

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 1 of 62

[2- First Presbyterian Church of Groton Listed on National Register of Historic Places](#)

[3- World War II Memorial](#)

[9- Korean War Memorial](#)

[13-14- Northville-Groton Legion Stat Sheets](#)

[15- Weather Pages](#)

[18- Daily Devotional](#)

[19- 2019 Groton Events](#)

[20- 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

Wednesday, June 26

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Hamlin, double header

6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Faulkton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage, Falk Field (both) Softball hosts Clark in (DH) (U10 at 6 p.m.)

Olive Grove: Kid's Golf Lessons from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Men's League at 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 27

5:30 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Warner, (DH)

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

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Claremont, Nelson Field (Gold)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Claremont (W,B)

Friday, June 28

Noon: Legion at Aberdeen

Saturday, June 29

1:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners at Lake Norden, (DH)

U10 Pee Wees Tourney in Groton

First Presbyterian Church of Groton Listed on National Register of Historic Places

PIERRE, S.D. – The First Presbyterian Church of Groton was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The National Register is the official federal list of properties identified as important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society works in conjunction with the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register program, to list the properties.

“South Dakota’s history is rich in American Indian culture, pioneer life and change,” said Jay D. Vogt, state historic preservation officer and director of the State Historical Society. “Properties listed on the National Register are important for their role in South Dakota’s culture, heritage and history. And when properties get listed, it shows that their owners take pride in their role in preserving that culture, heritage and history.”

Buildings, sites, structures and objects at least 50 years old possessing historical significance may qualify for the National Register, according to Vogt. Properties must also maintain their historic location, design, materials and association. Listing on the National Register does not place any limitations on private property owners by the federal government.

Located at 300 N. Main St., the First Presbyterian Church of Groton was built in 1912. It is listed in the National Register for its architectural significance as an excellent example Gothic Revival architecture adapted to fit changes in protestant worship practices. It is also listed for its modified Akron plan with the Sunday school located adjacent to the sanctuary and separated by a movable partition.

The building retains excellent integrity of design, materials, setting, location, workmanship, feeling, and association. There are numerous noteworthy Gothic Revival features. Included are prominent stone steps in the front leading to three Gothic arched entrances at the top. These lead into a covered walkway prior to entering the building. A square tower is located on a corner beside the steps. Multiple roof lines result in several stone-capped gables. Arched windows are a variety of stained-glass, leaded glass, and painted glass.

Groton was deeded and platted on June 30, 1881. By late August, an ecumenical Sunday school, comprised mostly of Presbyterian members, was meeting in the railroad depot. The Presbyterian church was organized by 1883, and its first church building was erected in 1884. Construction to replace their original wooden building with their current structure began in 1911. Pennsylvania architect J.C. Fulton was selected to design the new church, and Carlson & Hasslen from Ortonville, Minnesota were selected as general contractors. It’s interesting to note that this company is still in operation in Ortonville as Hasslen Construction.

The dedication of the new church was held on March 17, 1912, with about 500 people in attendance. The church is still in use today with an active congregation.



The exterior of the First Presbyterian Church of Groton.

World War II Memorial



The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people. The Second World War is the only 20th Century event commemorated on the National Mall's central axis.

- Wikipedia

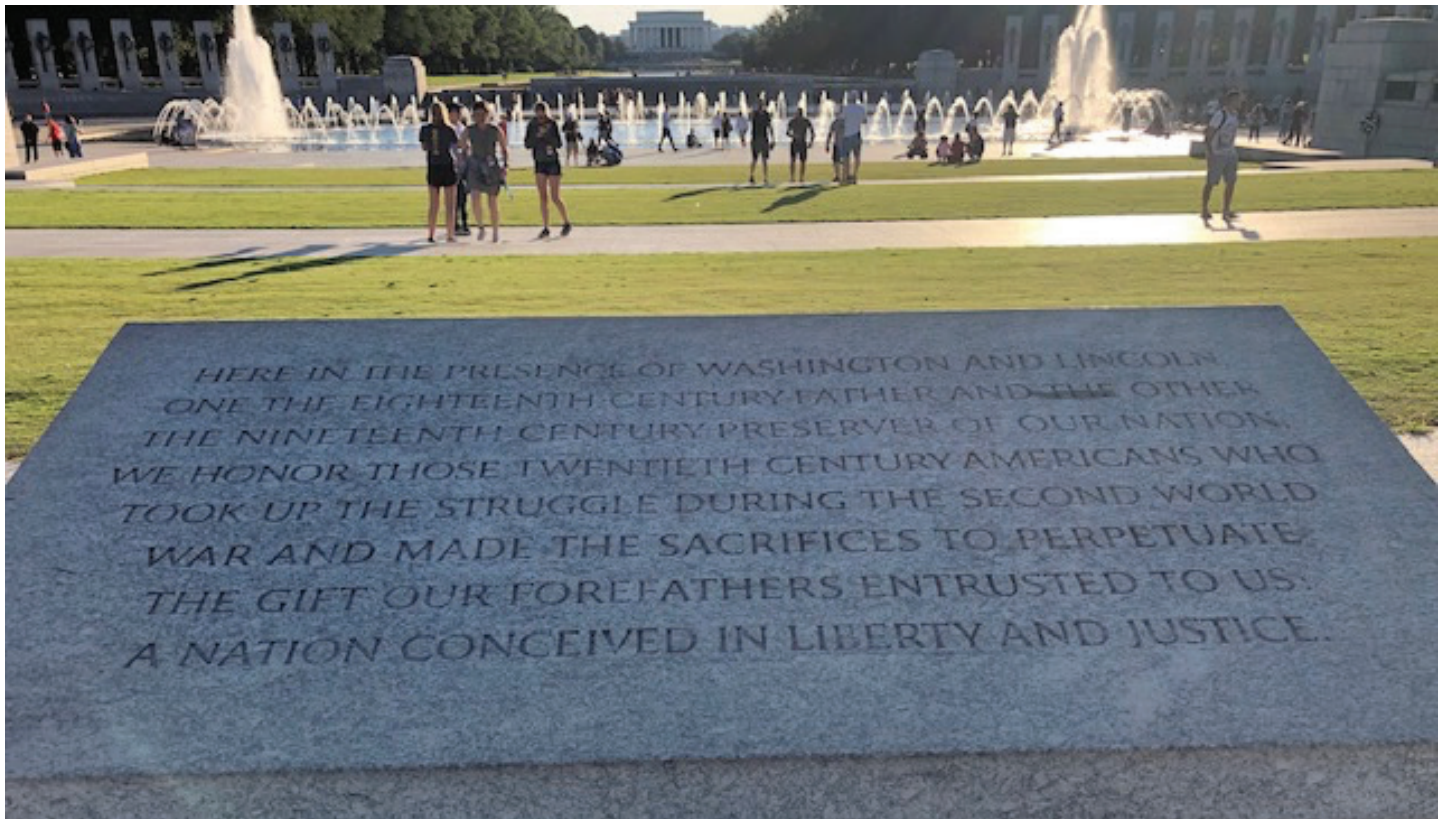
There are two sides to the memorial - one is for the battle in the Atlantic and the other is the battle in the Pacific. And as with most memorials, the Washington Memorial (left photo) can be seen.

There are two wreaths for each pillar; one on the front and one on the back. Each pillar has both, but they alternate from side to side for variety. The wheat wreath represents agriculture and the oak wreath represents industry. This symbolizes the fact that not only did the states and territories give their citizens to serve in the military, they also offered their resources and the fruits of their labor to the cause of victory. Without the hard work, sacrifice, and support of the home front, success on the battlefield was impossible. - nps.gov



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 4 of 62



President Clinton signed Public Law 103-32 on May 25, 1993, authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., or its environs. It is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II and acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation.

- wwiimemorial.com

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 5 of 62



Groton Daily Independent

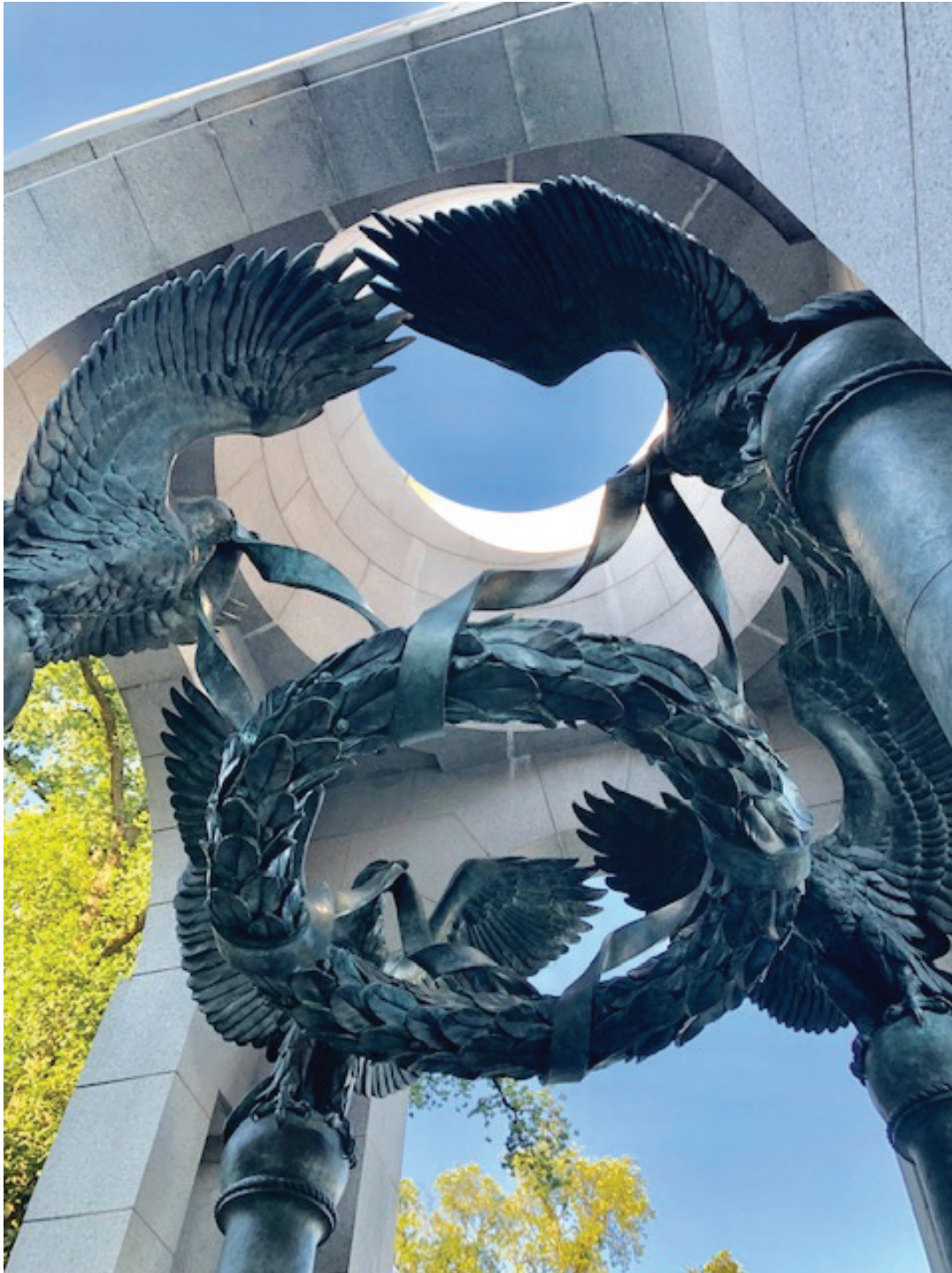
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 6 of 62



During World War II, U.S. military forces fought in two military theaters of operations on opposite sides of the world. Navy ships zigzagged their way across the Atlantic to transport Army and Marine personnel to fight in Northern Africa and Europe against the Germans and the Italians. Likewise, Army, Navy, and Marine units fought a brutal island-hopping campaign across the Pacific against the Japanese. The two forty-three foot tall victory pavilions honor their heroic service and ultimate success and list at their bases many of the major campaigns and battles from each theater of war. - nps.gov

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 7 of 62



Inside each victory pavilion is a sculptural canopy called a baldacchino. These baldacchinos are actually four eagles holding a laurel victory wreath suspended above an enlarged victory medallion set into the floor below. The eagle is the symbol of the United States of America. The laurel wreath is a symbol of victory going back to ancient Greece. So, the sculptures symbolize American victory in the Atlantic and in the Pacific theaters. The eagles have wingspans of 11 feet and are perched on columns 18 feet tall. Each of the laurel wreaths weighs 5,000 pounds and was designed by Ray Kaskey of Maryland.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 8 of 62



Korean War Memorial



Aaron Killian gets everyone around him as he describes the Korean War Memorial.



As you walk around the Korean War Memorial, there will always be a soldier looking directly at you. The tour guide said that he had taken a group of Korean War veterans to the memorial and he asked them what one thing he should tell his tour groups. They said that the conditions were harsh and very cold. Around in the background is a reflective wall. There are 19 statues in the memorial and when they reflect off the wall, that would be 38. The war took place at the 38th parallel, which is the dividing line between North Korea and South Korea. There are many faces on the Wall of Remembrance. Read about that on the next page.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 10 of 62

In October 2016, U.S. President Barack Obama signed into law legislation authorizing the establishment of a "Wall of Remembrance" to be incorporated into the Korean War Veterans Memorial that currently resides on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Following the Russian and Chinese-backed North Korean invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, the United States led a 21-nation Allied Force to help South Korea repel the communist troops. For three years the fighting on the Korean Peninsula raged. By the time the Armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, 36,574 American military personnel gave their lives in the service of Freedom, 103,284 others had been Wounded in Action, 8,177 were listed as Missing in Action (MIA) and 7,747 U.S. military personnel are still unaccounted for. The fighting took its toll on South Korean and Allied Forces as well.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. It honors those who fought and reminds us all that "Freedom Is Not Free."

In an effort to better convey the extent of the ultimate sacrifice of U.S. servicemen, Congress authorized the addition of a "Wall of Remembrance." As proposed, the Wall will be made of laminated glass and encircle the rear 180 degrees of the Memorial's Pool of Remembrance. In it will be etched the names of 36,574 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War as well as the number of U.S. servicemen wounded, Missing in Action, or Prisoners Of War. It will also honor the members of the South Korean military, who served in South Korean and U.S. units, and U.N. soldiers by listing the numbers of soldiery who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners during the conflict.

- koreanwarvetismemorial.org



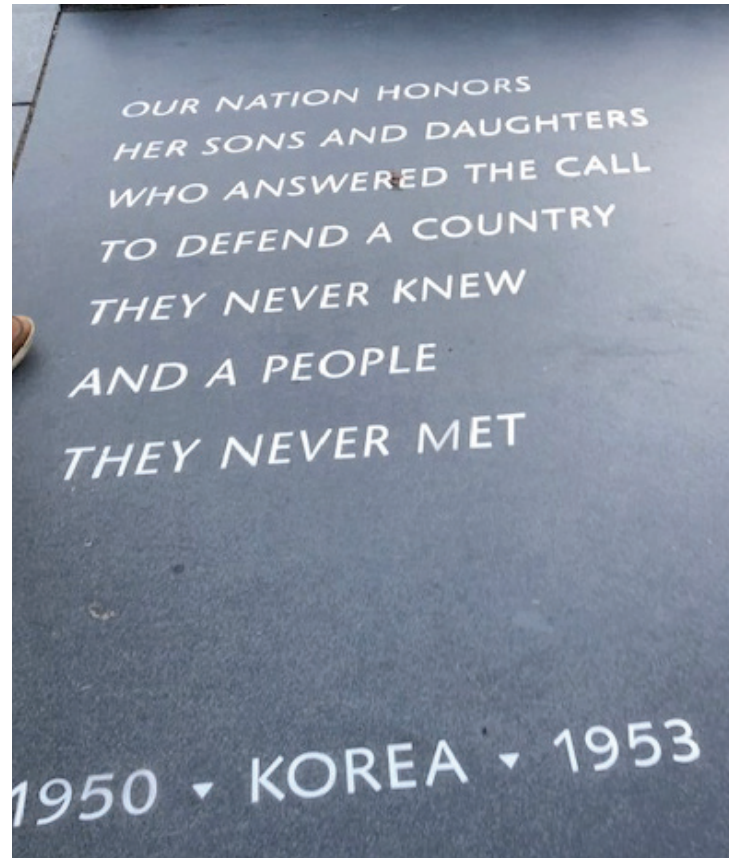
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 11 of 62



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 12 of 62



Former President George H. W. Bush conducted the groundbreaking for the Memorial on June 14, 1993, Flag Day, and thus construction was started.

The 19 stainless steel statues were sculpted by Frank Gaylord of Barre, VT and cast by Tallix Foundries of Beacon, NY. They are approximately seven feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 Army, 3 Marine, 1 Navy and 1 Air Force members. The statues stand in patches of Juniper bushes and are separated by polished granite strips, which give a semblance of order and symbolize the rice paddies of Korea. The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment. The ponchos seem to blow in the cold winds of Korea.

- koreanwarvetismemorial.org

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 13 of 62

Northville **5 - 1** Groton Post 39

📍 Home 🏆 League 📅 Tuesday June 25, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
NRTH	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	6	1
GRTN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0

BATTING

Northville	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
C Simes (SS)	2	1	0	0	2	0	2
K Stahl (C)	3	1	0	0	1	2	1
Schentzel (P)	3	1	1	0	1	1	1
Mcquarrie (...)	4	1	2	1	0	1	1
Richarct (1B...)	4	0	0	1	0	2	2
Hansen (LF)	4	1	2	1	0	1	3
Larson (RF)	2	0	0	0	2	2	1
Kraft (3B, 1B)	2	0	0	0	1	2	3
Gilbert (2B,...)	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
Totals	26	5	6	4	8	11	8

TB: Hansen 2, Gilbert, Schentzel, Mcquarrie 2, **SB:** C Simes, **LOB:** 8

PITCHING

Northville	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Schentzel	7.0	3	1	0	2	5	0
Totals	7.0	3	1	0	2	5	0

WP: Schentzel, **P-S:** Schentzel 102-67, **HBP:** Schentzel 2, **BF:** Schentzel 28

Groton Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
K Blackmun...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
C Larson (SS)	3	1	1	0	0	1	0
A Morris (C)	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
R Thurston...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
A Jones (P,...)	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
D Shabazz (...)	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
P Johnson (...)	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
W Locke (3...)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
T Traphage...	3	0	1	0	0	1	0
A Knutson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Schinkel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G Schroede...	3	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	24	1	3	0	2	5	6

TB: C Larson, T Traphagen, A Morris, **CS:** C Larson, **HBP:** K Blackmun, D Shabazz, **SB:** C Larson, **LOB:** 6

Groton Post 39	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Jones	5.0	5	5	4	5	5	0
W Locke	2.0	1	0	0	3	6	0
Totals	7.0	6	5	4	8	11	0

LP: A Jones, **P-S:** A Jones 96-55, W Locke 50-23, **BF:** A Jones 24, W Locke 10

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 14 of 62

Northville **8 - 1** Groton Post 39

📍 Home 🏆 League 📅 Tuesday June 25, 2019

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
NRTH	1	0	6	0	1	8	1	1
GRTN	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4

BATTING

Northville	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
C Simes (SS)	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
K Stahl (C)	3	1	0	0	0	2	6
Schentzel (...)	4	1	0	1	0	1	5
Mcquarrie (P)	2	1	0	2	1	0	1
Richarct (2B)	3	1	0	1	0	1	1
Hansen (LF)	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Larson (RF)	2	1	0	0	1	1	2
Kraft (1B)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Gilbert (3B)	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Totals	20	8	1	6	8	7	7

2B: C Simes, **TB:** C Simes 2, **HBP:** K Stahl, C Simes, **SB:** Mcquarrie, C Simes, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Northville	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Mcquarrie	5.0	4	1	0	0	8	0
Totals	5.0	4	1	0	0	8	0

WP: Mcquarrie, **P-S:** Mcquarrie 62-51, **BF:** Mcquarrie 19

Groton Post 39	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
K Blackmun...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
T Traphag...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
C Larson (SS)	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
A Morris (1B)	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
L Simon (1B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Jones (3B)	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
W Locke (C)	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
G O'Neil (LF)	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
A Schinkel (...)	2	0	0	0	0	1	4
R Thurston...	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
L Iverson (...)	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
G Schroede...	2	0	1	0	0	1	1
Totals	19	1	4	1	0	8	3

2B: G O'Neil, **TB:** A Morris, K Blackmun, G Schroeder, G O'Neil 2, **SB:** K Blackmun, G Schroeder, **LOB:** 3

Groton Post 39	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
K Blackmun	3.0	1	7	1	5	5	0
T Traphagen	2.0	0	1	1	3	2	0
Totals	5.0	1	8	2	8	7	0

LP: K Blackmun, **P-S:** K Blackmun 92-47, T Traphagen 46-25, **WP:** K Blackmun 3, **HBP:** K Blackmun, T Traphagen, **BF:** K Blackmun 20, T Traphagen 10

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 15 of 62

Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 84 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy
then Chance
T-storms

Low: 64 °F

Thursday



Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F

Thursday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 68 °F

Friday



Hot

High: 92 °F

Tonight

Slight Risk of Severe Storms

Strong to severe storms possible late evening to overnight

Today

morning Showers
& Storms over E
SD/W MN

HIGHS
81 to 86°

Thursday

few morning
Showers & Storms
over northeastern
SD/W MN

HIGHS
81 to 88°

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 6/26/2019 3:44 AM Central

Published on: 06/25/2019 at 11:48PM

Morning showers and storms will exit eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, with dry weather returning for much of the day. Another round of showers and strong storms will be possible late this evening into the overnight hours. Stay weather aware at www.weather.gov/abr

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 16 of 62

Today in Weather History

June 26, 1998: Heavy rains of 2 to 5 inches fell across much of northern and eastern Brown, western and northern Day and all of Marshall County during the afternoon and evening hours. The additional heavy rain only exacerbated the flooding which had been occurring over much of this area for years. Kidder, in northern Marshall County, received up to 5 inches of rain on the 26th after receiving around 2 inches on the 25th. The heavy rain on the 26th flooded the whole town, filling nearly every basement. One resident had the basement walls cave in. Areas of Britton were also flooded with water in many basements. The heavy rains added to the already thousands of acres of crop and pastureland under water. One farmer in Day County, near Webster, had documented over one-half million dollars in damages to fences, buildings, land, and income from the prolonged flooding. On his farm, he had 15 buildings under water. This farmer said the highest he had measured the water from flooding was 9 feet, but for this year it had gone up to 21 feet. As a result of this and past heavy rains and also many years of above-average precipitation, about 22 percent of the total farm and pastureland acres in the three counties were flooded or too wet to farm. Some rainfall amounts included 2.30 inches at Sand Lake NWR, 2.7 inches at Langford, 2.95 inches at Groton, 3.5 inches northwest of Bristol, and 5.10 inches 9N 9W of Britton.

June 26, 2008: During the evening hours, a compact upper-level low-pressure system tracking through the Northern Plains interacted with a very moist and unstable air mass over western and central South Dakota resulting in a widespread severe weather outbreak. Three confirmed tornadoes occurred briefly in western Dewey County. Little or no damage was reported, and all three tornadoes were rated EF0. In addition to the tornadoes, multiple reports of large hail were received over Corson and Dewey Counties, including some to the size of baseballs near the communities of McLaughlin and Isabel. The large hail broke out many home and vehicle windows and damaged many roofs in Dewey, Corson, and Sully Counties. Significant wind damage occurred over sections of Sully County. There were multiple reports of wind gusts more than 70 mph, with the most concentrated swath of damaging winds extending from near Sutton Bay, eastward to the city of Onida, then southeast to the community of Harrold. The storm survey began near Sutton Bay on Lake Oahe, where a wind gust of 92 mph was recorded. The most significant property damage was found further east near the community of Agar where multiple grain bins were either damaged or destroyed. Nine miles west of Agar, a barn was destroyed, and a large pine tree was snapped in half. Winds in this area were estimated to range from 80 to 100 mph. Near the intersection of Highways 1804 and 175th Street, several Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) electrical transmission towers were collapsed entirely. The damage is consistent with wind speeds ranging from 130-140 mph. In the city of Onida, a bank roof was damaged, and the city was without power until the next day. Four miles north of Onida, a feed wagon was tossed nearly 40 feet. In Harrold, several railroad cars were tipped over. Also of great significance during the event was the peak wind speed of 124 mph recorded at the Onida airport. This wind speed is the strongest wind gust ever measured in the Aberdeen County Warning Area and the 4th highest wind speed ever reported in South Dakota.

1807: Lightning strikes a gunpowder factory in the small European country of Luxembourg, killing more than 300 people. The Luxembourg disaster may have been the most deadly lightning strike in history.

1986: Hurricane Bonnie made landfall on the upper Texas coast. A wind gust to 98 mph occurred at Sea Rim State Park. Ace, Texas recorded a total of 13 inches of rain.

1888 - Residents of New York suffered through a record heat wave. Daily average temperatures were above 80 degrees for fourteen straight days. The heat wave was a sharp contrast to the severe blizzard in March of that year, which buried the city under nearly two feet of snow. (David Ludlum)

1977 - The Human Lightning Conductor, park ranger Roy C. Sullivan, was struck by lightning for the seventh time. He was first hit in 1942, then again in 1970, 1972, 1973 and 1976. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Record heat prevailed from Texas to Michigan. Alpena MI hit 98 degrees. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1985 - A spectacular early morning waterspout developed at 5:20 AM (MST) from a stationary thunderstorm over the south end of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. It was visible 20 miles away, and lasted four minutes. (The Weather Channel)

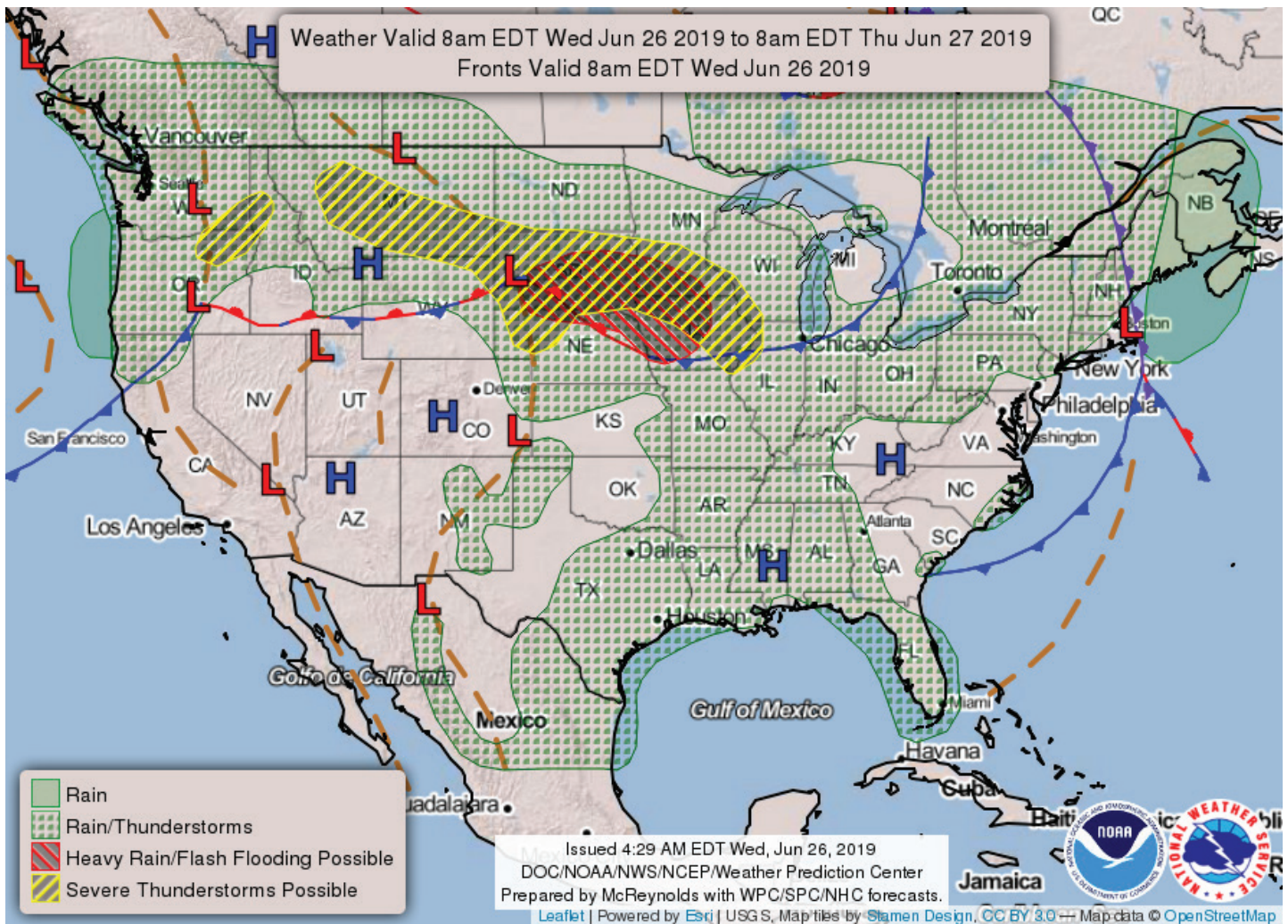
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 17 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 80 °F at 5:48 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 5:56 AM
Wind: 18 mph at 2:04 PM
Day Rain: 0.00 in

Record High: 109° in 1933
Record Low: 39° in 2017
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in June.: 3.09
Precip to date in June.: 4.00
Average Precip to date: 10.23
Precip Year to Date: 11.78
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:47 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 18 of 62



GAINING FAVOR

Solomon had much to say about bribes. No doubt his success as king and his great wisdom made him extremely popular. Surely, those who were people of means would court his prestige and power and knew it would bring great dividends they could not achieve on their own. Actually, its no different today than it was when he was at the prime of his career.

A gift (actually a bribe) - opens the door for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great, Solomon mused. A similar word for bribe is found in chapter 17 - verses 8 and 23. However, in this verse, it is much more general and really is not significant. But the idea in this verse is of one wanting to purchase favor from someone who has more power and influence than they, and wanting something they did not deserve or could not earn on their own.

Getting into the presence of the powerful, for most of us, would be difficult. The road to their seat is narrow and contains many barriers and blockades and is usually blocked by gate-keepers. But, if one is cunning and has acquired the fine art of manipulating others, many things become possible. The appropriate donation during a political campaign may be just what is needed after a victorious election. So, many hedge their bets.

Unfortunately, bribing anyone at any time for anything is wrong in the eyes of God. It encourages wickedness and dishonesty in the hearts of the receiver and the giver.

Living honestly and with integrity is Gods way to a successful life.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to abandon all practices that are deceitful and displeasing to You. May we who call You Savior and Lord live honorably in Your sight! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 18:16 A gift opens the door for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 19 of 62

2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

Request to lower bond in Rapid City homicide denied

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has denied a defense request to lower bond for one of two men accused of kill a teen in Rapid City.

Cole Waters and Andre Martinez, both 19, are accused of aiding and abetting the first-degree murder of Emmanuel Hinton. The 17-year-old was fatally shot while sitting in a car in an alley last February. Both men have pleaded not guilty to the charge.

KOTA-TV reports Waters' lawyer on Tuesday asked the court to lower the cash bond from \$1 million to \$50,000. However, Judge Gusinsky denied the request. A conviction could send the two to prison for life.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Request to lower bond in Rapid City homicide denied

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has denied a defense request to lower bond for one of two men accused of kill a teen in Rapid City.

Cole Waters and Andre Martinez, both 19, are accused of aiding and abetting the first-degree murder of Emmanuel Hinton. The 17-year-old was fatally shot while sitting in a car in an alley last February. Both men have pleaded not guilty to the charge.

KOTA-TV reports Waters' lawyer on Tuesday asked the court to lower the cash bond from \$1 million to \$50,000. However, Judge Gusinsky denied the request. A conviction could send the two to prison for life.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

24-33-45-47-61, Mega Ball: 17, Megaplier: 3

(twenty-four, thirty-three, forty-five, forty-seven, sixty-one; Mega Ball: seventeen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$122 million

Lawmakers seek to revoke Wounded Knee medals for US soldiers

By KALI ROBINSON Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Advocates for Native Americans called Tuesday for Congress to revoke the Medals of Honor given to the U.S. soldiers who participated in the Wounded Knee massacre.

They're being supported by three members of Congress: Republican Paul Cook of California and Democrats Denny Heck of Washington and Deb Haaland of New Mexico. The lawmakers hope to get a measure in the next National Defense Authorization Act that would rescind the medals.

Medal of Honor recipients should be honorable, Heck said. "The 20 medals that were awarded as a consequence of the Battle of Wounded Knee do not belong in that category," he said at a news conference near the Capitol.

Medals of Honor were given to 20 soldiers from the 7th Cavalry Regiment for participating in the December 29, 1890, massacre on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation near Wounded Knee Creek.

An estimated 250 Native Americans were killed, many of whom were women and children.

The legislation is being pushed by O.J. Semans, co-founder of Four Directions, a Native American voting rights organization. Semans, a member of the Rosebud Sioux in South Dakota, began advocating for the legislation in January after President Donald Trump tweeted a comment mocking Democratic presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren's claim to Native American ancestry.

"They didn't award any medals at My Lai," said Bret Healy, a Four Directions consultant and strategist. The 1968 My Lai massacre took place during the Vietnam conflict as U.S. Army soldiers hunting for Viet Cong fighters and sympathizers killed unarmed villagers. Estimates of the death toll vary from 347 to 504.

Native American groups have called for years for the Medals of Honor to be rescinded from the soldiers who were at the Wounded Knee massacre. In 1996, GOP Sen. John McCain of Arizona, then chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, received a petition to revoke the medals but said in a letter that retroactive judgment of the massacre did not warrant the action.

In 1990, Congress apologized to the descendants of those killed at Wounded Knee but did not revoke the medals.

Judge OKs execution of South Dakota man in 1993 slaying

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota judge has signed off on the execution of a man convicted of stabbing a former co-worker to death during a doughnut shop burglary in 1993.

Judge Robert Mandel granted a motion Tuesday for a November execution for Charles Rhines.

Rhines was convicted of stabbing 22-year-old Donnivan Schaeffer to death while burglarizing a Rapid City doughnut shop.

Peggy Schaeffer says the green light for Rhines' execution is a big step toward justice for her son.

The Rapid City Journal reported that Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg argued for proceeding with the execution, noting that Rhines has been fighting the case five years longer than his victim was alive. The U.S. Supreme Court announced in April it wouldn't consider Rhines' case.

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

South Dakota VA tickets drop, focus on de-escalation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Veterans Affairs police are issuing tickets at a slower rate this year than they did in 2018 at two VA facilities in western South Dakota, authorities said.

Six tickets have been issued so far this year at the Fort Meade and Hot Springs VA campuses combined, while VA police issued 38 citations in 2018 at the same campuses, Rapid City Journal reported.

Most of the tickets issued have been for public intoxication, alcohol possession and disorderly conduct, according to Capt. Kendra Knight with Black Hills Health Care System VA. It is illegal to be drunk or high at VA facilities.

"We don't write a lot of tickets. Our objective isn't ticket numbers," Knight said. "We really want these veterans to come out here and get their care."

Knight noted that the team of 26 officers and four administrators/dispatchers who oversee safety and security at the Hot Springs and Fort Meade campuses is focused on de-escalating situations.

"We're geared toward de-escalation and voluntary compliance," she said. "We're very customer-service oriented and instead of arresting, writing tickets, going hands-on, we want to engage the veteran, find out what's going on, what's causing this situation right now."

Citations are usually issued to people who show up intoxicated multiple times, refuse treatment or threaten others. Knight said anyone can contest it in court.

The one ticket issued at Fort Meade in 2019 was for disorderly conduct, according to a Black Hills VA spokeswoman. Two of the tickets issued at Hot Springs were for being drunk or high on campus while the others were for theft, alcohol/drug possession and damaging government property.

Federal law outlines specific crimes committed on VA grounds that have fines ranging from \$15 for park-

ing illegally to \$500 for breaking into locked areas, purposely damaging government property and defacing gravestones, according to federal law.

Knight said crimes such as DUIs, drug or alcohol possession, and bringing weapons to campus require people show up to the federal courthouse in Rapid City so a judge can determine a fine and/or jail time, Knight said.

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

North Dakota abortion clinic files federal suit over 2 laws

By DAVE KOLPACK Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's sole abortion clinic filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday over two state laws it believes forces doctors to lie, including one measure passed this year requiring physicians to tell women that they may reverse a so-called medication abortion if they have second thoughts.

The complaint from the Center for Reproductive Rights on behalf of the Red River Women's Clinic and the American Medical Association also targets an existing law requiring doctors to tell patients that abortion terminates "the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being." The suit says the laws violate the constitutional rights of doctors by forcing them to "convey false information and non-medical statements" to patients. It asks a judge to block enforcement.

"The First Amendment prohibits the government from hijacking the doctor-patient relationship to advance a political agenda," said Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

A spokeswoman for North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said he was served with the complaint late Tuesday and was reviewing it. Stenehjem said earlier when asked about the possibility of a lawsuit that he will be required to defend the current laws. Cass County State's Attorney Birch Burdick, also named as a defendant, had not seen the lawsuit and said he could not comment.

North Dakota is among eight states, including five in the last year, to pass or amend laws requiring doctors to tell women undergoing medication abortions they can still have a live birth after the procedure. The North Dakota law, scheduled to go into effect Aug. 1, also requires doctors to tell the patient that "time is of the essence" if she changes her mind.

Republican state Rep. Daniel Johnston said he sponsored the bill so that "women having second thoughts" know they have options. He said the bill does not restrict abortions and couldn't see "how anyone could be against it." Johnston did not respond to phone and email messages.

AMA President Dr. Patrice Harris told The Associated Press that North Dakota's law requires doctors to "mislead and misinform" their patients and the consequences could undermine relationships between all physicians and patients. The AMA, which is the country's largest physician organization, sued the Trump administration in March over funding for family planning organizations offering abortion services.

"The AMA will step in when there is any interference with our ability to talk to our patients about legal, evidence-based medical procedures," Harris said by phone from Belfast, Northern Ireland, where she was attending an event by the British Medical Association. She said AMA lawyers are monitoring all laws they believe infringe on doctor-patient relationships and decided North Dakota's was the next case to be "actively involved in."

Other states that have passed similar laws that require patients to be informed about medication abortion reversal are Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Utah. The suit says there is no "credible, scientific evidence" that a medication abortion can be reversed and the drug that would be used in the procedure has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The other law requiring doctors to define a fetus is part of the state's longstanding abortion control act. The suit says the mandate is a "controversial and ideological opinion about when life begins" and is meant to further the state's attempt to discourage abortion.

Tammi Kromenaker, director of the Red River Women's Clinic, said the measures do not allow doctors to give honest and informed advice.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 23 of 62

"North Dakota's laws are forcing us to say things that violate our medical ethics and will soon force us to say things that are simply false and not backed up by science," Kromenaker said.

Lawmakers passed another abortion bill this year that bans the method of so-called dilation and evacuation. It would make it a crime for a doctor performing a second-trimester abortion to use instruments such as clamps, scissors and forceps to remove the fetus from the womb. Opponents have called it "human dismemberment abortion."

This story has been corrected to show that the American Medical Association is monitoring all laws they believe infringe on doctor-patient relationships, not just abortion laws.

Man who fatally shot friend pleads guilty

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 19-year-old Sioux Falls man accused of fatally shooting his friend last year has entered a guilty plea in a deal with prosecutors.

Stasek Alexandr Stefanyuk entered the plea to first-degree manslaughter and possession of a controlled substance in a Minnehaha County courtroom Tuesday, the day his trial was to begin.

The Argus Leader reports that as part of the plea agreement, Judge Jon Sogn capped Stefanyuk's potential sentence at 15 years actual prison time and no more than 25 years including suspended time. Stefanyuk's family sobbed as the judge accepted the guilty pleas.

Stefanyuk was showing off a shotgun when he shot 21-year-old Darias Tiger last September. Stefanyuk admitted he had been using drugs at the time. He was not immediately sentenced.

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

Robert Mueller to testify publicly before 2 House committees

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, ERIC TUCKER and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former special counsel Robert Mueller has agreed to testify publicly before Congress on July 17 after Democrats issued subpoenas to compel him to appear, the chairmen of two House committees announced.

Mueller's unusual back-to-back testimony in front of the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees is likely to be the most highly anticipated congressional hearing in years, particularly given Mueller's resolute silence throughout his two-year investigation into Russian contacts with President Donald Trump's campaign. Mueller never responded to angry, public attacks from Trump, nor did he ever personally join his prosecutors in court or make announcements of criminal charges from the team.

His sole public statement came from the Justice Department podium last month as he announced his departure, when he sought to explain his decision to not indict Trump or to accuse him of criminal conduct. He also put lawmakers on notice that he did not ever intend to say more than what he put in the 448-page report.

"We chose those words carefully, and the work speaks for itself," Mueller said May 29. "I would not provide information beyond what is already public in any appearance before Congress."

Those remarks did little to settle the demands for his testimony. The two committees continued negotiations that had already been going on for weeks, saying they still wanted to hear from Mueller no matter how reluctant he was.

"When you accept the role of special counsel in one of the most significant investigations in modern history you're going to have to expect that you're going to be asked to come and testify before Congress," House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., told reporters shortly after the announcement.

Trump himself simply tweeted, "Presidential Harassment!" He followed up on Wednesday morning in an interview with Fox Business Network, saying, "It never ends," then adding his usual list of grievances against the way the probe was conducted.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 24 of 62

In the report issued in April, Mueller concluded there was not enough evidence to establish a conspiracy between Trump's presidential campaign and Russia, which was the original question that started the investigation. But he also said he could not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice. The report examined several episodes in which Trump attempted to influence the investigation.

Democrats say it is now the job of Congress to assess the report's findings. Lawmakers are likely to confront Mueller on why he did not come to a firm conclusion on obstruction of justice. They are also likely to seek his reaction to a drumbeat of incessant criticism from the president and ask for his personal opinion about whether Trump would have been charged were he not the commander-in-chief.

Schiff and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said they issued the subpoenas Tuesday, and Mueller agreed to testify pursuant to those subpoenas. In a letter to Mueller accompanying the subpoenas, the committee chairmen said "the American public deserves to hear directly from you about your investigation and conclusions."

Schiff said there will be two hearings "back to back," one for each committee, and they will also meet with Mueller's staff in closed session afterward.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

Republicans have criticized Democrats for their continuing investigations of the president. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., questioned why they would still want to hear from Mueller after the lengthy report was issued. "He said he didn't want to talk to us anymore, didn't he?"

But Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, has said he has no objections to Mueller's testimony.

"May this testimony bring to House Democrats the closure that the rest of America has enjoyed for months, and may it enable them to return to the business of legislating," Collins said.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

A grim border drowning underlines peril facing many migrants

By PETER ORSI and AMY GUTHRIE Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The man and his 23-month-old daughter lay face down in shallow water along the bank of the Rio Grande, his black shirt hiked up to his chest with the girl tucked inside. Her arm was draped around his neck suggesting she clung to him in her final moments.

The searing photograph of the sad discovery of their bodies on Monday, captured by journalist Julia Le Duc and published by Mexican newspaper La Jornada, highlights the perils faced by mostly Central American migrants fleeing violence and poverty and hoping for asylum in the United States.

According to Le Duc's reporting for La Jornada, Oscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez, frustrated because the family from El Salvador was unable to present themselves to U.S. authorities and request asylum, swam across the river on Sunday with his daughter, Valeria.

He set her on the U.S. bank of the river and started back for his wife, Tania Vanessa Ávalos, but seeing him move away the girl threw herself into the waters. Martínez returned and was able to grab Valeria, but the current swept them both away.

The account was based on remarks by Ávalos to police at the scene — "amid tears" and "screams" — Le Duc told The Associated Press.

Details of the incident were confirmed Tuesday by a Tamaulipas state government official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, and by Martínez's mother back in El Salvador, Rosa Ramírez, who spoke with her daughter-in-law by phone afterward.

"When the girl jumped in is when he tried to reach her, but when he tried to grab the girl, he went in further ... and he couldn't get out," Ramírez told the AP. "He put her in his shirt, and I imagine he told himself, 'I've come this far' and decided to go with her."

From the scorching Sonoran Desert to the fast-moving Rio Grande, the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border has long been an at times deadly crossing between ports of entry. A total of 283 migrant deaths were

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 25 of 62

recorded last year; the toll so far this year has not been released.

In recent weeks alone, two babies, a toddler and a woman were found dead in the sweltering heat. Three children and an adult from Honduras died in April after their raft capsized on the Rio Grande, and a 6-year-old from India was found dead earlier this month in Arizona, where temperatures routinely soar well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The search for Martínez and his daughter was suspended Sunday due to darkness, and their bodies were discovered the next morning near Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville, Texas, several hundred yards (meters) from where they had tried to cross and just a half-mile (1 kilometer) from an international bridge.

Tamaulipas immigration and civil defense officials have toured shelters beginning weeks ago to warn against attempting to cross the river, said to be swollen with water released from dams for irrigation. On the surface, the Rio Grande appears placid, but strong currents run beneath.

Ramírez said her son and his family left El Salvador on April 3 and spent about two months at a shelter in Tapachula, near Mexico's border with Guatemala.

"I begged them not to go, but he wanted to scrape together money to build a home," Ramírez said. "They hoped to be there a few years and save up for the house."

El Salvador's foreign ministry said it was working to assist the family, including Ávalos, who was at a border migrant shelter following the drownings. The bodies were expected to be flown to El Salvador on Thursday.

The photo recalls the 2015 image of a 3-year-old Syrian boy who drowned in the Mediterranean near Turkey, though it remains to be seen whether it may have the same impact in focusing international attention on migration to the U.S.

"Very regrettable that this would happen," Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Tuesday in response to a question about the photograph. "We have always denounced that as there is more rejection in the United States, there are people who lose their lives in the desert or crossing" the river.

There was no immediate comment from the White House.

U.S. "metering" policy has dramatically reduced the number of migrants who are allowed to request asylum, down from dozens per day previously to sometimes just a handful at some ports of entry.

The Tamaulipas government official said the family arrived in Matamoros early Sunday and went to the U.S. Consulate to try to get a date to request asylum. The mother is 21 years old and the father was 25, he added.

But waits are long there as elsewhere along the border. Last week, a shelter director said only about 40 to 45 asylum interviews were being conducted in Matamoros each week, while somewhere in the neighborhood of 800-1,700 names were on a waiting list.

It's not clear what happened to the family at the U.S. Consulate, but later in the day they made the decision to cross. The Tamaulipas official said the father and daughter set off from a small park that abuts the river. Civil defense officials arrived at the scene at 7 p.m. Sunday and later took the wife to the shelter.

"I was drawn to the girl's arm on her father," Le Duc said as she described arriving at the scene. "It was something that moved me in the extreme because it reflects that until her last breath, she was joined to him not only by the shirt but also in that embrace in which they passed together into death."

"It's a horrifying image," Maureen Meyer, a specialist on immigration at the Washington Office on Latin America, which advocates for human rights in the region, said of the photograph. "And I think it speaks so clearly to the real risks of these U.S. programs that are either returning people back to Mexico seeking asylum or in this case limiting how many people can enter the U.S. every day."

The United States has also been expanding its program under which asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their claims are processed in U.S. courts, a wait that could last many months or even years.

This week Nuevo Laredo in Tamaulipas, the same state where Matamoros is located, said it will become the latest city to receive returnees as soon as Friday.

Many migrant shelters are overflowing on the Mexican side, and cartels hold sway over much of Tamaulipas and have been known to kidnap and kill migrants.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 26 of 62

Meanwhile, Mexico is stepping up its own crackdown on immigration in response to U.S. pressure, with much of the focus on slowing the flow in the country's south.

"With greater crackdowns and restrictions," said Cris Ramón, senior immigration policy analyst at the Bipartisan Policy Center think tank in Washington, "we could see more desperate measures by people trying to enter Mexico or the U.S."

Associated Press writers Marcos Alemán in San Salvador, El Salvador, and Alfredo Peña in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, contributed to this report.

Breakouts, burns and zingers: What to watch in Dem debates

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sixty seconds for answers, a television audience of millions and, for some candidates, a first chance to introduce themselves to voters.

The back-to-back Democratic presidential debates beginning Wednesday are exercises in competitive sound bites featuring 20 candidates hoping to oust President Donald Trump in 2020. The hopefuls range widely in age, sex and backgrounds and include a former vice president, six women and a pair of mayors.

The challenge: Convey their plans for the nation, throw a few elbows and sharpen what's been a blur of a race so far for many Americans.

What to watch Wednesday at 9 p.m. Eastern on NBC, MSNBC and Telemundo:

WHAT'S HER PLAN?

Sen. Elizabeth Warren's task is to harness the recent momentum surrounding her campaign to prove to voters that she has what it takes to defeat Trump. As the sole top-tier candidate on stage Wednesday, she could have the most to lose.

The Massachusetts senator and former Harvard professor is known for her many policy plans and a mastery of classical, orderly debate. But presidential showdowns can be more "Gladiator"-style than the high-minded "Great Debaters." This is no time for a wonky multipoint case for "Medicare for All," student debt relief or the Green New Deal.

So, one challenge for Warren, 70, is stylistic. Look for her to try to champion her progressive ideas — and fend off attacks from lesser-known candidates — with gravitas, warmth and the brevity required by the format. Another obstacle is to do so without alienating moderates any Democrat would need in a general election against Trump.

Being the front-runner on stage conveys a possible advantage: If the others pile on Warren, she gets more time to speak because the candidates are allowed 30 extra seconds for responses.

WHO'S THAT?

There may be some familiar faces across the rest of the stage, such as New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, 50, or former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke, 46. But a few names probably won't ring any bells at all.

These virtual strangers to most Americans may be enjoying their first — and maybe last — turn on the national stage, so they have the least to lose.

Take John Delaney, 56, a former member of the House from Maryland. Look for him to try to make an impression by keeping up his criticism of Warren's student debt relief plan, among others.

Or Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan, 45, who sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. He has likened the Democratic primary to "speed dating with the American people."

BREAKING OUT, GOING VIRAL

For several of the candidates onstage Wednesday, the forum is about finding the breakout moment — a zinger, a burn — that stays in viewers' minds, is built for social media and generates donations, the lifeblood of campaigns.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 27 of 62

In 2015, Carly Fiorina won applause and a short surge for her response to Trump, who had been quoted in Rolling Stone as criticizing Fiorina's face.

"Look at that face," Trump was quoted as saying. "Would anyone vote for that?"

Asked on CNN to respond, Fiorina evenly replied: "I think women all over this country heard very clearly what Mr. Trump said."

For candidates such as O'Rourke, a breakthrough moment on Wednesday is critical to revitalizing a campaign that has faded. The 10 White House contenders have two hours on stage that night and up until the curtain rises on the star-studded second debate the next day to make their mark. Former Vice President Joe Biden, 76, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, 77, headline Thursday's debate and are certain to take up much of the spotlight.

BREAKING OUT BADLY

An "oops" moment can be politically crippling to any presidential campaign.

Just ask Energy Secretary Rick Perry, the former Texas governor who, in a 2011 debate, blanked on the third agency of government he had said would be "gone" if he became president.

"Commerce, Education and the, uh, what's the third one there?" Perry said.

"EPA?" fellow Republican Ron Paul offered. Yep, Perry said, the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Oops," he finished.

Perry's campaign, already struggling, never recovered.

WHAT ISSUES?

There's simply no time for an in-depth discussion of issues. But listen for shorthand mentions of "Medicare for All," free college, climate change and student debt relief as the candidates try to distinguish themselves.

It's possible, too, that racial issues surface after an emotional House hearing on reparations for the descendants of slaves — and Booker's criticism of Biden for saying he'd found ways to work with segregationist senators on foreign policy.

Speaking of Biden, listen for references to him and questions about whether he is in touch with the Democratic Party or of this moment, both suggestions about his age. The former senator and vice president won't be on stage Wednesday, but he's the front-runner and especially fair game.

TRUMP

This is the Democrats' night.

But Trump has dominated the political conversation since that escalator ride four years ago, and he loathes being upstaged. It's worth asking: Will he tweet during the debates? And if he does, will NBC and the moderators ignore him or respond in real time?

It's difficult to commit to anything in advance, but NBC News executive Rashida Jones said the focus will be on the candidates and the issues.

"Beyond that, it has to rise to a certain level," she said.

During the first debate, Trump will be on Air Force One on his way to the Group of 20 summit in Osaka, Japan. The plane's cable televisions are usually turned to Fox News, which is not hosting the debates. For the second debate, Trump will be beginning meetings at the G-20.

Trump told Fox Business Network on Wednesday that he'd watch because "it's part of my life" but that "It just seems very boring. ... That's a very unexciting group of people."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller and AP Media Writer David Bauder contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Time running short, showdown looms over border aid package

By **ANDREW TAYLOR** and **ALAN FRAM** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took last-minute changes and a full-court press by top Democratic leaders, but the House passed with relative ease a \$4.5 billion emergency border aid package to care for thousands of migrant families and unaccompanied children detained after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The bill passed along party lines Tuesday night after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi quelled a mini-revolt by progressives and Hispanic lawmakers who sought significant changes to the legislation. New provisions added to the bill were more modest than what those lawmakers had sought, but the urgent need for the funding — to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the border from turning into a debacle — appeared to outweigh any lingering concerns.

The 230-195 vote sets up a showdown with the Republican-led Senate, which may try instead to force Democrats to send President Donald Trump a different, and broadly bipartisan, companion measure in coming days as the chambers race to wrap up the must-do legislation by the end of the week.

"The Senate has a good bill. Our bill is much better," Pelosi, D-Calif., told her Democratic colleagues in a meeting Tuesday morning, according to a senior Democratic aide who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private session.

"We are ensuring that children have food, clothing, sanitary items, shelter and medical care. We are providing access to legal assistance. And we are protecting families because families belong together," Pelosi said in a subsequent floor speech.

The bill contains more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over the Department of Health and Human Services. It seeks to mandate improved standards of care at HHS "influx shelters" that house children waiting to be placed with sponsors such as family members in the U.S.

Trump said he was displeased with the bill because it includes no money to help secure the border.

"I'm not happy with it because there's no money for protection," the Republican president said in an interview Wednesday on Fox Business Network. "It's like we're running hospitals now."

Both House and Senate bills ensure funding could not be shifted to Trump's border wall and would block information on sponsors of immigrant children from being used to deport them. Trump would be denied additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds.

"The President's cruel immigration policies that tear apart families and terrorize communities demand the stringent safeguards in this bill to ensure these funds are used for humanitarian needs only — not for immigration raids, not detention beds, not a border wall," said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y.

Three moderates were the only House Republicans to back the measure. The only four Democratic "no" votes came from some of the party's best-known freshmen: Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ihan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

The White House has threatened to veto the House bill, saying it would hamstring the administration's border security efforts, and the Senate's top Republican suggested Tuesday that the House should simply accept the Senate measure — which received only a single "nay" vote during a committee vote last week.

"The idea here is to get a (presidential) signature, so I think once we can get that out of the Senate, hopefully on a vote similar to the one in the Appropriations Committee, I'm hoping that the House will conclude that's the best way to get the problem solved, which can only happen with a signature," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

A handful of GOP conservatives went to the White House to try to persuade Trump to reject the Senate bill and demand additional funding for immigration enforcement such as overtime for border agents and detention facilities run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to a top GOP lawmaker who demanded anonymity to discuss a private meeting. Trump was expected to reject the advice.

House Democrats seeking the changes met late Monday with Pelosi, and lawmakers emerging from the Tuesday morning caucus meeting were generally supportive of the legislation.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 29 of 62

Congress plans to leave Washington in a few days for a weeklong July 4 recess, and pressure is intense to wrap up the legislation before then. Agencies are about to run out of money and failure to act could bring a swift political rebuke and accusations of ignoring the plight of innocent immigrant children.

Longtime GOP Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said Democrats were simply "pushing partisan bills to score political points and avoiding doing the hard work of actually making law," warning them that "passing a partisan bill through this chamber won't solve the problem."

Lawmakers' sense of urgency to provide humanitarian aid was amplified by recent reports of gruesome conditions in a windowless Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, where more than 300 infants and children were being housed. Many were kept there for weeks and were caring for each other in conditions that included inadequate food, water and sanitation.

By Tuesday, most had been sent elsewhere. The incident was only an extreme example of the dire conditions reported at numerous locations where detainees have been held, and several children have died in U.S. custody.

The Border Patrol reported apprehending nearly 133,000 people last month — including many Central American families — as monthly totals have begun topping 100,000 for the first time since 2007. Federal agencies involved in immigration have reported being overwhelmed, depleting their budgets and housing large numbers of detainees in structures meant for handfuls of people.

Changes unveiled Tuesday would require the Department of Homeland Security to establish new standards for care of unaccompanied immigrant children and a plan for ensuring adequate translators to assist migrants in their dealings with law enforcement. The government would have to replace contractors who provide inadequate care.

Many children detained entering the U.S. from Mexico have been held under harsh conditions, and Customs and Border Protection Chief Operating Officer John Sanders told The Associated Press last week that children have died after being in the agency's care. He said Border Patrol stations are holding 15,000 people — more than triple their maximum capacity of 4,000.

Sanders announced Tuesday that he's stepping down next month amid outrage over his agency's treatment of detained migrant children.

In a letter Monday threatening the veto, White House officials told lawmakers they objected that the House package lacked money for beds the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency needs to let it detain more migrants. Officials also complained in the letter that the bill had no money to toughen border security, including funds for building Trump's proposed border wall.

A year after newsroom attack, journalists embraced by city

By BRIAN WITTE Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Standing ovations. A surge in subscriptions. Hugs from random readers. At a time when journalists are being vilified as "the enemy of the people," staff members at the Capital Gazette newspaper are feeling the embrace of a grateful community, one year after a gunman went on a newsroom rampage that left five of their colleagues dead.

Reporters who survived the worst attack on journalists in U.S. history say the trauma has not faded, but their connection with their readers is a source of comfort and inspiration.

"They'll say that they read our work, and then they'll be really nice to us, which is nice, even if they disagree with whatever we're reporting," said reporter Selene San Felice, who hid under a desk during the June 28, 2018, shooting.

Killed were Gerald Fischman, editorial page editor; Rob Hiaasen, an assistant managing editor; John McNamara, a staff writer who covered sports; Rebecca Smith, an advertising sales assistant; and Wendi Winters, special publications editor.

The paper received a special Pulitzer Prize citation and \$100,000 for its coverage of the attack and its insistence on putting out the next day's paper. The staff was named along with other journalists as Time magazine's 2018 Person of the Year. Editor Rick Hutzell won the National Press Foundation's Benjamin C.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 30 of 62

Bradlee Editor of the Year Award.

Annapolis residents held fundraisers and gave employees a rolling standing ovation when they marched in the July Fourth parade just days after the attack. Subscriptions soared 70 percent a week after the bloodshed and remain there, said Renee Mutchnik, a spokeswoman for paper's owners, Baltimore Sun Media. Readers have been known to walk up to staffers to thank them.

Journalists at the paper say the honors and award have helped but haven't made the trauma go away. Some have turned to their craft to heal. Some have rededicated themselves to journalism.

Reporter Rachael Pacella, who hid between filing cabinets during the shooting, has broken down at funerals and in the Wyoming wilderness on a camping trip. Covering a City Council meeting in Bowie, Maryland, distressed her because the press area was too far from the exit, the escape route in case of attack.

"Through counseling and support, I've gotten a lot better over time," she said, "and the experience has also sort of reconfirmed to me my commitment to journalism and has made me want to give back even more to the community in terms of telling their story."

Overcome by anxiety and despair after the shooting, photojournalist Paul Gillespie asked colleagues and victims' relatives to sit for simple black-and-white portraits in his basement. Gillespie, who escaped from the newsroom during the attack, calls his project "Journalists Matter: Faces of the Capital Gazette."

In Gillespie's pictures, reporter E.B. "Pat" Furgurson solemnly holds a pen and notebook, a hat with the words "Not the Enemy" next to him. Pacella looks through the shape of a heart she has made with her hands in one frame, while clutching a "Press On" poster in another. Andrea Chamblee wears a "Journalism Matters" T-shirt and a lanyard with the press credentials of her slain husband, McNamara.

"Each one of these photo sessions has been, for me anyway, kind of like a therapy session with these people," Gillespie said, "because we start off with just taking a few easy pictures — me trying to get them comfortable with the camera and stuff — and then we just talk the whole time as I'm taking pictures."

San Felice said she is focusing on more serious and ambitious reporting at the newspaper, which moved into new office space this month 2½ miles from the scene of the bloodshed.

She recently published a story using public information laws to obtain more than 700 emails from the county library board, its staff and the public on a debate over LGBTQ policy and programs, including the contentious Drag Queen Story Time, in which men in drag read to children.

"I think that with a year gone by, we're moving into a new era for our paper, and I want to make sure that we're honoring the people that we lost by doing the best journalism that we can do for the people of Anne Arundel County," she said.

The man arrested in the attack, Jarrod Ramos, 39, has pleaded insanity and is set for trial on murder charges in November. He had a grudge against the paper after it wrote about his guilty plea to harassing a former high school classmate in 2011.

Mary Adams, who owns The Annapolis Bookstore, remembers how some of the journalists were interviewed in her store a short time after they received the Pulitzer citation in April. They talked about how they published the newspaper the day after their newsroom was shattered.

"I started listening to the interview, and they were just so modest about all that they did," Adams said. "They were saying, 'Well, anybody would put out a newspaper, and of course you would do it.' No, not anybody would put out a newspaper the day after. That really just took so much strength, I think, and compassion for their friends that they lost. I think people are just so much more aware of The Capital now."

The Rev. M. Dion Thompson of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Annapolis, who worked as a journalist at The Baltimore Sun for 15 years, said a greater connection has developed between the community and the newspaper.

"They weren't, as the president would say, 'the enemy of the people.' That wasn't who we saw," Thompson said. "These were people who walked with us, shopped with us, that we saw at the stores, that we may have interacted with in stories. These were real people, and I think that incident, that tragedy, just sort of heightened a sense of connection and protectiveness."

Gillespie, who hopes to create an exhibit of his photographs and possibly a book, said the community's

support has been off the charts.

"Someone came up two weeks ago and gave me a hug and a kiss," he said. "It was really nice."

Experts fear 'snowball effect' as Iran abandons nuclear deal

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As Iran prepares to surpass limits set by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, each step it takes narrows the time the country's leaders would need to have enough highly enriched uranium for an atomic bomb — if they chose to build one.

The United Nations says Iran has so far respected the deal's terms. But by Thursday, Iran says it will have over 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of low-enriched uranium in its possession, which would mean it had broken out of the atomic accord.

European countries that are still a part of the nuclear accord face a July 7 deadline imposed by Tehran to offer a better deal and long-promised relief from U.S. sanctions, or Iran will also begin enriching its uranium closer to weapons-grade levels.

Breaking the stockpile limit by itself doesn't radically change the one year experts say Iran would need to have enough material for a bomb. Coupled with increasing enrichment, however, it begins to close that window and hamper any diplomatic efforts at saving the accord.

"I worry about the snowball effect," said Corey Hinderstein, a vice president at the Washington-based Nuclear Threat Initiative who once led the U.S. Energy Department's Iran task force. "Iran now takes a step which puts Europe and the other members of the deal in an even-tougher position."

Under terms of the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to have less than 300 kilograms (661 pounds) of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67%. Previously, Iran enriched as high as 20%, which is a short technical step away from reaching weapons-grade levels. It also held up to 10,000 kilograms (22,046 pounds) of the higher-enriched uranium.

Experts who spoke to The Associated Press described the enrichment and stockpile limits in the deal as a sort of sliding scale. Balancing both elements keeps Iran a year away from having enough material for a nuclear weapon, something Iran denies it seeks despite Western concerns about its program.

At the time of the deal, which was agreed to by Iran, the United States, China, Russia, Germany, France and Britain, experts believed Iran needed anywhere from several weeks to three months to have enough material for a bomb.

However, the stockpile limit isn't an immediate worry from a nonproliferation standpoint, experts say.

"Going over the limit doesn't immediately signify that Iran has enough material that could — if further enriched and processed — be used in a nuclear weapon," said Tom Plant, the director of proliferation and nuclear policy at London's Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies.

"It does mean that it builds up reserves of material that could in the future support a more rapid push to the higher levels of enrichment that are suitable for weapons use," Plant said.

The danger comes July 7, if Iran begins enriching uranium to higher levels.

"If Iran begins stockpiling uranium enriched to higher levels, the breakout timeline would decrease more quickly," said Kelsey Davenport, the director of nonproliferation policy at the Washington-based Arms Control Association.

Both Davenport and Ian Stewart, a professor at King's College London who runs its antiproliferation studies program called Project Alpha, worry about miscalculations from Iran, the U.S. or the West amid the brinkmanship.

"This highlights the real tension at play in Iran: doing enough to satisfy Iranian hard-liners while also maintaining EU, Chinese and Russian support" for the deal, Stewart said. "There's a real risk of miscalculating, not least because it's not clear at which point the EU will have to back away from a noncompliant Iran."

Davenport says Iran's moves probably are aimed at gaining leverage in negotiations.

"Even if Iran decided to pursue a nuclear weapon, it would still take months to further enrich and weaponize the uranium," she said. "It is critical that the United States does not overreact to a stockpile breach

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 32 of 62

and use it as an excuse to further ratchet up tensions in the region.”

A year after President Donald Trump’s unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear deal, the U.S. and Iran are already locked in a volatile standoff. Last week, Iran shot down a U.S. military drone, saying it violated Iranian airspace, though Washington said it was above international waters. The U.S. has blamed Iran for mysterious explosions targeting oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran denied any involvement.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Israel has bombed nuclear facilities in Iraq and Syria in the past, and reportedly pushed for a similar strike in Iran prior to the 2015 deal.

Iran, for now, allows U.N. inspectors to monitor its nuclear facilities via in-person checks and surveillance cameras. It also has yet to begin widespread use of advanced centrifuges that would speed its enrichment. Experts fear either of those happening.

Once Iran starts going beyond the terms of the nuclear deal, one fact remains indisputable: the time it needs to have enough material for a possible atomic bomb starts dropping.

“As soon as they go over 300 or above 3.67, that number is starting to count down from one year,” Hinderstein warned. “So if they do both, then it’s just going to steepen that line from one year to wherever they end up.”

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP .

Seoul: US, N. Korea in talks to set up 3rd Trump-Kim summit

By ADAM SCHRECK, HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean and U.S. officials are holding “behind-the-scenes talks” to arrange a third summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the fate of the North’s expanding nuclear arsenal, South Korea’s president said, four months after a second meeting between the leaders in Vietnam collapsed without any agreement.

There have been no public meetings between Washington and Pyongyang since the breakdown of the Vietnam summit. But the prospects for a resumption of U.S.-North Korea diplomacy have brightened since Trump and Kim recently exchanged personal letters. Trump called Kim’s letter “beautiful” while Kim described Trump’s as “excellent,” though the contents of their letters have not been disclosed.

In a response Tuesday to questions by The Associated Press and six other news agencies, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said that Trump’s and Kim’s “willingness to engage in dialogue has never faded” and that their recent letter exchanges prove that.

Moon, a liberal who met Kim three times last year, has made dialogue with the North as a means to forging peace on the Korean Peninsula a centerpiece of his presidency. He has played a central role in facilitating U.S.-North Korean negotiations, even if those efforts have at times been overshadowed by the Trump-Kim talks that he helped broker.

Moon said he doesn’t see the Vietnam summit as a failure. He said he thinks the meeting served as a chance for both Washington and Pyongyang to better understand each other’s positions and “put everything they want on the negotiating table.”

“The success of denuclearization and the peace process on the Korean Peninsula cannot be determined by a summit or two,” Moon said, adding that the discussions in Vietnam will form the basis for future talks. “Both sides clearly understand the necessity for dialogue,” he added.

Despite the deadlocked nuclear negotiations, both Trump and Kim have described their personal relationship as good. When asked whether Kim’s recent letter included a mention about another summit, Trump said, “Maybe there was.”

“But we, you know, at some point, we’ll do that,” Trump told reporters at the White House on Tuesday. “Getting along very well. He’s not doing nuclear testing,” he said.

In yet another reminder of North Korea’s continued mistrust of the United States, its foreign ministry said earlier Wednesday it won’t surrender to U.S.-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to “bring

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 33 of 62

us to our knees.”

Kim has said North Korea will seek a “new way” if the United States persists with sanctions and pressure. Following his setback in Vietnam, Kim traveled to the Russian Far East in April for his first summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kim also hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping in Pyongyang last week for their fifth summit since March last year, and experts say the North’s outreach to its traditional allies is aimed at strengthening its leverage with the Trump administration.

Moon said he views the North’s expanding diplomacy with Beijing and Moscow as a positive development in efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff.

“China and Russia have continued to play constructive roles so far to peacefully resolve the Korean Peninsula issue,” he said. “I hope that China and Russia will play specific parts in helping the North resume dialogue at an early stage.”

Moon didn’t elaborate whether U.S and North Korean officials had face-to-face meetings and if so where they took place. He also didn’t clarify who were interlocutors or how close they were in setting up a third Kim-Trump summit.

Trump’s top envoy on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, is to visit South Korea on Thursday, and some experts said he may use his trip as a chance to meet North Korean officials at a Korean border village. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday the U.S. was prepared to resume talks with North Korea “at a moment’s notice” if the North signaled it wanted discussions about denuclearization.

Despite a possible restart of negotiations, it’s still unclear whether Washington and Pyongyang can eventually achieve agreements that can satisfy both sides. The Vietnam summit fell apart after Trump rejected Kim’s calls for major sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, something that U.S. officials see as a partial denuclearization step.

Kim has since fired missiles and other weapons into the sea and asked Trump to work out mutually acceptable agreements by the end of this December. U.S. officials maintain sanctions on North Korea would remain in place until North Korea takes significant steps toward nuclear disarmament.

North Korea has long bristled at the significant U.S. military presence in South Korea, and wants assurances it will not be targeted by the U.S. and South Korea. It sees its pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles as an insurance policy against military action.

In his written replies, Moon said he has found Kim to be a “flexible yet resolute person” during their talks. He said he believes that Kim’s “unequivocal resolve is to move from the past to the future” by pursuing economic growth over building up a nuclear arsenal.

The South Korean leader repeated that Kim has never linked denuclearization with South Korea’s military alliance with the U.S. or a pullout of American troops when they met.

Separately from the unofficial Washington-Pyongyang talks, Moon said the two Koreas have also been holding dialogue via unspecified “diverse channels” and repeated that he’s ready to meet Kim again at any place and time.

“It depends on Chairman Kim Jong Un,” Moon wrote. “I am prepared to meet with Chairman Kim in person at any given moment without being restrained by time, place or formalities.”

Last year saw a flurry of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation programs between the Koreas, which have been split along the world’s most heavily fortified border since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. But North Korea has significantly reduced its dialogue and engagement with South Korea since the end of the Vietnam summit.

South Korea is now solely proceeding with a search of Korean War dead at the border, which it was supposed to jointly conduct with North Korea. North Korea has also ignored South Korean proposals for joint efforts to stem the spread of highly contagious African swine fever following an outbreak in the North.

Moon, who has stressed that South Korea should be in the “driver’s seat” in international efforts to deal with North Korea, reiterated his view that the resumption of inter-Korean economic projects currently held back by the U.N. sanctions would help induce further denuclearization steps from the North. Following the Vietnam summit, Moon had said Seoul would “consult” with Washington on resuming operations at an inter-Korean factory park in the North Korean border city of Kaesong and restarting South Korean tours

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 34 of 62

to the North's scenic Diamond Mountain resort.

While acknowledging that the resumption of such joint inter-Korean projects would depend on a substantive progress in U.S.-North Korea talks, Moon said improved economic relations between the Koreas would be "conductive" to the larger nuclear negotiations.

"History has shown that North Korean nuclear threats diminish when inter-Korean relations are good," Moon wrote.

He said that the dismantling of the Yongbyon nuclear complex, which Kim offered in Vietnam, could mean that the North's denuclearization process has entered "an irreversible stage" if it's completely demolished and verified. He said "substantive process" in U.S.-North Korea diplomacy could also help the international community seek a partial or gradual easing of the U.N. sanctions.

Yongbyon has facilities to produce both plutonium and highly enriched uranium, two key nuclear ingredients. North Korea has called the complex "the heart" of its nuclear program, while many outside experts say it's an aging facility and that North Korea is believed to have additional multiple secret uranium enrichment facilities.

Moon repeated earlier claims that Kim has genuine willingness to trade his nuclear weapons for economic and security benefits, but that it would be important to create an environment where the North could focus on taking relevant steps toward disarmament.

"Chairman Kim should be helped along the path toward that goal in a way that sustains his commitment to nuclear dismantlement," Moon wrote. "I think creating a security environment where Chairman Kim can decisively act on nuclear dismantlement without worries is the fastest way to achieve denuclearization diplomatically," Moon added, without specifying the security concessions Washington and Seoul could make.

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. MUELLER TO TESTIFY PUBLICLY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEES

The former special counsel agrees to discuss the report about possible Russian connections to Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in what is likely to be the most highly anticipated congressional hearing in years.

2. GRIM BORDER DROWNING UNDERLINES PERIL OF MIGRATION

A grim photograph of a drowned father and his toddler daughter lying face down in shallow water of the Rio Grande illustrates the treacherous journey migrants take to reach the U.S.

3. WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN DEMOCRATIC DEBATE

Sixty seconds for answers, a TV audience of millions and, for some candidates, a first chance to introduce themselves to voters when they take the stage in Miami.

4. IRAN ON BRINK OF BREAKING ATOMIC ACCORD

Tehran is on the verge of surpassing limits set by its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, announcing it soon will have over 660 pounds of low-enriched uranium in its possession.

5. WHERE MUSLIMS ARE NOT WELCOME

A once-Christian Lebanese town near Beirut is barring Muslims from buying and renting property, sparking a national outcry.

6. HOUSTON, WE HAVE SOME MOON ROCKS TO OPEN

For the first time since the Apollo missions some 50 years ago, geologists will take a crack at some of the pristine samples with 21st-century technology.

7. TRUMP-KIM III IN THE OFFING

North Korean and U.S. officials are holding "behind-the-scenes talks" to arrange a third nuclear summit, South Korea's president says.

8. BIG PLASTIC USER JAPAN FIGHTS WASTE AHEAD OF G-20 SUMMIT

Japanese officials are pushing for future bans on single-use plastics, beach cleanup efforts and more research into alternatives such as bioplastics.

9. DISILLUSIONED PLAN OWN LGBTQ MARCH

Activists who believe New York City's annual LGBTQ Pride march has become too commercialized are staging an alternative march on the same day.

10. WHO'S REJOINING THE BIG EAST

The University of Connecticut is expected to accept an invitation to move most of the school's athletic teams from the American Athletic Conference to the Big East.

Tributes to Michael Jackson flow on 10th death anniversary

By **ANDREW DALTON and KATIE CAMPIONE Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of Michael Jackson fans gathered at his grave for a daylong celebration of his life and music Tuesday, with some traveling thousands of miles to join in the singalongs, selfies and moment of silence that marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the King of Pop.

"If you have a depressing day, and you listen to Michael Jackson, it just seems to make everything better," said Kurt Williams, 21, who was dressed as Jackson and flew in from South Carolina for the occasion. "He was a master singer, a master dancer and a master humanitarian."

It was largely a lively celebration outside the mausoleum that is Jackson's final resting place at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, where his music played loudly amid a sea of floral arrangements and poster-sized pictures of the pop superstar who died at age 50 on June 25, 2009.

A solemn moment came as more than 200 fans joined hands in a giant circle at 2:26 p.m., the time Jackson died. After a moment of silence, they pointed at the sky and yelled "Michael!" in unison.

"There are people dying, if you care enough for the living, make it a better place, for you and me," the crowd sang together in an emotional group rendition of Jackson's anthem "Heal the World."

Jackson's estate also paid tribute to his life and artistry on the anniversary.

"Ten years ago today, the world lost a gifted artist and extraordinary humanitarian," the estate said in a statement to The Associated Press. "A decade later, Michael Jackson is still with us, his influence embedded in dance, fashion, art and music of the moment. He is more important than ever."

Jackson's estate has doggedly worked to protect and enhance Jackson's legacy, a task made more challenging this year when two men accused Jackson of molesting them as boys in the HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland," sparking new scrutiny of years-old claims that Jackson preyed on children.

Jackson was acquitted of abuse allegations in 2005 and always vehemently denied such allegations, and the estate and his family angrily refuted the men's claims when the documentary was released in March, noting the men had at one time been among Jackson's biggest defenders and one testified on his behalf at his criminal trial.

For many of those gathered at the cemetery it was a demonstration of solidarity in the wake of the documentary.

"Now more than ever, we've got to show that we know that Michael Jackson is innocent," Williams said, as Jackson's song "Smooth Criminal" blasted in the background. "There is no muting going on. There is just a life of celebration. It's cool to be around people who feel the same way."

Some parents brought their children to Forest Lawn.

Dominic Lendo, 6, drew the attention of much of the crowd as he showed off Jackson dance moves while wearing the singer's Billie Jean-era garb.

"I like to sing like him, and I like to dance like him," Dominic said as he stood with his father, Omar Lendo, 43, who added, "He loves to dance and that's all he does all day. If it's not Michael Jackson he doesn't want to hear it."

Michael Leon, 25, came from Beijing for the occasion and led the crowd in a rendition of "You Are Not Alone," one of Jackson's later hits.

"That song is my favorite one, and it suits the situation," Leon said. "I'm not religious, but I hope Michael would be happy."

Other fans came from as far as Tokyo and Florence, Italy.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 36 of 62

A heart made from flowers in the colors of the Iranian flag featured the message "Iran (hearts) MJ." Another flowered heart read "Love from Denmark."

Others gathered on Tuesday at Jackson's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and his last home in the Holmby Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, where the singer received a fatal dose of the anesthetic propofol from his doctor. Jackson was declared dead at a hospital at age 50.

Thomas Mesereau, the attorney who successfully defended Jackson at his 2005 trial, issued a statement Tuesday saying "Jackson's compassion, humanity, empathy and talent continues to inspire family, friends, supporters and fans across the globe. The legend of this great father, son, sibling and artist marches forward with characteristic brilliance and wonder. His legacy can be attacked by opportunists. But it will never be defeated."

John Branca and John McClain, both major figures in Jackson's career when he was alive, as co-executors have taken his badly debt-ridden estate and grossed over \$1.3 billion through various Jackson-related projects in the past decade, including the film "This Is It," a pair of Cirque du Soleil shows and the sale of Jackson assets that included The Beatles song catalog.

Jackson left everything to his mother, his children and charity in his will.

The singer's father, Joe, died last year and is buried in the same cemetery as his son. But Michael's 89-year-old mother, five brothers, three sisters and three children remain alive and well 10 years later .

Jackson's brothers tweeted a picture of him with the words, "Forever in our hearts, 1958-2009."

This story has been corrected to note Jackson died in 2009, not 2019.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

Lebanese town bans Muslims from buying, renting property

By **BASSEM MROUE** Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Mohammed Awwad and his fiancée, both Muslims, recently found an affordable apartment for rent online in a town in Lebanon, southeast of Beirut.

The 27-year-old journalist called the number and asked the owner when they could drop by to take a look. He was stunned by her response: Muslims are not allowed to settle in the town, she said.

The apartment owner apologized to Awwad, saying she wouldn't mind renting to people of any sect but officials in the town of Hadat issued orders years ago that only Christians be allowed to buy and rent property from the town's Christian residents.

The young Shiite Muslim man could not believe what he heard and asked his fiancée, Sarah Raad, to call the municipality and she, too, was told that the ban had been in place for years.

Hadat is a small example of Lebanon's deeply rooted sectarian divisions that once led to a 15-year civil war that left more than 100,000 people dead. Christian communities feel under siege as Muslims, who tend to have higher birth rates, leave overcrowded areas for once predominantly Christian neighborhoods.

"There are people who live in fear and feel threatened and this can be removed through (state) policies that make citizens equal," said Pierre Abi Saab, a Lebanese journalist and critic.

Three decades ago Hadat was almost entirely Christian, but today it has a Muslim majority because the Muslim population expanded greatly between 1990, when the war ended, and 2010, when the ban was imposed. Since then, the Muslim population has hovered between 60% and 65%.

The ban only applies to Christian property — a Muslim resident or landowner of Hadat is allowed to sell or rent his property to Muslims from outside the town or to whomever he wants.

Hadat is the only area where such a ban is publicly announced. Local officials in Christian areas in central, eastern and southern Lebanon impose such bans in more discreet ways. In the predominantly Christian southern region of Jezzine, some local officials have changed the status of land in their villages from commercial to agricultural in order to prevent mass construction projects while in other villages and towns only locals are allowed to buy property.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 37 of 62

"As a Lebanese citizen I don't see that there is justification for fear and mixing with others is our salvation in Lebanon," said Abi Saab, deputy editor-in-chief of the daily Al-Akhbar newspaper. He said it's unacceptable that Lebanese citizens cannot live wherever they want in the country.

Hadat is on the edge of an area known as Dahiyeh, Beirut's heavily populated Shiite southern suburbs that is a stronghold of the militant Hezbollah group. Hadat, along with other nearby areas, saw tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims move in over the years, raising fears among some of the country's Christians.

Lebanon, a country of about 5 million, has a very delicate sectarian balance between its 18 religious sects. The last census was conducted in Lebanon in 1932, during which Christians were the majority but over the decades their numbers have been declining because of slower birth rates and more immigration. Today, Christians make up nearly a third of the population, while the two other thirds are almost equally split between Shiites and Sunnis.

"When he says Muslims are not allowed to rent property he means that he does not want to see Muslims," Awwad said, referring to Hadat Mayor George Aoun.

Lebanon's Interior Minister Raya al-Hassan denounced the town's policy as unconstitutional.

Aoun strongly defended his decision, noting it was made in 2010, shortly after he was elected to the post. He said at the end of Lebanon's civil war in 1990, Hadat was a purely Christian town but by 2010, tens of thousands of Muslims, many of them Shiites from Dahiyeh, moved in.

"We are telling every Christian to be proud of his or her village. Live here, work here and raise your children here. We are an exemplary village for coexistence," he said. Asked whether his decision violates the constitution, which allows any Lebanese citizen to settle and own property anywhere in Lebanon, Aoun denied it, saying the proof is that Hadat is 60% Muslim.

"Every village should preserve itself. Every Shiite village should preserve its Shiite nature, every Christian village should preserve its Christian nature and every Sunni village should preserve its Sunni nature. We want to preserve our village or what remains of it," Aoun said in an interview in his office, which is decorated with a giant framed map of Hadat.

The mayor has received a barrage of criticism recently on social media and on local TV stations that describe his decision as "racist and discriminatory."

In response, hundreds of supporters marched in Hadat supporting the mayor's decision over the weekend. Aoun told the crowd that he will commit to the ban until "doomsday."

Christians once dominated Lebanon's politics until the 1989 Taif agreement, named after the Saudi city of Taif where it was signed, that ended the 1975-90 civil war. The agreement divided Cabinet and parliament seats as well as senior government jobs, equally between Muslims and Christians. The agreement also removed powers from the Christian president and gave them to the Sunni Muslim prime minister.

According to Lebanon's power-sharing system since independence from France in 1943, the president must be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni and the parliament speaker a Shiite.

Hadat's municipality is dominated by members of President Michel Aoun's ultranationalist Free Patriotic Movement, which has been leading a campaign against Syrian refugees in the country calling for their return to safe areas in war-torn Syria.

Two years ago, Hadat's municipality banned Syrians from working in the town, becoming one of the first areas to do so in Lebanon. Walking through the streets of Hadat, no Syrians can be seen unlike in other parts of Lebanon and shop owners boast that they only hire Lebanese.

Hadat resident George Asmar invited a reporter into his clothes shop near a church and proudly pointed to a woman who works for him, saying "she is one of our Shiite sisters." But Asmar said he supported the mayor because the ban on Muslims owning or renting property in the town is preserving the town's identity.

"The decision of the municipality is very good because we want to keep our sons in Hadat," Asmar said. "It is good to keep our sons, to live with us rather than travel."

Border official resigns amid uproar over migrant children

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The acting head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection resigned Tuesday amid an uproar over the discovery of migrant children being held in pitiful conditions at one of the agency's stations in Texas.

Acting Commissioner John Sanders' departure deepened the sense of crisis and added to the rapid turn-over inside the agencies responsible for enforcing President Donald Trump's hardline immigration priorities as the U.S. deals with record numbers of migrant families coming across the border.

In a message to employees, Sanders said he would step down on July 5. He did not give a reason for leaving.

"Although I will leave it to you to determine whether I was successful, I can unequivocally say that helping support the amazing men and women of CBP has been the most fulfilling and satisfying opportunity of my career," he said.

Hours after Sanders' departure became public, two officials told The Associated Press that he was being replaced by Mark Morgan, who was named acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement just last month. The officials were not authorized to speak publicly about the move and declined to be identified.

In an interview last week, Sanders blamed the problems in detention on a lack of money and called on Congress to pass a \$4.5 billion emergency funding bill to address the crisis. The House approved the legislation on Tuesday night, setting up a showdown with the Senate where Republican leaders plan approval of a different, bipartisan bill this week that does not offer as many protections and services for migrants.

At the White House, Trump said that he did not ask for Sanders' resignation — adding that he doesn't think he has ever spoken to the man — but that he is "moving some people around into different locations" amid the crisis.

While activists welcomed Sanders' departure, Trump defended U.S. border authorities, saying, "The laws are so bad and the asylum rules and laws are so bad that our Border Patrol people, who are so incredible, aren't allowed to do their jobs."

The unprecedented surge of migrant families has left U.S. immigration detention centers severely overcrowded and taxed the government's ability to provide medical care and other attention. Six children have died since September after being detained by border agents.

After he was picked to lead ICE, Morgan, the new acting director, showed a willingness to deport families during enforcement sweeps. However, past Trump immigration officials hesitated over concerns about logistics and the public's reaction.

The Trump administration has faced a barrage of criticism in recent days over conditions inside the Border Patrol facility in Clint, Texas, first reported by The Associated Press: inadequate food, lack of medical care, no soap, and older children trying to care for toddlers.

In one case reported in Clint, attorneys said a 2-year-old boy without a diaper was being watched by older children. Several youngsters had the flu. Many were separated from extended family members like aunts and uncles who brought them to the border; others were teenage mothers with babies.

As word of the children's plight got out, people moved by their stories started showing up the station's doors to donate boxes of diapers and even a Cookie Monster stuffed toy. They were not allowed in the building. Customs and Border Protection says it has enough supplies, but was checking with lawyers to see if it could accept donated items.

"On just a gut level I see myself, I see my family, I see my neighbors, I see my students in these migrants," said Diego Carlos, who teaches social studies at an El Paso high school and joined a small protest outside the station.

"Literally, I have students who come over from the border almost every day to go to school at the school I teach," Carlos added.

An official from Customs and Border Protection said Tuesday that the majority of the roughly 300 children

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 39 of 62

detained at Clint last week had been moved to facilities operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, wouldn't say exactly how many.

But around the same time Sanders announced his resignation, his agency said officials had moved more than 100 children back to the station.

The human costs of the migrant surge were driven home this week by a searing photo of the bodies of a Salvadoran man and his nearly 2-year-old daughter, face down in shallow water along the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. On Sunday, two babies, a toddler and a woman were found dead on the Texas side, overcome by the sweltering heat.

Trump said he is "very concerned" about conditions at the border but claimed without evidence that things are "much better than they were under President Obama, by far" and in "much better shape than it ever was" — an assertion immigration activists said is simply not true.

"We did not have the kind of overcrowded conditions for unaccompanied kids in Border Patrol holding cells like we saw in Clint," said Michael Bochenek, a lawyer from Human Rights Watch.

Previously CBP's chief operating officer, Sanders was named acting commissioner in April after the agency's previous leader, Kevin McAleenan, became acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Other key DHS agencies also have interim or acting directors, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Morgan, who also served as chief of the Border Patrol, a subsidiary of CBP, under President Barack Obama, is now expected to be replaced as ICE's acting leader by Matthew Albence. Albence served as acting director earlier this year after the departure of another former leader, Ronald Vitiello.

ICE on Saturday delayed an operation to sweep U.S. cities and arrest hundreds of people accused of flouting orders to leave the country, days after Trump tweeted about the upcoming crackdown. Former ICE acting director Thomas Homan, a Trump administration ally, then went on television to accuse McAleenan of leaking information about the operation because he opposed it.

CBP is the agency that apprehends and first detains migrant parents and children crossing the Mexican border.

CBP's facilities at the border were almost all built when most people crossing into the U.S. illegally were single adults. Now, the agency is apprehending tens of thousands of parents and children weekly. It recorded 84,500 apprehensions of adults and children traveling together in May.

In the wake of Sanders' resignation, Democratic Rep. Bennie G. Thompson of Mississippi, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, lashed out at the administration's immigration policies and "bad actors in the White House."

"There is simply no excuse for the horrific conditions children and families are being held in at the border," he said.

Jennifer Quigley, director of refugee advocacy for Human Rights First, called on Congress to hold hearings on the youngsters' treatment.

"Trump administration officials need to be held accountable for the disgraceful response to the situation at the border," she said in a statement. "This is only the tip of the iceberg. We need a full accounting of how children came to be caged in filthy and unsafe conditions."

Associated Press journalists Jill Colvin and Colleen Long in Washington, and Cedar Attanasio in El Paso, Texas, contributed to this report.

NASA to open moon rock samples sealed since Apollo missions

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Inside a locked vault at Johnson Space Center is treasure few have seen and fewer have touched.

The restricted lab is home to hundreds of pounds of moon rocks collected by Apollo astronauts close to

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 40 of 62

a half-century ago. And for the first time in decades, NASA is about to open some of the pristine samples and let geologists take a crack at them with 21st-century technology.

What better way to mark this summer's 50th anniversary of humanity's first footsteps on the moon than by sharing a bit of the lunar loot.

"It's sort of a coincidence that we're opening them in the year of the anniversary," explained NASA's Apollo sample curator Ryan Zeigler, covered head to toe in a white protective suit with matching fabric boots, gloves and hat.

"But certainly the anniversary increased the awareness and the fact that we're going back to the moon."

With the golden anniversary of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin's feat fast approaching — their lunar module Eagle landed July 20, 1969, on the Sea of Tranquility — the moon is red-hot again.

After decades of flip-flopping between the moon and Mars as the next big astronaut destination, NASA aims to put astronauts on the lunar surface again by 2024 at the White House's direction. President Donald Trump prefers talking up Mars. But the consensus is that the moon is a crucial proving ground given its relative proximity to home — 240,000 miles (386,000 kilometers) or two to three days away.

Zeigler's job is to preserve what the 12 moonwalkers brought back from 1969 through 1972 — lunar samples totaling 842 pounds (382 kilograms) — and ensure scientists get the best possible samples for study.

Some of the soil and bits of rock were vacuum-packed on the moon — and never exposed to Earth's atmosphere — or frozen or stored in gaseous helium following splashdown and then left untouched. The lab's staff is now trying to figure out how best to remove the samples from their tubes and other containers without contaminating or spoiling anything. They're practicing with mock-up equipment and pretend lunar dirt.

Compared with Apollo-era tech, today's science instruments are much more sensitive, Zeigler noted.

"We can do more with a milligram than we could do with a gram back then. So it was really good planning on their part to wait," he said.

The lunar sample lab has two side-by-side vaults: one for rocks still in straight-from-the-moon condition and a smaller vault for samples previously loaned out for study. About 70 percent of the original haul is in the pristine sample vault, which has two combinations and takes two people to unlock. About 15 percent is in safekeeping at White Sands in New Mexico. The rest is used for research or display.

Of the six manned moon landings, Apollo 11 yielded the fewest lunar samples: 48 pounds or 22 kilograms. It was the first landing by astronauts and NASA wanted to minimize their on-the-moon time and risk. What's left from this mission — about three-quarters after scientific study, public displays and goodwill gifts to all countries and U.S. states in 1969 — is kept mostly here at room temperature.

Armstrong was the primary rock collector and photographer. Aldrin gathered two core samples just beneath the surface during the 2 1/2-hour moonwalk. All five subsequent Apollo moon landings had longer stays. The last three — Apollo 15, 16 and 17 — had rovers that significantly upped the sample collection and coverage area.

"Fifty years later, we're still learning new things ... incredible," said the lab's Charis Krysher, holding a clear acrylic marble embedded with chips of Apollo 11 moon rock in her gloved hand.

By studying the Apollo moon rocks, Zeigler said, scientists have determined the ages of the surfaces of Mars and Mercury, and established that Jupiter and the solar system's other big outer planets likely formed closer to the sun and later migrated outward.

"So sample return from outer space is really powerful about learning about the whole solar system," he said.

Andrea Mosie, who's worked with the Apollo moon rocks for 44 years and was a high school intern at Johnson Space Center in July 1969, remembers the Polaroid photos and handwritten notes once accompanying each sample. She sometimes gets emotional when talking to children about the moonshots and does her best to dispel any notion that the rocks aren't from the moon and the lunar landings never happened.

"The samples are right here and they're still in a pristine state," she assures young skeptics.

Most of the samples to be doled out over the next year were collected in 1972 during Apollo 17, the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 41 of 62

final moonshot and the only one to include a geologist, Harrison Schmitt. He occasionally visits the lunar sample lab and plans to help open the fresh specimens.

The nine U.S. research teams selected by NASA will receive varying amounts.

"Everything from the weight of a paperclip, down to basically so little mass you can barely measure it," Zeigler said.

Especially tricky will be extracting the gases that were trapped in the vacuum-sealed sample tubes. The lab hasn't opened one since the 1970s.

"If you goof that part up, the gas is gone. You only get one shot," Zeigler said.

The lab's collection is divided by mission, with each lunar landing getting its own cabinet with built-in gloves and stacks of stainless steel bins filled with pieces of the moon. Apollo 16 and 17, responsible for half the lunar haul, get two cabinets apiece.

The total Apollo inventory now exceeds 100,000 samples; some of the original 2,200 were broken into smaller pieces for study.

Sample processor Jeremy Kent is hopeful that "we will get some more samples here in the lab to work on." There's space for plenty more.

Follow AP's full coverage of the Apollo 11 anniversary at: <https://apnews.com/Apollo11moonlanding>

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

Tribe's push to build casino spurs Carolinas political fight

By GARY D. ROBERTSON and JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

CATAWBA INDIAN NATION, S.C. (AP) — Two of the Carolinas' most prominent American Indian tribes are battling over geography and lucrative gambling turf.

The Cherokee in North Carolina, with two casinos established in the mountains, say their opponents should stay in their own state to the south. The Catawba of South Carolina argue such state boundaries are artificial and shouldn't affect their effort to gain a foothold in the industry.

The Catawba Indian Nation, with a 700-acre (283-hectare) reservation in upstate South Carolina, has been unable to build a high-stakes gambling operation in the state despite a 1993 federal law that Catawba Chief Bill Harris says was supposed to open the door for them to do so. The tribe blames fierce anti-gambling opposition from South Carolina leaders.

Instead the Catawba are hoping to revive previously failed efforts to build a casino in North Carolina just 35 miles (56 kilometers) northwest of the Catawba reservation, specifically along Interstate 85 in the Charlotte suburb of Kings Mountain, where they say they have a historical and legal claim to land.

Powerful U.S. senators from both states are backing them, but their efforts may not be enough. A bill they've sponsored in Congress has drawn fierce opposition from lawmakers in North Carolina, where the Cherokee tribe — one of the state's most prolific campaign donors — already runs two successful casinos in the far western region of the state.

Those operations, the first of which opened in 1997, have transformed the fortunes of the tribe's 16,000-member Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and surrounding Appalachian counties, creating jobs, state-of-the-art government services and payments of about \$12,000 annually to each tribal member.

Harris says his tribe — whose federal recognition was restored in 1993 after its removal 40 years earlier — deserves the same prosperity.

A casino, he says, would rescue a reservation population whose 28% poverty rate for families is nearly twice the state average: "The opportunities would be limitless."

Six years ago, the Catawba filed an application with the Interior Department to get permission to build on the Kings Mountain acreage. But then-North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, more than 100 legislators and state House Speaker Thom Tillis — now a U.S. senator and one of the sponsors of the current bill — shot

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 42 of 62

down the idea.

The U.S. senators' bill, also backed by North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr and South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, would direct the Interior Department to authorize gambling on the land.

Tillis spokesman Dan Keylin says the senator changed his mind about the tribe's request because local Kings Mountain-area leaders have contacted his office expressing their support.

During a Senate committee hearing on the bill in May, John Tahsuda, of the Interior Department's Indian Affairs division, said it was "clear that the benefits that Congress intended for the tribe" in a settlement the federal government reached with the Catawba in 1993 "have not been realized." He took no formal stand on the legislation.

Graham remarked, "I'm from South Carolina. Nobody, nobody objects to the Catawbas having land in North Carolina and in establishing a gambling operation as long as it's consistent with the law."

Some people north of the border feel differently.

Gov. Roy Cooper has expressed concerns because the senators' bill appears to exempt the Catawba from having to negotiate with the state over details such as which games could be offered and whether North Carolina would receive a cut of the revenues.

Cherokee Eastern Band Principal Chief Richard Sneed says the senators' bill could have "devastating" economic consequences in his tribe's region, where poverty used to be rampant. A Catawba casino could siphon visitors from South Carolina and the eastern two-thirds of North Carolina who want to play black-jack, roulette and slots — and previously did so at the Cherokee-owned casinos.

Besides, the tribe contends, the Catawba have no legal or historical claims to the land where they want to build.

"The historical evidence is on the side of the Cherokees on this one," Sneed says. He says territorial agreements the tribes reached with the federal government long ago were based in part on information from a 19th century map that shows there was no Catawba-controlled land in North Carolina after the mid-1700s.

Catawba chief Harris says the land in question is well within the tribe's ancient boundaries and also just 8 miles (13 kilometers) from the site in northern South Carolina where the Catawba aided a decisive victory against the British in a key 1780 Revolutionary War battle. The Catawba River and Catawba County also are in North Carolina.

So far, the Cherokee tribe is finding success pushing back: North Carolina state Senate leader Phil Berger and 38 of his colleagues have sent a letter to the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs committee asking it to reject the "unprecedented overreach" of the U.S. senators' bill.

That doesn't sit well with Harris.

"To have someone say, 'No, no, they cannot have what we have, they cannot have what other nations have, they have to suffer' — it is a hard pill to swallow," he says.

Robertson reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Associated Press reporter Sarah Blake Morgan contributed to this report.

Motor vehicle head resigns over fatal crash that killed 7

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The head of the Massachusetts motor vehicle division has resigned after her agency failed to terminate the commercial driving license of a man whose collision with a group of motorcyclists on a rural New Hampshire road left seven bikers dead.

Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to seven counts of negligent homicide.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack said in a statement that the state Registry of Motor Vehicles failed to act on information provided by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles about a drunken driving arrest involving Zhukovskyy.

Pollack said the arrest should have cost him his commercial driving license. As a result, she accepted

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 43 of 62

the resignation of Erin Deveney.

Manny Ribeiro, who survived the crash, said the resignation was just one of many revelations about the driver that indicated the crash could have been prevented. But Ribeiro said it also felt "like someone was running around from the problem."

"We just get to quit and walk away and that's it," Ribeiro said. "Story over. See you later until the next time it happens and then the next person steps down. This is what happens every single time."

Connecticut prosecutors said Zhukovskyy was arrested May 11 in a Walmart parking lot in East Windsor after failing a sobriety test. Zhukovskyy's lawyer in that case, John O'Brien, said he denies being intoxicated and will fight the charge.

Zhukovskyy, a driver for a transport company who has a history of traffic arrests, was ordered Tuesday to remain in preventive detention, with a judge saying his driving record poses a potential danger to the public and himself.

The plea was entered by Zhukovskyy's attorney Melissa Davis in Coos County Court in Lancaster, New Hampshire. Zhukovskyy remains behind bars there. Davis didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

The Dodge pickup Zhukovskyy was driving was towing a flatbed trailer and collided with the motorcycles in Randolph early Friday evening, investigators say. He was driving erratically and crossed the center line, according to criminal complaints released Tuesday.

A survivor of the crash said the trailer wiped out most of the bikers behind him.

Zhukovskyy was arrested Monday morning at his home in Massachusetts and handed over to New Hampshire authorities after a court appearance that day.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Nov. 8, with the trial running through December.

Police in Texas told several media outlets that Zhukovskyy also crashed a tractor trailer in suburban Houston earlier this month. Zhukovskyy told police that he had been cut off, causing him to lose control of the truck. He was not charged.

Zhukovskyy was also arrested on a drunken driving charge in 2013 in Westfield, Massachusetts, state records show. He was placed on probation for one year and had his license suspended for 210 days, The Westfield News reported.

Zhukovskyy's father, who goes by the same name, told the Boston Herald that his son is a Ukrainian national and has permanent resident status in the U.S. The younger Zhukovskyy's court file includes a letter dated Sunday from a deportation officer from Immigration and Customs Enforcement requesting details on his 2017 heroin and cocaine convictions.

Records from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration indicate that the company Zhukovskyy was driving for at the time of the motorcycle crash, Westfield Transport, has been cited for various violations in the past two years, MassLive.com reported.

Phones rang unanswered at the company. The owner has previously said he was cooperating with the investigation.

The crash victims were members or supporters of the Marine JarHeads, a New England motorcycle club that includes Marines and their spouses and ranged in age from 42 to 62. Four were from New Hampshire, two from Massachusetts and one from Rhode Island.

Ribeiro said he just remembers an "explosion" and the trailer from the truck wiping out most of the bikers behind him. The crash would not have been so deadly, he said, if not for the trailer.

After the crash, Ribeiro recalled seeing Zhukovskyy "screaming and running around" in the road before authorities arrived and took him away.

The dead were identified as Michael Ferazzi, 62, of Contoocook, New Hampshire; Albert Mazza Jr., 59, of Lee, New Hampshire; Desma Oakes, 42, of Concord, New Hampshire; Aaron Perry, 45, of Farmington, New Hampshire; Daniel Pereira, 58, of Riverside, Rhode Island; and Jo-Ann and Edward Corr, both 58, of Lakeville, Massachusetts.

The first three funerals are schedule to be held on Friday with services for Ferazzi in Massachusetts, Pereira in Rhode Island and Oakes in New Hampshire.

House passes emergency funding bill for migrant care crisis

By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took last-minute changes and a full-court press by top Democratic leaders, but the House passed with relative ease Tuesday a \$4.5 billion emergency border aid package to care for thousands of migrant families and unaccompanied children detained after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The bill passed along party lines after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi quelled a mini-revolt by progressives and Hispanic lawmakers who sought significant changes to the legislation. New provisions added to the bill Tuesday were more modest than what those lawmakers had sought, but the urgent need for the funding — to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the border from turning into a debacle — appeared to outweigh any lingering concerns.

The 230-195 vote sets up a showdown with the Republican-led Senate, which may try instead to force Democrats to send Trump a different, and broadly bipartisan, companion measure in coming days as the chambers race to wrap up the must-do legislation by the end of the week.

“The Senate has a good bill. Our bill is much better,” Pelosi, D-Calif., told her Democratic colleagues in a meeting Tuesday morning, according to a senior Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private session.

“We are ensuring that children have food, clothing, sanitary items, shelter and medical care. We are providing access to legal assistance. And we are protecting families because families belong together,” Pelosi said in a subsequent floor speech.

The bill contains more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over the Department of Health and Human Services. It seeks to mandate improved standards of care at HHS “influx shelters” that house children waiting to be placed with sponsors such as family members in the U.S.

Both House and Senate bills ensure funding could not be shifted to Trump’s border wall and would block information on sponsors of immigrant children from being used to deport them. Trump would be denied additional funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds.

“The President’s cruel immigration policies that tear apart families and terrorize communities demand the stringent safeguards in this bill to ensure these funds are used for humanitarian needs only — not for immigration raids, not detention beds, not a border wall,” said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y.

Three moderates were the only House Republicans to back the measure. The only four Democratic “no” votes came from some of the party’s best-known freshmen: Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ihan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.

The White House has threatened to veto the House bill, saying it would hamstring the administration’s border security efforts, and the Senate’s top Republican suggested Tuesday that the House should simply accept the Senate measure — which received only a single “nay” vote during a committee vote last week.

“The idea here is to get a (presidential) signature, so I think once we can get that out of the Senate, hopefully on a vote similar to the one in the Appropriations Committee, I’m hoping that the House will conclude that’s the best way to get the problem solved, which can only happen with a signature,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

A handful of GOP conservatives went to the White House to try to persuade Trump to reject the Senate bill and demand additional funding for immigration enforcement such as overtime for border agents and detention facilities run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to a top GOP lawmaker who demanded anonymity to discuss a private meeting. Trump was expected to reject the advice.

House Democrats seeking the changes met late Monday with Pelosi, and lawmakers emerging from the Tuesday morning caucus meeting were generally supportive of the legislation.

Congress plans to leave Washington in a few days for a weeklong July 4 recess, and pressure is intense to wrap up the legislation before then. Agencies are about to run out of money and failure to act could bring a swift political rebuke and accusations of ignoring the plight of innocent immigrant children.

Longtime GOP Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said Democrats were simply “pushing partisan bills to score

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 45 of 62

political points and avoiding doing the hard work of actually making law," warning them that "passing a partisan bill through this chamber won't solve the problem."

Lawmakers' sense of urgency to provide humanitarian aid was amplified by recent reports of gruesome conditions in a windowless Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, where more than 300 infants and children were being housed. Many were kept there for weeks and were caring for each other in conditions that included inadequate food, water and sanitation.

By Tuesday, most had been sent elsewhere. The incident was only an extreme example of the dire conditions reported at numerous locations where detainees have been held, and several children have died in U.S. custody.

The Border Patrol reported apprehending nearly 133,000 people last month — including many Central American families — as monthly totals have begun topping 100,000 for the first time since 2007. Federal agencies involved in immigration have reported being overwhelmed, depleting their budgets and housing large numbers of detainees in structures meant for handfuls of people.

Changes unveiled Tuesday would require the Department of Homeland Security to establish new standards for care of unaccompanied immigrant children and a plan for ensuring adequate translators to assist migrants in their dealings with law enforcement. The government would have to replace contractors who provide inadequate care.

Many children detained entering the U.S. from Mexico have been held under harsh conditions, and Customs and Border Protection Chief Operating Officer John Sanders told The Associated Press last week that children have died after being in the agency's care. He said Border Patrol stations are holding 15,000 people — more than triple their maximum capacity of 4,000.

Sanders announced Tuesday that he's stepping down next month amid outrage over his agency's treatment of detained migrant children.

In a letter Monday threatening the veto, White House officials told lawmakers they objected that the House package lacked money for beds the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency needs to let it detain more migrants. Officials also complained in the letter that the bill had no money to toughen border security, including funds for building Trump's proposed border wall.

Can 2020 Dems do more than just decry Trump on immigration?

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopefuls face a challenge as they gather in Miami for the opening round of primary debates: presenting immigration ideas that go beyond simply bashing the Trump administration.

Most of the proposals that the contenders have advanced combine long-held Democratic priorities — such as a pathway to U.S. citizenship for millions of people in the country illegally — with lofty rhetoric and plenty of knocks on President Donald Trump.

But many of the candidates have simply scratched the surface of a far deeper issue. Immigrant advocates say they worry that the Trump administration's hard-line tactics, including a publicized but later delayed plan for a nationwide sweep to deport people living in the U.S. illegally, simply leave Democrats reacting to the White House rather than advancing their own priorities. They hope the debate will be an opportunity for Democrats to own the issue.

"It is hard to avoid seeming reactive when your opponent is caging children, separating families and sending storm troopers into the Hispanic communities," said Glenn W. Smith, a longtime Democratic political operative and senior strategist to the nonprofit Progress Texas. "Those things have to be loudly opposed, and you can't pretend they're not happening."

But it's not going to be easy for the candidates to break through, even with two nights of debate slated to be broadcast on three national television networks starting Wednesday.

Trump sees immigration as an issue that riles his base and reminds supporters of why they voted for him in the first place. During his reelection launch last week, the Republican president reiterated his pledge to build a wall along the southern border and left the crowd in a Florida stadium cheering.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 46 of 62

That could make it more difficult for Democrats to advance the issue. Sometimes, they even struggle to decry the Trump administration's actions in real time.

When 20-plus Democrats running for president addressed the South Carolina state party convention this weekend, there was little mention of reports that immigrant children being held at a detention center near the Texas-Mexico border said they didn't have access to adequate food and water and sometimes couldn't shower, wash their clothes or get toothpaste and soap.

Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke highlighted the situation in his convention speech and at a forum sponsored by Planned Parenthood Action Fund, saying, "This cannot be us. This cannot be America." The other Texan running for president, Obama administration housing chief Julián Castro, said, "This is not how the United State of America should treat people."

The other candidates mostly stuck to more general criticisms of Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policies.

Federal authorities on Monday moved most of the children who were at the facility in Clint, Texas, where they reported a lack of access to basic amenities, only to transport more than 100 back a day later. And those developments followed a Trump administration lawyer suggesting in federal court that officials weren't required to provide items like toothbrushes, soap and blankets at border detention centers.

That something like denying basic services to detained children didn't more galvanize Democratic presidential hopefuls during the South Carolina convention suggests there may be only so many lines of attack they can lob at Trump given the time and logistical constraints of such a crowded field. It won't be much easier to dive into substance on a debate stage with 10 candidates and several moderators.

"The human rights violations and basic violations of human decency are topics that should always be at the top of our list as Democrats, and, with this president, you do have to kind of pick the greatest hits because there's so much," said Colin Strother, a strategist who has worked with Texas border Democrats in Congress. "But, as a party, if we won't speak out about the horrendous treatment of children on our southern border, I don't know what we're doing."

Strother noted that the issue could prove problematic for Vice President Joe Biden — currently leading polls among Democratic presidential candidates — since holding children in border detention facilities began during the Obama administration amid a surge of unaccompanied minors arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border and seeking asylum in 2014. Separating families, however, was never the Obama administration's policy.

Biden released part of his immigration plan on Monday, proposing that Congress grant immediate citizenship to 800,000-plus U.S. residents who were brought to the country illegally as children. But his outline was heavier on barbs at Trump, accusing the president of an "assault on the dignity" of the Latino community through policies and rhetoric designed to "scare voters." Trump has said his immigration policies are meant to keep the country safe.

Smith said one way the Democratic presidential candidates could effectively seize control of immigration as a policy would be to explain how the Trump administration's tougher stances have affected the whole country, not just those residing illegally. He noted labor shortages in some industries and said some communities were less safe since some people stop reporting crimes — or serving as witnesses to wrongdoing — for fear of being deported.

"Get the attention on the broad, negative consequences for everybody," he said.

O'Rourke is planning to meet Thursday with local leaders and activists opposing a detention center in Homestead, Florida, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southwest of Miami, where immigrant teenagers are being held. That could draw attention to the issue similar to how O'Rourke did when he toured a tent city that federal officials erected for detained immigrant children last summer in Tornillo, near his native El Paso, which he then represented in Congress.

Florida Democratic Rep. Debbie Jessika Mucarsel-Powell has invited other 2020 candidates to make similar visits. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts said she is planning to go to Homestead on Wednesday.

"Sometimes showing up matters," Warren said in Miami. "It is a way to draw attention to what's happening to children who came here with hope and who are being treated like criminals. It's just wrong."

Associated Press writer Alexandra Jaffe contributed to this report from Miami.

Kushner tries to sell Mideast plan to skeptical audience

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — President Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, appealed Tuesday for the Palestinians to consider a \$50 billion economic support plan, even though they already rejected the proposal because it does not include a political resolution to the long-running conflict with the Israelis.

Kushner, speaking at a conference in Bahrain, defended the proposal as the foundation of any eventual peace plan. Meanwhile, Palestinians protested the plan in the streets of the West Bank, Gaza and elsewhere.

"We don't need money. We are not hungry for bread," said Gaza physician Said Jadba, one of the protesters jamming the streets of West Bank cities as the plan was unveiled. "We are hungry for dignity."

The president's son-in-law sought to defend his long-anticipated plan at the start of a two-day workshop aimed at building support for a program to combine private investment and support from regional governments to transform economically devastated Palestinian communities.

"My direct message to the Palestinians is that despite what those who have let you down in the past have told you, President Trump and America has not given up on you," Kushner said. "This workshop is for you, and if this is executed correctly, it will lead to a better future for the Palestinian people: a future of dignity, prosperity and opportunity."

Kushner's audience in the tiny Gulf kingdom did not include any official Palestinian delegation. Israel, which will have to sign off on many of the proposal's projects, did not send any government officials, either. Those who heard Kushner in person were Arab finance ministers, the heads of international financial organizations and global business executives and investors.

While the representation was broad, many countries' delegations were not headed by Cabinet ministers, an indication of their uncertainty about the proposal's viability.

The Palestinians have rejected the proposal — which aims in 10 years to create a million new jobs, slash unemployment and improve living standards in the West Bank, Gaza and across the Middle East — because it does not include a horizon for ending Israel's occupation and granting independence. U.S. officials say the political portion of the plan addressing such thorny issues may not be released until fall.

Kushner acknowledged that a political solution is key to the success of the economic proposal. He said it was more important to first set out what is economically possible.

"Agreeing on an economic pathway forward is a necessary precondition to resolving what has been a previously unsolvable political situation," he said.

Trump boiled it down to even simpler terms: "We have to get economic support because the Palestinians don't have money, and we have to help the Palestinians with some money," he told reporters at the White House.

But, without proposals on borders, the status of Jerusalem and the fate of Palestinian refugees, the Palestinians say the economic plan is meaningless. To express their rejection, Palestinians in Gaza called a general strike on Tuesday to protest the meeting, with demonstrators in the West Bank burning effigies of Trump and featuring a donkey pasted over with images of Gulf royals.

"Palestine is not for sale!" protesters chanted. "From Bahrain to Saudi Arabia, we are not tempted by your millions!"

Besides opposition from the intended beneficiaries of the proposal, the plan has been harshly criticized by former diplomats, aid workers and others involved in past peacemaking efforts for being unrealistic and lacking any clear description of who will pay for it.

Trump, Kushner and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin argue that a new approach is needed precisely because previous efforts have fallen short. They note that the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will attend and speak at the event, as will the head of FIFA, the international

soccer federation, and the managers of numerous large investment funds.

The Palestinians wrote to FIFA chief Gianni Infantino on Tuesday urging him to reconsider his participation. "How can the President of the highest governing body of football, and the most outspoken person on the importance of separating politics from sports, agree to participate in a political workshop whose objective is to determine the future of Palestine in the absence of Palestinians?" the letter said.

Enthusiasm has also been tempered by the Trump administration's refusal to endorse the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, the "two-state solution" that has long been viewed internationally as the only viable path to lasting peace.

The Palestinians cut ties with the White House after Trump recognized contested Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017 and say they will not accept a peace proposal from an administration they see as biased toward Israel. Trump's Mideast team has recently signaled it will accept Israeli annexation of parts of the West Bank, the heartland of any Palestinian state, deepening Palestinian suspicions.

Even the Arab delegations attending the meeting in Bahrain have couched their participation with reaffirmations of support for an eventual Palestinian state.

Saudi Arabia, one of the few Arab countries to send its foreign minister to the event, said it remained committed to that end with a state based on the border that existed before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Egypt and Jordan, the only Arab nations to have signed peace deals with Israel, are sending only midlevel representatives to Bahrain and said they would not abandon demands for a Palestinian state.

At a ceremony hosted by Israel's president to mark 40 years of Egyptian-Israeli peace on Tuesday, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Khaled Azmi, said his country's "vision was, and still is, based on full nation-statehood and security for everyone in the region."

"The goal we aim to achieve through negotiations between the two parties is one that is based on justice, legitimate rights and mutual willingness to co-exist in two neighboring independent states living in peace and security," he said.

Bahrain, which has close ties to the Saudis, has been criticized for hosting the conference and sharply limited the number of journalists allowed to cover it. It has defended its decision by saying its only objective is to support the "brotherly Palestinian people."

Although Bahrain has cracked down on dissent, Bahraini opposition voices protested the meeting on social media, particularly on Twitter, where Arabic hashtags about the workshop were trending under banners "Down with Bahrain conference" and "Down with the Deal of Shame."

Josef Federman in Jerusalem, Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Amira El Masaiti in Rabat, Morocco, contributed to this report.

Trump opponents turn the Mueller report into an art form

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Liz Zito is a multimedia artist so immersed in the Mueller Report that she wrote fan fiction to fill in the parts that were redacted by the Justice Department. When she worried that other Americans didn't know about the findings of special counsel Robert Mueller, she found her own way to make them accessible: A "performative reading" in downtown Manhattan.

"When you deliver a comedic performance, you want people to laugh at all the jokes, but a lot of positive feedback from that night came from people learning what was actually in the report and how manipulated we all were-are as world citizens," Zito says of her June 13 show at the gallery 601 Artspace.

First made public in April, the Mueller report detailing the results of the two-year investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia is no longer just a book or a document to read online. It is a work of theater and other art forms, and a touchstone for Donald Trump opponents seeking to highlight his alleged misconduct, including possible attempts by the president to impede or halt the investigation.

Over the past month, there have been readings in New York, Washington and elsewhere. A San Diego-based publisher, IDW, is planning a graphic novel and at least one musical act, Electric Parrot, has named

a song after it.

On Monday night, an all-star reading from New York City's Riverside Church featured John Lithgow, Annette Bening and others. The event was presented and livestreamed by Law Works, which identifies itself as a bipartisan organization that advocates for the rule of law.

"If Americans aren't going to read the report, we wanted to help them watch it," says Law Works executive director David Wade. "We've found that once Americans learn the facts, their concerns skyrocket."

The 448-page report has sold hundreds of thousands of copies in book form even though it can be downloaded for free from the Justice Department's web site (<https://www.justice.gov/storage/report.pdf>). But according to a CNN poll released in May, three-quarters of the respondents said they had not read it.

From the start, the Mueller Report has been treated like a work of interpretative art. As Mueller and his team were reviewing documents and interviewing Trump's associates, Trump and his supporters repeatedly called it a "WITCH HUNT." Opponents, meanwhile, speculated that the report's findings would prove so devastating that the president would be forced out of office.

Ultimately, Mueller found the Russians had interfered with the 2016 election, but decided there was no evidence that the Trump campaign had conspired with Russia. In reviewing whether Trump obstructed justice, however, Mueller wrote that while "this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him." He also noted that a sitting president cannot be charged.

Mueller's refusal to reach a conclusion on criminal obstruction opened the door for Attorney General William Barr to clear Trump, who in turn has cited the attorney general's finding as proof of his innocence. Last month, Mueller declared publicly that his Russia report did not exonerate Trump, and reiterated that charging the sitting president was not an option because of federal rules.

One of the first Mueller readings happened early this month, the 24-hour "Filibustered and Unfiltered: America Reads the Mueller Report," at the New York City venue The Arc. The idea was spontaneous, director Jackson Gay said. Soon after the report came out, she jokingly posted on Facebook that maybe she should stage a reading. The response was so enthusiastic that she found it "impossible not to go ahead." Gay says she has since heard from organizations all around the country, from Richmond, Virginia, to Seattle. She's even putting together a how-to booklet, with advice ranging from securing rights to film the actors to renting chairs.

"What's beautiful about all of the readings is that you're allowing people to come and make up their own minds," she says. "We encourage the performers to read the report as straightforwardly as possible. If somebody gets up there and comments on it than they're really no better than the talking heads on TV."

Federal judges send 2020 census lawsuit back to lower court

By DAVID McFADDEN Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A lawsuit that alleges a 2020 census question pushed by the Trump administration violates minorities' rights will be sent back to a federal court in Maryland so new evidence can be considered, U.S. appeals judges ruled Tuesday.

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision comes a day after U.S. District Judge George Hazel of Maryland suggested in an opinion that racial discrimination and partisan power plays could be the underlying motives in asking everyone in the country about citizenship status. The 4th Circuit's order sending the case back to Hazel could be pivotal.

"The decision today opens up a potentially new legal front in the fight against the citizenship question," said Thomas Wolf, counsel for the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice and an expert on census matters.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide this week whether the Trump administration can add its citizenship question to the 2020 population survey. However, the justices are not considering legal questions about whether the citizenship addition might be discriminatory.

Now that the 4th Circuit has sent this lawsuit back to the federal court in Maryland, Hazel could issue an injunction blocking the citizenship question. If that were to happen, the order issued by the lower court

would have to hold until the Supreme Court can take up the matter, according to Wolf.

And because the Supreme Court does not generally hear arguments again until October after this week's decisions, there would be more time for the 4th Circuit to hear an appeal, said Jennifer Nou, a University of Chicago law professor.

"Who will be the 'final word' depends on the true deadline for when the census forms must be printed. If the true deadline for the census forms occurs before the Supreme Court reconvenes, for example, there is a chance that the 4th Circuit could be the final word," Nou said in an email.

The Trump administration insists that printing of census questionnaires is supposed to begin July 1. It wants justices to resolve the citizenship question swiftly in its favor, essentially cutting off additional proceedings in court in Maryland and New York and allowing the census forms to be printed with the new question.

Even before the 4th Circuit issued its order, the U.S. Justice Department was urging the Supreme Court to ignore the evidence Hazel says merits further review.

"It is based on a speculative conspiracy theory that is unsupported by the evidence and legally irrelevant to demonstrating that (Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross) acted with a discriminatory intent," Solicitor General Noel Francisco, Trump's top Supreme Court lawyer, wrote in a Tuesday letter to the court.

But in his court filing Monday, Hazel reasoned that the trove of new evidence "potentially connects the dots between a discriminatory purpose — diluting Hispanics' political power — and Secretary Ross's decision" to include the citizenship question.

The new evidence consists of computer documents from Republican operative Tom Hofeller, who died last year. They include detailed calculations projecting gains Republicans would see in Texas by basing legislative districts on the number of voting-age citizens rather than the total population. The late North Carolina redistricting expert 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.

Ross, who oversees the Census Bureau, said in a memo last year that the Justice Department wants to ask the question to gather data to help identify majority-minority congressional districts, which the Voting Rights Act calls for when possible.

In his opinion issued a day before the 4th Circuit's order, Hazel said he would reopen discovery for 45 days, order an evidentiary hearing and issue a "speedy ruling."

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow McFadden on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dmcfadd>

Illinois becomes 11th state to allow recreational marijuana

By JOHN O'CONNOR AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois' new governor delivered on a top campaign promise Tuesday by signing legislation making the state the 11th to approve marijuana for recreational use in a program offering legal remedies and economic benefits to minorities whose lives critics say were damaged by a wayward war on drugs.

Legalization in Illinois also means that nearly 800,000 people with criminal records for purchasing or possessing 30 grams of marijuana or less may have those records expunged, a provision minority lawmakers and interest groups demanded. It also gives cannabis-vendor preference to minority owners and promises 25% of tax revenue from marijuana sales to redevelop impoverished communities.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker, whose election last year gave Democrats complete control over state government again after four years under GOP predecessor Bruce Rauner, signed the bill in Chicago amid a bevy of pot proponents, including the plan's lead sponsors, Rep. Kelly Cassidy and Sen. Heather Steans, both Chicago Democrats.

"Today, we're hitting the 'reset' button on the war on drugs," Cassidy said.

Residents may purchase and possess up to 1 ounce (30 grams) of marijuana at a time. Non-residents

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 51 of 62

may have 15 grams. The law provides for cannabis purchases by adults 21 and older at approved dispensaries, which, after they're licensed and established, may start selling Jan. 1, 2020. Possession remains a crime until Jan. 1, a spokesman for Senate Democrats said.

"The war on cannabis has destroyed families, filled prisons with nonviolent offenders, and disproportionately disrupted black and brown communities," Pritzker said. "Law enforcement across the nation has spent billions of dollars to enforce the criminalization of cannabis, yet its consumption remains widespread."

On the campaign trail, Pritzker claimed that, once established, taxation of marijuana could generate \$800 million to \$1 billion a year. He said dispensary licensing would bring in \$170 million in the coming year alone. But Cassidy and Steans have dampened that prediction, lowering estimates to \$58 million in the first year and \$500 million annually within five years.

Carrying the psychoactive ingredient THC, marijuana was effectively outlawed in the U.S. in 1937 and in the 1970s was declared a drug with no medicinal purpose and high potential for abuse.

Blacks have been most susceptible since then to "Just say 'No'"-era crackdowns. Pritzker quoted a 2010 statistic from the American Civil Liberties Union that while blacks comprise 15% of Illinois' population, they account for 60% of cannabis-possession arrests.

Peoria Democratic Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth summarized marijuana's recent history as one where "white men would get rich and black men would get arrested." The plan addresses those concerns with the criminal-record scrubbing by giving preference to would-be marijuana vendors in areas of high poverty and records of large numbers of convictions. And 25% of tax proceeds must be reinvested in impoverished communities, while 20% is dedicated to substance-abuse treatment programs.

"What we are doing here is about reparations," Gordon-Booth said. "After 40 years of treating entire communities like criminals, here comes this multibillion-dollar industry, and guess what? Black and brown people have been put at the very center of this policy in a way that no other state has ever done."

Police organizations are wary, concerned about enforcing driving under the influence laws and arguing technology for testing marijuana impairment needs more development. Law enforcement organizations fearing black-market impacts were successful in killing an earlier provision that would have allowed anyone to grow up to five marijuana plants at home for personal use. Police said they'd have difficulty enforcing that, so the bill was amended to allow five plants to be maintained only by authorized patients under the state's medical marijuana law. They previously could not grow their own.

Ten other states and the District of Columbia have legalized smoking or eating marijuana for recreational use since 2012, when voters in Colorado and Washington state approved ballot initiatives. This year began with promising proposals in New York and New Jersey, but both fizzled late this spring. Despite a statewide listening tour on the issue by Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor last winter, the idea never took flight.

Vermont and Michigan last year were the latest states to legalize marijuana. Vermont did so through the Legislature — the first time it wasn't done through a ballot initiative — but while it allows residents to grow small amounts for themselves, it didn't establish a statewide distribution system like Illinois did, licensing dispensaries. Other states license dispensaries too, but not all.

Illinois' 55 medical-cannabis dispensaries get first crack at licenses to sell under the new law because they're proven business concerns, Cassidy said. They may apply to dispense recreational pot at their current stores and for a license for a second location, meaning the state could have 110 recreational pot outlets by the time sales start Jan. 1. In October, the application period for 75 more dispensaries opens. No more would be allowed to open after that until the state conducts a review of the rollout.

The bill is HB1438.

Online: <https://bit.ly/2Xv5bxM>

Follow AP's complete marijuana coverage: <https://apnews.com/Marijuana>

Follow Political Writer John O'Connor at <https://twitter.com/apoconnor> .

Powell says economy facing growing uncertainties

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said Tuesday the outlook for the U.S. economy has become cloudier since early May, with rising uncertainties over trade and global growth causing the central bank to reassess its next move on interest rates.

Speaking to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Powell said the Fed is now grappling with the question of whether those uncertainties will continue to weigh on the outlook and require action.

Powell did not commit to a rate cut but said the central bank will closely monitor incoming data and be prepared to “act as appropriate to sustain the expansion.”

“The crosscurrents have reemerged, with apparent progress on trade turning to greater uncertainty and with incoming data raising renewed concerns about the strength of the global economy,” Powell said.

Many economists believe the Fed could decide at its next meeting on July 30-31 to cut its key policy rate, something it has not done since 2008.

But markets showed disappointment with Powell’s comments, which suggested a rate cut was not certain. That followed separate comments Tuesday by James Bullard, head of the Fed’s St. Louis regional bank, who said that he believed a quarter-point cut in July would be sufficient as an insurance move against a possible severe economic slowdown.

The S&P 500 dropped 1% to 2,917, its biggest loss of the month, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 179 points or 0.7%, to 26,548.

In addition to disappointment with the Fed comments, reports showing a drop in consumer confidence and weakness in the housing market added to investor gloom.

In an interview with Bloomberg television, Bullard said an “insurance cut” of a quarter-point would be enough to protect against a sharper-than-expected slowdown in economic growth and a half-percentage point cut would be “overdone.” Bullard last week cast the lone dissent from the Fed’s decision to hold rates steady, favoring instead an immediate rate cut.

Trump on Monday tweeted that the Fed “blew it” by not cutting rates at its meeting last week. At that session the Fed kept its policy rate unchanged in a range of 2.25% to 2.5% but dropped a previous pledge to be “patient” in changing rates in coming months.

Trump reportedly has considered either firing Powell or demoting him from the chairman’s job but has been told by the White House legal team that he does not have the power to do either.

Asked about the repeated criticism by Trump, Powell said, “We are human. We make mistakes. I hope not frequently but we will make mistakes. But we won’t make mistakes of integrity or character.”

Powell said that the Fed’s independence from direct political control had served the country well and when central banks do not have that protection “you see bad things happening.”

The baseline outlook for the U.S. economy remains favorable for continued growth, Powell said, but “the risks to this favorable baseline outlook appear to have grown.”

In early May, Trump more than doubled the tariffs on Chinese goods after U.S.-China trade talks broke down. The president has threatened to essentially hit all Chinese imports with tariffs if China does not meet the administration’s demands for greater protections for U.S. technology.

Trump’s moves sent financial markets tumbling because of concerns the trade conflict could end the current 10-year economic expansion, which in July will become the longest in U.S. history.

Trump is scheduled to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping later this week at the Group of 20 economic summit in Japan, a meeting that is being closely watched for signals that the two sides are prepared to resume talks in search of a trade deal.

In addition to rising trade tensions, Powell said since May incoming data has raised new concerns about the strength of the global economy, noting tentative signs that investment by U.S. businesses has slowed from earlier this year.

Many Fed officials believe the case for easier monetary policy has strengthened, but “we are also mindful that monetary policy should not overreact to any individual data point or short-term swing in sentiment,”

he said.

Powell said that would risk adding even more uncertainty to the outlook.

Earlier this year, economists believed the Fed would keep its key policy rate unchanged all year long after four rate hikes last year. Now private economists believe from two to four rate cuts are possible this year, although some analysts think the Fed could keep policy unchanged if trade tensions are resolved without harming the economy.

Smoke from US wildfires boosting health risk for millions

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Climate change in the Western U.S. means more intense and frequent wildfires churning out waves of smoke that scientists say will sweep across the continent to affect tens of millions of people and cause a spike in premature deaths.

That emerging reality is prompting people in cities and rural areas alike to prepare for another summer of sooty skies along the West Coast and in the Rocky Mountains — the regions widely expected to suffer most from blazes tied to dryer, warmer conditions.

“There’s so little we can do. We have air purifiers and masks — otherwise we’re just like ‘Please don’t burn,’” said Sarah Rochelle Montoya of San Francisco, who fled her home with her husband and children last fall to escape thick smoke enveloping the city from a disastrous fire roughly 150 miles (241 kilometers) away.

Other sources of air pollution are in decline in the U.S. as coal-fired power plants close and fewer older cars roll down highways. But those air quality gains are being erased in some areas by the ill effects of massive clouds of smoke that can spread hundreds and even thousands of miles on cross-country winds, according to researchers.

With the 2019 wildfire season already heating up and fires breaking out from Southern California through Canada to Alaska, authorities are scrambling to better protect the public before smoke again blankets cities and towns. Officials in Seattle recently announced plans to retrofit five public buildings as smoke-free shelters.

Scientists from NASA and universities are refining satellite imagery to predict where smoke will travel and how intense it will be. Local authorities are using those forecasts to send out real-time alerts encouraging people to stay indoors when conditions turn unhealthy.

The scope of the problem is immense: Over the next three decades, more than 300 counties in the West will see more severe smoke waves from wildfires, sometimes lasting weeks longer than in years past, according to atmospheric researchers led by a team from Yale and Harvard.

For almost two weeks last year during the Camp Fire, which killed 85 people and destroyed 14,000 homes in Paradise, California, smoke from the blaze inundated the San Francisco neighborhood where Montoya lives with her husband, Trevor McNeil, and their three children.

Lines formed outside hardware stores as people rushed to buy face masks and indoor air purifiers. The city’s famous open air cable cars shut down. Schools kept children inside or canceled classes, and a church soup kitchen sheltered homeless people from the smoke.

Montoya’s three children have respiratory problems that their doctor says is likely a precursor to asthma, she said. That would put them among those most at-risk from being harmed by wildfire smoke, but the family was unable to find child-sized face masks or an adequate air filter. Both were sold out everywhere they looked.

In desperation, her family ended up fleeing to a relative’s vacation home in Lake Tahoe. The children were delighted that they could go outside again.

“We really needed our kids to be able to breathe,” Montoya said.

Smoke from wildfires was once considered a fleeting nuisance except for the most vulnerable populations. But it’s now seen in some regions as a recurring and increasing public health threat, said James Crooks, a health investigator at National Jewish Health, a Denver medical center that specializes in respiratory

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 54 of 62

ailments.

"There are so many fires, so many places upwind of you that you're getting increased particle levels and increased ozone from the fires for weeks and weeks," Crooks said.

One such place is Ashland, Oregon, a city of about 21,000 known for its summer-long Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

During each of the past two summers, Ashland had about 40 days of smoke-filled air, said Chris Chambers, wildfire division chief for the fire department. Last year, that forced cancellation of more than two-dozen outdoor performances. Family physician Justin Adams said the smoke was hardest on his patients with asthma and other breathing problems and he expects some to see long-term health effects.

"It was essentially like they'd started smoking again for two months," he said.

Voters in 2018 approved a bond measure that includes money to retrofit Ashland schools with "scrubbers" to filter smoke. Other public buildings and businesses already have them. A community alert system allows 6,500 people to receive emails and text messages when the National Weather Service issues smoke alerts.

"We really feel like we've made a conscious effort to adapt to climate change," Chambers said. "But you can't just live your whole life inside."

The direct damage from conflagrations that regularly erupt in the West is stark. In California alone, wildfires over the past two years torched more than 33,000 houses, outbuildings and other structures and killed 146 people.

Harder to grasp are health impacts from microscopic particles in the smoke that can trigger heart attacks, breathing problems and other maladies. The particles, about 1/30th of the diameter of a human hair, penetrate deeply into the lungs to cause coughing, chest pain and asthma attacks. Children, the elderly and people with lung diseases or heart trouble are most at risk.

Death can occur within days or weeks among the most vulnerable following heavy smoke exposure, said Linda Smith, chief of the California Air Resources Board's health branch.

Over the past decade as many as 2,500 people annually died prematurely in the U.S. from short-term wildfire smoke exposure, according to Environmental Protection Agency scientists.

The long-term effects have only recently come into focus, with estimates that chronic smoke exposure causes about 20,000 premature deaths per year, said Jeff Pierce, an associate professor of atmospheric science at Colorado State University.

That figure could double by the end of this century due to hotter, drier conditions and much longer fire seasons, said Pierce.

His research team compared known health impacts from air pollution against future climate scenarios to derive its projections. The results suggested smoke will spread to become a dominant pollutant even in areas not typically associated with wildfires, such as the South and Northeast.

Even among wildfire experts, understanding of health impacts from smoke was elusive until recently. But attitudes shifted as growing awareness of climate change ushered in research examining wildfire's potential consequences.

Residents of Northern California, western Oregon, Washington state and the Northern Rockies are projected to suffer the worst increases in smoke exposure, according to Loretta Mickley, a senior climate research fellow at Harvard University.

"It's really incredible how much the U.S. has managed to clean up the air from other (pollution) sources like power plants and industry and cars," Mickley said. "Climate change is throwing a new variable into the mix and increasing smoke, and that will work against our other efforts to clear the air through regulations. This is kind of an unexpected source of pollution and health hazard."

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MatthewBrownAP>

Warren in the spotlight as Democrats gather for 1st debate

By JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — After circling each other for months, Democratic presidential candidates will converge on the debate stage in Miami on Wednesday as the campaign enters a new — and likely more contentious — phase.

Given the massive field, the debate will be split over two nights with 10 candidates appearing each evening. It's the highest-profile opportunity yet for many White House hopefuls to offer their vision for the country and — if for just two hours — chip into a political news cycle often dominated by President Donald Trump.

Elizabeth Warren will take center stage at the debate's opening night. The Massachusetts senator's constant stream of policy proposals has helped her campaign gain ground, and she's the sole top-tier candidate who will appear at the Wednesday debate. Widely viewed as a talented debater, Warren is well positioned to showcase her strengths, strategists say.

"I don't think anyone else on that night has her level of skill and her level of experience in this format," said Maria Cardona, a Democratic strategist. "I think she should look at this as an opportunity to really shine and come out of the first night as the one that is dominating the conversation."

Yet Warren could still face challenges. The other candidates on stage Wednesday aren't as well known and could use the moment to take aggressive stances against Warren in an effort to find a breakout moment.

"She's liable to have a target on her back and a lot of people potentially coming after her on that stage," said Charles Chamberlain, the chairman of the progressive political action committee Democracy for America. "But on the other hand, that will let people see how she handles attacks and can fend them off."

Beyond Warren, the candidates who will debate on Wednesday are Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Reps. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii and Tim Ryan of Ohio and former Reps. Beto O'Rourke of Texas and John Delaney of Maryland, along with Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and ex-Obama housing secretary Julián Castro.

One split that could emerge Wednesday centers on "Medicare for All," the single-payer health plan introduced by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a fellow Democratic presidential candidate, and supported by Warren and others. But some candidates are not fully on board, preferring more incremental reforms. Delaney has been especially vocal in his criticism.

With so many White House hopefuls on stage, it could be difficult to dive too deep on any given issue. NBC News, which is hosting the debate, said candidates will have 60 seconds to answer questions and 30 seconds for follow-ups. They will be allowed closing statements but no openers.

All the candidates are competing ahead of a major fundraising deadline that will have lasting implications. The end of the second fundraising quarter on Sunday gives candidates a chance to make a splash with strong numbers ahead of the mid-July deadline to report that information to the Federal Election Commission.

A strong debate performance could fuel more donations, which is critical to the candidates' ability to participate in future debates. The Democratic National Committee is enforcing more stringent requirements for participating in the presidential primary debates this fall, so candidates who are struggling to gain a foothold may not have another similar opportunity on a nationally televised stage unless they are able to significantly boost their standing in the polls and fundraising numbers.

"For some of them, this might be their best opportunity to land a blow," said Joel Payne, a Democratic strategist.

The debate will unfold as many Democratic voters are just beginning to tune in.

Only 35% of registered Democrats say they're paying close attention to the campaign, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Two-thirds say they're paying some or no attention.

"People may have heard (the candidates') names, but they couldn't pick them out and don't know much about them," said Jesse Ferguson, a veteran Democratic strategist. "None of them are going to seal the

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 56 of 62

deal in the first debate, but they need to get people interested enough to want to learn more.

The debate's second night on Thursday features more of the leading Democrats in the race. Former Vice President Joe Biden will stand at center stage with Sanders at his left and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, at his right. Biden has come under fire from fellow Democrats after recently recalling that the Senate was once a more civil place, pointing to his work with two segregationist former senators.

The remarks elicited condemnation from his rivals, notably Booker and Sen. Kamala Harris of California, who raised questions about Biden's understanding of the history of segregation. Booker, who was among Biden's sharpest critics, called on him to apologize.

Were the two candidates to share a stage, the episode could have been a defining moment of the debate, with the two men discussing the issue in real time. But Booker will take the stage on Wednesday, with Biden and Harris among the candidates to follow on Thursday.

If Booker were to bring up the episode, or respond to a moderator's question about it, Payne said, "it's almost like he's attacking him in absentia."

A memo released by the Booker campaign ahead of the debate said their goal was "straightforward: Cory will look to introduce himself to voters just tuning in to the race."

Several of the candidates went to Florida early to raise money or court voters in the critical battleground state. Buttigieg held two Florida fundraisers on Monday night and stayed in Florida for debate prep. Warren, meanwhile, was in the state on Tuesday to campaign for her new proposal to boost election security.

Not to be outdone, Vice President Mike Pence was also in Miami on Tuesday to launch "Latinos for Trump" as part of an effort to engage Latino voters for 2020.

Associated Press writers Sara Burnett in Chicago, David Bauder in New York, Alexandra Jaffe in Miami and Elana Schor in Washington contributed to this report.

Possible outcome of Trump-Xi meeting: A truce in trade war

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — American businesses are bracing for a painful escalation in President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

Yet they might just get a reprieve.

If history repeats itself — and most analysts are betting it will — Trump and President Xi Jinping will agree to some kind of cease-fire when they meet late this week at a Group of 20 international summit in Osaka, Japan.

Indeed, a senior administration official sought to downplay expectations Tuesday by suggesting that the primary goal for the Trump-Xi meeting is simply an agreement to restart negotiations. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hard work of finalizing the complex details of any broad new accord would come later, when negotiating teams for the two sides meet.

Under the cease-fire scenario, the two sides' existing tariffs and counter-tariffs on many of each other's goods would remain in place. But no additional import taxes would take effect. This would buy time for U.S. and Chinese officials to restart talks that stalled last month after 11 rounds of negotiations.

The last time Trump and Xi met — in early December at a G-20 gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina — they called a truce. That cease-fire injected some new momentum into the talks between the world's two biggest economies.

"Ideally, results at this summit could match the last summit in Argentina," said Tu Xinquan, director of the Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. "That is, to prevent the trade war from escalating."

The stakes are even higher now. Trump has ordered U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to prepare import taxes on \$300 billion in Chinese goods — which would extend U.S. tariffs to everything China ships to the United States. The administration has already imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. Beijing has retaliated by taxing \$110 billion in goods from the United States.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 57 of 62

"What I'm hoping is that two leaders will recommit to fully engage on the trade talks," said Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a traditional Republican ally that has been sharply critical of Trump's use of tariffs. "There's too much at stake in the bilateral relationship for the two governments not to try to work out the final parts of the trade agreement."

The administration accuses Beijing of using predatory tactics in a pell-mell push to give Chinese companies an unfair competitive edge in such advanced technologies as artificial intelligence and driverless cars. In particular, Trump officials allege that Beijing forces American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market, unfairly subsidizes Chinese tech companies and sometimes resorts to outright cyber-theft to pilfer U.S. trade secrets.

Beijing denies the charges and contends that the administration is simply trying to suppress a rising competitor in global trade.

If Trump did expand his tariffs to the final \$300 billion in Chinese imports, it would amount to a significant escalation in the U.S.-China trade war. The earlier rounds of U.S. tariffs mostly spared consumers by targeting industrial goods, not everyday staples. Higher taxes on the rest of Chinese imports — from alarm clocks and baby carriages to contact lenses to Christmas ornaments — are "finally going to get into the average guy's pocket. It's all been hidden up to now," said Jeff Moon, a former China hand with the U.S. State Department and the Trade Representative who runs the China Moon Strategies LLC consultancy.

When Lighthizer's office ran seven days of hearings this month on the expanded tariffs, the message from American businesses was fairly uniform: Don't do it. Indeed, economists warn that additional higher tariffs — effectively, a tax increase on consumers and companies — would hurt a U.S. economy that already appears to be weakening.

Consider Celestron, a telescopes and optics company with 80 employees at its offices in Torrance, California, that moved most of its manufacturing to China years ago. Trump's earlier tariffs hit only about 10% of what Celestron brings in from China. The next round would cover the remaining 90% — and it might force company to lay off manufacturing and assembly workers it still employs in California.

"These skilled positions will be imperiled by the proposed tariffs, because the parts and equipment these workers need to do their jobs are sourced in China," Celestron said in a filing with the government.

Until last month, the Trump administration and Beijing seemed to be edging toward an agreement to end the trade war. Then Trump officials accused China of backpedaling on commitments it had made in earlier negotiations. The talks stopped. Trump raised tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports from 10% to 25% — the sanctions he had suspended after he met with Xi in December — and threatened to tax the \$300 billion in Chinese goods he hadn't already hit.

A key reason why analysts say the best to expect from the Trump-Xi meeting is an agreement to resume talks is that a substantive deal remains enormously difficult. The Trump side is demanding concessions that would require China to scale back its aspirations as a global technological powerhouse.

The differences between the two countries' political and economic systems — America's free-market capitalist economy versus China state-driven Communist model — are so vast that a resolution to the dispute likely would amount to "a pause in a broader conflict over trade and technology," said James Green, a former U.S. trade official in Beijing and now senior adviser at McLarty Associates consultancy.

A few months after any deal, Green said, "we will be back talking about this."

The administration will insist on a means to enforce any agreement, reflecting its contention that Beijing has violated past promises. It will likely insist on retaining some tariffs as leverage. Yet Beijing will want to eliminate all the U.S. tariffs.

"China seems willing to offer Trump many concessions to de-escalate trade tensions," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former head of the China division at the International Monetary Fund. "But it is unlikely to cave in to demands that it change its economic model or industrial strategy. Such actions would go against the grain of Chinese leaders and their vision of China's economic future."

The senior Trump administration official suggested that the negotiations could go on for "months and months," noting that both sides have a "long view" about what's in their best interests.

"Solutions to the outstanding remaining issues can be found as long as both sides have the political will to do so," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "It's not entirely clear if that political will is there."

AP writers Kevin Freking in Washington and Joe McDonald in Beijing contributed to this report.
__Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>

New Pentagon chief seeks Europe's help for Trump's Iran view

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Trump administration aims to persuade allies the confrontation with Iran, which threatened to worsen into a deadly shooting war last week, is "not Iran versus the United States" but rather a global challenge requiring global diplomacy, the new acting Pentagon chief said Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him to a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels, Mark Esper said he wants to help form a broader coalition to deter Iran and compel its leaders to return to the negotiating table for nuclear talks.

President Donald Trump, who withdrew the United States last year from an international deal to limit Iran's nuclear program and then reinstated harsh economic sanctions, says he wants to work out an even more restrictive deal with Tehran. Iran, however, denounced the latest U.S. sanctions as "idiotic" and an obstacle to talks.

On Tuesday, Trump responded in kind, lashing Iran's leaders for rejecting his overtures and vowing that "any attack by Iran on anything American" would be answered with overwhelming U.S. military force that "in some areas" would mean "obliteration."

Acting Defense Secretary Esper's arrival in Europe was meant to reinforce a message delivered this week by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who conferred with leaders in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates about countering any military threat from Iran by building a broad coalition that includes Asian and European countries. Officials said they hope this will include a wider international effort to monitor shipping in the Persian Gulf to deter Iranian attacks.

Esper faces a tall order, however. His first major appearance in his new job will be Wednesday at NATO, the alliance that Trump has frequently bashed as a collection of freeloaders.

And European leaders have appeared cool to the U.S. approach to Iran. Europe wants more emphasis on minimizing the chances of war, especially after the events of last week when Trump approved military retaliation for the shooting down of an American military drone aircraft but withdrew the order at the last minute. Since then, the administration has publicly emphasized its goal of "internationalizing" the Iran crisis.

"This is not Iran versus the United States. This is Iran certainly versus the region, and arguably the broader global environment," said Esper, who took over Monday as acting secretary, replacing Patrick Shanahan, who resigned last week.

Esper said his goal is, first, for allies to express outrage at Iran's activities, which the U.S. says include the drone shutdown and bombings of several tanker ships in the Gulf of Oman. Second, he said he wants allies to support "any range of activities" to help deter conflict with Iran.

"This is the reason why we need to internationalize this issue and have our allies and partners work with us to get Iran to come back to the negotiating table and talk about the way ahead," he said.

Esper said discussions about creating a maritime coalition to secure freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf are still in the early stages. It's too early, he said, to start "counting ships" and which allies have agreed to participate.

Germany, France and Britain, as well as Russia and China, remain part of the nuclear deal that Trump abandoned last year. The 2015 agreement aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

Because of the unusual circumstance of being an acting defense secretary -- replacing Shanahan, who also had not been confirmed by the Senate -- Esper faces the added challenge in Brussels of assuring his

international counterparts and military commanders in the region that the U.S. military is in stable and capable hands.

Esper, 55, was a top lobbyist for the defense contractor Raytheon Co. before becoming Army secretary in November 2017. A West Point classmate of Pompeo, Esper served in the 1991 Gulf War with the 101st Airborne Division and retired from the Army in 2007 after 10 years on active duty and 11 in the National Guard and Army Reserve.

This is by far the longest period the Pentagon has ever gone without a Senate-confirmed secretary. Trump's first defense chief, Jim Mattis, resigned in December in protest of Trump's policies and what the retired four-star Marine general considered Trump's destructive approach to allies.

The two-day NATO meeting of defense ministers will include talks on many of the most worrisome international security topics: possible war with Iran; the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan; the continued fight against Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, and tensions with Russia. Esper, who until Sunday evening had been serving as the civilian leader of the U.S. Army, may be familiar with many of the issues, but to European defense ministers he is a relative unknown.

"Expectations are really low. They are not going to expect him to be able to speak authoritatively for the president and go beyond what's in his talking points," said Derek Chollet, who served in senior positions at the White House, State Department and Pentagon during the Obama administration. On the other hand, the Brussels gathering allows Esper to meet many of his key counterparts in a short period of time, "sort of like speed dating," Chollet said.

Iran says 'idiotic' new US sanctions shut doors of diplomacy

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran warned Tuesday that new U.S. sanctions targeting its supreme leader and other top officials meant "closing the doors of diplomacy" between Tehran and Washington amid heightened tensions, even as President Hassan Rouhani derided the White House as being "afflicted by mental retardation."

President Donald Trump called that a "very ignorant and insulting statement," tweeting that an Iranian attack on any U.S. interest will be met with "great and overwhelming force ... overwhelming will mean obliteration." His secretary of state said the Iranian statement was "immature."

The sharp remarks from Tehran shows the pressure that the nation's Shiite theocracy and its 80 million people feel over the maximalist campaign of sanctions by the Trump administration. From Israel, U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Iran could walk through an "open door" to talks with America but also warned that "all options remain on the table" if Tehran makes good on its promise to begin breaking one limit from its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

The verbal volleys recalled North Korea's statements about Trump before the dramatic change in course and the start of negotiations with Washington. In 2017, state media quoted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un calling Trump "the mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

However, there are no signs the Iranian leadership would welcome talks.

"The useless sanctioning of Islamic Revolution Supreme Leader (Khamenei) and the commander of Iranian diplomacy means closing the doors of diplomacy by the U.S.' desperate administration," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi tweeted. "Trump's government is annihilating all the established international mechanisms for keeping peace and security in the world."

Trump enacted the new sanctions against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates on Monday.

U.S. officials also said they plan sanctions against Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, something that drew Rouhani's anger during his televised address Tuesday.

"You sanction the foreign minister simultaneously with a request for talks," an exasperated Rouhani said. He called the sanctions against Khamenei "outrageous and idiotic," especially since the 80-year-old Shiite cleric has no plans to travel to the United States.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 60 of 62

"The White House is afflicted by mental retardation and does not know what to do," he added in Farsi, using a term similarly as offensive in English.

While U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hadn't heard Rouhani's reaction to the new sanctions, he said that if true, "that's a bit immature and childlike."

"But know that the United States will remain steadfast in undertaking the actions that the president laid out in this strategy to create stability throughout the Middle East, which includes the campaign we have, the economic campaign, the pressure campaign that we have on the Islamic Republic of Iran," Pompeo added.

The crisis gripping the Middle East stems from Trump's withdrawal of the U.S. a year ago from the nuclear deal with Iran and other world powers and then imposing crippling new sanctions on Tehran. Recently, Iran quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium to be on pace to break one of the deal's terms by Thursday, while also threatening to raise enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if European countries still abiding by the accord don't offer a new deal.

Citing unspecified Iranian threats, the U.S. has sent an aircraft carrier to the Middle East and deployed additional troops alongside the tens of thousands already there. All this has raised fears that a miscalculation or further rise in tensions could push the U.S. and Iran into an open conflict, 40 years after the Islamic Revolution.

The sanctions followed Iran's downing on June 20 of a U.S. surveillance drone, worth over \$100 million, above the Strait of Hormuz, sharply escalating the crisis. Trump then said he pulled back from the brink of retaliatory military strikes but continued his pressure campaign against Iran.

Mousavi's statement echoed that of Iran's U.N. ambassador, Majid Takht Ravanchi, who warned Monday that the situation in the Persian Gulf is "very dangerous" and said any talks with the U.S. are impossible in the face of escalating sanctions and intimidation. Meanwhile, the U.S. envoy at the United Nations, Jonathan Cohen, said the Trump administration's aim is to get Tehran back to negotiations.

Later Tuesday, Rouhani spoke by phone with French President Emmanuel Macron and told him: "If the Americans again want to violate the waters and airspace of Iran, Iran's armed forces are assigned to confront them and will take a strong approach," according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

But he added that Iran does not have any interest in escalating tensions in the region and never seeks war with any country, including the United States, the news agency reported, quoting him as saying: "We have always been committed to improving the stability and security of the region, and we will take efforts in this direction."

Pompeo held talks Monday with officials in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia about building a broad, global coalition that includes Asian and European countries to counter Iran. He is likely to face a tough sell in Europe and Asia, particularly from those nations still committed to the nuclear deal with Iran.

Meanwhile, Bolton said Trump was open to real negotiations to eliminate Iran's nuclear weapons program and "all that Iran needs to do is walk through that open door." He was meeting with his Russian and Israel counterparts in a first-of-its-kind trilateral security summit in Jerusalem that was focused on Iranian involvement in regional conflicts, particularly in neighboring Syria.

"As we speak, American diplomatic representatives are surging across the Middle East, seeking a path to peace. In response, Iran's silence has been deafening," Bolton said. "There is simply no evidence that Iran has made the strategic decision to renounce nuclear weapons and open realistic discussions to demonstrate that decision."

But only hours later, Bolton told a news conference that "all options remain on the table" if Iran goes over the limit for its low-enriched uranium stockpile as planned by Thursday.

"It would not be in their interest to do it but they have done a lot of things recently that are not in their interest," Bolton said.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Aron Heller in Jerusalem contributed.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 61 of 62

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 26, the 177th day of 2019. There are 188 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 26, 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city's residents, declaring: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).

On this date:

In 1870, the first section of Atlantic City, New Jersey's Boardwalk was opened to the public.

In 1917, the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force deployed to France during World War I landed in St. Nazaire.

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office by delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1948, the Berlin Airlift began in earnest after the Soviet Union cut off land and water routes to the isolated western sector of Berlin.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced his choice of Abe Fortas to succeed the retiring Earl Warren as chief justice of the United States (however, Fortas later withdrew in the face of stiff Senate opposition).

In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tennessee. Elvis Presley performed his last concert at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis.

In 1988, three people were killed when a new Airbus A320 jetliner carrying more than 130 people crashed into a forest during a demonstration at an air show in Mulhouse (muh-LOOZ'), France.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush went back on his "no-new-taxes" campaign pledge, conceding that tax increases would have to be included in any deficit-reduction package worked out with congressional negotiators.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced the U.S. had launched missiles against Iraqi targets because of "compelling evidence" Iraq had plotted to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush.

In 1997, the first Harry Potter novel, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" by J.K. Rowling (ROHL'-ing), was published in the United Kingdom (it was later released in the United States under the title "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone").

In 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a handgun ban in the District of Columbia as it affirmed, 5-4, that an individual right to gun ownership existed. Juan Alvarez, who triggered a 2005 rail disaster in Glendale, California, by parking a sport-utility vehicle on the tracks, was convicted of 11 counts of first-degree murder. (Alvarez was later sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms.)

In 2013, in deciding its first cases on the issue, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the nation's legally married gay couples equal federal footing with all other married Americans and also cleared the way for same-sex marriages to resume in California. New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested in the shooting death of Odin Lloyd. (Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder; he killed himself in his prison cell in 2017.)

Ten years ago: Los Angeles County medical examiners performed an autopsy on the remains of pop star Michael Jackson a day after his death at age 50. The Democratic-controlled House passed a global warming measure 219-212 following intense lobbying by President Barack Obama. A federal judge in New York ordered disgraced financier Bernard Madoff stripped of all his possessions under a \$171 billion forfeiture order.

Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Barack Obama had exceeded his executive authority in 2012 when he appointed members to the National Labor Relations Board without Senate confirmation. The nation's highest court also unanimously struck down the 35-foot protest-free zone outside abortion clinics in Massachusetts, declaring it an unconstitutional restraint on the free-speech rights of protesters. Former Senate majority leader and White House chief of staff Howard Baker, 88, died

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 351 ~ 62 of 62

at his Tennessee home.

One year ago: A sharply divided Supreme Court upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries; dissenting Justice Sonia Sotomayor (SOHN'-ya soh-toh-my-YOR') said the court was making a historic mistake by refusing to recognize that the ban discriminates against Muslims. Joe Crowley of New York, the fourth-ranking House Democrat, lost a primary to 28-year-old liberal activist Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. General Electric Co. was removed from the Dow Jones industrial average, where it had been an original component in 1896; it was replaced by the Walgreens drugstore chain.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 85. Actor Josef Sommer is 85. Singer Billy Davis Jr. is 81. Rock singer Georgie Fame is 76. Actor Clive Francis is 73. Rhythm and blues singer Brenda Holloway is 73. Actor Michael Paul Chan is 69. Actor Robert Davi is 68. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 64. Actor Gedde Watanabe (GEH'-dee wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 64. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 63. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 62. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 60. U.S. Bicycling Hall of Famer Greg LeMond is 58. Rock singer Harriet Wheeler (The Sundays) is 56. Country musician Eddie Perez (The Mavericks) is 51. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 50. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 49. Actor Sean Hayes is 49. Actor Matt Letscher is 49. Actor Chris O'Donnell is 49. Actor Nick Offerman is 49. Actress Rebecca Budig is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Derek Jeter is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Jeff Frankenstein (Newsboys) is 45. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 45. Rock musician Nathan Followill (Kings of Leon) is 40. Pop-rock singer-musician Ryan Tedder (OneRepublic) is 40. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 39. Actress Aubrey Plaza is 35. Actress-singer Jennette McCurdy is 27. Actress-singer Ariana Grande is 26.

Thought for Today: "The formula for success is simple: practice and concentration then more practice and more concentration." — Babe Didrikson Zaharias, American athlete and golfing Hall of Famer (born this date in 1911, died in 1956).