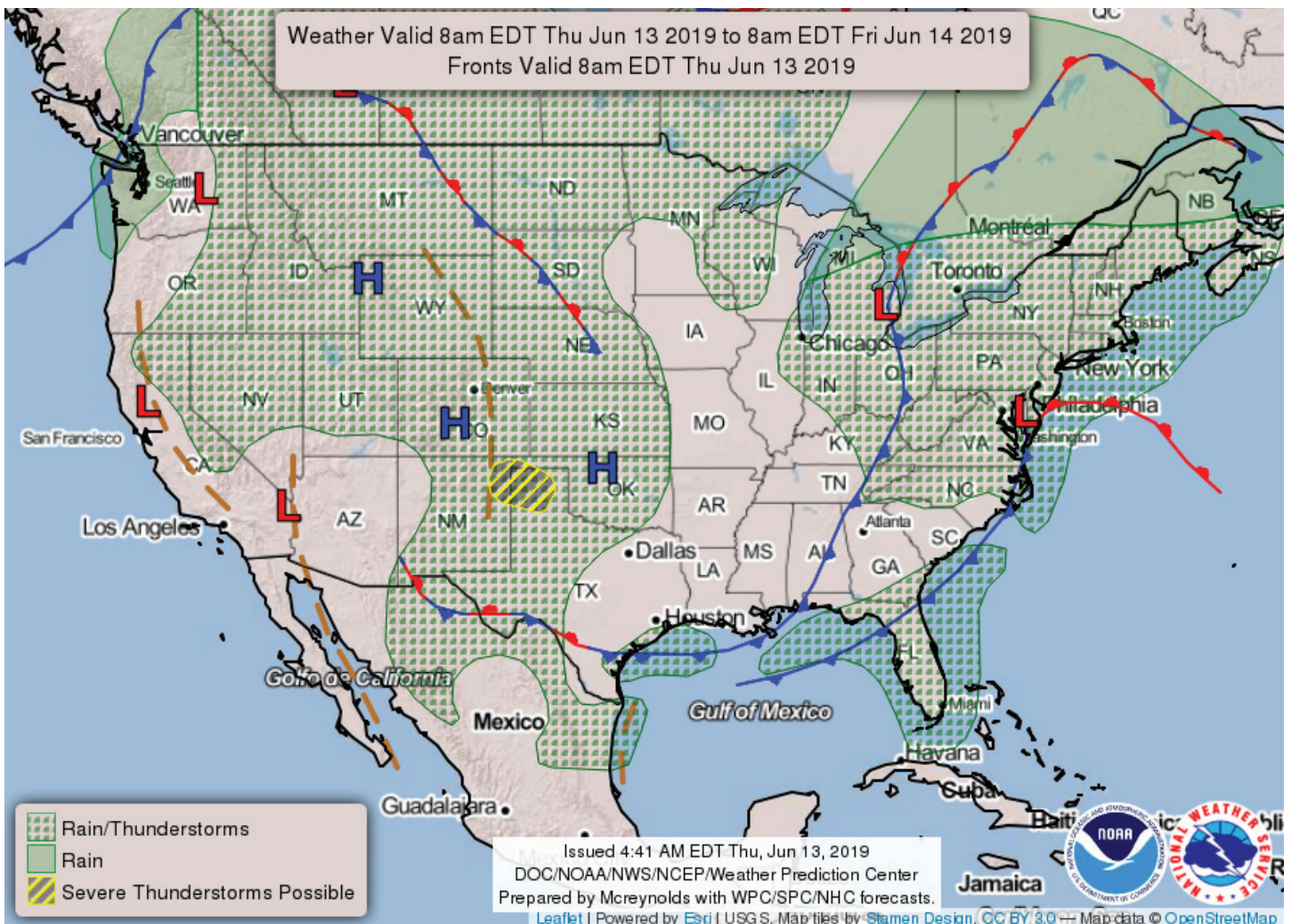
A few morning showers will pass across the region this morning but generally dry conditions are expected with seasonal temperatures. Hotter temps, and a little humidity will return for Friday, with a chance for afternoon/evening storms. Risk for severe weather is marginal.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 14 of 63

Today's Info

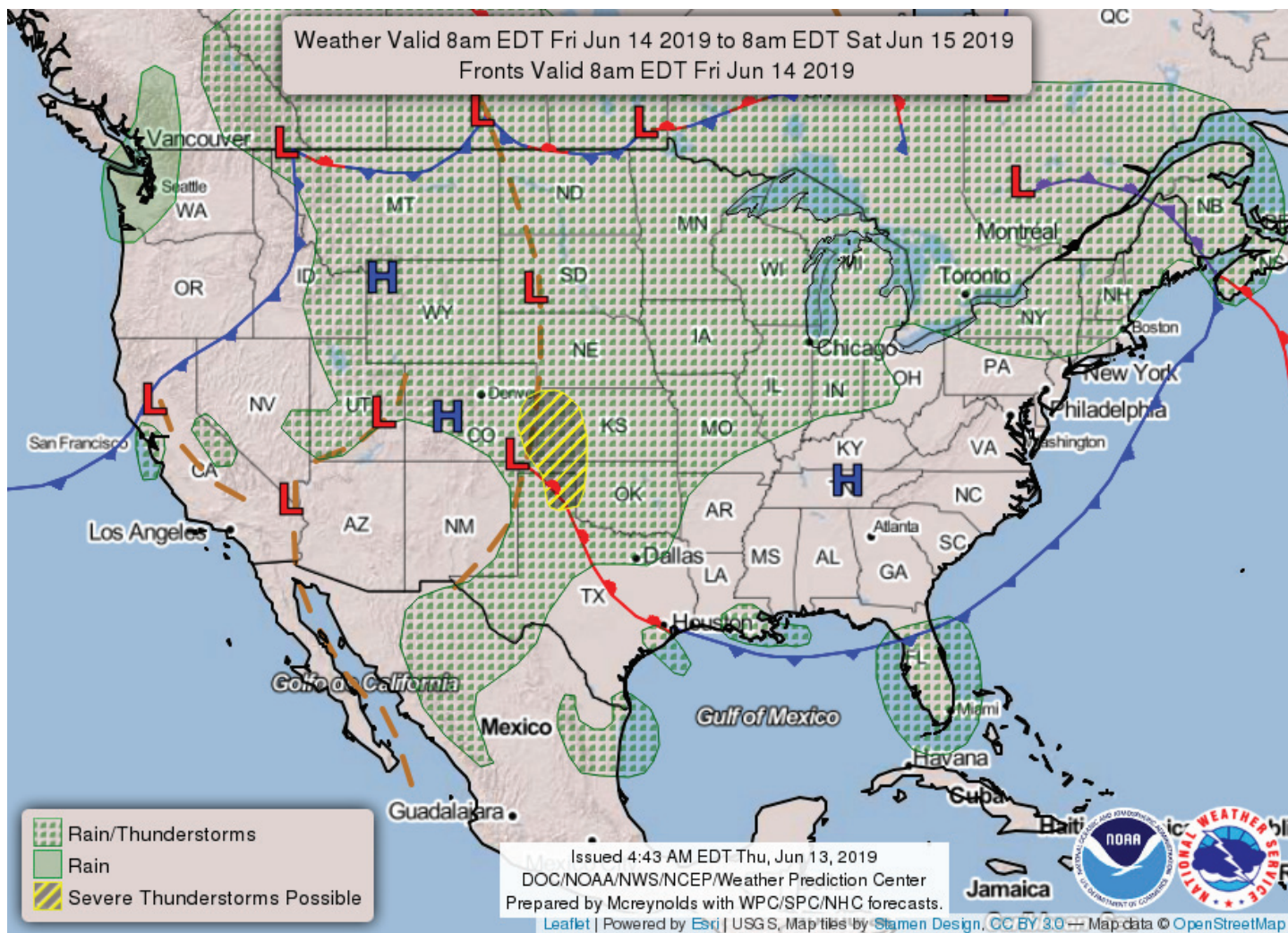
Record High: 102° in 1936
Record Low: 36° in 1942
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 53°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.43
Precip to date in June.: 0.40
Average Precip to date: 8.57
Precip Year to Date: 8.19
Sunset Tonight: 9:23 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 15 of 63

Tomorrow's Weather Map



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 16 of 63



IT GOES IN A CIRCLE

Few events in life are as precious as the arrival of a grandchild. They bring new life to aging parents and hope for the future. They all develop their own individual ways and unusual habits that are endearing and worth tucking away in memory banks for future moments. Memories like the names they give us to get our attention, their favorite blankets they cannot live without, or the huge number of stuffed animals they can carry from one place to another without dropping a single one of them are some of mine.

Solomon said it well: Childrens children are a splendor to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. The inestimable joy that comes with a grandchild is difficult to explain. It is indeed like a burst of splendor that produces pride that is difficult to diminish no matter what happens.

But there seems to be a circle in this verse that we must not overlook. With all of the pleasurable moments we enjoy with our grandchildren, there comes tremendous responsibility. It is in the second section of this verse: parents are the pride of their children. Here, Solomon sets a stake in the ground that indicts parents. He insists that we must recognize and accept the responsibility that we who are parents have to God.

To have an honorable grandchild the grandparent is responsible to have been a model parent. This does not imply that parents are to be perfect. Thats not possible. But it does mean that the grandchilds parents were well mentored by parents who honored God in all things.

Prayer: Father, every parent wants to be a parent that pleases You. Forgive our failures and open our minds and hearts and help us to follow Your example. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 17:6 Childrens children are a splendor to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 17 of 63

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)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 18 of 63

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

02-03-07-20-32

(two, three, seven, twenty, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$512,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

05-35-38-42-57, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

(five, thirty-five, thirty-eight, forty-two, fifty-seven; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$66 million

Drone at work: Utility using machines to build power lines

By DAVE KOLPACK Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A Minnesota utility that paved the way by using drones to inspect transmission lines is now using them to build one.

A machine owned and operated by North Dakota-based SkySkopes installed wires Wednesday on six power poles that are part of a 5-mile (8.05-kilometer) Xcel Energy line in the Fargo area. Xcel and SkySkopes officials say drones will save time and money while increasing safety and reducing the environmental impact from heavy equipment that can tear up land.

"Safety is what we're after," said Cory Vinger, COO of SkySkopes, which has done similar projects around the country. "There are just so many different things we're trying to do as a company to be good stewards."

Xcel provides energy to customers in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. It was the first utility in the country to receive Federal Aviation Administration approval to fly drones beyond line of sight of the pilot for inspections.

"I am proud of the role we are taking in helping to develop this new technology," said Mark Nisbet, principal manager for Xcel Energy. "Innovation is improving the safety of our employees and helping us to hold our prices down."

Stringing the lines involves a multi-step process where the drone pulls a specialized rope through a pulley that is then attached to wires that will transmit electricity. It took about 20 minutes for pilot Erik Nelson to perform the task on Wednesday, despite windy conditions that shook the lines and the pulleys.

"We're probably not as fast as a helicopter, but we're saving money and improving safety," Vinger said. "You're taking the pilot out of the equation. A drone is replaceable. A life is not."

A helicopter crash in upstate New York in October while workers were installing power lines killed two people. Remarkably, two people died in the fiery crash where the helicopter became tangled in the wires before falling about 40 feet to the ground.

Nisbet called the drone demonstration on Wednesday "an exciting day for me and the state" that will give the company a better idea on how soon they'll increase the use of unmanned aircraft on stringing lines.

"It was a little bit of challenge with the wind," Nesbit said. "Some of the dollies had spun 90 degrees, which I'm told would have been impossible for helicopters to adapt to. But because of the flexibility of the drones, they were able to re-spin those dollies so they were headed in the right direction."

SkySkopes president and CEO Matt Dunlevy said the so-called heavy-lift drones will eventually complement numerous industries.

"There are a lot of traditional means of building things, of delivering things, of transporting things that are going to be improved upon — but not replaced — by unmanned aircraft," he said.

Noem orders review of licensing for youth facilities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem said Wednesday that she has ordered a review of the state's processes for licensing and inspecting privately run youth treatment facilities in South Dakota after a news organization uncovered abuses at a facility in Plankinton.

The alleged abuses at Aurora Plains Academy were first reported by South Dakota News Watch . A six-month investigation found a pattern of improper treatment of youth and young adult residents amid limited state government oversight. South Dakota News Watch reported some of the residents were subjected to physical, mental and sexual abuse by employees.

"As a mom, it deeply saddens me to read the stories of these kids," Noem said in a statement. "Regardless of whether a situation happened 10 years ago, 10 months ago, or 10 days ago, abuse is never okay, and I hope we can learn and take corrective action where it is needed to protect our most vulnerable population."

News Watch's investigation found that employees regularly use harsh physical restraints on residents, resulting in rug burns, black eyes, bloody noses, bruising and other injuries. There were reports of some broken bones, and some residents reported being over-medicated. Some girls reported that they were touched sexually by employees.

Noem said she asked the Department of Social Services to complete an analysis of the processes for licensing and inspecting private facilities and to evaluate the department's role in ensuring the residents are safe.

"My team and I remain committed to protecting kids in this facility and helping these private facilities administer the best care for youth," Noem said.

Aurora Plains Academy is owned by Wisconsin-based Clinicare Corp. Officials at the corporate office did not immediately return messages left Wednesday by The Associated Press.

According to News Watch, Aurora Plains is a privately operated, government-funded institution that serves vulnerable males and females, ages 10 to 20, who have issues with anger, self-harm or sexual deviancy. The facility, which provides housing, treatment and education, is locked. Most of the residents have not been convicted of a crime but are sent to the facility involuntarily.

Noem's press secretary, Kristin Wileman, said Noem has tasked the Department of Social Services with implementing more transparent reports on corrective action plans and conducting independent contract investigations on reports of child abuse and neglect. The governor is also asking state agencies to look into more unannounced site surveys.

Wileman said that from February 2012 to July 2014, Aurora Plains Academy was under a corrective action plan to address use of restraints, supervision of youth and other issues. Since that time, the numbers of reports and complaints filed have gone down, she said.

Spearfish hydroponic farm grows produce for local schools

By MATTHEW GUERRY Rapid City Journal

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Belle Fourche and Spearfish school cafeterias this year served produce that was grown locally — and indoors.

The Belle Fourche School District has for two years offered hydroponically raised vegetables to students on special occasions through a partnership with the Spearfish-based business Column Greens, which the Spearfish schools began to buy from this past year.

As the business prepares to migrate to a warehouse in town, co-owner Erica Proefrock said she hopes to grow both the number of schools, hospital and hotels that it sells to as well as its yield.

"We're looking to be serving 10 pounds a week to those larger companies. We have the technology that we can provide that," Proefrock said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 20 of 63

Proefrock and co-owner Alex Hamaker currently run the indoor farm out of the basement of their home in Spearfish. As hydroponic farmers, the two rely on a water circulation system and an inventive use of space to grow chard, basil, lettuce, mint and other herbs, spices and vegetables without soil. Current customers of theirs include Dakota Seafood, the Lodge at Deadwood Casino and Rapid City Regional Hospitals, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The pair will start by planting a seedling in one of the several different growing mediums that they use, which range from woven hemp mats to ground coconut husks. After growing in containers that are stored on shelves, the seedlings are transferred to vertical, hanging towers where they can mature and eventually be harvested.

A circulating network of pipes and tubes delivers water to the plants that is treated with nutrients that they require to grow. Both nutrient levels and air temperature are carefully controlled by computer. Crops at all stages of growth are exposed to LED light that helps to sustain them for only half the day, mimicking a day and night cycle.

"Basically, to run an optimal growing environment, you have to have about a 68 to 75 degree temperature during the day," Hamaker said last month under the neon glow of the farm's many lights.

To conserve energy, the two will typically run their lights — simulating daytime — after the sun has set.

Produce from the farm has been served to students on several occasions as part of a monthly lunch special that both school districts offer at the same price point of a standard lunch. Justin Olson, food service director at the districts' meal program contractor Lunchtime Solutions, said he first learned about the business through the Belle Fourche school business manager, who is a relative of Proefrock's.

Olson said his company had already bought locally raised produce and meats for the monthly special prior to purchasing from Column Greens to support the local economy. It will continue to buy from the indoor farm this coming school year, he said, adding that he hopes to arrange student field trips to it.

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

Some rural states double down on attracting new residents

By LISA RATHKE Associated Press

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP) — With jobs unfilled and young people moving away, some rural states are doubling down on efforts to attract new blood by expanding programs that offer incentives to live there.

Over the past decade, states including South Dakota, Maine and Vermont have lured new residents with financial incentives or job help in areas that need a boost. Vermont launched its program last year, and it's already beefing up for 2020.

Vermont's existing program seeks to entice new residents by paying them up to \$10,000 over two years to move to a state with an aging population of about 626,000 and a low unemployment rate. So far in its first year, the program has pulled in 33 new remote workers and their families — amounting to a total of 87 new residents.

"This far surpassed our expectation of how successful it would be," said Michael Schirling, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Even though Schirling is now optimistic about the effort, some wonder if the relatively small number of new residents will make much of an impact.

Economist and recently retired University of Vermont professor Art Woolf says Vermont would need to increase its population by several thousand to make a sizeable difference in the state's economy.

Either way, Vermont is looking to keep recruiting. Starting in January, instead of just accepting applicants who work remotely for out-of-state companies, Vermont will pay up to \$7,500 in expenses to people who come to work for local firms.

A \$5,000 grant was instrumental in getting Beth Dow and her husband to move from Colorado to Vermont.

"Moving across the country is really expensive and I don't think we would have made the jump without knowing we could get reimbursed," said Dow, a commercial property claims adjuster. Dow now works from her Bennington home and the couple recently signed a lease to open an art gallery, which they dreamed

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 21 of 63

of doing in Denver but said they couldn't afford to do out there.

Rural areas across the country have been losing residents as people move to areas where there's more economic opportunity and more to do, Woolf said.

Woolf said in areas with stagnant populations, tax revenues grow slowly while demands for services rise, and businesses have a hard time expanding.

Instead of offering financial incentives, a three-year-old private nonprofit organization called Live and Work in Maine markets the state and its jobs to prospective residents. This year it will be focusing on luring back former Mainers.

"There are lots of jobs in Maine to take advantage of if you want the quality of life that we have to offer," said Nate Wildes, executive director, who said businesses are noticing the campaign is working.

It helped draw Eric and Elizabeth Smith to Maine, when they wanted to get out of the Philadelphia suburbs, change their lifestyle and be closer to wilderness. It wasn't hard for Eric Smith, 32, a computer engineer, to get a job once they moved in late 2016. Elizabeth Smith had already worked remotely as a food scientist.

"The change was profound and pretty immediate. I wouldn't give it up for anything. Our life is just so much better," Eric Smith said.

Wyoming, which faces some of the same challenges as Vermont, has helped about 70 people return to the state since 2015 by assisting in their job searches.

It takes a special mindset to live in Wyoming, said Tyler Stockton, of Wyoming's Department of Workforce Service.

"Wyoming is a little different than a lot of other places. There are a lot of towns with very few people, and then it's a long way to cultural hubs," he said.

About a year after the effort was launched, Wyoming's economy had a downturn, so the program was put on the back burner. The state is now reworking it.

"What we're doing is asking the people in Wyoming what skill sets they need and then trying to find those people," Stockton said.

The Wyoming effort is based in part on the Dakota Roots program in South Dakota started in 2006 to help natives move back by helping them find jobs. South Dakota has since expanded the assistance to anyone who wants to relocate there, helping about 4,800 people and their families so far.

The state's labor and regulation secretary, Marcia Hultman, said in an email that Dakota Roots makes job seekers "aware of the great career opportunities and quality of life South Dakota has to offer while growing the labor pool for our state's businesses."

In Nebraska, the chamber of commerce in North Platte has had "mild success" with helping employers recruit workers, according to the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce. The program has helped attract 13 professionals, including four attorneys, a physical therapist, a brewmaster and a minister to the area since it started a year and half ago.

Matt Christie, who grew up in a rural area, said he was ready to get out of his Boston suburb when he applied to the Vermont program.

He said the Vermont house he and his wife purchased and the tiny community of South Strafford quickly felt more like home than any of the other cities he recently lived in across the West Coast and in the Boston area.

"I'm so pleased that I did it," said Christie, who moved in early January.

Their now-toddler son has blossomed since they moved to Vermont, where Christie goes to town and school board meetings and has joined the energy committee.

"This is roots, this is the beginning of roots and it felt really nice," he said.

This story has been corrected to show that some programs offer job search assistance, not financial incentives.

Ex-college athlete speaks out about inequalities in sports

By JACK WILLIAMS Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Courtney Place has been bothered by the inequalities in women's sports for a long time. The lack of exposure and respect compared to men's sports stood out whenever she took the volleyball court.

Looking to take a stand, the 22-year-old Augustana alumna created the SEE US movement, which aims to spread awareness of women underrepresented, sexualized and judged based on appearance rather than performance in sports.

The SEE US movement received national attention late last month when the project was named one of 20 winners of the Victoria's Secret PINK GRL PWR Project, which awarded \$10,000 to jump start the movement, the Argus Leader reported.

"It's been incredible to see this project grow," Place said. "When I was a young girl, I thought I was going through this alone. Now, a lot of young girls have messaged me and thanked me for bringing this conversation up. Knowing that this is helping a lot of young girls feel confident and supported means a lot to me."

Place hopes to use the money to turn her movement into a nonprofit that offers affordable camps for young girls and gives women a place to talk about inequalities in sports.

Place came up with the idea for SEE US during her time as a college athlete. She was exploring the possibility of playing professional volleyball in Europe when she realized her parents likely would not be able to watch her games on TV because women's sports are less often televised.

That's when she decided to bring awareness to the need for equality in sports, and she brought that idea back to Augustana for further development.

More and more members of Augustana's athletic teams began to take notice of SEE US. Place's volleyball teammates along with members of the softball, basketball and tennis teams began to show their support for the project.

It wasn't until a friend emailed Place a link to enter the Victoria's Secret PINK GRL PWR Project that she realized she could take SEE US to the next level. With the help of fellow athletes on campus and a few of her public relations friends, Place's movement began to take off.

"I've really been a part of pushing this movement on social media and pushing the PR aspect of it," Grace Fjellanger, Place's friend and fellow SEE US member, said. "We were able to get the movement more media attention and eventually help Courtney win the \$10,000 from Victoria's Secret. We've really helped her out with things to say about the movement, but overall she has just killed it."

There have been bumps in the road for Place and her project. She said that she received a lot of harassment online and in-person, including hearing degrading remarks from peers. It came to the point where she questioned if she was doing the right thing.

However, with the support of her family, friends and teammates, Place has been able to push the movement to a level she never imagined. SEE US has received recognition from Minnesota Lynx head coach Cheryl Reeve, Minnesota women's basketball head coach Lindsay Whalen and three-time women's beach volleyball Olympic gold medalist Kerri Walsh Jennings.

Place said it's been crazy to see how far SEE US has come. From staying up until 2 a.m. at Augustana to now meeting with collaborators in Los Angeles, she is in awe seeing this movement grow.

"I don't think that I really knew that I would win a contest with this movement," Place said. "I really wanted something to happen with this, and it did."

2 Yankton students recognized at National Science Olympiad

By CORA VAN OLSON Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — In their quest for a winning Rube Goldberg-like device, Erin Knight and Sarah Stoddard of Yankton High School found that, in this National Science Olympiad event, simplicity is the best path to success.

And that helped them placed seventh nationally in the "Mission Possible" event at the Olympiad recently, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

Competition is stiff at the two-day National Science Olympiad, in which 60 teams from across the country competed in myriad events that drew on knowledge from many different scientific disciplines. This year's tournament drew over 2,000 students to Cornell University in New York on May 31-June 1. In addition to testing participants' performance in their chosen scientific events, the tournament also aims to teach the value of problems solving and teamwork.

Goldberg was a 20th century cartoonist famous for drawings of devices that made simple tasks complex by taking a dozen or more mechanical steps to complete them. One famous example of Goldberg's devices is the cartoon of the Self-Wiping Napkin, in which a man wears an elaborate head gear that is attached to his spoon. The act of eating triggers 13 actions that culminate in a napkin wiping his chin.

Knight's and Stoddard's project included 14 actions which combined not just physical engineering, but also electrical and chemical engineering as well.

The types of actions required of each device included using a pingpong ball to move a golf ball to turn on a microswitch that turns on an infrared transmitter that activated a thermoelectric cooler. At one point, a chemical reaction inflated a balloon that moved a series of levers that flipped a U.S. quarter to land tails up, completing a circuit between two electrical contacts that ran a motor. All electricity had to be powered from a single nine-volt battery.

Both Stoddard and Knight have participated in the "Mission Possible" event before.

"I've done the 'Mission Possible' three years," Stoddard said. "The first was with another girl back in middle school. That was all the physical, mechanical stuff; nothing was chemical or electrical. The second year was with Erin, and that was very much the physical and mechanical. There were a few chemical (actions), but not many. And then this year, a lot of electrical stuff."

Another difference this year involved powering the device.

"All of your electricity has to run off a certain voltage," Knight said. "This year, we only had nine volts to run off of; last year, we had 12 volts. That makes it more difficult because a lot of things require 12 volts, or more volts than you are given."

Teams had to figure out how to reduce required voltage to avoid using more than the nine volts allowed, Knight said.

"My dad (Steve Knight) is an electrical engineer; he knows a lot of the electrical stuff, so he helped us a lot," Knight said. "He helped us a lot on how to create the machine and what actions worked best for it. My dad was a big asset in helping us build this machine."

The whole point and the challenge, Stoddard said, is for the team to figure out how to successfully do the actions.

"Some of the stuff was like, 'OK, we are going to Google this' or 'We are going to experiment with that,'" Stoddard said. "We were in the lab one day, and we were combining chemicals to see what they did to see how we could use them. Some things worked; some things didn't."

Also useful was the knowledge they had gained in their freshman physical science class at Yankton High School, particularly work with the levers, pulleys and IMA (ideal mechanical advantage) calculations, Knight said.

Last year, Knight and Stoddard's Rube-Goldberg-like device placed 20th nationally. They said they both learned from the experience.

"We learned different techniques and to make things a lot simpler than they were," Knight said. "The first year we did it, a lot of our actions were very complex and very touchy. The thing that I learned was, make it simple and keep it simple. The less joints that (the device) has, the more likely it is to succeed

and complete the action.”

At this time, neither student knows which events they will want to participate in next year, but both agree that they still want to be on the Science Olympiad team.

“Science Olympiad has been such a great part of my life,” Knight said. “I want to do it every year. My goal right now is to be a chemical engineer in college, where I can combine what I’ve learned in chemistry with my love of engineering and do something great with it.”

Stoddard plans to become a neo-natal nurse practitioner.

“I’m planning on taking my problem-solving skills, because I am mainly a builder,” she said. “When anything breaks, I’m always like, ‘What can I do to make it better?’ I plan to take those skills into that field to figure out, ‘OK, what’s making these babies sick? What can I do to help them?’”

To the next class of incoming sixth graders who want to try Science Olympiad for the first time, Stoddard says: It’s hard at first, but keep at it.

“I would recommend every sixth grader to try out Science Olympiad, even if science isn’t your forte,” Knight added. “When I was younger, I didn’t like to step out of my comfort zone and I gave up if something didn’t work right away. Getting myself into Science Olympiad has changed me. (I know) it’s not going to work the first time, but instead of saying, ‘Let someone else figure it out,’ you work on it and figure out that there is a way to do it.”

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

K-9 retires from Sioux Falls Police Department after 7 years

By JACK WILLIAMS The Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A siren rang over the Minnehaha County and Sioux Falls Police, Fire, and EMS scanner at 3:03 p.m. on a recent Wednesday.

“Metro to all units. K-9 Rio has faithfully returned to his handler Officer Shannon Irish, members of the Sioux Falls Police Department and the community with pride and integrity. In recognition of his years of dedicated service, we’d like to wish him the best and a well-deserved retirement. 10-7 at 15:03 hours June 6, 2019. Metro clear.”

After more than seven years on the force, K-9 Rio hung up his vest at his retirement ceremony at the Sioux Falls Law Enforcement Center. Rio’s ownership was transferred over to his handler officer Shannon Irish during the ceremony, the Argus Leader reported.

“Rio has done a great job of keeping Officer Irish, other law enforcement officers, citizens and even suspects safe by preventing injury or further injury,” Assistant Chief Kyle Hoekstra said. “Today, with over seven years of service, we congratulate Rio on his much-deserved retirement.”

Starting in 2012, Rio joined the Sioux Falls Police Department, going through 16 weeks of dual purpose drug and patrol training. Every week since then, he has done a minimum of eight hours of training per week.

In his first shift, Rio’s presence alone convinced an assault suspect, armed with a pipe, to surrender. Two week later, Rio tracked an armed robbery suspect hiding in a dumpster.

Over the years, he has assisted in various locating of illegal drugs and firearms, and various presentations for children and adults in the community.

Not only have Rio and Irish enjoyed their time together, but other members of the Sioux Falls Police Department have enjoyed watching him grow over the years.

“I’ve really just enjoyed watching him work on patrol and train,” Lt. David McIntire said. “He’s always been a great dog and it’s always been nice to know that there is someone in the field that is working out for you.”

As Rio heads into retirement and another pup joins the K-9 unit, members of the Sioux Falls Police Department will miss Rio and the relationships that he’s made with them.

“We’ve obviously got a new dog in the pack and training out on the street, but you get to know every one of them,” McIntire said. “Anybody who has had an animal knows that not having them around is a loss.”

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

Man accused of kidnapping woman, fleeing with baby

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man is accused of leading authorities on a chase with a baby in his car.

Thirty-eight-year-old Steven Jackson of Rapid City faces charges of kidnapping, aggravated eluding law enforcement and simple assault domestic violence.

Pennington County sheriff's authorities say the suspect reportedly assaulted and kidnapped a woman Tuesday at a truck stop on Interstate 90 in Rapid City.

The woman was able to escape. But the Rapid City Journal reports the infant was left in the vehicle without a car seat or any restraints.

Law officers pursued the vehicle in a chase that reached speeds of more than 100 mph. Deputies deployed road spikes that slowed the vehicle, which crashed in a ditch.

Jackson ran but was arrested north of New Underwood. The baby was unharmed.

Bicyclist struck in Sioux Falls has died

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a bicyclist struck by a motorist in Sioux Falls has died.

Authorities say 84-year old Kenneth Gunderson died Wednesday morning of internal injuries. A pickup driver hit him at an Interstate 29 intersection about 7 p.m. Tuesday.

KELO reports no citations or charges have been issued so far.

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

Body recovered from vehicle in Pierre river

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a body has been recovered from a vehicle submerged in the Missouri River in Pierre.

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Department says it notified Pierre police of a submerged object resembling a vehicle near Down's Marina on Tuesday.

After the vehicle was located and recovered, authorities found a body inside and determined the vehicle appeared to have been submerged "for an extended period of time."

An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday to identify the subject and determine the cause of death.

Motorcyclist killed when hit by pickup near Watertown

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a motorcyclist was killed when her bike was rear-ended by a pickup truck near Watertown.

The crash happened on Interstate 29 Tuesday. The patrol says the 67-year-old woman on a Harley-Davidson bike was trailing two other motorcycles when she was struck by the pickup. The woman was thrown from her bike into the median. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The patrol says she was wearing a helmet.

The 64-year-old woman driving the pickup truck was not injured. No identities have been released.

AP Explains: Mideast tensions threaten key global oil route

By The Associated Press undefined

Reports that two tanker ships have been attacked in the Gulf of Oman, near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, have focused new attention on the region as tensions have risen.

Here's a look at the key waterway and its importance for the global economy.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 26 of 63

WHERE IS THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ?

The Strait of Hormuz is the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf. It is in the territorial waters of Iran and Oman, which at its narrowest point is just 33 kilometers (21 miles) wide. The width of the shipping lane in either direction is only 3 kilometers (2 miles). It flows into the Gulf of Oman, where ships can then travel to the rest of the world. The strait is viewed as an international transit route.

WHY IS IT IN THE NEWS?

Two oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz were reportedly attacked on Thursday. In all, 44 sailors were evacuated from the vessels and the U.S. Navy has assisted amid heightened tensions between the United States and Iran.

The incident comes after the U.S. alleged that Iran used mines to attack four oil tankers off the nearby Emirati port of Fujairah last month. Iran has denied being involved. Meanwhile, Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen have increased their missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia, which has been at war in Yemen against the rebels since 2015.

WHY IS THE STRAIT IMPORTANT?

One third of all oil traded by sea, which amounts to 20% of oil traded worldwide, passes through the strait. Major OPEC energy producers Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait use the strait to export oil to countries, mainly in Asia, including China, Japan, India and South Korea. The strait is also used to export gas worldwide from Qatar, the world's biggest liquefied natural gas producer.

Anything affecting the narrow passage ripples through global energy markets, raising the price of crude oil. That then trickles down to consumers through what they pay for gasoline and other oil products.

HOW MUCH IS THE PRICE OF OIL RISING?

The U.S. and international benchmarks for crude oil were up over 3% on Thursday after the news of the incidents against the two crude oil tankers. That's a relatively big daily increase but it comes after a sustained drop in oil prices.

The Brent contract, for example, is at \$62.17 a barrel. That's up 3.7% on the day — but down from over \$74 in late April. Prices have been declining on expectations that the global economy will slow, using less energy, as well as strong supplies. Analysts say that tensions in the Gulf region could push prices up again in the longer term, if they are protracted and there is a real threat to the flow of supplies.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

How the U.S. and Iranian governments react to the event will be key. The United States has recently moved more military forces into the region, which already hosts the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet in Bahrain and the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command at the vast Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Iran has set a July 7 deadline for Europe to find new terms for Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. That accord began to unravel after the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew from the Obama-era deal and re-imposed U.S. sanctions aimed at crippling the Iranian economy and pressuring a change in its regional policies. Iran has threatened it could resume higher levels of enrichment.

Tankers targeted near Strait of Hormuz amid Iran-US tensions

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz were damaged in suspected attacks on Thursday, an assault that left one ablaze and adrift as sailors were evacuated from both vessels and the U.S. Navy rushed to assist amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 27 of 63

The Navy and the ship's owners offered no immediate explanation on what weapon caused the damage to the MT Front Altair and the Kokuka Courageous in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of Iran, though all believed the ships had been targeted in an attack.

It marks the latest mysterious incident to target the region's oil tankers. The U.S. alleged that Iran used limpet mines to attack four oil tankers off the nearby Emirati port of Fujairah last month. Iran has denied being involved, but it comes as Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen also have launched missile and drone attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile in Iran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned that while Tehran doesn't seek nuclear weapons, "America could not do anything" to stop Iran if it did.

The comments came during a one-on-one meeting capping Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's high-stakes visit in Tehran that sought to ease Iran-U.S. tensions, suggested the efforts had failed.

Benchmark Brent crude spiked at one point by as much 4% in trading following the suspected attack, to over \$62 a barrel, highlighting how crucial the area remains to global energy supplies. A third of all oil traded by sea passes through the strait, which is the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf.

Cmdr. Joshua Frey, a 5th Fleet spokesman, said the U.S. Navy was assisting the two vessels that he described as being hit in a "reported attack." He did not say how the ships were attacked or who was suspected of being behind the assault.

Dryad Global, a maritime intelligence firm, preliminarily identified one of the vessels involved as the MT Front Altair, a Marshall Islands-flagged crude oil tanker. The vessel was "on fire and adrift," Dryad added. It did not offer a cause for the incident or mention the second ship.

The firm that operates the Front Altair told The Associated Press that an explosion was the cause of the fire onboard. International Tanker Management declined to comment further saying they are still investigating what caused the explosion. Its crew of 23 is safe after being evacuated by the nearby Hyundai Dubai vessel, it said.

The second vessel was identified as the Kokuka Courageous. BSM Ship Management said it sustained hull damage and 21 sailors had been evacuated, with one suffering minor injuries. Iranian state television said 44 sailors from the two tankers have been transferred to an Iranian port in the southern province of Hormozgan.

The timing of Thursday's suspected attack was especially sensitive as Abe's high-stakes diplomacy mission was underway in Iran. Japan's Trade Ministry said the two vessels had "Japan-related cargo."

On Wednesday, after talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Abe warned that any "accidental conflict" that could be sparked amid the heightened U.S.-Iran tensions must be avoided.

His message came just hours after Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels attacked a Saudi airport, striking its arrivals hall before dawn and wounding 26 people Wednesday.

A statement published by Khamenei's website after Abe's meeting Thursday with the supreme leader suggested a tense exchange between the two.

"We have no doubt about your good will and seriousness, but ... I don't regard (President Donald) Trump as deserving any exchange of messages," Khamenei reportedly told Abe.

Khamenei also said Iran remained opposed to building atomic weapons, but offered a challenge to Trump.

"You should know that if we planned to produce nuclear weapons, America could not do anything," said Khamenei, who has final say on all matters of state in Iran's Shiite theocracy.

In Tokyo, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, a top government spokesman, told reporters that Abe's trip was intended to help de-escalate Mideast tensions — not specifically mediate between Tehran and Washington. His remarks were apparently meant to downplay and lower expectations amid uncertain prospects for Abe's mission.

Tensions have escalated in the Mideast as Iran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, an accord that the Trump administration pulled out of last year.

Iran's nuclear deal, reached in 2015 by China, Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the U.S., saw Tehran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions. Western powers feared Iran's atomic program could allow it to build nuclear weapons, although Iran long

has insisted its program was for peaceful purposes.

In withdrawing from the deal last year, Trump pointed to the accord not limiting Iran's ballistic missile program and not addressing what American officials describe as Tehran's malign influence across the wider Middle East. Those who struck the deal at the time described it as a building block toward further negotiations with Iran, whose Islamic government has had a tense relationship with America since the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and subsequent hostage crisis.

Already, Iran says it quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium. Meanwhile, U.S. sanctions have cut off opportunities for Iran to trade its excess uranium and heavy water abroad, putting Tehran on course to violate terms of the nuclear deal regardless.

Associated Press writers Aya Batrawy in Dubai, Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Trump says he'd 'want to hear' foreign dirt on 2020 rivals

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says that if a foreign power offered dirt on his 2020 opponent, he'd be open to accepting it and that he'd have no obligation to call in the FBI.

"I think I'd want to hear it," Trump said in an interview Wednesday with ABC News, adding, "There's nothing wrong with listening."

The role of Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., in organizing a 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer offering negative information on Hillary Clinton was a focus of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian meddling in the last presidential campaign.

Mueller painstakingly documented Russian efforts to boost Trump's campaign and undermine that of his Democratic rival. But while Mueller's investigation didn't establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and Trump's campaign, Trump repeatedly praised WikiLeaks in 2016 and celebrated information exposed by Russian hackers.

One of Trump's challengers, former Vice President Joe Biden, tweeted: "President Trump is once again welcoming foreign interference in our elections. This isn't about politics. It is a threat to our national security. An American President should not seek their aid and abet those who seek to undermine democracy."

Several of Trump's other Democratic opponents in the 2020 race, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Kirsten Gillibrand and former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, repeated their calls to begin impeachment hearings in the wake of the president's latest remarks.

Trump's comments came just a month after he pledged not to use information stolen by foreign adversaries in his 2020 reelection campaign, even as he wrongly insisted he hadn't used such information to his benefit in 2016.

During a question-and-answer session with reporters in the Oval Office in May, Trump said he "would certainly agree to" that commitment.

"I don't need it," he said as he met with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. "All I need is the opponents that I'm looking at."

Trump also insisted erroneously that he "never did use, as you probably know," such information, adding: "That's what the Mueller report was all about. They said no collusion."

FBI Director Christopher Wray told lawmakers that Donald Trump Jr. should have called his agency to report the offer.

But Trump, who nominated Wray to the role in 2017, told ABC News that he disagrees. "The FBI director is wrong," the president said. He added, "Life doesn't work like that."

Asked whether his advisers should accept information on an opponent from Russia, China or another nation or call the FBI this time, Trump said, "I think maybe you do both," expressing openness to reviewing the information.

"I think you might want to listen," he said. "There's nothing wrong with listening. If somebody called,

from a country — Norway — we have information on your opponent. Oh, I think I'd want to hear it."

Hong Kong in limbo as extradition protests crisis deepens

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's legislature suspended meetings Thursday as leaders considered their next steps following violent clashes between police and protesters who oppose a bill that would allow suspects to be tried in mainland Chinese courts.

Critics say the measure, now on hold, would undermine the city's cherished legal autonomy amid moves by Beijing to tighten its hold over the former British colony.

Police said they arrested 11 people on charges such as assaulting police officers and unlawful assembly. Police Commissioner Stephen Lo Wai-chung said 22 officers had been injured. Hospital officials said they were treating 79 people for protest-related injuries as of Thursday morning.

The violence is Hong Kong's most severe political crisis since the Communist Party-ruled mainland took control in 1997 with a promise not to interfere with the city's civil liberties and courts. It poses a profound challenge both to the local leadership and to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the country's strongest leader in decades who has demanded that Hong Kong follow Beijing's dictates.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam declared that Wednesday's violence was "rioting" that was "intolerable in any civilized society that respects the rule of law." That designation could substantially increase the legal penalties for those arrested for taking part.

"Intense confrontation is surely not the solution to ease disputes and resolve controversies," Lam said, according to an official news release.

A group of opposition lawmakers attempted to visit Lam's residence to protest against the police use of force, including tear gas and rubber bullets, against the protesters on Wednesday. They were stopped by police and it was unclear if they would be able to present their complaint.

It's also unclear how Lam, as chief executive, might defuse the crisis, given Beijing's strong support for the extradition bill and its distaste for dissent.

Beijing has condemned the protests but so far has not indicated whether it is planning harsher measures. In past cases of unrest, the authorities have waited months or years before rounding up protest leaders.

Nearly two years ago, Xi issued a stern address in the city stating that Beijing would not tolerate Hong Kong becoming a base for what the Communist Party considers a foreign-inspired campaign to undermine its rule over the vast nation of 1.4 billion people.

Not all in Hong Kong support the protesters. About a dozen older people staged a demonstration in a downtown garden in support of the extradition bill. But others expressed sympathy.

"I think that if the government continues doing this, there will be no hope for Hong Kong. If there's no hope for Hong Kong, this is the last chance for us to fight for (it)," said Daniel Lee, a doctor. "But I don't know if we can do anything meaningful. Seeing these kids going out, being hit like this and suffering tear gas, anyone with some sense of justice will come to help them."

Though never a bastion of democracy, Hong Kong enjoys freedoms of speech and protest denied to Chinese living in the mainland.

Opposition to the proposed extradition legislation, championed by Lam with Beijing's support, brought what organizers said was 1 million people into the streets on Sunday. The clashes Wednesday drew tens of thousands of mostly young residents and forced the legislature to postpone debate on the bill.

On June 4, the city saw one of its biggest candlelight vigils in recent years to commemorate the 30th anniversary of China's bloody suppression of student-led pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Those in Hong Kong who anger China's central government have come under greater pressure since Xi came to power in 2012.

The detention of several Hong Kong booksellers in late 2015 intensified worries about the erosion of the territory's rule of law. The booksellers vanished before resurfacing in police custody in mainland China.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 30 of 63

Among them, Swedish citizen Gui Minhai is under investigation for allegedly leaking state secrets after he sold gossipy books about Chinese leaders.

In April, nine leaders of a 2014 pro-democracy protest movement known as the "Umbrella Revolution" were convicted on public nuisance and other charges.

The relationship between citizens and the authorities "has been completely deteriorated," Labor Party Vice Chairman Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung told The Associated Press.

"We've seen (the police) use extreme forces which are not proportional to the demonstration," Cheung said Thursday.

The demonstrators appeared little deterred, though they were taking pains to cloak their identities by wearing masks, declining to give their full names to journalists and using cash rather than registered, stored value cards to buy subway tickets. Heavy rain over the city put a damper on new demonstrations, although protesters interviewed Wednesday said they had no plans of giving up until Lam's government dropped its plans for the amendments altogether.

Lo, the police commissioner, defended the police handling of the clashes outside the government headquarters, saying officers only acted when they were charged by protesters carrying pavement bricks, planks and iron pipes from a nearby construction site.

"We have absolutely no bad intention to cause trouble with anyone. We are just doing our duty," he said. He said the protesters acted in a "violent and organized manner."

"We know the crowd is hostile and very unstable and we tried our best to avoid confrontation," he said.

The rancor over the extradition issue is capturing attention in Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as its own territory.

On Thursday, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Hong Kong's situation shows the "one country, two systems" framework devised for Hong Kong when Britain handed the colony back to China — presented by Beijing as a formula for uniting Taiwan with the mainland — cannot work.

The Hong Kong government should listen to its people and not rush to pass the legislation that sparked the protests, she told reporters.

This story has been corrected to show that name of police official is Stephen Lo Wai-chung instead of Yuen Yuk-kin.

Lock HIM up? Dems weigh what to do about Trump's deeds

By ELANA SCHOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a familiar chant, President Donald Trump's backers regularly called for Hillary Clinton to be thrown in prison during the 2016 campaign. Now top Democrats are grappling with fraught questions about whether to lock HIM up.

As Democrats in Congress press for continued investigation of Trump while he remains in office, the party's presidential candidates are weighing how to address his alleged misdeeds when he's no longer in the White House. It's a question that raises the potential of Democrats politicizing law enforcement, something they've blasted Trump for doing.

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said in an interview released Wednesday that if she wins the White House, her Justice Department "would have no choice" but to pursue an obstruction of justice case against Trump after he leaves office. Fellow 2020 hopeful Pete Buttigieg said that if he beats Trump, he would support a future criminal investigation into Trump.

Harris' and Buttigieg's comments come after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told fellow Democrats that she would rather see Trump defeated in the election, then imprisoned, than impeached in Congress. That's partly a way to quiet the push from multiple Democrats vying to replace Trump, who want their party to start the impeachment process.

Vowing to seek charges against Trump after he leaves office brings risk for Democratic White House hopefuls, given their own party's repeated excoriations of the Republican president for politicizing the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 31 of 63

Justice Department, as when he threatened repeatedly in the 2016 campaign to prosecute Clinton once he became president.

Even the idea of impeachment, though popular with Democrats' base voters, is shy of majority support with the general public, polls indicate.

Harris' and Buttigieg's comments raise questions about how willing Democrats are to keep bending norms of governmental behavior, such as the usually bright line between politics and federal prosecutions, that Trump has shattered.

Harris, a California senator and former prosecutor who is running in part on the strength of her legal and law enforcement experience, appeared to have taken a step farther than her opponents in affirming that a Justice Department in her administration "should" look at charging Trump with obstruction after his presidency.

"Everyone should be held accountable," Harris told NPR in an interview. "And the president is not above the law."

Buttigieg told The Atlantic on Wednesday, "To the extent that there's an obstruction case, then, yes, DOJ's got to deal with it."

Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, cited President Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon following the Watergate scandal but said he wouldn't be interested in pardoning Trump.

"I would want any credible allegation of criminal behavior to be investigated to the fullest," he said.

Mueller has said he was unable to exonerate Trump of obstruction but couldn't pursue potential charges because of a Justice Department policy that bars the indictment of a sitting president. Harris has said she would ask her Justice Department to reexamine that policy. Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has pledged outright to end it if she's elected president.

Harris, a former California attorney general who previously was San Francisco's district attorney, later said she would not dictate the outcome of any prospective efforts to charge Trump.

"The facts and the evidence will take the process where it leads," she said.

But she also told NPR that "I've seen prosecution of cases on much less evidence" than Mueller's report amassed against Trump.

Mueller examined nearly a dozen acts by Trump for potential obstruction of justice, including his firing of FBI Director James Comey, his request of Comey that he end an FBI investigation into ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn and his involvement in the drafting of a misleading and incomplete statement about his eldest son's meeting to receive dirt on Clinton.

Nearly half of the more than 20 Democratic primary candidates are calling for the start of an impeachment inquiry, Harris and Warren among them. Few contenders, though, are making that stance a centerpiece of their campaigns.

Buttigieg last month stopped short of directly pushing Congress to pursue impeachment proceedings.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said in New Hampshire that the Justice Department has a responsibility to look into whether Trump should be charged but the process "should not be under the control of the president." Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who's also in the race, recently said his Justice Department would ensure "accountability and justice," but he did not commit his administration to pursuing a case against Trump.

Presidents have often avoided politically charged prosecutions when taking office, in the interest of national unity.

Ford's pardon of fellow Republican Nixon after his resignation was widely panned at the time but later perceived by historians to have helped put Watergate in the past. Barack Obama resisted calls from liberals to launch a widespread investigation into the George W. Bush administration's post-Sept. 11 domestic spying and torture programs, saying before he took office that "we need to look forward."

His Justice Department, though, did launch probes of a pair of individual cases, which concluded without criminal charges.

Benjamin Wittes, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, wrote in a column Wednesday that presidential contenders should "avoid doing prospective damage to the tradition of presidential administrations

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 32 of 63

not going after their predecessors. Normalizing this sort of rhetoric is extremely dangerous.”

One top Republican warily eyed the “pretty radical” prospect of a Democratic candidate committing a future Justice Department to investigating Trump.

“I think they were pretty offended by the way that the FBI treated Hillary Clinton,” Texas Sen. John Cornyn said of Democrats.

Kayleigh McEnany, press secretary for Trump’s reelection campaign, slammed Harris’ comments.

“Leave it to Democrats to continue peddling conspiracy theories based on their desperate and deranged desire to overturn the results of the 2016 election and trample on the vote of the American people,” she said.

The statute of limitation for seeking obstruction charges, as in most federal criminal cases, is five years from the time an alleged crime is committed. The time limit for charges in conspiracy cases begins at the time of the last act in an alleged conspiracy.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Mark Sherman, Eric Tucker, Darlene Superville and Will Weissert in Washington; and Hunter Woodall in Concord, New Hampshire, 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 NAVY ASSISTING 2 TANKERS TARGETED IN GULF OF OMAN

Two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz were reportedly attacked, an assault that left one ablaze and adrift as dozens of sailors were evacuated from both vessels.

2. ‘I THINK I’D WANT TO HEAR IT’

Defying guidance from the FBI, Trump says that if a foreign power offered dirt on his 2020 opponent he’d be open to accepting it.

3. HONG KONG IN LIMBO

The legislature suspends meetings as leaders consider their next steps while violent clashes persist over a contentious extradition bill.

4. MEMPHIS NEIGHBORHOOD TENSE AFTER SHOOTING

Law enforcement personnel and an angry crowd face off after an armed man wanted on felony warrants was fatally shot by authorities in his family’s front yard.

5. PENCE EVANGELIZES FREE-TRADE DEAL

The vice president is on a mission to advance the Trump administration’s top legislative priority for the year — the troubled U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

6. CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW

A major earthquake that rocked Alaska proved to be a successful trial run in Anchorage for a new national wireless network dedicated to first responders.

7. WHAT VENEZUELA’S BLACKOUT HAS SPARKED

The sale of electric generators is one of the few growth industries in the nation, whose residents struggle to get through each day as public services crumble.

8. WHERE TRUMP IS SELLING HIS MESSAGE

As Democrats focus on their crowded primary, Trump blankets battleground states like Michigan, Florida, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania with online ads.

9. ARCH MADNESS

The St. Louis Blues complete a remarkable second-half run to beat Boston in seven games and win the first Stanley Cup in their 52-year history.

10. STORIED PEBBLE BEACH READY FOR US OPEN

Eyes will be focused on the USGA, which is under pressure to get the course setup right and avoid controversy at one of America’s iconic golf venues.

Police, angry crowd face off after fatal shooting in Memphis

By **ADRIAN SAINZ** Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Armed officers and an angry crowd faced off after a Tennessee man was fatally shot by U.S. Marshals in a working-class Memphis neighborhood.

People in the crowd threw rocks and bricks, with 25 officers suffering mostly minor injuries during the tense clash Wednesday night in the Frayser community in north Memphis. Officers cordoned off several blocks near the scene. By 11 p.m., officers had used tear gas and most of the crowd dispersed, police director Michael Rallings said at a Thursday morning news conference. Three people were arrested.

Officers on horseback patrolled the area, and lines of police cars with flashing blue lights were parked along the street. An ambulance could be seen at the outer edge of the scene. A helicopter flew overhead as police cars trickled away. Residential streets were blocked, and a heavy police presence remained in the area Thursday.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Keli McAlister said the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force went to a Frayser home to look for a suspect with felony warrants. Marshals saw the man get into a vehicle and then proceed to ram task force vehicles several times before exiting with a weapon, McAlister said. Marshals then opened fire, killing the man who died at the scene. McAlister did not say how many marshals fired or how many times the man was shot.

One local official identified the victim as Brandon Webber and said he was shot several times in his family's front yard. Family members confirmed to the Daily Memphian that the 21-year-old Webber died.

In identifying Webber on Twitter early Thursday, Shelby County Commissioner and mayoral candidate Tami Sawyer said "Every life lost should matter...every single one. How many times will this be ok? It cannot continue to be."

Memphis police officers were called in to help with crowd control as word of the shooting spread on social media. As more protesters showed up, more Memphis officers and Shelby County sheriff's deputies arrived at the scene. The situation then escalated, and officers donned protective riot gear as people threw rocks and bricks. Police cars and a nearby fire station were damaged, Rallings said.

The TBI is called in to investigate police-involved shootings by district attorneys in Shelby and other counties in the state. TBI investigators then give their report to the district attorney, who will decide whether to pursue charges against officers involved.

The police director implored residents to wait until the TBI finishes its investigation before spreading possible misinformation about the shooting. "I need everyone to stay calm," Rallings said.

While police support the right of people to demonstrate, Rallings said "we will not allow any acts of violence."

Passion Anderson, a 34-year-old student, drove her 13-year-old son to the scene early Thursday, after protesters had gone and the scene had calmed down. She grew up in Memphis, but left to Ohio before moving in November to the Frayser neighborhood, a mostly low- to middle-income area north of downtown.

Anderson said she worries about her son's safety every day in Memphis which like other large cities, struggles with violent crime.

"I just want him to see this, know what's going on, to be conscious," she said from the driver's seat of her car, with her son in the passenger seat. "I fear for him all the time."

Democrats worry as Trump unleashes money on 2020 digital ads

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While Democrats wage a wide open primary, President Donald Trump is blanketing battleground states with online advertising that could help set the narrative heading into the 2020 campaign.

The blitz of ads run recently in states including Michigan, Florida, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania alarms

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 34 of 63

some Democrats. They're worried by the more than \$10 million Trump and his allies have already spent on digital advertising, a drop compared with the \$1 billion his campaign could spend by Election Day.

For now, the ads are going largely unanswered as Democrats focus on their primary that's just getting into full swing. But Trump's early head start combined with his massive fundraising operation has stirred concern that it could be difficult for the eventual nominee to catch up.

"The real concern here is that Trump is able to have unchallenged positions when it comes to issues that a lot of voters care about," said Tara McGowan, the founder and CEO of ACRONYM, a progressive group that specializes in digital campaigns. "We are going to see outside (Democratic) groups start to spend with offensive and defensive messages, but I worry that it's still not going to be enough to compete with the infrastructure the right has."

Many of the ads are chock full of conservative red meat, focused on building a border wall with Mexico, vilifying Democrats' investigation of Trump's 2016 campaign as a "witch hunt" and attacking the news media. A recent series that could resonate in manufacturing states portrays Trump as tough on China by declaring that the "days of cowering down to China are over."

Others appear aimed at softening his image, especially on issues related to race. The ads are unlikely to persuade African Americans to support Trump by large margins but could ease concern among moderate and suburban voters the president will need to win reelection — many of whom voted for Democrats during last year's midterms.

One battleground ad, viewed as many as 1 million times, shows footage of a White House event commemorating Trump's signature of a criminal justice overhaul. The president grins as Gregory Allen, an African American former prisoner who was released under the law, praises him for "continuing to make America great again."

In another, a middle-aged black actor plays "Howard from New Mexico," who thanks Trump for restoring his faith in the country. And in a third, a multiracial collage of people are all seen liking a social media post by "Melissa from Florida," who tells Trump that he makes her proud to be an American.

Trump's campaign denies they are trying to soften his image.

"We are happily sharing the president's record on improving health care, protecting preexisting conditions, enforcing the border and laws on the books, and giving 90% of Americans more money in their paychecks," said campaign spokeswoman Erin Perrine.

Few expect Democratic candidates enmeshed in the primary to compete with Trump head-on when it comes to digital advertising. That will fall to outside groups and the Democratic National Committee until a nominee is chosen.

But while groups like Priorities USA and American Bridge plan to spend big, they have yet to ramp up. The DNC was carrying \$6.2 million in debt with just \$7.5 million on hand at the end of April, compared to the Republican National Committee's \$34.7 million. And many donors have yet to go all in on a specific candidate.

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, has outspent each individual Democratic candidate by more than fourfold since January, when the primary unofficially kicked off, according to an analysis of data compiled by Bully Pulpit Interactive. In many battlegrounds, he's outspent most by at least double since March, the data shows.

"Now is the time you have to fire people up, explain the stakes and tell them what the other side is doing," said Rufus Gifford, who was finance director for President Barack Obama's campaign in 2012. "Scaring people is absolutely appropriate because the threat is real."

Still, others say such dire predictions are premature.

"Party fundraising is always difficult when you are out of power and a year and half out from the election," said Tom Nides, a prominent fundraiser and former Hillary Clinton adviser. "We will not win or lose because of money."

Priorities USA, the largest Democratic outside group, says it plans to launch an initial \$100 million phase of its anti-Trump effort this summer. The group declined to say how much it has raised but spent about \$200 million during the 2016 race.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 35 of 63

Others worry donors are neglecting the DNC, which was roiled by turmoil and distrust in 2016 after hackers with ties to Russia leaked emails revealing the party favored Clinton over her rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Robert Zimmerman, a prominent donor and DNC committeeman from New York, said the fundraising and spending gap is real. He says donors need to overcome their misgivings and step up contributions to avoid a repeat.

"It's profoundly worrisome, but right now it's not getting attention because everyone is focused on the presidential race," he said. "(Chairman) Tom Perez has got to make the case that the DNC is an essential piece of the equation and we can't wait for our nominee to be picked."

Following the discord of 2016, DNC officials say Perez has worked to rebuild the operation after inheriting an organization that had only three fundraising staffers. Although their Republican counterparts regularly outraise them, that doesn't always translate into winning, they say.

"Will the RNC outraise us? Yes, they will. Does that mean they are going to win? Absolutely not," said DNC spokeswoman Xochitl Hinojosa. "That didn't happen in 2018, that didn't happen 2017, that didn't happen in Alabama. Time and time again, they have not proven to us since 2016 that they can win with the resources they have."

Follow Brian Slodysko on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/BrianSlodysko>

Arch Madness: Blues win 1st Stanley Cup, beating Bruins 4-1

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Blues goalie Jordan Binnington was waiting patiently, as NHL rookies learn to do, while the Stanley Cup was passed from teammate to teammate across the recently conquered ice of the new Boston Garden.

Thirteen St. Louis players took their turn with the iconic trophy, raising it above their heads, lowering it for a kiss, posing for a picture.

Finally, understudy Jake Allen gave the starter a little shove, and the Game 7 star timidly skated forward to receive the Cup and cap off one of the great rookie runs in NHL history.

Binnington stopped 32 shots, and Conn Smythe Trophy winner Ryan O'Reilly scored for the fourth straight game Wednesday night to lead the Blues to a 4-1 victory over Boston in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final and their first NHL championship.

"To bring a Cup to a city for a first time is crazy. Tough to put into words," forward Jaden Schwartz said on the ice as players and team officials took their turns caressing their new bauble. "These fans have been waiting a long time. It's exciting. We're going to have a lot of fun with it."

O'Reilly added an assist, Alex Pietrangolo had a goal and an assist and Brayden Schenn and Zach Sanford also scored for St. Louis, which had the worst record in the league in early January but won 30 of their final 49 regular-season games.

"Once we pulled it together, we were tough to beat," said coach Craig Berube, who took over when Mike Yeo was fired in November.

He is the fourth coach in the past 11 years hired in midseason to lead his team to the NHL title.

Behind Binnington, the Blues eliminated the Jets in six games, the Stars in seven and then knocked out the Sharks in six to reach the final for the first time since 1970. That year, the Blues lost in Boston when Bobby Orr flew through the air after scoring his Cup-clincher — a goal that is commemorated in bronze outside the building.

"It's pretty crazy how things come full circle like that," Sanford said. "You know, this team deserves it more than anyone, I think. This is the best group of guys ever. We put in the work, and we earned it."

In a physical series that left Bruins captain Zdeno Chara with a broken jaw and saw two Blues suspended for head hits, the teams took turns winning the first three games, with Binnington getting pulled from a 7-2 loss in Game 3. St. Louis won the next two to move one win from the title, but Boston erupted for five

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 36 of 63

goals in Game 6 on Sunday to force the series to the limit.

Boston had home-ice advantage, along with a huge edge in Stanley Cup and Game 7 experience: Five Bruins remained from the team that beat Vancouver in seven to win the franchise's sixth title in 2011, then returned to the final two years later.

But it was the rookie Binnington — not the 2014 Vezina Trophy winner Tuukka Rask — who took a shutout into the final minutes Wednesday. The Blues were never really in danger after scoring twice in the final few minutes of the first period.

"He bounced back. We knew he would," Pietrangelo said. "Unbelievable first period. His confidence, his swagger, his belief in himself — unbelievable."

Rask, who had been the favorite for the postseason MVP if the Bruins had won, stopped 16 shots. The Bruins outshot St. Louis 33-20, but Matt Grzelcyk scored Boston's only goal.

The Blues went ahead at the end of the first period on goals from O'Reilly and Pietrangelo about three minutes apart. The second period was scoreless, then Schenn made it 3-0 with 8:35 to play and Sanford put it out of reach before the Bruins spoiled Binnington's bid for a shutout.

"I'm sure there's a bright, bright future for this team," Chara said. "I'm sure everyone pictured it differently, and we believed that it was there for us. That's sports. You've got to kind of take those and move on."

Returning to the site of their last appearance in the final, the Blues won for the third time in Boston this series and an NHL record-tying 10th time in the postseason.

O'Reilly was the first player since Wayne Gretzky to score in four consecutive Stanley Cup Final games. Not so surprising with Gretzky, who is the NHL's leading regular-season and playoff scorer. But O'Reilly had just three goals in his first 22 postseason games.

"The guy was a beast all playoffs," Schenn said. "He deserves it. He's a hell of a player. Binnington's a beast. What a team to be a part of."

Boston will have to console itself with the two major sports championships it has already won in the past year, or the dozen trophies since 2002 that have been chauffeured through Boston in a parade of the city's iconic, amphibious Duck Boats.

Three of them have come at St. Louis' expense, including the cathartic 2004 Red Sox World Series title that ended an 86-year drought.

Now it's St. Louis breaking through against an Original Six franchise with a half-dozen banners already. "They've been a historical team. They've won so many Cups," Blues defenseman Vince Dunn said. "We came into the season with a lot of hopes, and we let each other down a bit for the start of the season. But there was no doubt in our minds that we couldn't come back and come out on top."

The Bruins tried to harness all the local karma they could.

Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman and Julian Edelman waved a banner before the game while wearing David Ortiz jerseys; the Red Sox slugger is recuperating just a mile or so away from an assassination attempt in his native Dominican Republic.

Retired Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling also was in the crowd, wearing his World Series ring and a Bruins jersey. Portable party Rob Gronkowski also made an appearance on the video board.

And the Bruins responded, dominating for long stretches of time except in the way that mattered most. The Blues had just one shot on goal heading into the final minutes of the first period, but they scored first when O'Reilly deflected a shot from Jay Bouwmeester into the net. Then with just 8 seconds left in the period and Bruins forward Brad Marchand tentative on a line change, Pietrangelo beat Rask to make it 2-0.

Bouwmeester played in 1,184 regular-season games — the third most among active players who had not gotten their names etched on the Stanley Cup.

That earned him the honor of being the first player to receive the trophy from Pietrangelo, the captain. "It was awesome," he said. "I've been waiting a long time, and I'm pretty honored that he gave it to me."

While Trump wages trade war, Pence tries to ease GOP anxiety

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

YORK, Pa. (AP) — A group of Pennsylvania manufacturers surrounded Mike Pence as he offered his standard greeting from President Donald Trump. The response was underwhelming.

"When I told him I was in the Keystone State, I think he sounded just a little bit jealous," the vice president said to a few audible groans and tepid applause.

But when Pence turned to his assignment for the trip last week to York, Pennsylvania — selling the administration's new trade deal with Mexico and Canada — the group warmed up. By the time he got to the part about calling on Congress to pass the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, his audience cheered him on.

Pence is on a quiet mission to advance the administration's top legislative priority for the year — the troubled trade deal — and, with it, just maybe hold together the fraying Republican coalition ahead of the next one. As Trump wagers on a trade war with China and threats of another with Mexico, Pence has been traveling the country trying to build support for a free-trade deal. While his boss promotes the power of tariffs, Pence has been in places like Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Lebanon, Indiana, speaking about the benefits of lowering them.

The vice president isn't just trying to boost support for the trade agreement, which the administration wants passed this summer. He's also trying to hold together a Republican Party deeply divided over Trump's trade wars. The president's policies fly in the face of his party's support for free markets. They have the potential to drive away country club, pro-business Republicans — long a bedrock of the GOP — and even the blue-collar workers who crossed traditional allegiances to elevate the pair to the White House in 2016.

The administration certainly has some ground to make up. AP VoteCast, a survey of voters from the 2018 midterms, found Americans broadly critical in their assessments of Trump on trade. According to the survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters nationwide, 45% approved of Trump on trade, while 53% disapproved.

And Trump, who took over the GOP by storm, continues to be viewed skeptically by many party stalwarts. His now-delayed threat to place escalating 5% tariffs on Mexican imports spawned a war of words with the traditionally Republican U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"They take advantage of us in every way possible, and the U.S. Chamber is right there with them," Trump said Monday in an unscheduled interview with CNBC, comparing the business group to exploitive trade partners.

Enter Pence, the Trump White House's go-to pitchman to traditional Republican voters.

While Trump has tried to sell the USMCA as a replacement for the 25-year-old North America Free Trade Agreement he railed about as a presidential candidate, the trilateral trade deal is simply a modernized version of the pact, with long-sought updates for the new digital economy and some labor protections.

The manufacturing and agricultural areas most affected by NAFTA and its would-be successor are among the most politically significant of 2020, and it's no secret that's what's guiding Pence's travel schedule. It's places like R&J Johnson Farms near Glyndon, Minnesota, located in a Hillary Clinton-won state that Trump's team hopes to flip next year, where Pence visited last month to encourage Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson to bring Democrats on board behind the USMCA. It's places like York, Pennsylvania, where Pence toured JLS Automation and its robotic packaging machines for items like fast-food egg patties and parmesan cheese crisps. York County voted for Trump by a nearly 2-to-1 margin in 2016, but the GOP's performance suffered in last year's midterms.

"It just happens to be they are going to be Democrat-held seats, but also in states that we need to win in 2020," said Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short.

As a former congressman, Pence is a known quantity among GOP lawmakers and interest groups, and Trump has often proved unwilling or unable to maintain the discipline of a strategic messaging campaign.

While Trump's slate of protectionist measures has alienated many in the business community — most prominently the Chamber of Commerce — USMCA has proved to be a unifying priority for those essential elements of the Republican base.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 38 of 63

"While we disagree on tariffs, that doesn't change our really strong working relationship on things as important as USMCA," said Neil Bradley, the group's chief policy officer. He praised Pence's salesmanship: "As a former member (of Congress) he understands the power of a vice president going into a district and talking about the benefits of a particular policy and how to move votes."

Meanwhile, Democrats, who have many of the same gripes about NAFTA that Trump has espoused, are clamoring for ways to regain lost ground with working-class voters who found Trump's rhetoric appealing.

It's Pence's job to stop the bleeding, holding events in front of posters with the slogan "We make it here, help us sell it there."

For an unconventional administration, Pence's dozen trips over the previous three months have largely stuck to a familiar playbook of political organizing. Roundtable visits with business leaders, hard-hat tours and speeches to workers are combined with local news interviews and calls to action, all to get Congress to take up the deal.

"Tell the story of what the USMCA is going to mean for companies like this," Pence implored the audience of engineers, tradespeople and salespeople in Pennsylvania, asking them to tell their friends and call their members of Congress. "It's absolutely essential we get the USMCA passed by the Congress — and passed by the Congress this summer."

That timetable strikes many in the president's party, and even some in the White House, as particularly rosy. The Trump administration started the clock on Congress to act in late May, allowing them to bring the legislation to lawmakers as soon as the end of June.

"The clock is ticking. It's time," Pence told workers.

The White House hopes the accelerated timetable could keep the USMCA from becoming a political pawn as Washington quickly becomes singularly focused on the 2020 campaign, and the Pence effort is meant to push Democratic lawmakers to pressure House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to bring the trade pact to the House floor. But the White House acknowledges that Democrats may be unwilling to give Trump such a high-profile victory with his reelection bid just around the corner.

6 suspects, including gunman, arrested in Ortiz shooting

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — An alleged gunman and five accomplices have been detained in the shooting of former Red Sox superstar David Ortiz, Dominican officials said Wednesday, while providing no information about why a group of young men would try to kill their country's most beloved sports hero.

Four other suspects were also being pursued in the shooting, which witnesses said was carried out by two men on a motorcycle, assisted by two other groups of people in cars.

"At this moment, they are being interrogated and we will continue deepening the investigation to get to the truth about what happened," Chief Prosecutor Jean Alain Rodríguez said.

"Nobody involved in this unfortunate episode will escape justice, neither those who carried it out nor the mastermind," he said.

The national police director, Maj. Gen. Ney Aldrin Bautista Almonte, said the coordinator of the attack was offered 400,000 Dominican pesos, or about \$7,800, to orchestrate the shooting. He said the alleged coordinator was also among those in custody.

Rodríguez and Bautista declined to give a motive for the shooting at a popular Santo Domingo bar Sunday night or say who had hired the attackers.

They promised, however, that all those who targeted Ortiz in the baseball-crazy Caribbean country would be brought to justice.

"We recognize the symbolism that David Ortiz represents, and we promise that this case will be cleared up completely," Bautista said.

Ortiz is one of the most beloved figures in sports history in the Dominican Republic and Boston, a fearsome power hitter with a ready smile. The slugger known as Big Papi led the Red Sox to three World

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 39 of 63

Series championships, was a 10-time All-Star and hit 541 home runs.

The Red Sox retired his number, 34, in 2017 — a year after he retired — and Boston renamed a bridge and a stretch of road outside Fenway Park in his honor. He maintains a home in Weston, on the outskirts of Boston.

Ortiz galvanized the city in the aftermath of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing that left three people dead, bellowing through a megaphone at Fenway Park: "This is our (expletive) city!"

While Ortiz lived in Boston, he visited the Dominican Republic at least six times a year, where he crossed paths with a wide variety of figures from the country's legitimate and illegal business worlds, according to friends.

Ortiz studiously avoided mixing with shady characters, but a law-enforcement official said on condition of anonymity that officials were investigating whether Ortiz may have formed some relationship or acquaintance during a trip here that, without his knowledge, set off the chain of events leading to his shooting.

Among the suspects in custody was the alleged shooter, identified by authorities as Rolfy Ferreyra, aka Sandy, a skinny, tattooed 25-year-old who officials said had confessed to the shooting.

In a statement, officials said the weapon used, a Browning Hi Power semi-automatic pistol, had been handed to suspect Oliver Moises Mirabal Acosta, then to suspect Porfirio Allende Dechamps Vasquez, AKA The Kid, who buried it in the garden of his home.

Both men have been arrested and the gun has been recovered.

Also under arrest were Joel Rodríguez de la Cruz, aka Squiddy; Reynaldo Rodríguez Valenzuela, aka The Chinaman; and the suspected driver of the motorcycle, Eddy Vladimir Feliz García, aka The Package.

Many were caught in the same clothes they were seen wearing on surveillance video, Bautista said.

The four suspects still at large were identified as Luis Alfredo Rivas Clase, aka The Surgeon, as well as a woman known as The Venezuelan, or Red, and two other men, prosecutors said in a statement.

Meanwhile, in Boston, Ortiz's wife said in statement that the former Red Sox slugger was able to sit up and take some steps as he recuperates in the intensive care unit at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"His condition is guarded, and he will remain in the ICU for the coming days, but he is making good progress toward recovery," Tiffany Ortiz said in the statement.

Prosecutors said security camera footage showed two men on the motorcycle talking with other people in a gray Hyundai Accent and in another Hyundai in a nearby street before the shooting.

One of the suspects, Mirabal Acosta, was seen driving the Accent before mounting a motorcycle driven by the 25-year-old Feliz García, the prosecutors said in a court document.

"In one of the videos it was possible to observe both the accused and the shooter planning the commission of the incident," the prosecutors said.

The document also revealed ineptitude, saying the motorcycle driver was captured after he skidded and fell off his bike as the pair tried to flee. Enraged fans captured García and beat him bloody before handing him over to police.

Mirabal Acosta was captured Tuesday night in the town of Mao in the northern Dominican Republic.

García's lawyer said his client, who has been charged with being an accomplice to attempted murder, is an innocent motorcycle taxi driver who had no idea his passenger was going to commit a crime.

"He didn't know what they were going to do. He's a fan of David's," the attorney, Deivi Solano, said Tuesday.

Ortiz's father and a sister live in Santo Domingo and the 43-year-old former Red Sox great was active on the social scene here, hitting nightspots with friends who included TV personalities and Dominican reggaeton musicians.

Beloved in his hometown, Ortiz traveled the dangerous streets of the Dominican capital with little or no security, trusting his fans to protect him, according to friends.

The Dominican Republic is one of the world's most dangerous countries. The murder rate stands at 12.5 killings per 100,000 people, placing the Dominican Republic in the top 10% to 15% of the most violent countries, according to the U.S. State Department.

Associated Press writer Martín José Adames Alcántara contributed to this reported.

Mothers say Air Force fails amid child sex assaults reports

By **JUSTIN PRITCHARD** and **FOSTER KLUG** Associated Press

To the mothers, the 13-year-old boy appeared largely unsupervised as he roamed among the clusters of townhomes on the U.S. Air Force base in Japan.

It would have been unremarkable — the neighborhood was full of kids — except that young girls were starting to report the boy had led them from play and molested them.

“We were like, ‘How is this OK?’” the mother of one 5-year-old girl told The Associated Press, which granted her anonymity to protect her daughter’s privacy. She locked her kids inside.

The first girl to report had to wait six days for officials on the largest Air Force installation in the Pacific to provide counseling. The mothers did not sense much urgency from Air Force criminal investigators either. They told the families they’d waited 13 days to meet the boy’s father.

By then, mothers had identified five girls, ages 2 to 7, who said the boy had taken them to some trees or a playground or his house. Another five kids would allege abuse soon after.

“We come here, and it takes the worst cases that you can imagine to find out that you don’t have the services to support your children,” the 5-year-old’s mother said. “There’s a feeling of complete distrust.”

This was not supposed to happen again. Last summer, Congress ordered the Defense Department to overhaul how it handles allegations of sexual assault among the tens of thousands of military kids who live or attend school on U.S. bases worldwide.

Yet the case at Kadena Air Base began unfolding in February — six months after President Donald Trump signed those landmark reforms.

For decades, justice has been elusive on American bases when the children of service members sexually assaulted each other. Help for victims and accountability for offenders was rare in the nearly 700 reports over a decade that an AP investigation documented.

The new law required reforms across the Pentagon. The school system it runs for service members’ kids had to create new student protections. The Family Advocacy Program, whose social service counselors would turn victims away, must review reports. The Office of the Secretary of Defense will track cases and create a policy for how to handle them.

The reforms are now rolling out, and the rollout has been uneven.

The Air Force has not drafted new guidelines. Instead, it is “reserving decision on adding or amending policy until publication of a Department of Defense policy,” according to spokesman Maj. Nicholas Mercurio.

Like other armed services, Air Force representatives are helping form that policy. A Pentagon spokeswoman could not say when it will be published.

Mercurio called the Japan case “an extremely difficult situation.” He said the Air Force has scrambled to deliver “helping resources to the families involved while remaining focused on protecting the rights and privacies of all parties and preserving the integrity of the ongoing investigation.”

Kadena Air Base spokeswoman Lt. Col. Christy Stravolo noted that the 13-year-old boy has returned to the U.S. with his family. That happened within several weeks of the first allegations. Attempts to reach his parents were unsuccessful.

The Army didn’t wait to follow the Pentagon’s lead. It wrote its own policy.

That March 21 directive mandates both a criminal investigation and victim assistance through Family Advocacy, which now must inform counterparts on other bases when an offender’s family transfers.

Because military law doesn’t apply to family members, justice must come under civilian law. So cases on Army bases will be referred to state or local district attorneys who, unlike federal prosecutors, have juvenile justice systems.

“There’s a recognition that states are best able to adjudicate,” said Charles Lozano, an Army attorney who helped draft the policy.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 41 of 63

The policy does not explore the nuances of overseas bases, where host-nation civilian authorities may treat juvenile sex crime allegations very differently. Instead of handing over suspects to Japanese officials, for example, the military often flies them back.

Rep. Jackie Speier, who chairs the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, said she was encouraged that Army's policy was "more comprehensive" than the law required.

"We're going to continue to track this," Speier said. "I'm not certain that this is enough. I'm very watchful in terms of observing what happens when these incidents occur. And they will occur."

The Navy and Marines fall between the Army and Air Force.

The Marine Corps is updating its guidelines to include "language and protocols that address problematic sexual behavior in children and youth," according to Maj. Craig Thomas. Publication is expected by year's end.

Naval leaders have directed base commanders to work with social services, according to spokesman Lt. Samuel Boyle. The Navy also has issued interim guidance, which it would not share.

The most detailed changes came to the Pentagon-run school system that educates more than 70,000 students on bases in the U.S., Asia and Europe.

These students have not received protections public school students get under Title IX, a federal law that's been used to investigate sexual assault in schools and to help victims. Congress said students at Pentagon-run schools must get protections "at least comparable to" Title IX. The school system published new policies in February.

School officials are supposed to be trained by Oct. 1, and a new incident logging system is scheduled to launch in the fall, the Department of Defense Education Activity said in a written statement. For now, the school system introduced a "Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention" website .

Four Title IX experts who reviewed the policies for AP said that while broadly they create comparable protections, their substantial shortcomings include a complex investigation process that relies on already-stretched school principals.

"It seems unlikely that a principal would have both the training and the time to conduct these investigations in a thorough and timely manner," said Megan Farrell, Title IX coordinator for the Palo Alto Unified School District in California.

A mid-April post on a Facebook page for teachers at Pentagon-run schools asked whether anyone was aware of the new policies.

Two said they had received training. One more mentioned a question-and-answer session at her school. Another eight had no training, with nearly all unaware of the new policy.

About 4,000 students attend seven schools on Kadena. Like schools on many U.S. bases, Kadena's have struggled with sex assault allegations — in 2014, several high school students reported attacks.

The full scope of the latest case remains under investigation. The AP interviewed two mothers of girls who were among the first to report and a third person who helped organize families. According to one mother, investigators stopped giving updates after relating that 10 kids had alleged abuse.

That same mother was troubled by guidance she heard from base officials: Don't ask your daughter about what happened and don't engage deeply if she raises it.

Investigators warned that conversations could taint a potential case, though criminal prosecutions on overseas bases are rare . Counselors "said to just say, 'How does that make you feel?'" the mother said.

Several experts said the best approach is a forensic interview by an expert followed by the therapeutic embrace of fully engaged parents. Talking can soften feelings of stigma and shame.

"Family support is critical to the healing," said Michelle Miller, coordinator for mental health initiatives at the National Children's Alliance, which accredits children's advocacy centers that specialize in forensic interviews.

The chief of Air Force's Family Advocacy Program said that while parents shouldn't press their children, they can encourage — and even initiate — discussion.

"Attempts to avoid, shut down, or stop uncomfortable conversations could be viewed by the child as a

sign that he/she has done something wrong," Col. Patrick Pohle explained in email.

Three weeks into the Kadena case, some families still felt unsupported. An investigator had earlier suggested jolting the process with a call halfway around the world from the island of Okinawa — to Capitol Hill. In early March, the mother of the 5-year-old girl reached a sympathetic staffer at the Senate Armed Service Committee.

The next day, the commander of Kadena called and asked how he could help.

Air Force officials said they have mobilized investigators and other specialists from around the globe. The 5-year-old's mother acknowledged those efforts and that some of the families may have had a different experience. In late March, counselors distributed a one-page summary encouraging parents to talk openly with their children. The mother said a representative for the base commander called to say there would be a meeting for victims' families on Thursday evening.

"The difference from the beginning to now is that there is more communication," the mother said, "but I don't have confidence that if it happened tomorrow, the process would be successful. The policies haven't been changed."

Klug reported from Seoul, South Korea; Pritchard reported from Los Angeles. Reese Dunklin in Dallas contributed to this report.

Contact Pritchard at <https://twitter.com/lalanewsman> .

Man arrested in deaths of Dallas transgender woman, 2 others

By TERRY WALLACE Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A 33-year-old man has been arrested in the slayings of three women in Dallas, including a transgender woman whose death brought nationwide attention, police said Wednesday.

Kendrell Lavar Lyles has been charged with three counts of murder in the deaths, including last month's slaying of 23-year-old transgender woman Muhlaysia Booker, Dallas police Maj. Max Geron said.

Lyles was being held without bond in the Collin County Jail in McKinney. He has no attorney yet to speak for him.

The June 5 arrest came after tips from the public led police to Lyles as the suspect in the deaths of two women in the Collin County section of north Dallas, Geron said. Authorities haven't disclosed the names of those victims, but further investigation led them to the Booker slaying in Dallas County, southeast of downtown Dallas.

Detectives found that Lyles' car matched the description of the one witnesses reported seeing Booker enter on May 18, the night she was later found dead, Geron told reporters.

"We don't know the motive (for the slayings) at this point. We know that the meeting for one (Collin County) murder was, according to the witness, to engage in a drug transaction. The reason for the shooting is still unknown at this point," Geron said.

Lyles also is being investigated in connection with the death of 26-year-old transgender woman Chynal Lindsey, whose body was found June 1 in White Rock Lake in Dallas, Geron said.

Even before Lindsey was found dead, police officials had said they were investigating a possible connection between the shooting deaths of Booker and another transgender woman, 29-year-old Brittany White, as well as the nonfatal stabbing of a third transgender woman.

Detectives continue to investigate the White slaying last October, Geron said.

Booker's death came a month after a cellphone video showed her being brutally beaten in a separate incident. Police have said that no evidence was found to link Booker's death to her April 12 beating following a minor traffic accident.

According to a police affidavit, the other driver involved in the accident had a gun and refused to let Booker leave until she paid for the damage to his vehicle. A crowd gathered and someone offered a man \$200 to beat the woman. Other men also struck her, while one stomped on her head. Booker suffered a

concussion, fractured wrist and other injuries, police said.

Video of the attack, which was shared on social media, showed Booker being beaten as the crowd hovered and watched. Edward Thomas, 29, was arrested and jailed on an aggravated assault charge.

Thomas' attorneys have issued a statement saying Thomas wasn't involved in Booker's death and sending condolences to her family.

Former Trump aide Hope Hicks agrees to Judiciary interview

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former White House communications director Hope Hicks has agreed to a closed-door interview with the House Judiciary Committee, the panel announced Wednesday, a breakthrough for Democrats who have been frustrated by President Donald Trump's broad stonewalling of their investigations.

The Judiciary panel subpoenaed Hicks, a close and trusted Trump aide who worked for the presidential campaign and in the White House, last month as part of its investigation into special counsel Robert Mueller's report and obstruction of justice. Her June 19 interview will mark the first time a former Trump aide has testified before the panel as part of its probe.

Hicks was a key witness for Mueller, delivering important information to the special counsel's office about multiple episodes involving the president. That includes the president's role in the drafting of a misleading and incomplete statement about a 2016 Trump Tower meeting at which Donald Trump Jr. expected to receive dirt on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Hicks and another former White House aide, Annie Donaldson, both defied subpoenas last week to provide documents to the committee after the White House directed them not to cooperate. That came after former White House counsel Don McGahn also defied subpoenas for documents and testimony at the direction of the White House. McGahn was mentioned frequently in Mueller's report, in addition to Donaldson, who was his aide.

It is unclear whether Hicks will decline to answer some questions related to her time in the White House. She has so far declined to release any documents related to that period after the White House said she had no legal right to provide them. But she has turned over documents related to her time on the Trump campaign.

An attorney for Hicks declined to comment.

While the interview will be behind closed doors, the committee chairman, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said the interview transcript will be released to the public.

"It is important to hear from Ms. Hicks, who was a key witness for the special counsel," Nadler said. "Ms. Hicks understands that the committee will be free to pose questions as it sees fit."

Democrats hope that Hicks' interview will be the first of many related to Mueller's report. They are expected to go to court soon to enforce a subpoena against McGahn, and negotiations are ongoing for Mueller's own testimony. Mueller has made it clear that he doesn't want to testify and will not go beyond the substance of the report in any questioning, but Democrats want to talk to him anyway.

Nadler said Tuesday that he also hopes to call in Jody Hunt, who served as former Attorney General Jeff Sessions' chief of staff, and former White House aide Rick Dearborn.

Absent key witnesses, Democrats have so far held hearings with issue experts to review Mueller's report, which examined Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether Trump obstructed justice as he tried to undermine the probe.

On Wednesday, the House intelligence panel heard from former FBI officials who told lawmakers that Russian meddling in the 2016 election bore some of the textbook tricks of the trade of Kremlin spycraft, including the volume and breadth of contacts with Trump associates.

After that hearing, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., threatened to subpoena FBI Director Christopher Wray for information related to the bureau's counterintelligence investigation into the Russian interference.

Schiff said he has unsuccessfully sought more information about that investigation and any links to

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 44 of 63

Trump's campaign, including whether that probe is still active. The investigation was first disclosed by then-FBI Director James Comey at a committee hearing in March 2017, and Schiff said he has received few answers about it since Comey was fired by Trump two months later.

Schiff wants to know whether the FBI is still conducting any related counterintelligence investigations. Such inquiries can take years and extend far beyond a criminal probe.

"We are determined to get answers, and we are running out of patience," Schiff said. "If necessary, we'll subpoena the director and require him to come in and provide those answers under oath."

The two FBI witnesses at the hearing, Robert Anderson and Stephanie Douglas, highlighted aspects of the Mueller report they said showed Russian efforts to screen and test Trump campaign associates, to establish backchannels of communications and to spread their contacts around in hopes of maximizing their chances of getting what they wanted.

Mueller did not find a criminal conspiracy between the campaign and Russia, but he did detail a series of interactions and outreach that has alarmed Democrats and accelerated calls from some in the party for impeachment proceedings and renewed investigations.

Also Wednesday, Trump Jr. spoke with the Senate Intelligence Committee for about three hours to clarify an interview with the committee's staff in 2017. Senators wanted to talk to him again about the Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer and a Trump real estate project in Moscow.

The president's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, told a House committee in February that he had briefed Trump Jr. approximately 10 times about a plan to build a Trump Tower in Moscow before the 2016 election. But Trump Jr. had told Congress he was only "peripherally aware" of the real estate proposal.

As he left the interview, Trump Jr. said he was happy to clarify his answers, but "I don't think I changed any of what I said because there was nothing to change."

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

Defense in trial of China scholar's brutal death: He did it

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — A federal prosecutor on Wednesday told jurors in grisly detail that authorities believe a former University of Illinois doctoral student kidnapped a visiting scholar from China, and beat her to death with a baseball bat. Defense attorneys intent on sparing their client a possible death penalty then offered an exceptional response: He did it.

Opening statements began in the death-penalty trial of Brendt Christensen, a case which is being closely watched in China and by Chinese students across the U.S. Christensen is accused of posing as an undercover officer to lure 26-year-old Yingying Zhang into his car on June 9, 2017, as she headed to sign a lease off campus.

Christensen, who is over 6-foot, took Zhang to his apartment where he raped, choked and stabbed her in his bedroom, as the 5-foot-4 Zhang tried to fight him off, prosecutor Eugene Miller said in his opening statement to jurors Wednesday. Christensen then dragged Zhang into his bathroom, and pummeled her in the head with the bat before decapitating her, Miller said.

With Zhang's father, a part-time trailer-truck driver from China, sitting just a few feet away on a courtroom bench, Miller also revealed for the first time that Christensen was captured on an FBI wiretap bragging that Zhang had been his 13th victim. But the prosecutor didn't offer additional details, nor did he say if authorities believed him. Miller appeared to broach the issue in order to demonstrate Christensen's quest to be known as a serial killer.

It was not immediately clear if authorities were investigating Christensen's alleged claim. Prosecutors have said they won't comment on the trial while it's ongoing.

Christensen became obsessed with serial killers in the months before he kidnapped Zhang, Miller said, adding that Christensen was engrossed by the novel "American Psycho" and was intent on slaying someone in order to fulfill a goal of infamy that he'd set for himself. Zhang, who had only been in Illinois

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 45 of 63

for two months in what was her first experience living outside China, aspired to become a professor in her home country to help her working-class parents.

"While Yingying was on campus pursuing her dreams, he was on campus pursuing something dark — something evil," Miller said, standing at a podium in front of jurors.

A federal judge moved the trial to Peoria in central Illinois after Christensen's lawyers said pretrial publicity would have made it impossible for the 29-year-old former physics student to get a fair trial in the Champaign area, where the 45,000-student university is located. The university has more than 5,000 Chinese students, among the largest such enrollments in the nation.

Zhang was unlucky to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, Miller told jurors, saying Christensen had determined on June 9 to kill someone that day and had been cruising in his car looking for a victim. Earlier, he approached a different young woman, also saying he was an undercover police officer. When he asked her to get into his car to answer some questions, she refused.

Prosecutors allege Christensen took advantage of Zhang's small stature and lack of English fluency after seeing her by a bus stop, pulling up and successfully talking her into his car. She had just missed a bus — even running after it — while she was on her way to sign the lease off campus in Champaign's sister city Urbana, 140 miles (225 kilometers) southwest of Chicago.

Later, the tall and muscular Christensen bound Zhang and got her into his apartment, where, Miller said, he raped Zhang in his bedroom and began stabbing her, blood splattering around the room. Christensen began trying to choke Zhang, Miller told jurors, citing a statement Christensen allegedly made to others.

"He choked her for 10 minutes," Miller said. "But she fought for her life."

After pulling her into the bathroom, Christensen picked up the bat and struck Zhang in the head as hard as he could, "splitting her head open," Miller said. Christensen cut off her head and disposed of the body, which has never been found.

Christensen rolled a pen through his fingers at a defense table as the prosecutor spoke. Zhang's dad, sitting about 15 feet (4.57 meters) away from Christensen, mostly looked straight ahead, unmoving, as the prosecutor offered details of his daughter's killing. Occasionally, he seemed to turn and look directly at Christensen.

The federal death-penalty case is the first in Illinois since the state struck capital punishment from its books on grounds death-penalty processes were too error-prone. Some Illinois anti-death penalty activists criticized what they said was the federal government's imposition of a death-penalty case on a non-death penalty state.

When he first stepped up to the podium Christensen's lawyer, George Tesseff, told jurors he would begin his remarks with what he realized was an unusual admission for an attorney about his client: "Brendt Christensen killed Yingying Zhang," he said.

Without explaining in detail, Tesseff said Christensen was responsible because he "is on trial for his life," alluding to the possibility of a death sentence.

While the lawyer's admission was extraordinary it didn't necessarily contradict what the defense has said previously. While Christensen pleaded not guilty, the defense never argued law enforcement had the wrong man. The admission in court Wednesday was a signal that their sole objective was not to win a not-guilty verdict, but to persuade jurors not to vote to sentence Christensen to death.

Tesseff laid the groundwork in his opening statement, saying defense attorneys take issue with prosecutors' explanation of "how and why" Christensen did what he did. Tesseff portrayed Christensen's life as being in turmoil leading up to Zhang's disappearance, saying marital and drinking problems only made matters worse. Christensen was married at the time, but he had a girlfriend and his wife had a boyfriend in what the prosecutor earlier told jurors was their agreement to have "an open marriage" where they dated others. In his first few semesters as a doctoral student, Christensen was making straight As but by late 2016 was getting Fs in all his classes.

Christensen appeared to bow and shake his head slightly when his lawyer spoke of Christensen's life spinning out of control in 2016.

Tesseff told jurors they would see video of Christensen seeking help from U of I mental-health counselors for homicidal and suicidal thoughts.

He also mentioned a statement Christensen made about killing others, saying his client was clearly in a drunken stupor at the time and that there is no evidence he ever killed anyone else other than Zhang.

Christensen was arrested on June 30, 2017, his birthday, after his girlfriend wore a wire for the FBI in a bid to capture incriminating statements by Christensen. The girlfriend is expected to be the government's star witness.

Because Zhang's body was never found, the first government witnesses were called to help establish that she is, in fact, dead. Zhang's boyfriend, Xiaolin Hou, said he and Zhang planned to wed in October 2017. They talked almost every day even though he was in China, but the calls stopped after she went missing.

During his opening, Miller said Christensen's own words proved Zhang is dead. In a secret recording by the girlfriend, caught as Christensen attended a June 29 campus vigil for Zhang, he told his girlfriend the people were "there for me." Miller said.

Christensen added: "She's never going to be found. ... She's gone forever."

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

Maine becomes 8th state to legalize assisted suicide

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE** Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Maine legalized medically assisted suicide on Wednesday, becoming the eighth state to allow terminally ill people to end their lives with prescribed medication.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills, who had previously said she was unsure about the bill, signed it in her office. "It is my hope that this law, while respecting the right to personal liberty, will be used sparingly," said Mills.

Oregon was the first state to legalize such assistance, in 1997, and it took over a decade for the next state, Washington, to follow suit. While still controversial, assisted suicide legislation is winning increasing acceptance in the United States, and this year at least 18 states considered such measures.

Maine's measure will allow doctors to prescribe a fatal dose of medication to terminally ill people. It declares that obtaining or administering life-ending medication is not suicide under state law, thereby legalizing the practice often called medically assisted suicide.

The proposal had failed once in a statewide referendum and at least seven previous times in the Legislature. The current measure passed by just one vote in the House and a slim margin in the Senate.

The signing Wednesday was a relief to Mainers such as Staci Fowler, 47, who's taken on the fight for such laws in honor of her late friend Rebecca VanWormer.

VanWormer, whose breast cancer spread to her bones, had pushed for such a bill in 2015 — two years before she died in 2017.

"This is what she wanted," said Fowler, an educational consultant in Gardiner. "And now everybody has the option that she didn't have."

Maine joins seven other states and Washington, D.C., that have similar laws, according to the Death With Dignity National Center and the Death With Dignity Political Fund. The states are: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and New Jersey, whose governor signed the legislation earlier this year.

Montana doesn't have a specific law on the books, but the state Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that doctors could use a patient's request for life-ending medication as a defense against criminal charges.

Maine's population has the oldest median age, and, as in other states, the proposal has exposed divisions that defied party lines.

Supporters, including Democrats and a small group of Republicans who say the legislation is in line with the rugged state's tradition of individualism, say the terminally ill should have the right to choose how their lives end.

The governor said she believes the law should protect such rights, while also spelling out protections

for those “unable to articulate their informed choices.”

She issued an executive order Wednesday calling for the state to swiftly put the law’s protections into place and analyze the law’s impact.

Opponents, meanwhile, have said any assisted suicide legislation puts the terminally ill and individuals with disabilities in danger of abuse, coercion and mistakes. Such groups argue that doctors can be wrong and that government is devaluing life by “turning suicide into a medical option.”

“Do you think the insurance companies will do the right thing or the cheap thing?” said Teresa McCann-Tumidajski, executive director of the Maine Right to Life Committee. “The so-called safeguards are there for the physicians, insurance carriers and lawyers. Not the patient.”

As more states slowly pass similar laws, critics nationwide argue that government should simply never wade into such issues.

“Assisted suicide is a dangerous public policy that puts the most vulnerable people in society at risk for abuse, coercion and mistakes,” said Matt Valliere, Executive Director of Patients Rights Action Fund, an advocacy group. “It also provides profit-driven insurance companies perverse incentives to offer a quick death, rather than costly continuing quality care.”

The law’s Democratic sponsor said the latest language addresses criticism of past efforts that have failed in Maine.

The legislation defines “terminal disease” as one that is incurable and will likely end in death within six months.

The law requires a second opinion by a consulting physician, along with one written and two verbal requests. Physicians would screen patients for conditions that could impair judgment, such as depression.

The law criminalizes coercing someone into requesting life-ending medication, as well as forging a request for life-ending medication.

House panel votes to hold top US officials in contempt

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **MICHAEL BALSAMO** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee voted Wednesday to hold two top Trump administration officials in contempt of Congress for failing to comply with subpoenas for documents related to a decision adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

The Democratic-controlled House Oversight Committee voted 24-15 to advance contempt measures against Attorney General William Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, who has said he supports an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump, was the sole Republican to join with Democrats.

The vote sends the contempt measures to the full House, although congressional leaders could go directly to court to try to force compliance with the subpoenas under a resolution approved earlier this week.

The committee’s action marks an escalation of Democratic efforts to use their House majority to aggressively investigate the inner workings of the Trump administration.

The vote came as the White House asserted executive privilege on the matter Wednesday. The Justice Department said officials had “engaged in good-faith efforts” to satisfy the committee’s oversight needs and labeled the contempt vote “unnecessary and premature.”

It was not clear what would happen next. A resolution approved by the House on Tuesday empowers committee chairs to sue top Trump administration officials to force compliance with congressional subpoenas without a vote of the full House, as long as they have approval from a bipartisan group of House leaders.

Action to hold Barr and Ross in contempt on the census issue would be a political blow but would not necessarily result in real punishment since the men are unlikely to go to jail or be arrested.

Democrats fear the citizenship question will reduce census participation in immigrant-heavy communities and result in a severe undercount of minority voters. They say they want specific documents to determine why Ross added the question to the 2020 census and contend the administration has declined to provide the documents despite repeated requests.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 48 of 63

The oversight panel's chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, said he was saddened by the vote, but called it an important step to assert Congress' constitutional authority to serve as a check on executive power.

"The census is something that is so very, very important," Cummings told reporters after the vote. "It goes to the bedrock of our very society and our democracy. We need to make sure the census is counted and counted accurately."

A spokeswoman for Barr said the committee's vote defied logic and undermined Congress' credibility with the American people.

"Despite the committee's political games, the department will remain focused on its critical work safeguarding the American people and upholding the rule of law," spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said.

Ross said in a statement that the committee's vote "demonstrated its scorn for the Constitution." He accused Democrats of "continually refusing to engage in the constitutionally mandated accommodation process."

The administration has turned over more than 17,000 of pages of documents and Ross testified for nearly seven hours in March. The Justice Department said two senior officials were interviewed by committee staff and said officials were working to produce tens of thousands of additional pages of relevant documents.

Cummings disputed that account and said most of the documents turned over to the committee had already been made public.

"We must protect the integrity of the census and we must stand up for Congress' authority under the Constitution to conduct meaningful oversight," Cummings said before Wednesday's vote.

The administration's refusal to turn over requested documents "does not appear to be an effort to engage in good-faith negotiations or accommodations," he said. "Instead, it appears to be another example of the administration's blanket defiance of Congress' constitutionally mandated responsibilities."

Trump has pledged to "fight all the subpoenas" issued by Congress and says he won't work on legislative priorities, such as infrastructure, until Congress halts investigations of his administration.

Ross told the committee the March 2018 decision to add the question was based on a Justice Department request to help it enforce the Voting Rights Act.

Cummings disputed that, citing documents unearthed last week suggesting that the real reason the administration sought to add the citizenship question was to help officials gerrymander legislative districts in overtly partisan and racist ways.

Computer files from North Carolina redistricting expert Tom Hofeller include detailed calculations that lay out gains Republicans would see in Texas by basing legislative districts on the number of voting-age citizens rather than the total population.

Hofeller, a Republican operative who died last year, said in the documents that GOP gains would be possible only if the census asked every household about its members' immigration status for the first time since 1950.

The Supreme Court is considering the citizenship question . A ruling is expected by the end of the month. Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union asked the Supreme Court to hold off on a decision, arguing in a filing Wednesday that the federal judge in the case needs time to consider new evidence related to the Hofeller files.

"I think it's totally ridiculous that we would have a census without asking" about citizenship, Trump said Wednesday, "but the Supreme Court is going to be ruling on it soon. I think when the census goes out ... you have the right to ask whether or not somebody is a citizen of the United States."

Some of the documents the committee is seeking are protected by attorney-client privilege and other confidential processes, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd said. The president has made a "protective assertion" of executive privilege so the administration can fully review all the documents, he added.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., said the administration has thwarted congressional efforts to obtain key documents and exercise legitimate oversight. "All we get from the administration is a middle finger" of defiance, Raskin said. "And that's not appropriate for the power of Congress."

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Southern Baptist leader bemoans abuse crisis, vows action

By JAY REEVES and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — Sharing a stage with tearful survivors of sex abuse, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention apologized Wednesday for the abuse crisis besetting his denomination and outlined an array of steps to address it.

"We are broken-hearted and angry," said the Rev. J.D. Greear as the largest U.S. protestant denomination neared the end of its two-day national meeting. "Give us the courage to make the changes that genuine repentance requires."

In an impassioned speech, preceded by prayers of lamentation, Greear blamed the crisis on years of cover-ups. He praised a new anti-abuse curriculum is being offered to all SBC churches and seminaries, and he said the SBC must do better in screening potential pastors.

"Father, forgive us," he prayed after calling out a litany of sins.

The Rev. Russell Moore, head of the SBC's public policy arm, said the abuse crisis is a result of satanic forces at work in the church.

"The vital question is what we will do next," Moore said during an address.

Moments earlier, dozens of abuse victims and supporters stood during a prayer for survivors of sexual misconduct. Some wept openly.

Abuse survivor Stephanie Davis stood onstage and received a standing ovation after a video presentation in which she recounted her experience. Davis said she was abused as a teen by a music minister who went on to seminary and kept working in churches until last year. "No one ever told me it wasn't my fault," she said.

"We have to get this right," she said in the video, urging the church to stand with victims and to hold abusers accountable.

On Tuesday, the opening day of the meeting, delegates approved the SBC's first-ever measures aimed directly at combatting sex abuse committed by clergy and staff. One provision establishes a permanent committee to review allegations of abuse at member churches and recommend action if warranted. Two other proposals, if ratified again next year, would specify that churches could be expelled from the denomination for mishandling cases of sexual abuse or racial discrimination.

The committee assigned to review abuse cases will have four women among its nine members. But delegates voted down a motion to replace one male member with Susan Codone, an engineering professor and sexual abuse survivor whose personal story was featured in recently released ABC report.

Some activists and abuse survivors remain skeptical of the SBC's commitment to a tough anti-abuse approach, and are urging swifter action to create a database listing credibly accused abusers that could be shared among the SBC's 47,000 member churches.

Xavier Torrado, secretary of the Southern Baptist branch in Puerto Rico, said additional training and new resources that were approved to combat sexual misconduct were vital.

"We've known for many years that the pastors didn't have the skills or the resources or the knowledge of how to address this," said Torrado, whose job will now include teaching ministers about the new measures.

Christie Crawford, a mother of five whose husband Matt Crawford is a pastor at a two-campus church in Tallahassee, Florida, said the denomination's actions this week would let congregations know that protecting children from abuse is both important and required, as is reporting possible misconduct.

"I think that what we've done and said will empower people," she said. "It will cause people to be more vocal at the local church level if they see things that make them uncomfortable."

Crawford's church, City Church Tallahassee, already has requirements including background checks and a six-month waiting period for anyone wanting to volunteer with minors, she said. "The world that we live in ... is a place where all parents have to be vigilant because of the dangers that are lurking," Crawford said.

The SBC's meeting comes as U.S. Catholic bishops convene in Baltimore to address a widening sex-abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, the largest denomination in the U.S. It had 76.3 million members as of last year — down from 81.2 million in 2005.

The Southern Baptist Convention says it had 14.8 million members in 2018, down about 192,000 from the previous year.

Sex abuse already was a high-profile issue at the SBC's 2018 national meeting in Dallas, after which Greear formed an advisory group to draft recommendations on how to confront the problem.

Pressure on the SBC intensified in recent months, however, due in part to articles by the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News asserting that hundreds of Southern Baptist clergy and staff have been accused of sexual misconduct over the past 20 years, including dozens who returned to church duties, while leaving more than 700 victims with little in the way of justice or apologies.

Crary reported from New York.

Chopper crash raises old question: How to secure NYC's skies

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **TOM KRISHER** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It was an accident, not terrorism, but this week's helicopter crash on the roof of a midtown Manhattan skyscraper has raised serious security concerns because of the ease with which the chopper ventured into one of the nation's most tightly restricted no-fly zones.

Some of the questions being posed are the same ones that bedeviled authorities after 9/11 nearly two decades ago: Are they able to react quickly enough to a rogue aircraft? What can they realistically do? Is scrambling fighter jets and shooting down the intruder really feasible over densely populated city streets?

Experts say the answers are not so reassuring.

"If someone had bad intent and they took off from the heliport and made a beeline to Trump Tower, none of the good guys are going to get in the air fast enough to stop him," said Steven Bucci, a retired Army Special Forces officer who help design the post-9/11 system to guard U.S. airspace.

Ever since President Donald Trump's election in 2016, a one-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius around Trump Tower has been designated National Defense Airspace, one of the highest-level restrictions, requiring express permission from the Federal Aviation Administration for any flights below 3,000 feet (914 meters) and constant radio communication with air traffic control.

Pilots who don't adhere to the restriction, according to the FAA, may be "intercepted, detained and interviewed by law enforcement" and "the United States government may use deadly force ... if it is determined that the aircraft poses an imminent security threat."

Investigators say the pilot who died in the crash Monday afternoon just a few blocks from Trump Tower did not seek such permission and didn't contact air traffic control because he wasn't required to do so, given his intended route, which was supposed to take him around Manhattan to the helicopter's home base in New Jersey.

After taking off from a heliport on Manhattan's East Side, the chopper instead strayed over midtown in heavy rain and thick fog and slammed into the roof of the 750-foot (229-meter) AXA Equitable building during a flight that lasted 11 minutes.

An official who was briefed on the situation and spoke on condition of anonymity because the federal investigation is still going on said that 58-year-old commercial pilot Tim McCormack radioed just before the crash that he was lost and trying to get back to the heliport.

Whether anyone noticed the aircraft's intrusion into the no-fly zone before the crash is unclear. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board officials said that question is under investigation. The New York Police Department has a squadron of helicopters that patrol the city's airspace, but none were in the air at the time of the crash.

Mayor Bill de Blasio is among those calling for tighter regulation of helicopter flights over the city.

"I think the FAA needs to look at this very carefully," he said on CNN. "Do they need to toughen up their

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 51 of 63

rules or put more security or monitoring of the situation to make sure something like this couldn't happen again?"

The airspace over certain areas — key government buildings and defense installations, for example — has long been off-limits to planes and helicopters. The use of temporary flight restrictions, or TFRs, grew rapidly after the Sept. 11 attacks and came to include bans over major sporting events and areas around presidential visits.

Federal and civilian air officials say it is not unusual for pilots to venture into such areas without permission, and normally it is just a mistake by a pilot who has strayed off course. Air traffic controllers try to reach the pilot by radio and tell the person how to safely leave the area and land at an airport, and pilots usually cooperate.

In the rare cases when the pilot doesn't answer the radio or disobeys a controller's instructions, the FAA contacts North American Aerospace Defense Command to intercept the offending aircraft and guide it out of the no-fly zone. If that doesn't work, authorities may take more drastic action.

On Sept. 11, 2001, fighter jets were scrambled from bases in Virginia and Massachusetts to engage the hijacked passenger planes, but the airliners went down before the jets could get close.

No aircraft has been shot down over the U.S. since 9/11, but there have been many cases that came close. Last August, after a ground crew employee at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport stole an empty plane and started doing aerobatic stunts, F-15 jets took off but did not fire. The plane crashed on a sparsely populated island, killing just the hijacker.

John Desmarais, operations director for the Civil Air Patrol at its headquarters near Montgomery, Alabama, said the decision to shoot down a plane would be complicated in New York City. Firing a missile over the city of 8 million people and blasting a plane to pieces, causing a shower of flaming debris, would itself be extraordinarily dangerous.

"I would not think that they would do that over the city, but it depends on what the threats are and the needs at the time," Desmarais said. "Everybody is going to do their best, but in the end, it would be a tough decision to have to make no matter where that is."

From 2016 to 2018, NORAD says, it has responded to about 500 flights flagged by FAA as entering no-fly zones without permission or displaying "erratic" behavior. Of those, NORAD says, the military or local law enforcement sent aircraft on intercept missions 164 times.

NORAD spokesman Cameron Hillier said he did not have figures for the number of intercepts in New York City. But nearby areas in New Jersey reportedly have had plenty. The North Jersey Record reported that aircraft were sent to intercept violators around Trump's golf course in Bedminster, New Jersey, 29 times in 2017 alone.

Hillier said air combat stations are "spread throughout the U.S. and Canada and are capable of responding to any aircraft," but he would not disclose the number of fighter jets in the New York City area.

Jeffrey Price, a pilot and aviation security expert at Metropolitan State University of Denver, said military commanders would need "extraordinary, credible information" about a threat before ordering a plane to be shot down.

"Fortunately, since 9/11 we've never had to come to that conclusion of shoot or don't shoot," he said. "To make that decision, there is going to have to be a lot of evidence to say, 'This thing is a threat and the only way to solve this problem is to put a missile into it.'"

Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak in New York and David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

Catholic bishops approve new sex-abuse reporting hotline

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and DAVID CRARY Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — U.S. Catholic bishops voted Wednesday to create a new national sex-abuse hotline run by an independent entity, a decision that represents one of the church's most tangible steps yet in confronting its sex-abuse crisis.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 52 of 63

The hotline, which would field allegations that bishops committed abuse or covered it up, would take complaints by telephone and through an online link. It's supposed to be operating within a year.

Hotline operators would relay allegations to regional supervisory bishops. Church leaders are encouraging those bishops — though not requiring them — to seek help from lay experts in assessing and investigating allegations.

"I can't imagine a bishop not using a lay-led review board that's filled with people who have expertise in this area of investigation, people with a legal background or a law enforcement background," said Robert Barron, the auxiliary bishop of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Bishops approved the idea on the second day of their national meeting. The new system's startup costs were estimated at \$30,000, with an ongoing annual cost of about \$50,000.

The bishops raised questions about how the system would operate, including who would receive the reports, how the reports would be handled, when authorities should be notified and how the church would ensure that victims are taken care of.

Anthony Picarello Jr., general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, summarized it as a "very sophisticated switchboard." He said the church is engaging with at least one vendor that already provides a reporting system in Baltimore.

Bishops asked how the system will be publicized and urged the church to make clear to parishioners and others that they can continue to report allegations even before the system is operational.

The bishops' deliberations have been guided by a new law that Pope Francis issued on May 9. It requires priests and nuns worldwide to report sexual abuse as well as cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities.

Advocates for abuse victims have urged the U.S. bishops to go further by requiring that suspicions be reported to police and prosecutors, too.

"In the United States, there is only one appropriate 'third-party reporting system' — the legal authorities," said University of Pennsylvania professor Marci Hamilton, an expert on child-abuse prevention. The bishops' "incapacity" to give up control of child sex-abuse cases "will be their downfall."

As approved Wednesday, the hotline proposal does not spell out how the new system would interact with law enforcement.

Terry McKiernan, president of a victim-advocacy group called BishopAccountability.org, agreed that was a shortcoming. He said people contacting the hotline should be advised to call law enforcement.

Picarello told bishops that once a supervisory bishop receives an allegation, "his obligation to report to civil authorities will be relevant, absolutely."

The abuse crisis has prompted many parishioners in the U.S. to reduce their donations and attendance at Mass.

A national survey released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center illustrates the extent of the disenchantment. The March poll found about one-fourth of Catholics saying they had scaled back Mass attendance and reduced donations because of the abuse crisis, and only 36% said U.S. bishops had done a good or excellent job in responding.

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, an authoritative source of Catholic-related data, 45% of U.S. Catholics attended Mass at least once a month in 2018, down from 57% in 1990.

By the center's estimates, there were 76.3 million Catholics in the U.S. last year, down from 81.2 million in 2005. The church remains the largest denomination in the U.S.

Outside the bishops' meeting hall, a group of sex-abuse victims held a news conference to share accounts of their long-term struggles, including attempted suicides.

Shaun Dougherty, who says he was abused as a child in Pennsylvania, met beforehand with a group that included some of the bishops. He complained that they viewed themselves as victims.

"The last year of their life has been hell," Dougherty said. "I'm 49 years old. This began when I was 10. They have 38 more years to go before they even can say that their life is hell to catch up with me."

Events of the past year have posed unprecedented challenges for the U.S. bishops. Many dioceses have

become targets of state investigations since a Pennsylvania grand jury in August detailed hundreds of cases of alleged abuse.

In February, former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington was expelled from the priesthood for sexually abusing minors and seminarians, and investigators are trying to determine if senior Catholic officials covered up his transgressions.

Another investigative team recently concluded that Michael Bransfield, a former bishop in West Virginia, engaged in sexual harassment and financial misconduct over many years.

Even Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, who heads the bishops' conference and the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese, has been entangled in controversy. Last week, The Associated Press reported a Houston woman's claim that he mishandled her allegations of sexual and financial misconduct against his deputy.

The archdiocese said it "categorically rejects" the story as biased. However, the archdiocese later said it would review the married woman's allegations that the deputy, Monsignor Frank Rossi, continued to hear her confessions after luring her into a sexual relationship, a potentially serious crime under church law.

Coincidentally, the second-largest denomination in the U.S. — the Southern Baptist Convention — also opened its national meeting Tuesday, gathering in Birmingham, Alabama, with an agenda similarly focused on sex abuse. The SBC had 14.8 million members in 2018, down about 192,000 from the previous year.

Crary reported from New York.

3 life sentences without parole for man who killed 3 Muslims

By EMERY P. DALESIO Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Moments after a North Carolina man pleaded guilty to gunning down three Muslim university students, a prosecutor played a cellphone video of the slayings in court Wednesday as one of the victims' relatives fainted, others wept and a man cursed the confessed killer openly.

Craig Stephen Hicks, 50, pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree murder more than four years after the February 2015 slayings and two months after incoming District Attorney Satana Deberry dropped plans to seek the death penalty in hopes of concluding a case she said had languished too long.

"I've wanted to plead guilty since day one," Hicks told Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson. Hudson sentenced Hicks to three consecutive life sentences without parole, tacking on five more years for shooting into a building.

Hicks burst into a Chapel Hill condo owned by 23-year-old Deah Barakat and fatally shot Barakat, his wife, Yusor Abu-Salha, 21 and the woman's 19-year-old sister Razan Abu-Salha.

At the time, Chapel Hill police said Hicks claimed he was provoked by competition over parking spaces at the complex where they lived. Relatives said the victims were targeted because they were Muslim, and asked federal authorities to pursue hate-crime charges.

Authorities later indicated they did not have sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute Hicks on hate crime charges, said Joe Cheshire, an attorney for the victims' families. He said officials couldn't overcome Hicks' initial explanation that the violence was provoked by a parking space dispute.

Family members and prosecutors spent most of the two-hour hearing telling the judge that Hicks was motivated by bigotry against non-white people. Hicks showed off a handgun on his hip when he wanted to intimidate his Korean neighbor, a black remodeling worker and his eventual victims, said District Attorney Satana Deberry.

An aggressive atheist, Hicks also expressed disgust for Christians and Jews.

"You played into the hands of the worst of religious people — the fanatics, the radicals — who want to shred this world," Mohammed Abu-Salha, the women's father, told Hicks in court. The killings were part of growing hatred toward Muslims, he said.

The court was shown a videotaped confession. In it, Hicks told police that after grabbing his gun and extra bullets and pounding on his neighbors' door, he lost control when Barakat cursed him. "I did wrong. I overreacted," Hicks told interrogators.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 54 of 63

That account was contradicted by a cellphone video, shown in court, in which Barakat records his own death.

The video rolls as Barakat approaches the door to record the exchange with his often-seething neighbor. He hoped it could be evidence for a legal restraining order to keep him away, Cheshire said.

With the victims' parents and siblings watching, the video showed Hicks complaining Barakat and the Abu-Salha sisters were using three parking spaces. Prosecutors said that wasn't true. When Barakat responded they were using no more spaces than condo rules allow, Hicks responded, "You're going to be disrespectful towards me, I'm going to be disrespectful ..." Hicks pulled a gun from his waist and fired several times.

The phone dropped. The sounds of women screaming can be heard, followed by several more shots. Then silence.

Women wept openly in the courtroom and a young man cursed Hicks. Barakat's older sister, Dr. Suzanne Barakat, fainted. She later appeared at a news conference with family members and an attorney said she was OK.

"In 36 seconds, Mr. Hicks executed three people," Assistant District Attorney Kendra Montgomery-Blinn said.

Hicks said in his confession that after the women fell wounded, he shot both in the head at close range. Autopsy results confirmed his description.

Barakat, a dental student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Yusor Abu-Salha had been married less than two months, and she'd just been accepted to the dental school. Razan had just made the dean's list at North Carolina State University. Barakat and the Abu-Salha sisters had cooked food for the homeless, worked to improve a poor Raleigh neighborhood and planned a trip to Turkey to help Syrian war refugees, Montgomery-Blinn said.

Prosecutors and family members contrasted the academic and humanitarian work of the slain with Hicks. An ex-wife told prosecutors Hicks was fixated on the 1993 Michael Douglas movie "Falling Down," about a frustrated and unemployed white man who responds to personal and social dysfunction with increasing violence.

Hicks' third marriage was disintegrating and he'd recently quit his job with an auto parts company in anger, Montgomery-Blinn said. Workers there described him as constantly playing computer sniper games, she said.

Hicks listened attentively throughout, his hands shackled.

Former U.S. Attorney Ripley Rand said Wednesday his office hadn't decided whether to pursue hate crime charges against Hicks when he resigned ahead of the incoming Trump administration in 2017. The federal hate crime statute requires attorneys to consider the outcome of the state trial when pursuing such charges, he said. There was "no additional punishment he could have gotten that would have meant anything," Rand said.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kelly Laco declined comment on the hate-crime inquiry.

Cheshire said the families were not happy with the lack of prosecution.

"It hurt a lot of feelings and it added to the false narrative," he said. "Our government failed this family and our multicultural democracy."

Follow Emery P. Dalesio on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/emerydalesio> . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/emery%20dalesio>.

Associated Press writer Martha Waggoner contributed to this report.

Somber memorials on anniversary of Florida nightclub rampage

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Three years after a gunman massacred 49 people and wounded many others at a gay nightclub in Florida, the anniversary was observed Wednesday with somber memorial gatherings and proclamations, including one that had to be issued twice.

In a proclamation, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis ordered state flags to be lowered to half staff and asked Floridians to pause to remember the victims of the 2016 shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. But he initially made no mention of the gay or Hispanic communities in the proclamation honoring the 49 club-goers who were killed on Latin night in the deadliest attack on gay people in the U.S.

Democratic state Rep. Anna Eskamani of Orange County criticized the Republican governor for the omission, calling the proclamation, "straight-washed."

DeSantis later tweeted that the state mourns the loss of life from the attack that "targeted the LGBTQ and Hispanic community, and Florida as a whole."

Several hours later, his office issued a "corrected version" of the proclamation that said Florida wouldn't tolerate hate toward the LGBTQ and Hispanic communities.

"Staff made an error in the previous version. The governor has directed that the proclamation be re-issued, including a direct reference to our LGBTQ and Hispanic communities," said Helen Aguirre Ferre, the governor's communications director, in an email accompanying the revised proclamation. "The governor stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ and Hispanic communities who were attacked during this horrific act of violence at Pulse three years ago today."

When asked about the omission at a bill signing in Jacksonville, the governor said he wasn't involved in drafting the original proclamation.

"When someone said that this wasn't in there, I said, 'Well, then put it in there.' So we fixed it," DeSantis said. "Obviously, we flew the flags at half staff and that was the reason we put out the proclamation. Sometimes these things happen and you've just got to correct it."

Later in the day, DeSantis and his wife, Casey, visited Pulse and laid bouquets of flowers outside the nightclub.

In the U.S. Senate, Florida's two Republican U.S. senators introduced a resolution honoring the 49 people killed on Latin night. The resolution, which passed with unanimous consent, noted that the massacre was "an attack on LGBTQ community, the Hispanic community, the city of Orlando, the state of Florida and the United States."

Gunman Omar Mateen was killed after a three-hour standoff by SWAT team members. He had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. At the time, the Pulse massacre was the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. However, another mass shooting the following year along the Las Vegas Strip became the deadliest when 58 people were killed.

In Orlando, churches were ringing bells 49 times at noon, names of the slain were read at a midday church service in downtown Orlando and a Wednesday night memorial service was planned outside the Pulse nightclub, which has been closed since the shooting in June 2016.

Some survivors and friends gathered at the club shortly after 2 a.m. Wednesday to mark the exact time the shooting started.

Pulse owner Barbara Poma has established a nonprofit to open a memorial and museum at the site. About \$14 million has been raised for the \$50 million project. Six design firms have been selected as finalists and the winner will be chosen in the fall. The permanent memorial and museum are scheduled to open in 2022.

Associated Press writer Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, contributed to this report.

Facebook's Zuckerberg is the focus of latest doctored video

By MAE ANDERSON AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Three weeks after Facebook refused to remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi slurring her words, Mark Zuckerberg is getting a taste of his own medicine: fake footage showing him gloating over his one-man domination of the world.

It's the latest flap over deviously altered "deepfake" videos as Facebook and other social media services struggle to stop the spread of misinformation and "fake news" while also respecting free speech and fending off allegations of censorship.

The somewhat crude video of the Facebook CEO, created as part of an art project and circulated on Facebook-owned Instagram over the past few days, combines news footage of Zuckerberg with phony audio.

"Imagine this for a second, one man with total control over billions of people's stolen data, all their secrets, their lives, their futures," Zuckerberg seemingly intones in a voice that does not sound very much like Zuckerberg's. "I owe it all to Spectre. Spectre showed me that whoever controls the data controls the future." (Spectre is the evil organization in the James Bond movies.)

The video was created by artists Bill Posters and Daniel Howe with help from artificial intelligence companies and displayed over the past week or so at an art show in Britain on the influence of technology. Posters also put the footage on Instagram and Vimeo.

Posters said he targeted Zuckerberg as "one person governing control of 2 billion people's personal private data. He's at the center of the debate that asks questions whether that is a safe place for our data to be."

When the Pelosi video turned up on Facebook, the social network said it did not violate any of its policies. Pelosi criticized Facebook at the time for leaving the video up. Zuckerberg tried to reach out to her to explain the situation, but she did not take his call, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss it and spoke on condition of anonymity. Facebook and Pelosi's office declined to comment Wednesday.

Facebook said the Zuckerberg video likewise doesn't violate its Instagram policies and will be left up.

"We will treat this content the same way we treat all misinformation on Instagram," the company said in a statement.

Facebook does not prohibit false information from being shared on Instagram or its main Facebook service. If third-party fact checkers flag an item on the main service as false, the company "downranks" it to make it more difficult to find. Facebook has been testing a way to extend that approach to Instagram.

The Associated Press is working with Facebook as part of an ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online.

The Zuckerberg video uses a form of artificial intelligence in which a computer is fed image and audio files of a person to learn how to mimic his or her facial expressions. An actor supplies the voice, and the computer then syncs up the image with the sound.

Last year, in another case of altered footage, the White House tweeted what an expert determined was a speeded-up video of CNN reporter Jim Acosta that made him look more aggressive than he actually was when an intern tried to take his microphone away as he was asking President Donald Trump a question.

Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said that even though the Zuckerberg video is an art piece and not actual disinformation meant to deceive, it highlights the challenges of policing content on Facebook and Instagram.

"It just shows that it is still an uphill battle for the company as they try to rectify these issues that continue to plague the platform," he said.

Sanders makes case for democratic socialism after criticism

By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders on Wednesday mounted a strong defense of democratic socialism, the economic philosophy that has guided his political career, even as Republicans and some of his Democratic presidential opponents have seized on it to brand him as too radical.

Sanders' speech, coming two weeks before the first debates of the Democratic primary, is his most aggressive attempt yet to reframe the conversation about his political views. His ability to define the debate around his core political philosophy will be crucial if he is to convince voters that his embrace of democratic socialism isn't a barrier to winning the White House.

"Let me be clear: I do understand that I and other progressives will face massive attacks from those who attempt to use the word 'socialism' as a slur," Sanders said. "But I should also tell you that I have faced and overcome these attacks for decades, and I am not the only one."

Sanders, an independent senator from Vermont, made a similar attempt in 2015 to explain the views that have shaped his ideology but have also become a significant political vulnerability.

But this year, the speech comes in a reshaped political environment, where Sanders is no longer the sole progressive taking on an establishment candidate as he was in the 2016 primary when he ran against Hillary Clinton. He's now one of two dozen Democratic White House hopefuls, several of whom are also unabashed liberals, like Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has been rising in the field.

And they're operating in an environment dominated by President Donald Trump, who has called Sanders "crazy" and seized on some of the proposals that he and other Democrats are running on and portrayed them as outside the mainstream of most Americans' views.

During Wednesday's speech at George Washington University, Sanders said Trump "believes in corporate socialism for the rich and powerful," while he believes in "a democratic socialism that works for the working families of this country."

Sanders is fond of noting that many of his Democratic rivals now back policies he has championed, such as "Medicare for All," that were seen as too costly and too liberal in previous elections. But few of the other Democrats seeking the White House share his support for democratic socialism.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who has jumped to the top of the Democratic field in part because of a perception that he's the most electable candidate in the race, has derided the notion that politicians must be socialists to prove they're progressive. Other liberal candidates, including Warren and Sen. Kamala Harris of California, have noted that while they have problems with the economic system, they remain capitalists.

And Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, who is also seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, plans to give a speech Thursday that his campaign is marketing as a rebuttal of Sanders.

Trump and his allies have, nonetheless, warned against the threat of socialism if a Democrat gets elected to the White House.

When Sanders entered the 2020 race in February, a spokeswoman for Trump's campaign said Sanders had "already won the debate in the Democrat primary because every candidate is embracing his brand of socialism" and said Trump is the only candidate who will keep the country "free, prosperous and safe."

On Tuesday in Iowa, Trump claimed Democrats will "destroy this country" and turn the U.S. into "another Venezuela."

"Don't let it happen to us," Trump warned at an Iowa GOP dinner in West Des Moines.

Sanders last spoke in depth about democratic socialism in November 2015. In that speech, which was also held in Washington, Sanders similarly invoked the legacies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., arguing that democratic socialism was reflected in their priorities.

This year, he made the case that popular programs like the New Deal, Social Security and Medicare had been, at times, labeled by opponents as socialist.

He quoted former President Harry Truman, who in 1952 said, "Socialism is the epithet they have hurled at every advance the people have made in the last 20 years."

And as he did in his first presidential run, much of Sanders' campaign speech was focused on promising

a wholesale revolution, including a fundamental rethinking of the political system. Asked in a telephone interview on Tuesday how he would tangibly change Washington's centers of political power to make his visions a reality, he said he would do so "by taking politics out of Washington."

"What the political revolution means to me, above and beyond democratic socialism, is getting millions of people who have given up on the political process, working people and young people, to stand up and fight for their rights. So those are the profound changes that we will be bringing about," he said.

AP Interview: Navy's top admiral discusses war college probe

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT Associated Press

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — The Navy's top admiral said Wednesday that he felt he had enough information to warrant removing the president of the Naval War College from his post this week, days after The Associated Press reported on the investigation at the college and more than a year after the initial complaint was filed.

The AP reported last week that the college president, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley, was under investigation for allegedly spending excessively, abusing his hiring authority and otherwise behaving inappropriately, including keeping a margarita machine in his office. Harley was removed from his post Monday.

Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, told the AP in an interview that he received reports from investigators around the same time the article was published.

"Their investigation is not complete," he said. "But there was just enough actionable information at that point that I made the decision that I did."

A small group of longtime college employees filed an anonymous complaint about Harley in April 2018 with the Navy's office of the inspector general. The group contacted the inspector general again in January with additional allegations of Harley flouting Navy rules and norms.

Inspector general investigations, across the Defense Department, routinely take months or more than a year.

Harley announced his departure to campus in an email. He wrote that he was stepping down due to "distractions caused by the unfounded AP article."

Richardson called the AP report "responsible and balanced." He was at the college in Newport to speak to students about leadership.

The college on Monday postponed a strategy forum that was due to start Tuesday and had been expected to draw high-ranking officials, including Richardson, along with hundreds of guests. Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer is still scheduled to speak Friday at the graduation ceremony for the elite school, which grooms future admirals and generals.

Postponing the forum was a big decision, Richardson said, but it was very disruptive for the college leadership to change in the way that it did. It would have been a lot to ask of the college to continue with the forum, he added.

Provost Lewis M. Duncan has temporarily assumed the president's duties.

Emails obtained by the AP show the college has struggled to make payroll under Harley's leadership and spent about \$725,000 annually on raises while facing an annual shortfall of \$5 million or more.

Harley told the AP the college was under fiscal strain because the Navy hasn't fully funded new missions.

Richardson said Wednesday that as a rule, the Navy isn't going to direct anyone to take on a mission without ensuring they have the resources to do it.

Harley declined last week to answer a series of questions about the allegations, including his use of a margarita machine. He downplayed the complaints in a campuswide email, saying that they were from "a few individuals" and that all his decisions were subject to legal review and within his authority.

Richardson said that he could not say exactly when the investigation would finish, but that he recognizes it has been going on for a while and it "would be good to bring this to closure." He is aware, he said, of only one open investigation involving the war college.

The war college is doing an important mission and must remain "very sound," Richardson said.

"We'll come through this," he said. "The college will continue to be a strong and vibrant institution of learning, focused on those things that the Navy needs to educate its leaders on. And in the end, we'll be stronger than we are right now."

Richardson hopes to pick a new president for the college before his own tour ends in six weeks.

Associated Press writer Michelle R. Smith contributed to this report from Providence, Rhode Island. McDermott can be reached at <https://twitter.com/JenMcDermottAP>. Smith can be reached at: <https://twitter.com/MRSmithAP>

US urges Sudan's protesters and army to resume talks

By **BASSAM HATOUM** and **SAMY MAGDY** Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Activists called off a general strike and civil disobedience campaign as more businesses reopened and traffic returned to its normal bustle on Wednesday in Sudan's capital of Khartoum, as the U.S. and Ethiopia stepped up efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis — following last week's deadly clampdown by security forces on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Security forces violently dispersed the main protest sit-in on June 3 in Khartoum, killing over 100 people in the capital and across Sudan in a sweeping crackdown, according to protest organizers. It was an alarming turn in the two-month standoff between the protest movement and the military, which removed President Omar al-Bashir from power in April amid a popular uprising against his rule.

The Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change, which represents the protesters' demand for civilian rule, called on people to return to work across Sudan, after the three-day general strike, on late Tuesday.

Its decision reflected a growing desire for the protest leaders and the ruling military council to avoid a further escalation, after a week of violence.

"We are highly optimistic that the negotiations will be resumed, and things will be back to normal and they will achieve an agreement," said Yousef Hassan, a teacher from Khartoum.

Activists, however, took to social media to criticize the FDFC's decision, declaring that protest leaders, in calling off the strike, had diminished their ability to pressure the generals to give up power.

"The problem was not calling off the disobedience, but was its abrupt suspension. It seemed that you are giving orders to people," said Hammour Ziada, a Sudanese novelist and activist.

According to protest leaders, theirs was a practical decision. The general strike was successful on its first day, Sunday, but the campaign had lost momentum by Monday and Tuesday, they said.

The move came amid intensifying efforts by the United States and neighboring Ethiopia to end the standoff between the two sides. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed set out to revive the negotiations on his visit to Khartoum on Friday.

Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the military council and the FDFC had agreed to resume their talks soon, "in good-faith to iron-out the remaining outstanding points," including setting up a government council to run Sudan during a set transition period.

The statement added that all previous deals between the generals and protest leaders, despite the break in talks earlier this month, have been restored. These would include a three-year transition period, a Cabinet appointed by the protester leaders, and a legislative body with a civilian majority from the FDFC.

The ministry said both sides also agreed to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and de-escalate tensions, and that the military council would take confidence-building measures including the release of political prisoners.

The United States, meanwhile, announced the appointment of a special envoy for Sudan to promote a democratic resolution. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said retired veteran diplomat Donald Booth, who previously served as U.S. special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, had started his job by accompanying the top U.S. diplomat for Africa Tibor Nagy on a visit to Khartoum late Wednesday.

Booth's appointment is a demonstration that "the United States has a firm commitment to the Sudanese people and efforts to advance a peaceful political solution," Ortagus told reporters in Washington. In Khar-

toum, Nagy and Booth will "call for a cessation of attacks against civilians and urge parties" to resume talks.

The state-run SUNA news agency said Sudanese diplomat Elham Ibrahim had met with Nagy soon after his arrival. The agency quoted Nagy as saying the U.S. backed the Ethiopian efforts to end the crisis and halt violence against civilians.

Rasha Awad, editor of the Sudanese daily Al-Tahgyeer, said the FDFC had gambled on international pressure after last week's violent crackdown.

She said the protest leaders hoped that the Ethiopian initiative, backed by the U.S., would lead to a hand over of power to civilians.

"The gamble is that this mediation succeeded in getting both sides to return to the negotiations, which are expected to fail unless there was international pressure," she said.

Rights groups continued to express alarm over the situation. U.N. experts on Wednesday said they were concerned that Sudan is sliding into a "human rights abyss" in the aftermath of the security forces' deadly clampdown.

The experts, appointed by the U.N. Human Rights Council, called for an independent investigation into violations against peaceful protesters in Sudan.

Human Rights Watch meanwhile urged Sudanese authorities to restore access to the internet, two days after the internet monitoring group NetBlocks said that the country's remaining internet connectivity was blocked on Monday.

"These shutdowns blatantly repress the rights of the people the military council claims it wants to have a dialogue with," said Priyanka Motaparthy, acting emergencies director at HRW.

Hundreds detained in Moscow protest over journalist's case

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Hundreds of people were detained Wednesday as they marched in the Russian capital to protest what they called police fabrications in the wake of the arrest of an investigative journalist on drug charges that later were dropped when the government admitted there was no evidence he committed a crime.

The mass arrests at the unauthorized rally provided a harsh coda to the elation of journalists and other supporters of Ivan Golunov a day after Russia's interior minister announced the unprecedented move to drop the charges and seek punishment for the police officers involved.

"We should not stand down, even if Ivan is free. There are a number of other people in his situation in this country," said Maxim Reznik, a member of the St. Petersburg City Council who attended a smaller demonstration in that city.

Police said more than 200 were detained in the Moscow demonstration, but the OVD-Info organization that monitors political arrests put the figure at more than 400.

The Interior Ministry said about 1,200 people took part in the Moscow demonstration, and those arrested faced charges that could bring up to 20 days in jail, state news agency Tass reported. Among them was Alexei Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's most prominent foe.

Golunov, a reporter for the website Meduza, was arrested June 6 for allegedly dealing synthetic stimulants. Many believed he was set up as retaliation for his reporting on Moscow City Hall and the city's crime-ridden funeral industry.

Information quickly surfaced indicating Moscow police acted based on falsified evidence and sham allegations.

In announcing Golunov's arrest, police posted photos of drugs allegedly taken in the journalist's apartment, but then admitted the images came from another case. Defense lawyers said his fingerprints weren't on any of the drug packets allegedly found in his apartment.

An outcry over his arrest intensified quickly, apparently catching authorities by surprise. Objections to Golunov's treatment were reported in unusual detail by Russian state media that generally hew closely to official versions.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 61 of 63

Three of Russia's most respected newspapers published near-identical front pages Monday reading "I/we am/are Ivan Golunov." Even the powerful speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament expressed concern about the case.

Russian human rights activists have often complained to little effect of fabricated criminal cases against opposition figures and those who raise inconvenient questions about sometimes-shady businesses.

While the unusual prominence of Golunov's case could be seen as a watershed in drawing attention to the issue, observers also said it was only the beginning of a long struggle to hold authorities accountable.

"The case against Golunov is actually over. But the case against the system in which such lawlessness became possible is just beginning," Maria Zheleznova, opinion editor of the newspaper Vedomosti, wrote in a piece published Wednesday.

However, the police action at the Moscow demonstration showed that authorities intend to keep tight control over public protest. Opposition groups are routinely denied permission to hold rallies or sometimes given permission for gatherings at undesirable times or low-visibility locations.

Authorities had said the pro-Golunov demonstrators could hold a rally on Sunday, but protesters believed a delay could have sapped a sense of momentum.

Associated Press writer Irina Titova in St. Petersburg contributed.

Asian shares mixed on jitters over Hong Kong protests

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed on Thursday as protesters in Hong Kong vowed to keep opposing a proposed extradition bill they fear would whittle down the Chinese territory's legal autonomy.

The protests threaten to shake confidence in the hub for many regional and international businesses and investors. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gave up 0.5% to 27,163.46, extending its losses after closing down 1.7% on Wednesday.

The Shanghai Composite index added 0.1% to 2,912.47 while South Korea's Kospi lost 0.8% to 2,092.11. Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.8% to 20,958.25. Australia's S&P ASX 200 picked up 0.1% to 6,550.10 after the release of better-than-expected jobs data. Shares fell in Taiwan and throughout Southeast Asia.

On Wednesday, thousands of protesters clashed with police and were confronted with rounds of tear gas as they demonstrated on the streets of Hong Kong. At least 72 people were brought to hospitals, with two in serious condition, the Hong Kong Hospital Authority said.

They obstructed the flow of traffic and delayed a debate on a bill that would allow criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be sent for trial in mainland China. Protesters fear this would allow Beijing to tighten its grip over Hong Kong, which was promised the right to maintain its own political, economic and social institutions for 50 years following the British handover in 1997.

Traffic was restored Thursday but students and civil rights activists have pledged to keep protesting the legislation.

"The Hong Kong crisis could continue to escalate in the coming days and should weigh on risk appetite. Trade deal updates could fall to the second page of papers, but eventually we could see Chinese politics blend together," Edward Moya of OANDA said in a market commentary.

President Donald Trump has said he expects to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Osaka later this month. But he said he's prepared to expand existing tariffs if a deal with Beijing falls through. Representatives from both countries have had 11 rounds of trade talks but have yet to ink an agreement.

Wall Street suffered its second straight loss on Wednesday as bank and technology companies slid. Investors were worried that a trade dispute between the world's two largest economies would drag on for longer than expected.

The S&P 500 index eased 0.2% to 2,879.84 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average also fell 0.2% to 26,004.83. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite dropped 0.4% to 7,792.72. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks edged up less than 0.1% to 1,519.79.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 62 of 63

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 9 cents to \$51.05 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It shed \$2.13 to \$51.14 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, fell 7 cents to \$59.90 per barrel. The contract lost \$2.32 to \$59.97 per barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 108.32 Japanese yen from 108.50 yen late Wednesday. The euro rose to \$1.1293 from \$1.1288.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 13, the 164th day of 2019. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 13, 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

On this date:

In 1842, Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to ride on a train, traveling from Slough Railway Station to Paddington in 25 minutes.

In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

In 1935, James Braddock claimed the title of world heavyweight boxing champion from Max Baer in a 15-round fight in Queens, New York. "Becky Sharp," the first movie photographed in "three-strip" Technicolor, opened in New York.

In 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight men were arrested after two members of the first group defected.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War Information.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

In 1978, the movie musical "Grease," starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1983, the U.S. space probe Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system as it crossed the orbit of Neptune.

In 1993, Canada's Progressive Conservative Party chose Defense Minister Kim Campbell to succeed Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) as prime minister; she was the first woman to hold the post. Astronaut Donald K. "Deke" Slayton died in League City, Texas, at age 69.

In 1997, a jury voted unanimously to give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing. The Chicago Bulls captured their fifth professional basketball championship in seven years with a 90-to-86 victory over the Utah Jazz in game six.

In 2005, A jury in Santa Maria, California, acquitted Michael Jackson of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland ranch. The Supreme Court warned prosecutors to use care in striking minorities from juries, siding with black murder defendants in Texas and California who contended their juries had been unfairly stacked with whites.

In 2008, Tim Russert, moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press," died suddenly while preparing for his weekly broadcast; he was 58. R. Kelly was acquitted of all charges in his child pornography trial in Chicago, ending a six-year ordeal for the R&B superstar.

Ten years ago: Opponents of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahd) clashed with police in the heart of Tehran after the Iranian president claimed a re-election victory. Hundreds gathered at a sprawling hillside cemetery in Los Angeles to attend a funeral for David Carradine, more than a week after the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 338 ~ 63 of 63

72-year-old actor was found hanging in a Bangkok hotel room.

Five years ago: The Internal Revenue Service told Congress it had lost a trove of emails to and from Lois Lerner, a central figure in the agency's tea party controversy, sparking outrage from congressional investigators. The Los Angeles Kings won the Stanley Cup for the second time in three years with a 3-2 victory over the New York Rangers in Game 5. Hall of Fame football coach Chuck Noll, 82, died in Sewickley, Pennsylvania.

One year ago: President Donald Trump declared that his summit with Kim Jong Un had ended any nuclear threat from North Korea, though the meeting had produced no details on how or when weapons might be eliminated or reduced. On the eve of the start of the World Cup in Russia, FIFA voters chose to award the 2026 World Cup to North America.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bob McGrath is 87. Artist Christo is 84. Magician Siegfried (Siegfried & Roy) is 80. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 76. Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is 75. Singer Dennis Locorriere is 70. Actor Richard Thomas is 68. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 68. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 68. Comedian Tim Allen is 66. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is 62. Actress Ally Sheedy is 57. TV anchor Hannah Storm is 57. Rock musician Paul deLisle (deh-LYL') (Smash Mouth) is 56. Actress Lisa Vidal is 54. Singer David Gray is 51. Rhythm and blues singer Deniece Pearson (Five Star) is 51. Rock musician Soren Rasted (Aqua) is 50. Actor Jamie Walters is 50. Singer-musician Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) is 49. Country singer Susan Haynes is 47. Actor Steve-O is 45. Country singer Jason Michael Carroll is 41. Actor Ethan Embry is 41. Actor Chris Evans is 38. Actress Sarah Schaub is 36. Singer Raz B is 34. Actress Kat Dennings is 33. Actress Ashley Olsen is 33. Actress Mary-Kate Olsen is 33. DJ/producer Gesaffelstein is 32. Actor Aaron Johnson is 29.

Thought for Today: "There are no strangers here, only friends you have not yet met." — William Butler Yeats (1865-1939).